

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## Rectory Farm, Henley

**PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: 1147/03**

National Grid Reference: TM 1627 5093

**Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record Reference: HEN 012**

Clare McLannahan, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, May 2005

**SCCAS Report Number: 2005/45**

Oasis ID. No. - suffolkc1-6974

### Summary

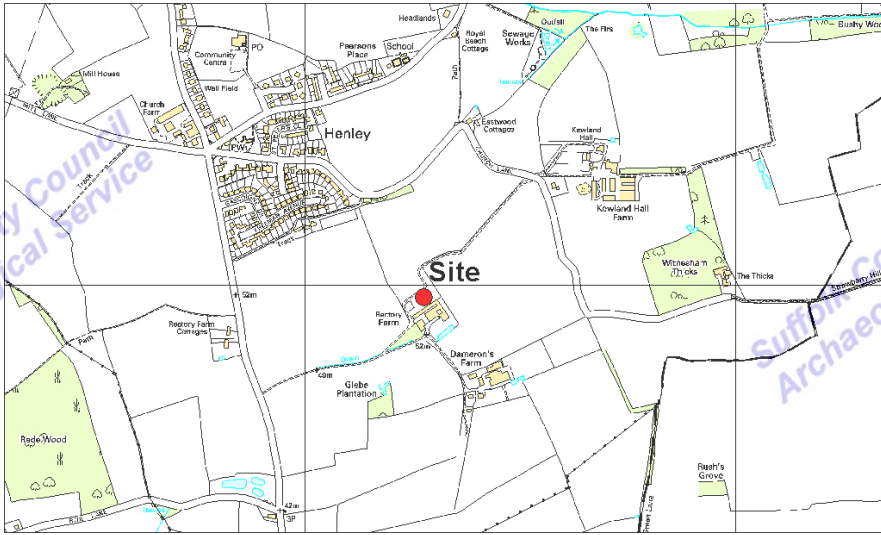
*The conversion of former farm barns into dwellings and the construction of new garaging at Rectory Farm, Henley (TM 1627 5093, HEN 012) required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site lies to the south-east of a substantial area of Roman finds and there was also a probability of medieval activity in the vicinity of the 'Old Rectory'. The footings for the new buildings required inspection during and after excavation, as well examination of the upcast soil. In addition, drainage and other service trenches were excavated throughout the development as well as small footing trenches for new walls and such like. No archaeological finds or features were revealed during the monitoring.*



Figure 1: Current Farm buildings at Rectory Farm

### Introduction

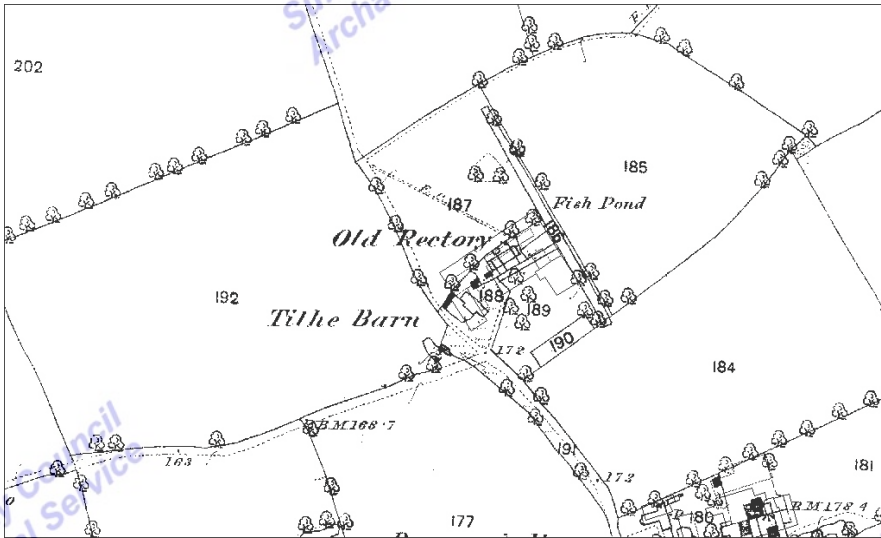
Planning consent for the conversion of former farm barns into 8 dwellings and the construction new garages on Rectory Farm, Henley, required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. A substantial area of Roman and medieval finds, and some Iron Age and Bronze Age material, is recorded on the county Sites and Monuments Record in the field to the north-west of the development (Fig. 4). The Tithe Barn and Old Rectory mapped on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition OS (Fig. 3) also suggest the site was historically significant in Medieval and later times and so it was hoped that this development would produce evidence of Medieval Henley as well as Roman activity in the area. Winchester Homes Ltd. (developers) commissioned the project.



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Figure 2: Site location

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Jude Plouviez of the Conservation Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS), who requested monitoring visits after the excavation of the footing and service trenches. This was to observe the trenches and the upcast soil to determine the presence, if any, of archaeological evidence in this area.



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Figure 3: 1880 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS map

## Results

The site was visited during February, March and April by John Newman and Clare McLannahan, both of SCCAS Field Team. Various services trenches were inspected whilst being excavated and when open, stripping of the courtyard was partially observed and part of the excavation for the water pipe between the development and the road was monitored (Fig. 4). The excavations were all dug through either made

up ground, consisting of chalky rubble, or through solid mid orange brown sandy clay with chalk pieces and flecks. No finds or features were recovered, despite the general good visibility.

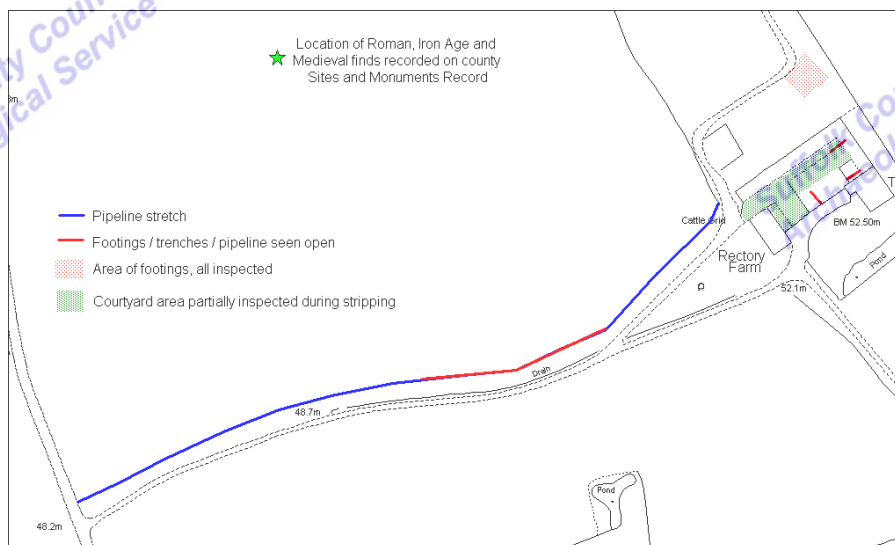


Figure 4: Plan of site and areas inspected

The footings of the garage to the north-east of the site (Fig. 4.) were also observed both during and after excavation and the upcast spoil was retained on site for inspection. They were dug to a depth of c.1.3m through c. 50cm of topsoil, consisting of dark brown loamy clay, and c.80cm of chalky sandy clay natural. Despite revealing the natural subsoil and the good visibility afforded by the clean excavation of the footings, no archaeological finds or features were found within the footing trenches or in the upcast spoil.

### Discussion

No archaeological finds or features were noted on this site. The groundworks were generally spread out over a reasonable distance meaning only a snapshot of the underlying layers was seen. Where larger areas were monitored, for example in the courtyard strip, the excavations were into made ground only, a mix of rubble and concrete. The water pipeline from the road to the development and the footings for the garages was an opportunity to see a larger portion of open ground but, in spite of this, again, no archaeology was observed. It is still possible that archaeology does exist in this area but the limited opportunity to see a reasonable amount of open ground meant that no evidence was gained on this occasion.

Clare McLannahan

Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, 19<sup>th</sup> May 2005

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