

**Land Adjacent 'Church's', Ipswich Road,  
Offton  
(OFF 016)**

**Planning Application No. OL/103/03  
Archaeological Monitoring Report No. 2004/157  
OASIS ID No. 4687**

**Introduction**

Conditional planning consent for the construction of a new house on Ipswich Road, Offton, (Fig. 1) required the archaeological monitoring of the stripped building footprint. The site is centred on TM 0774 4892 on the north side of a valley just below the 30m contour. Although the site lies outside of the medieval village, it is situated within one of the smaller areas of settlement found intermittently along the valley road. Metal detected finds are also known within c.100m of the site, including a late Roman coin and an Anglo-Saxon wrist clasp. Given this and the valley location of the development, there is potential for evidence of prehistoric, Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval activity.

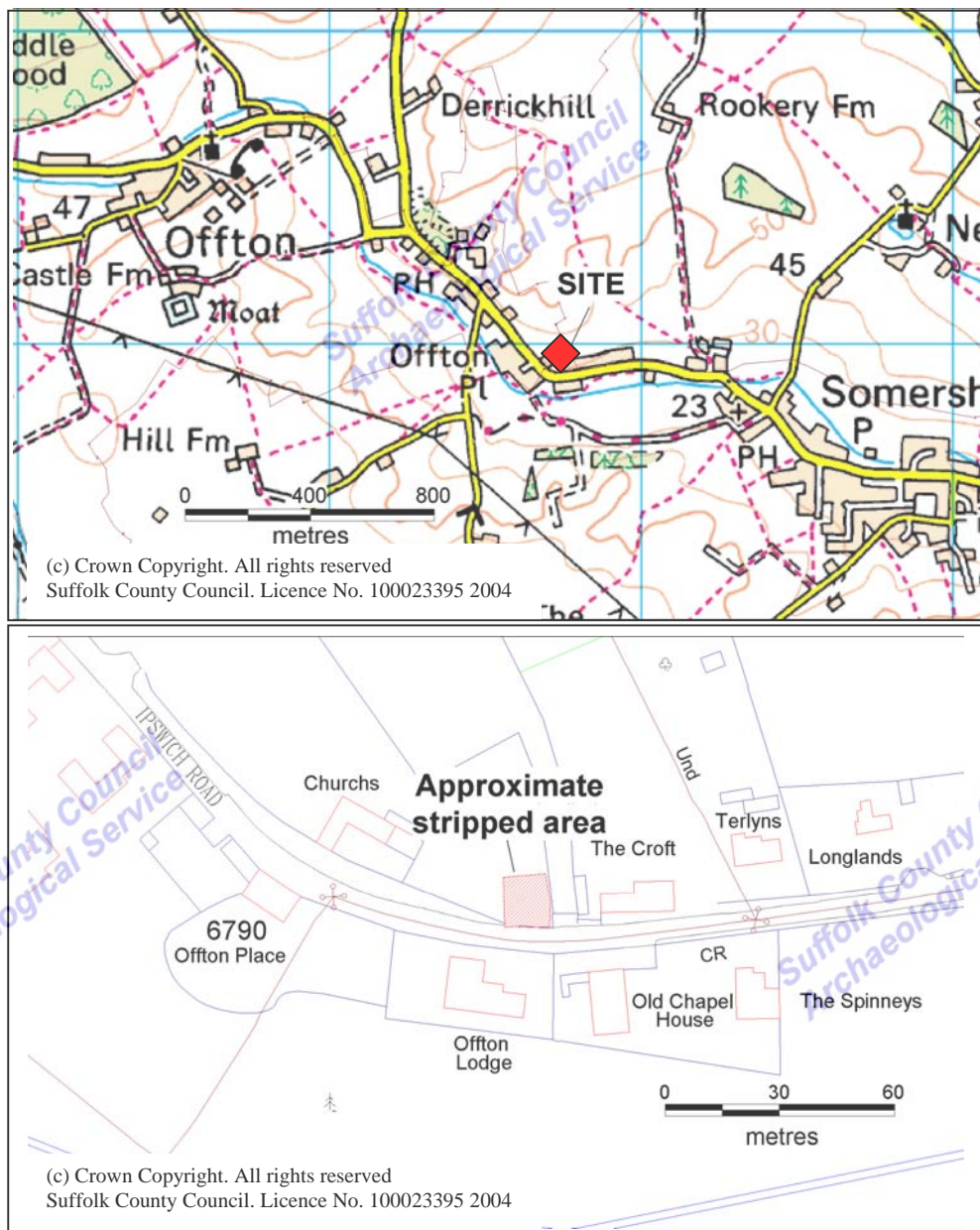


Figure 1: Site location and monitored area

## **Methodology**

Visits were made to the site by members of the Field Projects Team of Suffolk County Council's Archaeological Service in order to inspect stripped area. The site was recorded under the SMR code OFF 016. The monitoring work took place during October 2004 and was commissioned by Mr. D. Etheridge. The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

## **Results**

The site occupied a north to south slope into which the building footprint was cut. The back of the site was excavated to a total depth of c. 2m, where the exposed section comprised 400mm of dark brown clay loam topsoil rich in building rubble, sealing 400mm imported chalk. This sealed a dark brown loamy layer c. 300 mm thick, presumably a buried topsoil, which lay directly above natural. The natural subsoil exposed was a pale yellow chalky clay. The chalk layer and probable buried topsoil beneath it were not present in the southern part of the site. No features were observed in the course of excavation, nor was any artefactual evidence recovered from either exposed surfaces or spoil.

## **Discussion**

The chalk layer may represent evidence of floor or yard surfaces, possibly associated with agricultural buildings which once occupied the site. No archaeological evidence was observed, but the quantity of modern rubble and waste in the topsoil suggests the site has been subject to modern disturbance.

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