

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

LAND TO THE REAR OF CLIFTON LODGE, KENTFORD KTD 015

Planning Application No.: F/2007/0281/FUL
NGR: TL 7051 6676
Oasis Ref. Suffolkc1-29322

Funded by: Cameron Hamilton Homes Ltd

SCCAS Report no. 2007/119

Summary

The land behind Clifton Lodge, Kentford was evaluated prior to development. Trenching revealed patches of silt and clay silts of the glacio-fluvial drift geology below deep reworked topsoil. A single, unstratified and abraded sherd of medieval coarseware was found but no archaeological features.

Introduction

An archaeological evaluation was carried out on the land to the rear of Clifton Lodge, Kentford. The evaluation was a condition of the consent on planning application F/2007/0281/FUL to construct ten new dwellings with associated garaging and parking. The evaluation was undertaken by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service on 19th July 2007 in accordance with a brief by R.D.Carr. The developers Cameron Hamilton Homes Ltd funded the work.

The site lies at TL 7051 6676 (Fig. 1) on the east edge of the medieval village, but within a broad landscape of prehistoric monuments. Three ring ditches, evidence of ploughed out Bronze-Age round barrows, are listed on the county's Sites and Monuments Records (KTD 0002, 0003 and 0004) within 250m of the site and at 750m away are three extant round barrows in the parish of Gazeley (GAZ 0001,0002 and 0003). Two of the Kentford barrows were excavated in 1973 in advance of gravel quarrying and revealed in each was a single central burial, one of which contained a pot.

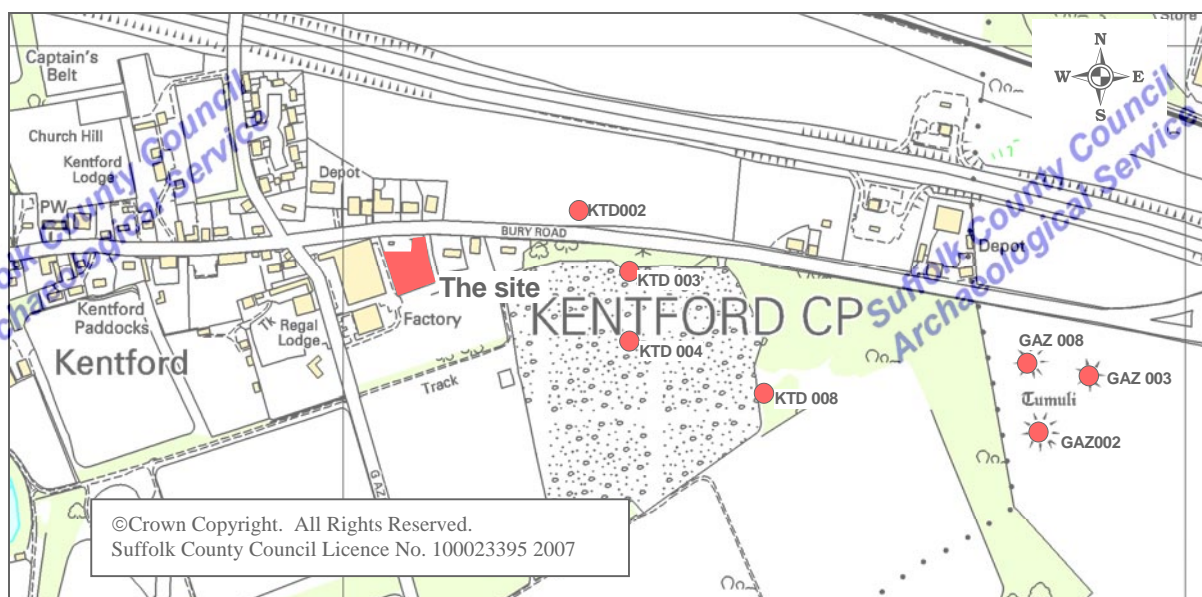


Figure 1. Site location

The site was in the recent past a boarding kennels and prior to this arable land. The site is level, part of an open plain and lies between the 30 and 40m contour. The drift geology is clay silt and sand over chalk.

Results

The former kennels had been demolished and the site cleared of all concrete hard standing prior to the evaluation. Three linear trenches were excavated using a 360° tracked machine fitted with a 1.5m toothless bucket and under the constant supervision of an archaeologist. 150sq metres were excavated, 5.9% of the application area following a trench plan designed to sample all areas of the site. Limitations to the positioning of the trenches included demolition rubble stockpiled in the south-east corner, and a store of materials and equipment along the east side of the site.

In each of the trenches the machine removed worked topsoil 350-500mm deep and an underlying pale silt to expose the surface of the drift geology. The underlying silt was an homogenous, fine textured clay/silt that varied in depth between 200mm and 400mm deep. The subsoil was mottled silt sand with patches of clay silt and cleaner gravel sand at 1m below the ground surface. The only features observed cut the silt layer and were all relatively recent 19th century, or later. A single sherd of abraded medieval coarseware was collected from the silt.

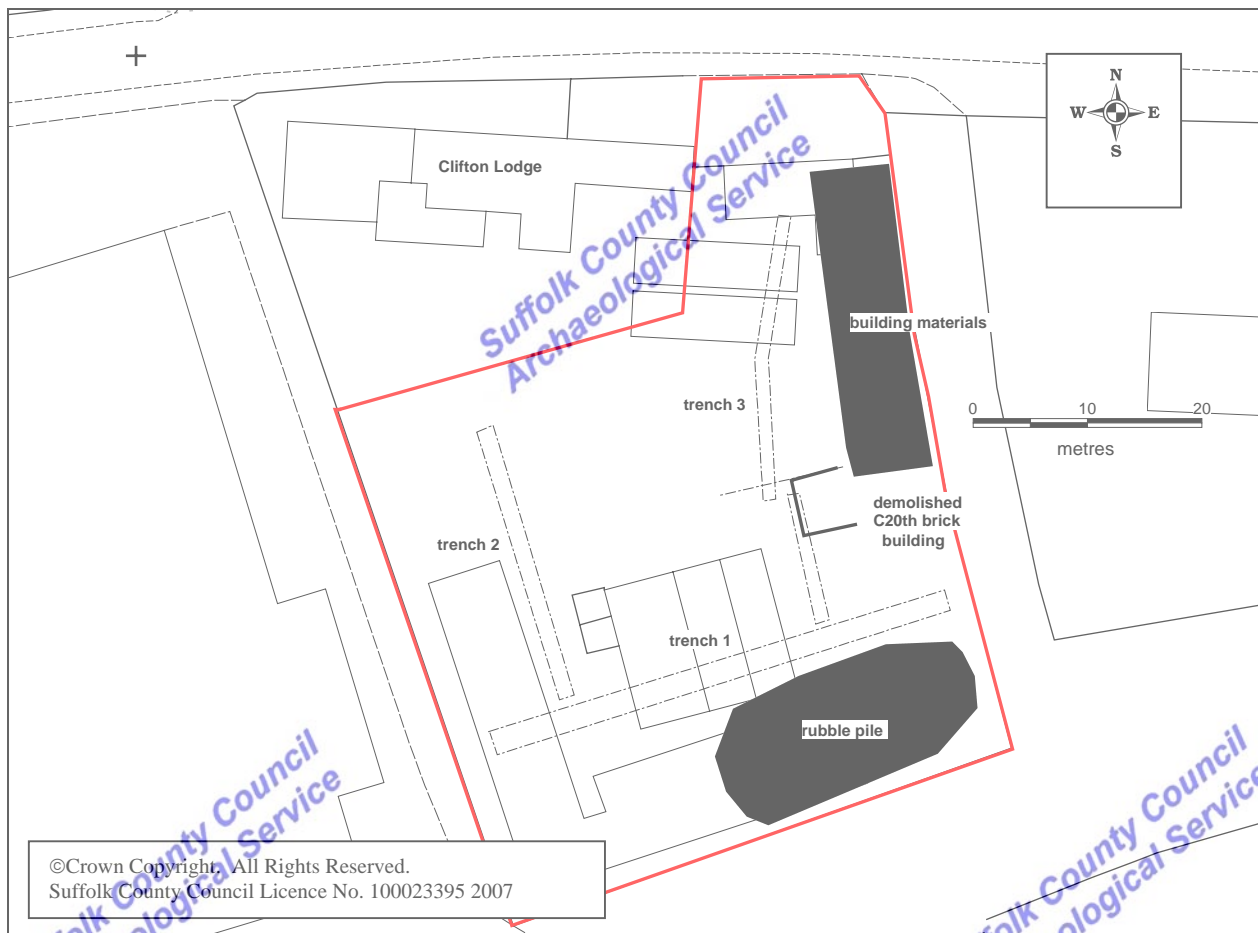


Figure 2. Site plan

Conclusion

The evaluation produced no evidence that the prehistoric burial activity in the neighbouring fields continued into this area. The presence of the buried silt suggests that the ground levels are intact and the absence of archaeology is not as a result of truncation. The single sherd of pottery may have been transported to the site through manuring of the field. It is recommended that no further work is necessary on the site.

David Gill, July 2007