

Land to rear of 'Wrights', Long Melford
LMD 136
Planning Application No. B/99/01514/FUL
Archaeological Monitoring Report No. 2004/163

Introduction

Conditional planning consent for the construction of new houses on land to the rear of 'Wrights', Long Melford (Fig. 1) required the archaeological monitoring of services and foundations. The site is centred on TL 8620 4529, at approximately 33m OD, and lies within an extensive area of Roman settlement and the medieval village of Long Melford. Evaluation of the site was carried out by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service (SCCAS) Field Team (Gardner, 2002), which identified Roman features, including a section of flint wall dating to the 3rd-4th century in the southern part of the site.

A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work was produced by Jude Plouviez of the SCCAS Conservation Team. The monitoring work was carried out by the SCCAS Field Projects Team and was funded by the developer, Threshold Properties.

Methodology

Visits were made to the site between April and July 2004 in order to observe the various groundworks and record any archaeological deposits revealed. The site was recorded under the SMR code LMD 136.

The monitoring archive is held in the county SMR in Bury St. Edmunds.

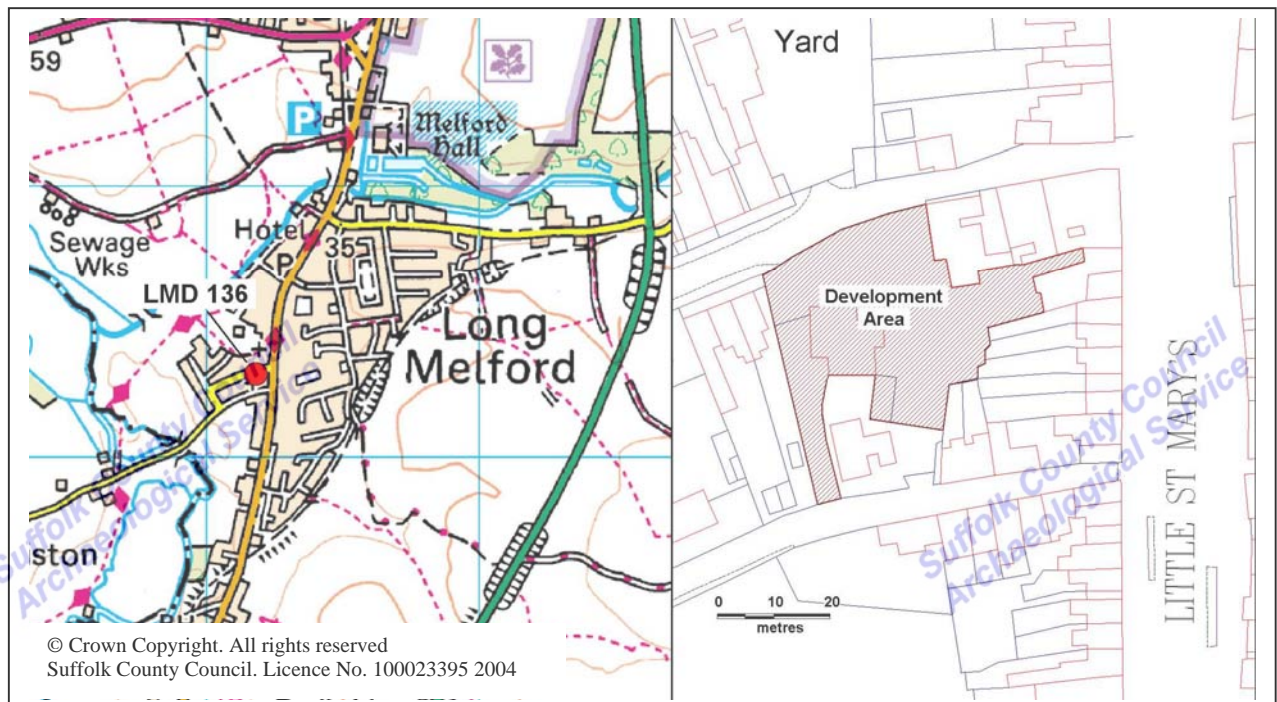


Figure 1: Site location

Results

Trenches for services and footings were excavated and inspected in various locations illustrated by Figure 2. A visit was also made to the observe the stripping of an access road. This removed between 100-300mm of overburden and did not cut beyond topsoil. Footings for plot A revealed a layer of dark, loamy topsoil, c.500mm thick, overlying the natural sandy gravel subsoil. Some intermittent modern disturbance was noted on the eastern side but no archaeological interventions were present. Trench sections in plots B and C also comprised c.500mm topsoil sealing natural subsoil. In the south west corner of plot B, a rammed chalk 'floor' overlying a layer of brick hardcore was recorded below the topsoil. In plot C, a large, shallow pit with a charcoal rich fill was seen cutting the natural and sealed by the topsoil. Both of these features are of fairly recent origin and were therefore not recorded in any further detail. Approximately 7m of service trench opened in the south of the site were inspected but no archaeological features were visible.

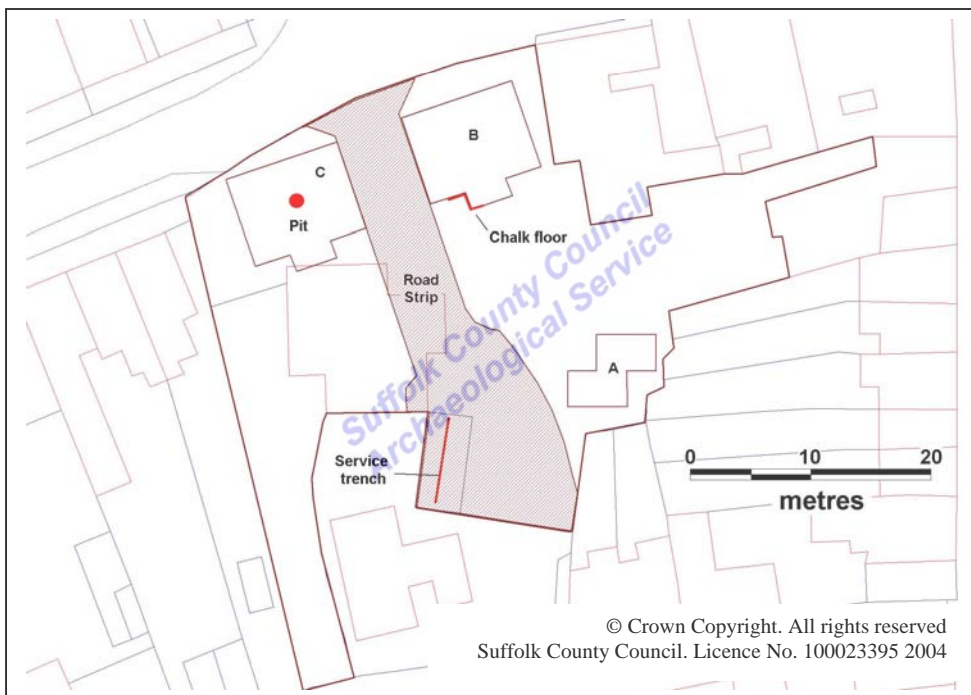


Figure 2: Plan of monitored areas

Discussion

Despite the high potential of the site indicated by evaluation and the number of groundworks observed, no further finds were recovered nor archaeological deposits recorded. Where features were present, they were of post-medieval or modern origin and sealed by topsoil

Linzi Everett

Field Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service

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References

Gardner, R., *Land to the rear of 'Wrights', St. Catherines Road, Long Melford*, LMD 136, SCCAS Report no. 2002/139