

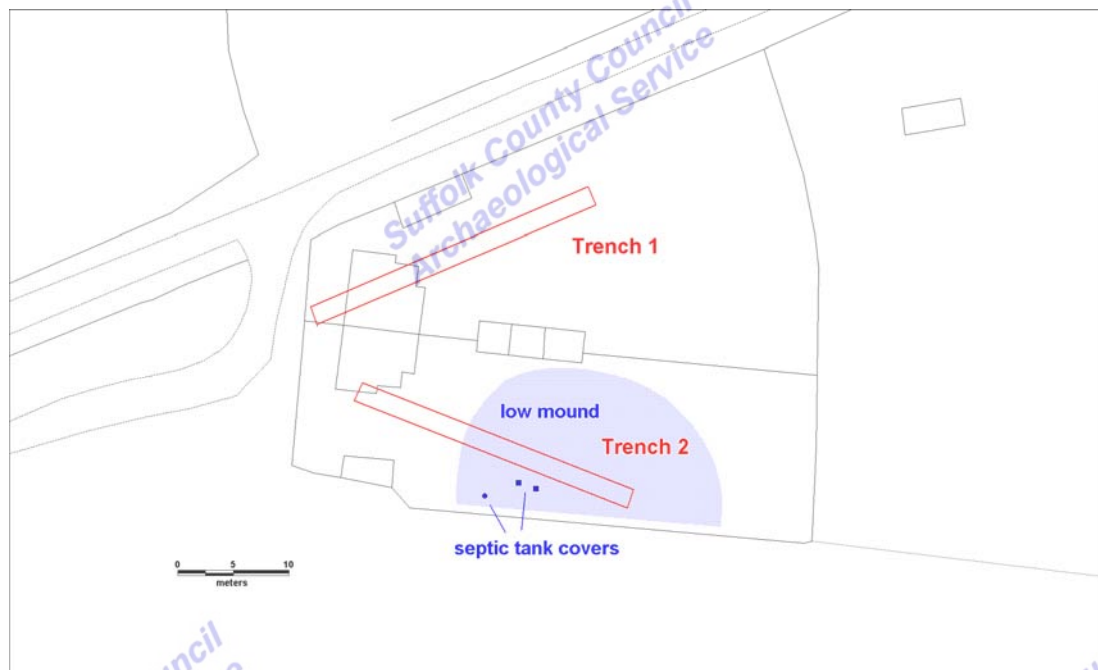
ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION REPORT

Former 64 and 65 Black Cottages, The Warren, Snape.

SNP 020

OASIS ID: Suffolkc1 – 6748

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION, 2005
(Planning app. no. C/04/0720)



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Summary

Prior to planning permission being granted, two trial trenches were positioned to detect and characterise a possible barrow or windmill mound thought to have occupied the site. Excavation revealed no archaeological features or finds predating the previously standing Victorian cottages. A low rise across the south of the site was shown to be probably modern. It is presumed that the original mound (if it ever existed) was located either on another part of the plot or at an adjacent location.

SMR information

Planning application no. C/04/0720
Date of fieldwork: 16th February 2005
Grid Reference: TM 4027 5843
Funding body: Mr G. Heald

Introduction

The Planning Authority (Suffolk Coastal District Council) has been advised by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service that an archaeological evaluation be conducted prior to planning consent being granted. An evaluation was therefore proposed to determine the archaeological potential of the area and in particular to see if a suspected mound could be identified and characterised.

The archaeological evaluation was commissioned by Mullins Dowse and partners (architects) on behalf of Mr G. Heald. The Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service conducted the fieldwork on the 16th February 2005.

The site is situated on or near to a supposed barrow called 'Round Hill'. A letter to the Gentleman's Magazine of 1863 suggests that this barrow stood higher than any of the other Snape barrows. Another report of c.1828 stated that a small windmill was placed on the mound and that a cutting made into the side revealed 'curious old earthenware and coloured glass bits of corroded iron and a large number of bones'.

The proximity of this possible mound to the famous Snape barrows and Saxon burials 800m to the north make this site of potential national importance. Alternatively the mound could have been built for a windmill in the medieval or later periods and preservation *in situ* would not necessarily be required.

The purpose of this evaluation would be to locate by trial trenching the position of the mound, to sample any associated features and to recover dateable artefacts associated with the mound or other features.

Method

The cottages and outbuildings had been demolished and the rest of the site was searched for earthwork features and any indications of modern services and disturbances. These were recorded on a plan of 1:200

Trial trenches were positioned to sample the area of the former cottages (see location plan). Trenching was conducted using a 180° machine (JCB) equipped with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. All machining was observed by an archaeologist standing adjacent to the trench. The topsoil and subsoil were removed separately by the digger to reveal the undisturbed natural deposits (sand) in the base of the trench. The upcast soil was checked visually for any archaeological finds.

All potential archaeological features observed in the base of the trench were cleaned and hand excavated.

The site archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds. The Sites and Monuments Record code SNP 020 has been assigned to this site

Results

No features of archaeological interest were revealed. Potential features sampled proved to be either animal burrows or 20th century rubbish pits. No artefacts or other finds of archaeological significance were recovered from the upcast spoil of the trenches or seen in the surrounding plot.

Trench 1, running NE to SW across the northern half of the site, was 27m long and c.700mm deep. The dark brown humic topsoil was c.250mm thick and this lay over a mid to pale grey brown silty sand subsoil. Natural deposits of mid orange coarse sand were encountered at a depth of c.600mm. The footings for the previous cottage were shown to be only 300mm deep.

Trench 2, running NW to SE across the southern half of the site, was 26m long and c.700mm deep at its NW end and c.900mm deep at its SE end. This trench was positioned to sample a low mound observed along the southern edge of the area. The soil profile for this trench was similar to Trench 1 except for the mound material. This consisted of a layer of between 100 – 200mm of fine pale sand, which appeared to have been inserted between the topsoil and the subsoil. It seems that the topsoil had been removed the pale sand spread over the subsoil and then the topsoil replaced. A sharply defined contact zone between the topsoil and the mound material suggests that this had happened only in the recent past. The mounding was probably associated with the digging out of a very deep septic tank to the south of the trench.

Conclusions and Recommendations

No archaeological evidence dating to before the building of the cottages has been recognised. The suspected flattened barrow could not be seen in excavation and the low mound observed across the southern edge of the site is of probable modern origin.

There are no archaeological deposits worthy of preservation *in situ* or of further excavation. It is recommended however that, in view of the early reports that indicate this site to be of importance, any subsequent planning permission granted for building on the site should include a monitoring condition.

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