

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Mill Green Farm, Mill Green, Parham

PLANNING APPLICATION REFERENCE: C/05/0131

National Grid Reference: TM 3135 6137

Suffolk Sites and Monuments Record Reference: PRH 023

Clare McLannahan, Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, May 2005

SCCAS Report Number: 2005/77

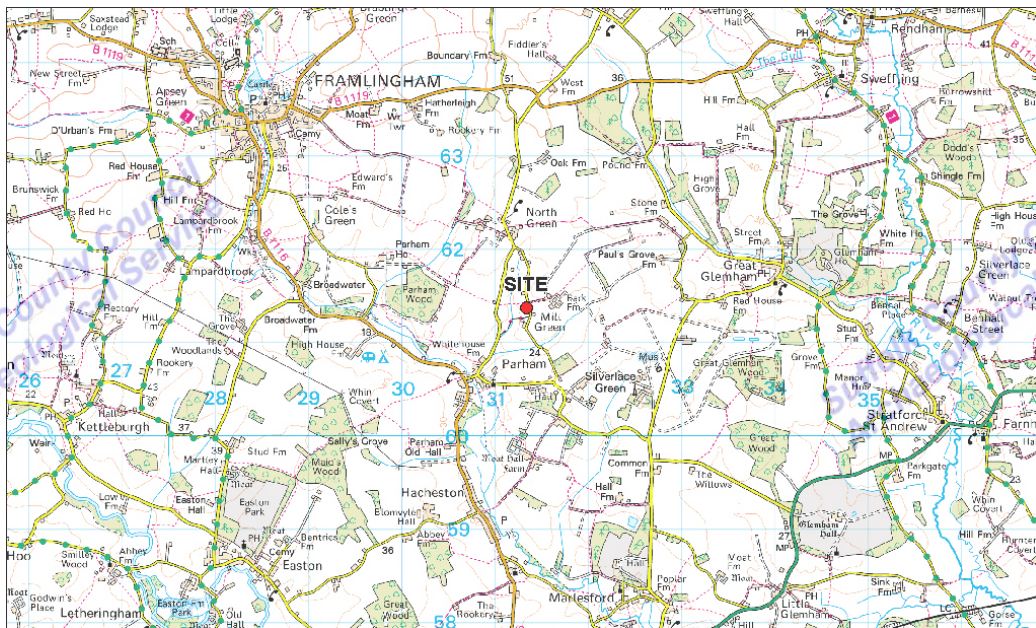
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Summary

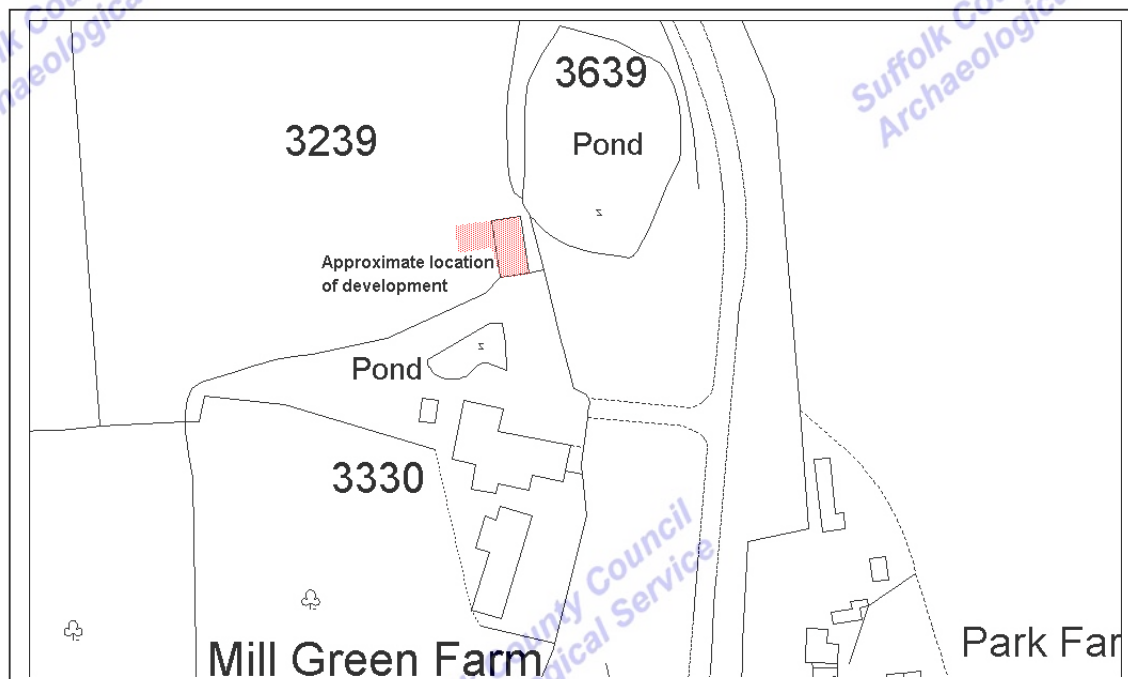
The construction of a new stable block at Mill Green Farm, Parham (TM 3135 6137, PRH 023), required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site fronts onto Mill Green and so has a high potential for evidence of Medieval settlement, including remains of early habitation and an associated occupation deposit. The new stable block required destruction of the old block and stripping of a small area in preparation for the new build. No archaeological finds or features were revealed during the monitoring.

Introduction

Planning consent for the construction of a stable block required a programme of archaeological monitoring to be undertaken. The site fronts onto Mill Green, which is medieval in origin, so it was hoped that this development would produce evidence for medieval occupation along the roadside. Various medieval pottery and metalwork scatters are also noted on the county's Sites and Monuments Record in the field across the road, again suggesting a high Medieval occupation in the area. John Patrick (landowner) commissioned the project.



A Brief and Specification for the archaeological work (Appendix 1) was produced by Bob Carr of the Conservation Team, Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service (SCCAS), who requested a monitoring visit once the existing stables had been demolished and the area stripped in preparation for the new block. This was to determine the presence, if any, of archaeological evidence in this area.



Results

The site was visited on 5th May 2005 once the existing stable block had been demolished and the area stripped in preparation for the new block. The stripped area was dug to a maximum depth of c.0.4m at the north end to just c.0.05m at the south end. At the north end, natural pale yellow chalky clay could be seen, with frequent stones. The south end consisted of topsoil, a dark brown chalky clay again with frequent stones.

Despite revealing the natural subsoil and the good visibility afforded by the clean excavation of the area, no archaeological finds or features were found. A modern pipe trench was seen, excavated by the current owner to aid drainage of the adjacent pond. 1 sherd of 20th Century china was seen in the topsoil at the south end.

Discussion

This development lies slightly away from the green edge itself, behind a pond. It is likely that medieval settlement evidence does exist in this area, but probably closer to the road and the edge of the green.

Clare McLannahan
Suffolk County Council Archaeology Service, 5th May 2005