

Rear of 5 Heath Road/59-61 Barton Road, Thurston THS 013

Application No. 1355/02 and 1511/03

TL 915 654

Report No. 2004/130

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of residential footing trenches at land to the rear of 5 Heath Road/59-61 Barton Road, Thurston, did not locate any archaeological features or material.

Introduction

A series of visits was made to the site (Fig. 1), from 1st September to 4th November 2004, to monitor the excavation of footing trenches and associated groundworks for the construction of five bungalows and garages (Fig. 2). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by Judith Plouviez (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team, appendix 1) to fulfil a planning condition on applications 1355/02 and 1511/03. The work was funded by the developer, Bennett Homes.

Interest in the site was based upon its location near to the line of a Roman road which has been located at RGH 017 and THS 002, 160m to the west, and to Iron Age pottery found at THS 004, 100m to the west (Fig.1). Groundworks on the site therefore had considerable potential for disturbing further evidence of Iron Age or Roman activity.

Methodology and Results

The actual footing trenches for the plots, and their associated garages, were not actually observed while open. However Plot 1 and the garage for plot 5, were seen when the entire footprint of the buildings had been stripped of 0.3m of topsoil, exposing the natural subsoil throughout, an orange/brown gravel/loam.

Reduction of ground levels in the footprints of plots 4 and 5 also meant that soil profiles could be seen around the edges of the plots, after building work had started, clearly showing the natural subsoil under a 0.3m layer of modern topsoil.

A large service trench, approximately 2.5m wide, 1.5m deep and 5m long, was also observed. This showed the modern topsoil, approximately 0.3m thick, directly overlying a natural subsoil, an orange/brown gravel/loam, which itself overlaid the natural chalk.

Discussion

Limited observation of the development saw no archaeological evidence, the natural subsoil appearing to be undisturbed beneath the garden topsoil..

John Craven, December 2004

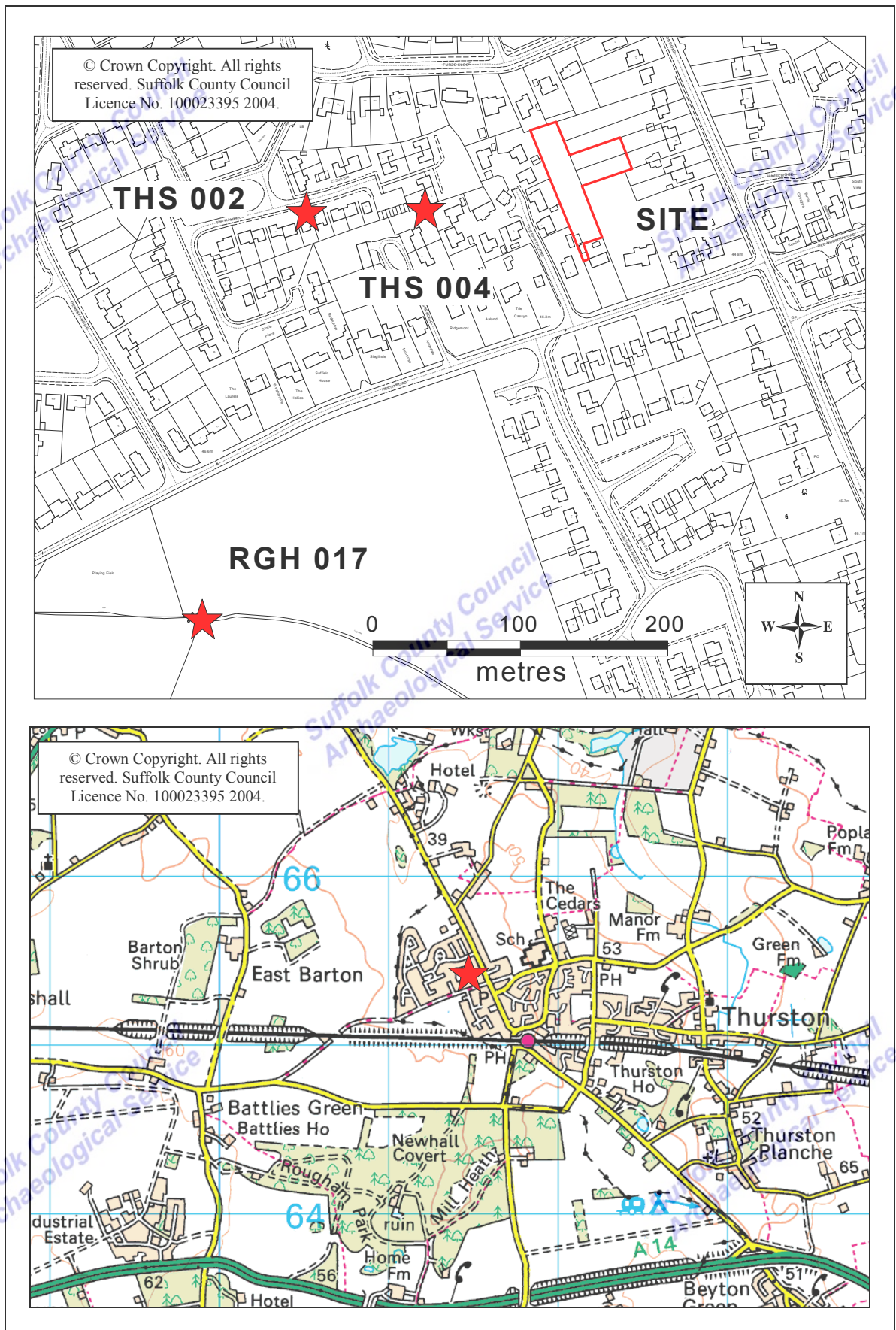


Figure 1. Site location plan

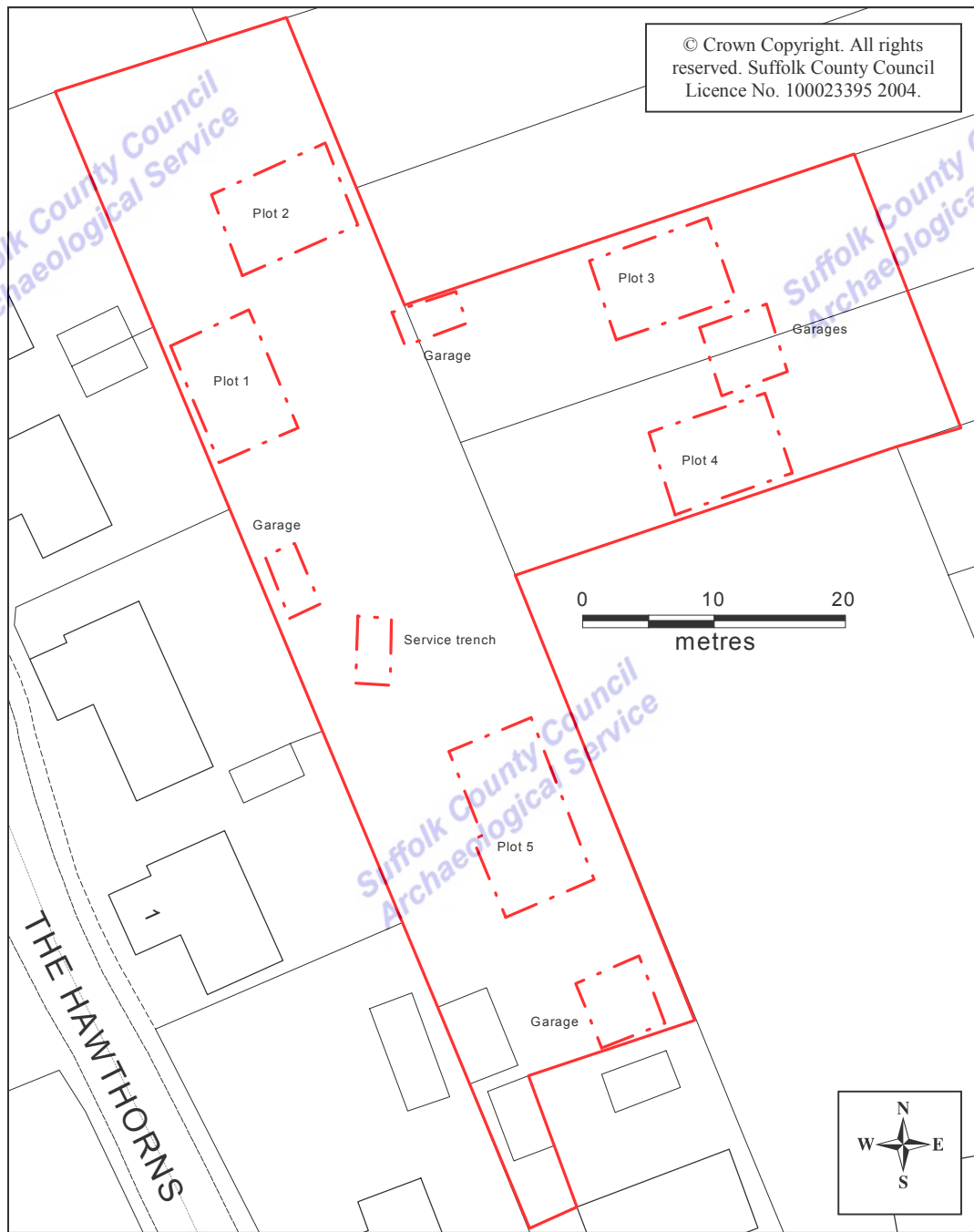


Figure 2. Site plan

SUFFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SERVICE - CONSERVATION TEAM



Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring of Development

REAR OF 5 HEATH ROAD/59-61 BARTON ROAD, THURSTON

*Although this document is fundamental to the work of the specialist archaeological contractor the developer should be aware that certain of its requirements are likely to impinge upon the working practices of a **general building contractor** and may have financial implications, for example see paragraphs 2.3 & 4.3.*

1. Background

- 1.1 Planning permission to develop on this site has been granted conditional upon an acceptable programme of archaeological work being carried out (applications 1355/02 & 1511/03). Assessment of the available archaeological evidence indicates that the area affected by development can be adequately recorded by archaeological monitoring.
- 1.2 The site is at TL 914 654, an area of 0.26ha, on the 45m contour in an area of former heathland (Thurston Heath). It lies about 120m to the east of Roman road line (THS 002), identified in 1950s house construction; substantial sherds of late Iron Age pottery have also been found in this vicinity (THS 004). Elsewhere on Thurston Heath Neolithic material has been discovered (THS 011). There is thus considerable potential for prehistoric and Roman activity in the vicinity.
- 1.3 In accordance with the standards and guidance produced by the Institute of Field Archaeologists this brief should not be considered sufficient to enable the total execution of the project. A Project Design or Written Scheme of Investigation (PD/WSI) based upon this brief and the accompanying outline specification of minimum requirements, is an essential requirement. This must be submitted by the developers, or their agent, to the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council (Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds IP33 2AR; telephone/fax: 01284 352443) for approval. The work must not commence until this office has approved both the archaeological contractor as suitable to undertake the work, and the PD/WSI as satisfactory. The PD/WSI will *provide the basis for measurable standards* and will be used to establish whether the requirements of the planning condition will be adequately met.
- 1.4 Detailed standards, information and advice to supplement this brief are to be found in "Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England" Occasional Papers 14, East Anglian Archaeology, 2003.

2. **Brief for Archaeological Monitoring**

- 2.1 To provide a record of archaeological deposits which are damaged or removed by any development [including services and landscaping] permitted by the current planning consent.
- 2.2 The main academic objective will centre upon the potential of this development to produce evidence for earlier occupation of the site, particularly of prehistoric or Roman date.
- 2.3 The significant archaeologically damaging activities in this proposal are ground clearance and access works and the excavation of building footing trenches. These, and the upcast soil, are to be observed **after have been** excavated by the building contractor. Adequate time is to be allowed for archaeological recording of archaeological deposits during excavation, and of soil sections following excavation (see 4.3).

3. **Arrangements for Monitoring**

- 3.1 To carry out the monitoring work the developer will appoint an archaeologist (the archaeological contractor) who must be approved by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service (SCCAS) - see 1.3 above.
- 3.2 The developer or his archaeologist will give the Conservation Team of SCCAS five working days notice of the commencement of ground works on the site, in order that the work of the archaeological contractor may be monitored. The method and form of development will also be monitored to ensure that it conforms to previously agreed locations and techniques upon which this brief is based.
- 3.3 Allowance must be made to cover archaeological costs incurred in monitoring the development works by the contract archaeologist. The size of the contingency should be estimated by the approved archaeological contractor, based upon the outline works in paragraph 2.3 of the Brief and Specification and the building contractor's programme of works and time-table.
- 3.4 If unexpected remains are encountered the Conservation Team of SCCAS must be informed immediately. Amendments to this specification may be made to ensure adequate provision for archaeological recording.

4. **Specification**

- 4.1 The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to both the County Council Conservation Team archaeologist and the contracted 'observing archaeologist' to allow archaeological observation of building and engineering operations which disturb the ground.

- 4.2 Opportunity must be given to the 'observing archaeologist' to hand excavate any discrete archaeological features which appear during earth moving operations, retrieve finds and make measured records as necessary.
- 4.3 In the case of footing trenches unimpeded access at the rate of one and a half hours per 10 metres of trench must be allowed for archaeological recording before concreting or building begin. Where it is necessary to see archaeological detail one of the soil faces is to be trowelled clean.
- 4.4 All archaeological features exposed must be planned at a minimum scale of 1:50 on a plan showing the proposed layout of the development.
- 4.5 All contexts must be numbered and finds recorded by context.
- 4.6 The data recording methods and conventions used must be consistent with, and approved by, the County Sites and Monuments Record.

5. Report Requirements

- 5.1 An archive of all records and finds is to be prepared consistent with the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects (MAP2)*, particularly Appendix 3. This must be deposited with the County Sites and Monuments Record within 3 months of the completion of work. It will then become publicly accessible.
- 5.2 Finds must be appropriately conserved and stored in accordance with *UK Institute of Conservators Guidelines*. The finds, as an indissoluble part of the site archive, should be deposited with the County SMR if the landowner can be persuaded to agree to this. If this is not possible for all or any part of the finds archive, then provision must be made for additional recording (e.g. photography, illustration, analysis) as appropriate.
- 5.3 A report on the fieldwork and archive, consistent with the principles of *MAP2*, particularly Appendix 4, must be provided. The report must summarise the methodology employed, the stratigraphic sequence, and give a period by period description of the contexts recorded, and an inventory of finds. The objective account of the archaeological evidence must be clearly distinguished from its interpretation. The Report must include a discussion and an assessment of the archaeological evidence. Its conclusions must include a clear statement of the archaeological value of the results, and their significance in the context of the Regional Research Framework (*East Anglian Archaeology*, Occasional Papers 3 & 8, 1997 and 2000).
- 5.4 A summary report, in the established format, suitable for inclusion in the annual 'Archaeology in Suffolk' section of the *Proceedings of the Suffolk Institute of Archaeology*, must be prepared and included in the project report.

- 5.5 County Sites and Monuments Record sheets must be completed, as per the county SMR manual, for all sites where archaeological finds and/or features are located.

Specification by: Judith Plouviez

Suffolk County Council
Archaeological Service Conservation Team
Environment and Transport Department
Shire Hall
Bury St Edmunds
Suffolk IP33 2AR

Date: 7 April 2004

Reference: /Thurston04

This brief and specification remains valid for 12 months from the above date. If work is not carried out in full within that time this document will lapse; the authority should be notified and a revised brief and specification may be issued.

If the work defined by this brief forms a part of a programme of archaeological work required by a Planning Condition, the results must be considered by the Conservation Team of the Archaeological Service of Suffolk County Council, who have the responsibility for advising the appropriate Planning Authority.