

Archaeological Monitoring Report

SCCAS Report No. 2004/116

Hardings Farm, Beck Row, Mildenhall. MNL 542 Planning Application No F/2004/0057/FUL

Introduction

The site was visited on 4/08/2004, in order to monitor the footing trenches of the proposed extension to the house. The monitoring was a condition of the consent on planning application F/2004/0057/FUL; the application also included a detached garage, but the building of this has been postponed (Mr Freemantle, contractor).

The development is at TL 691 801 in the Fen margin to the south of Undley, well below the 5m contour and within a rich archaeological landscape. The county's Sites and Monuments Record details a number of sites within the immediate vicinity which form part of a dense ribbon of Prehistoric and Roman occupation activity along the Fen edge (Fig.1). There are records of various prehistoric finds and undated cropmarks in the near vicinity and there is also a record of an undated soilmark ring, possibly a barrow, close to this property.

The existing house was built in the (?)1970's, situated in the corner of a cultivated field.

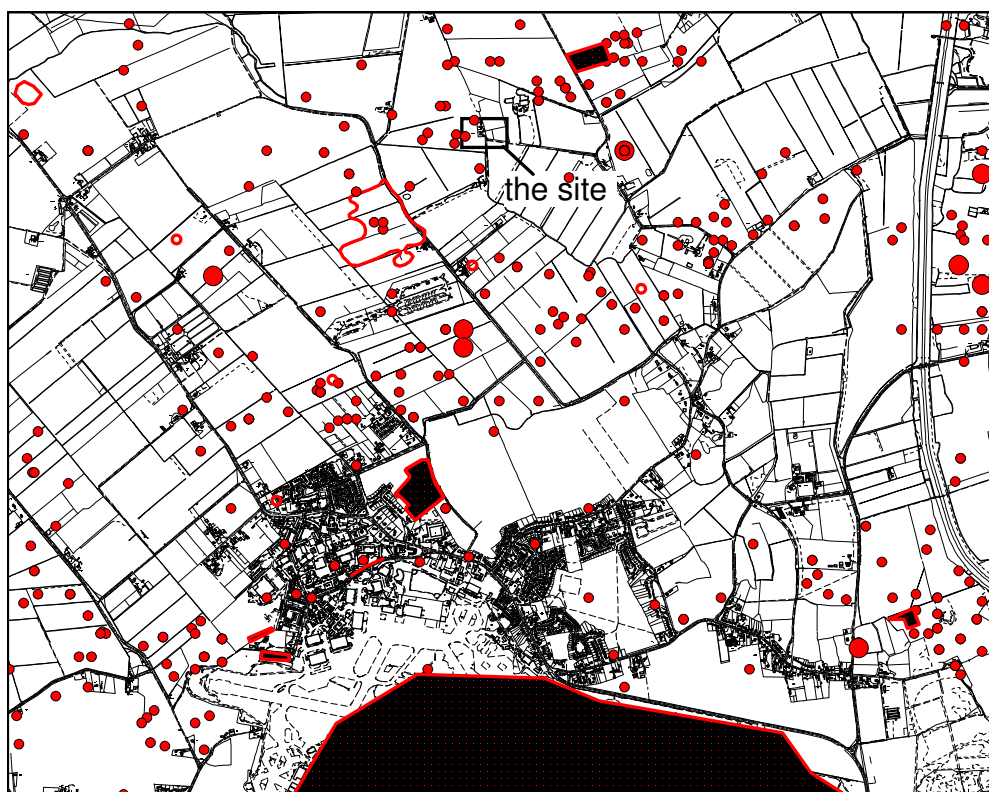


Figure 1. Site location plan (● = known sites)

Results

Excavation of the footing was in progress at the time of the visit and c.80% of the proposed trench was open (Fig.2). The trench sides were examined and the spoil which was stock-piled in the neighbouring field scanned for finds. The soil profile

was 50cm of a homogenous, well worked, fine peaty sand at the northern end of the trench, deepening to 70cm at the south. This lay directly over the yellow sand of underlying geology. Fragments of brick and pantile were observed within the spoil, the quantities were very low and all were post-medieval in date.



Figure 2. Site plan

David Gill
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