

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

WEST END HOUSE,
SMALL FEN LANE, BRANDON
BRD 205

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
Planning Application. NF/2007/0520/FULL
NGR: TL 7722 8656
OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-38289

Funded by: Mr.G Holmes

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2008/011

Summary

An archaeological monitoring uncovered the course of a ditch running beneath a new building extension. No finds were recovered and the ditch remains undated.

Introduction

Monitoring was carried out during extension work at West End House, Small Fen Lane, Brandon as part of planning permission and according to a Brief and Specification for the work issued by R. D. Carr of SCCAS. Although little is known of the site interest is generated by extensive evidence from the flood plain of the Little Ouse for occupation remains dating from prehistory through the Saxon Period. The site lies at c.6m OD

Methodology and Results

Two visits were made to this site on 6-7th October 2007 during the excavation of footings and a measured section drawn of the exposed ditch which is shown in Figure 2. Approximately 37m of trench were seen to the south and east of the building. The spoil heaps were examined for finds. The extension to the north was not monitored. An OASIS form has been completed for the project (reference no. suffolkc1-38289) and a digital copy of the report submitted for inclusion on the Archaeology Data Service database (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/greylit>)

The footing trenches were c.1m deep comprising 0.25m of topsoil over 0.5m of orange/brown sand. An abrupt change in the ground was marked by a concentrated layer of iron pan below which the orange sand became lighter. The recorded section (Fig. 2) reveals a slightly oblique section through a ditch with evidence for at least one re-cut. It was c.1.3m wide and c.1m deep and was sealed by the topsoil. No finds were recovered from the trenches or from the spoil heaps and the footing trenches at the north end of the building were not monitored.

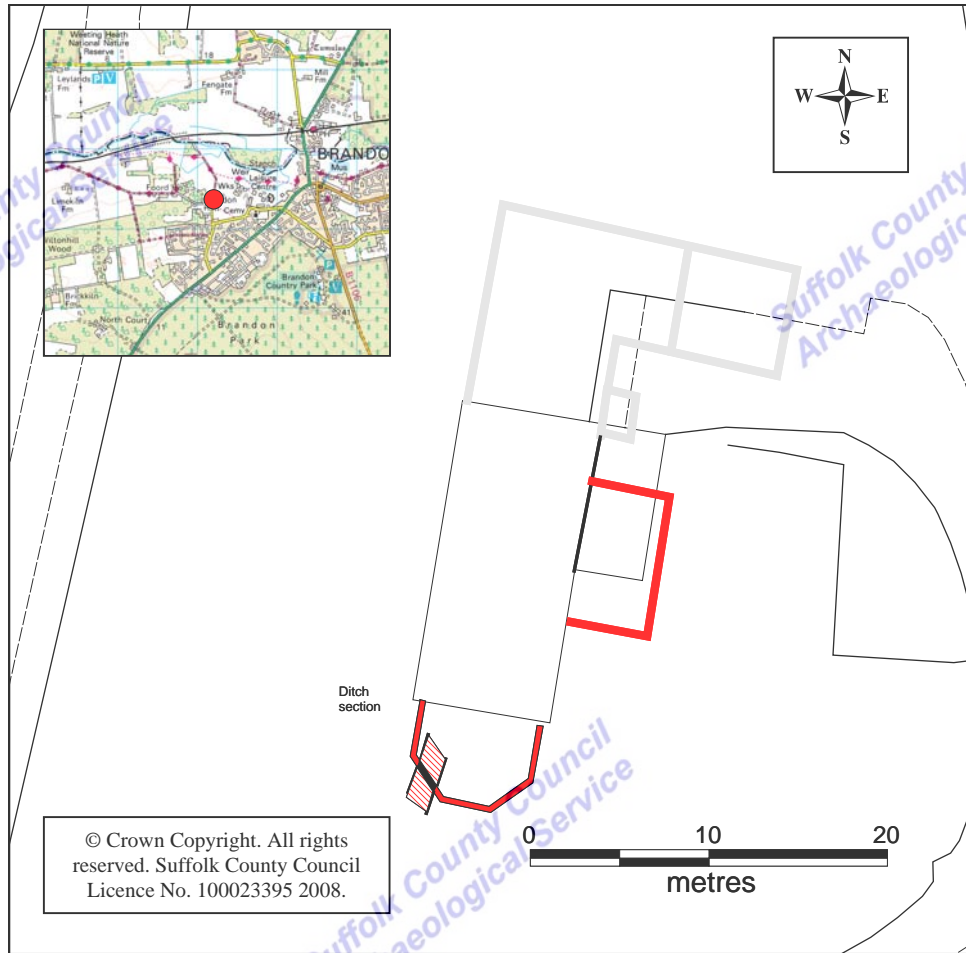


Figure 1. New road line

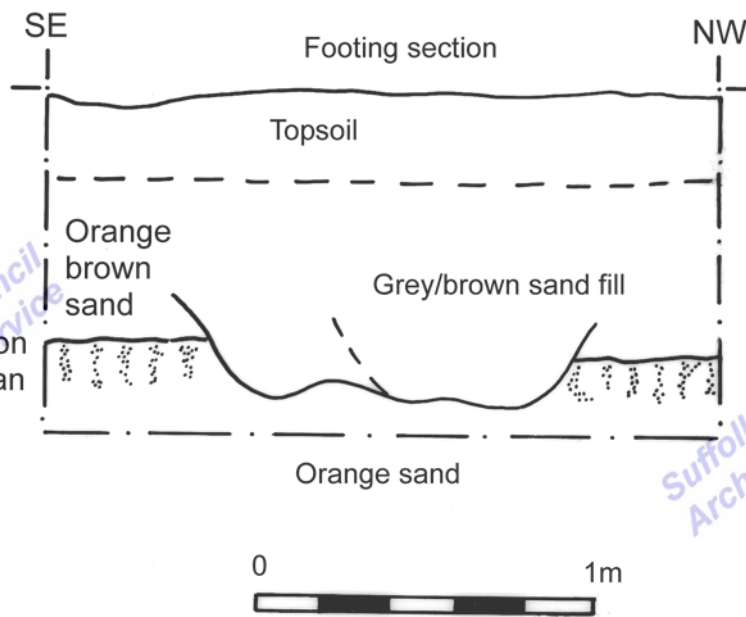


Figure 2. Section of ditch. Trench 7

Discussion and Conclusion

No finds were recovered from the trenches which suggests that any earlier settlement may not have been concentrated in this area, although the area examined was of limited extent. The single ditch remains undated. Its alignment was very similar to that of Small Fen Lane that lies 20m to the west and these may be related and part of the historic landscape. This is speculative, however, and the dating is conjectural.

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