

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF THE HOMESTEAD, UPLANDS RD SOUTH, CARLTON COLVILLE (CAC 029)

PLANNING APPLICATION REF: W/15951/18
N.G. REF: TM 5145 9045

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2005/75

OASIS REF: suffolkc1- 7783

Date of fieldwork: October 2002 – February 2003

Funded by: **Persimmon Homes (Anglia) Ltd**

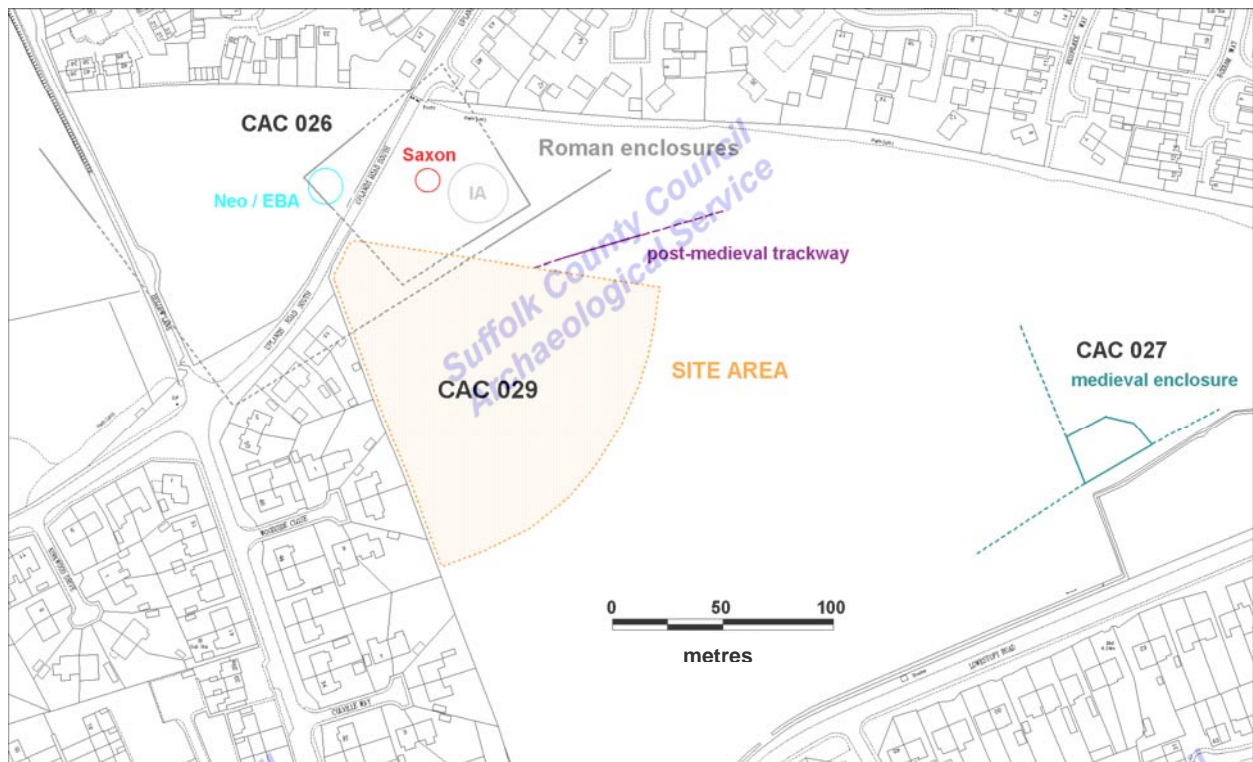


Figure 1: showing development area (CAC 029) and significant archaeological concentrations to the north (CAC 026) which include Neolithic (Neo), Early Bronze Age (EBA), Iron Age (IA), Roman, Saxon and post-medieval features. An area of medieval activity to the east (CAC 027) is also shown.

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Summary

A trial trenched evaluation and subsequent monitoring of the site revealed later prehistoric and early Roman finds, mainly from unstratified contexts. An undated ditch could be running parallel to a large Romano-British enclosure ditch previously seen to the north and could be part of this system. Other ditches appear to run parallel with the present field system and are likely to be post-medieval or modern in date, possibly associated with a large extraction pit seen along the western boundary of the development area.

Definitions

Mesolithic	8,000	- 4,500 BC
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(Later Prehistoric)

Neolithic	4,500	- 2,300 BC
Bronze Age	2,300	- 700 BC
Iron Age	700 BC	- AD 43

(Historic)

Roman	AD 43	- 410
Saxon	AD 410	- 1066
(Middle Saxon)	AD 600	- 850)
Medieval	AD 1066	- 1500
Post-medieval	AD 1500	- 1800
Modern	AD 1800	- present

1. Introduction

The Planning Authority (Waveney District Council) was advised by the Conservation Team of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service that an archaeological evaluation should be conducted as a condition of planning consent being given. An evaluation (trial trenching) was conducted and this led to the subsequent monitoring of contractors' footing trenches. Both phases of archaeological investigation – the evaluation and the monitoring – shall be dealt with in this report

The site is bordered on its north side by the new bypass road and it was in this location that archaeological site CAC 026 was investigated. This was a multi-period site defined by a series of Roman enclosure ditches but also containing ceremonial structures of the Neolithic and Bronze Age and settlement evidence of the Iron Age and Middle Saxon periods. 100m to the east, site CAC 027 revealed evidence of a medieval enclosure and was probable associated with green-edge settlement or utilisation (see figure 1).

In a band of c.20m width across the northern edge of the site the ground had been considerably disturbed by the course of three large water main pipes. Prior to the evaluation this area of pipes had been re-excavated and partly surfaced for a road. New properties adjacent to the water mains had been piled before the archaeological evaluation commenced so that the area to the immediate south of site CAC 026 could not be investigated. Much of the north part of the site had already been partially developed before the evaluation took place and the position of the trial trenches was greatly restricted by cabins and other obstructions on the site.

The site is positioned on south-facing sloping ground between the 10 and 5m contours. The northern, higher ground is situated on underlying natural sand, becoming heavier clay towards

the south. A large hollow along the western edge of the site probably indicates the position of an earlier quarry pit (see figure 2).

The evaluation was conducted on the 21st October 2002 and subsequent monitoring visits were made between December 2002 and February 2003. The fieldwork was conducted by John Blow and Jez Meredith, both of the Field Team of the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (S.C.C.A.S.), the metal-detecting was kindly provided by Mr Brian Applegate, a local volunteer. The project was managed by John Newman of the Field Team and curatorial advice was provided by Jude Plouviez of the Conservation Team of S.C.C.A.S. The project was funded by Persimmon Homes (Anglia) Ltd.

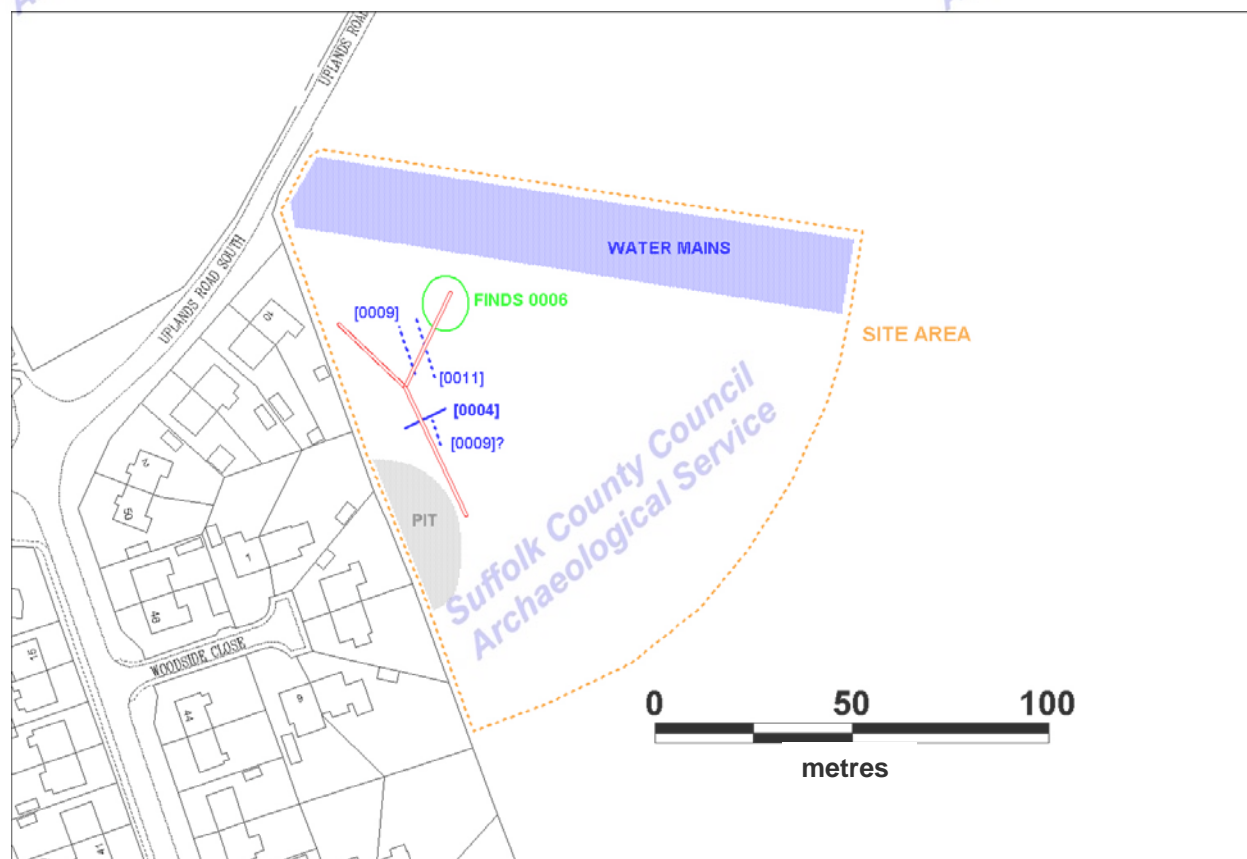


Figure 2: showing the Y-arrangement of trial trenches, features and finds locations, a probable extraction pit and an area of considerable disturbance due to water mains pipes.

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2. Method

During the evaluation the site was already occupied and many areas were inaccessible due to cabins, materials and access for plant. This resulted in a limited amount of trenching being possible in a restricted part of the site. In total c.85m of trenching was undertaken in a Y-formation (see figure 2).

Trenching was undertaken using a 180° wheeled digger (JCB) using a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. Topsoil then subsoil were removed, ensuring that these were kept separate, until undisturbed geological deposits (the natural) was revealed. The upcast soil was checked visually for any archaeological finds. A metal detector search was conducted across the site and of the upcast spoil.

Potential archaeological features observed in the base of the trench were cleaned and then hand excavated. Possible features and anomalies observed were also investigated and sampled by excavation to see whether natural or not.

Trench locations and observed archaeological features were recorded on a plan showing intended house layouts (1:1000) and feature sections were drawn at a scale of 1:20. Different deposits encountered, archaeological or otherwise, were described and given separate 'observable phenomena' (O.P.) numbers. Context records were

entered onto an MS Access database.

The same approach was adopted during the monitoring phase of investigations. Footing trenches were examined for potential archaeological features and records made of deposits and locations shown on the site plan. During these visits contractors' spoil heaps were examined for finds. These were collected as general unstratified finds except where they could be assigned to a particular house plot.

Finds recovered from the excavation were assigned either to their archaeological context or were unstratified. Finds were recorded using the appropriate O.P. number. All finds were inspected, cleaned and analysed by the Finds Team, Bury St Edmunds.

The site archive will be deposited with the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service at Shire Hall, Bury St Edmunds.

3. Results

The following context (O.P.) numbers have been assigned to this site:

OP	Description
0001	Unstratified finds, whole site
0002	Topsoil (trenches)
0003	Subsoil (trenches)
0004	Ditch cut, NE-SW running, with open U-profile, 900mm wide, 850mm deep.
0005	Ditch fill of [0004], mid grey silty sand with moderate charcoal flecks, no finds.
0006	Unstratified finds (monitoring plot 26)
0007	Topsoil, c.400mm thick (monitoring plot 26 etc)
0008	Subsoil, c.200mm, mid/pale brown silty sand (monitoring plot 26)
0009	Ditch cut, NNW-SSE running, with open U-profile, c.1.4m wide, c.1m deep.
0010	Ditch fill of [0009], mid/pale brown grey silty sand, single find – burnt flint.
0011	Ditch cut, NNW-SSE running, unable to observe profile, c.2.2m wide, c.900mm deep but v. vague.
0012	Ditch fill of [0011], mid/pale brown grey silty sand, no finds.

Table 1. Context descriptions.

Evaluation trenches revealed a thick dark brown humic topsoil (0002) of c.400mm thickness, over a mid brown silty sand subsoil (0003) of c.200mm depth. It was from layer 0003 that early Roman pottery and burnt flints, of probable later prehistoric date, were recovered.

Only one archaeological feature was recognised within the trenches and that was an north-east to south-west running ditch, [0004] (see figure 2). This feature had an open U-shaped profile with gently sloping sides and a slightly curving base (see figure 3). The fill of this ditch, 0005, was grey silty sand with moderate charcoal. No finds were found associated with this feature.

During the subsequent monitoring two possible linear features (ditches [0009] and [0011]) were observed running north-west to south-east across adjacent footings (house plots 24 and 26). Both were quite substantial features of up to 1m depth and [0009] being 1.4m and [0011] being 2.2m in width. A single piece of burnt flint was recovered from the fill of ditch [0009].

A test hole observed in a sunken area along the western edge of the site area indicated that this was the location of a large infilled pit, with fill deposits still encountered at a depth of 1.6m. This was probably a clay pit and is likely to be of post-medieval date.

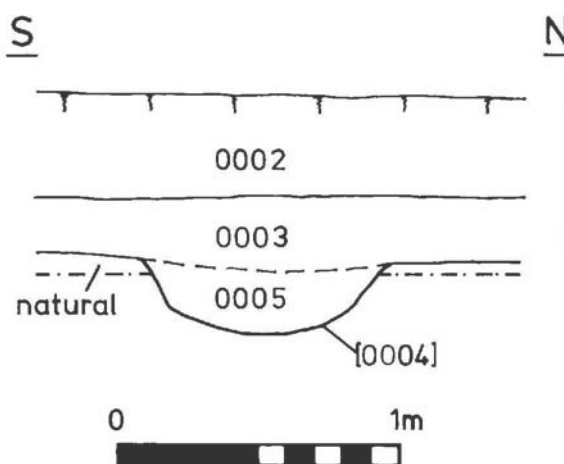


Figure 3: cross-section through ditch [0004] and showing profiles of overlying layers 0002 and 0003.

Unstratified finds 0006, found during the monitoring (within the vicinity of house plot 26), included four undiagnostic struck flint flakes of likely later prehistoric date. Other unstratified finds from across the site as a whole, 0001, include flint flakes and tools, pottery dating from the Bronze Age to the Roman period and various metal finds of post-medieval and modern date (see section 4. The Finds below).

4. The Finds

Cathy Tester July 2004.

Introduction

Finds were collected from four contexts, as shown in the table below.

OP	Pottery		Flint		Burnt flint		Miscellaneous	Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g	No.	Wt/g		
0001	10	99	6	37			Cu (7-75g) Pb (2-53g)	Rom Preh
0003	1	5			4	233		ERom
0006			4	28			Stone (1-166g)	Preh
0010					1	50		Preh
Total	2	104	10	65	5	283		

Table 2. Finds quantities by context.

Pottery

Eleven sherds of prehistoric and Roman pottery were collected from two contexts. The earliest are three unstratified (0001) handmade prehistoric bodysherds. The first is flint tempered with some grog and most likely Bronze Age. The second is flint tempered and very abraded but probably Iron Age. The last is sand tempered with large (1.5mm) opaque white quartz inclusions and can only be dated as prehistoric.

Seven sherds of Roman pottery were identified. They consisted of local or regional coarsewares from two broad fabric groups — black-surfaced wares (BSW) and sandy grey wares (GX). BSW forms identified included an uncertain jar rim and bodysherd (0001) and a very abraded bodysherd (0003). All have ‘romanising’ fabrics and are early Roman (mid or late 1st to early 2nd century AD). Four GX sherds were collected (0001) and include a shallow dish with an out-

turned curved rim which could have a late 1st or early 2nd century date, an uncertain dish or platter which may also be early Roman, and three bodysherds — one has a ‘romanising’ fabric and the other two are non-diagnostic.

Metalwork

Eight metal objects which were unstratified (0001) post-medieval finds are listed below by material:

Copper alloy

1. D-shaped buckle, (SF 1000).
2. Disc with integral loop, diam. 17mm.
3. Disc with integral loop, diam. 26mm.
4. Disc with integral loop, diam. 32mm.
5. Square plate 60 x 53mm.
6. Bar fragment, square section.
7. Bullet case.

Lead

8. Lead waste fragments

Miscellaneous

Worked Flint

by Colin Pendleton

Ten pieces of worked flint (unpatinated unless otherwise mentioned) were found in two contexts:

Context 0001 (unstratified)

1. Two patinated flakes with cortex – Mesolithic?
2. Endscraper. Neolithic-Early Bronze Age
3. Possible biface, snapped, retouched. Thin, like a laurel leaf but too fragmentary to be certain. Early Neolithic?
4. Long flake with hinge fracture, possibly retouched. Later prehistoric
5. Snapped flake with parallel flake scars. Neolithic-Early Bronze Age.

Context 0006 (unstratified from Plot 26)

6. Small patinated long flake with some unpatinated edge damage. Prehistoric
7. Flake with hinge fracture and parallel flake scars. All edges have cortex. Later prehistoric
8. Incomplete flake with hinge fracture. Later prehistoric
9. Flake with pronounced ripples and parallel flake scars. Later prehistoric.

Burnt Flint

Five fragments of burnt flint (283g) were collected from the sub soil layer (0003) and the fill of ditch [0009]. The flint was all blue-grey or white and fire-cracked, of the classic pot boiler type and probably prehistoric.

Stone

A fragment of limestone was collected from context 0006. It had one smooth curved surface but was probably natural.

Discussion

The finds assemblage suggests activity on this site during the prehistoric, Roman and post-medieval periods. The earliest finds are the struck flints which include possible Mesolithic, as well as Neolithic and Early Bronze Age pieces. The pottery includes Bronze Age and Iron Age pieces as well as Early Roman (Mid/late C1-EC2) sherds.

5. Conclusions

The site is in close proximity to and probably includes some of the multi-period occupation observed at site CAC 026 to the north (see figure 4). Unfortunately a wide swathe of disturbance caused by three large water main pipes has obscured, if not destroyed, the southern edges of the Roman enclosure ditches suggested by previous excavation. Footings for new dwellings in this area were not observed before they were dug, nor were they likely to reveal much evidence as house foundations in the vicinity of the water mains were piled.

The small area that could be trenched, avoiding obstacles, revealed a single ditch [0004]. It is possible that this feature, although undated, is part of the Roman system as it appears to run parallel to the large enclosure ditch seen to the north. Unstratified finds from across the site are of later prehistoric and early Roman date. A single, if abraded, sherd of Roman pottery was recovered from the subsoil 0003 and this could indicate the presence of a feature too shallow to cut natural sand and be seen in the base of the trench. Alternatively, a buried soil containing Roman and earlier finds was noted at site CAC 026 to the north and a vestige of this might have survived within the rather thick (c.200mm) subsoil deposit 0003.

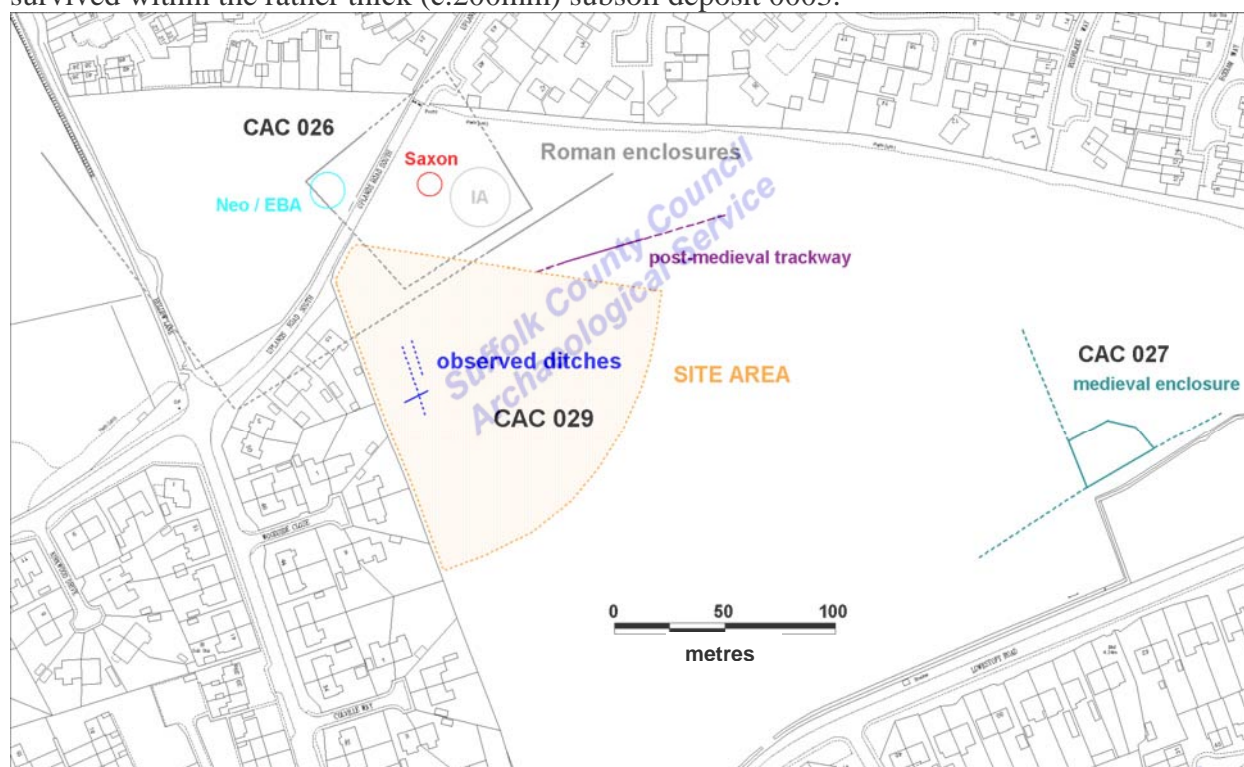


Figure 4: showing features observed during evaluation and monitoring and nearby significant archaeological concentrations.

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Two linear features running north-north-west to south-south-east, [0009] and [0011], were recognised during the monitoring. They appear to run parallel to the present western field boundary and could be post-medieval or modern in date, possibly associated with the clay extraction pit observed along the western boundary of the site. One of these, [0009], contained a piece of burnt flint of likely prehistoric date but could be residual in a later feature.

The finds from across the site are mainly from unstratified contexts and indicate that some later prehistoric and Roman activity extended into this area, although some of the finds might have found their way down-slope due to hillwash (colluvial) processes. The scatter of post-medieval and modern metal artefacts within the topsoil are probably associated with the post-medieval trackway to the north and more recent activity.