

Park Farm Quarry, Fornham St Genevieve FSG 018

Application No. E/95/2575/P

TL 847 689

Oasis No. suffolkc1-8492

Report No. 2005/87

Summary

An archaeological monitoring of topsoil stripping at Park Farm Quarry, Fornham St Genevieve did not locate any archaeological evidence of human activity.

Introduction

A series of visits was made to the site (Fig.1) from 3rd to 10th June 2005 to monitor the topsoil strip of a new area within Park Farm Quarry. The work was carried out to fulfil a planning condition on application E/95/2575/P. The work was funded by the developer, Tarmac.

The entire area of the quarry had been previously archaeologically evaluated (FSG 012) prior to development in 1996. This identified areas of principally Iron Age settlement (Gill, 1996) of which two sites, FSG 013 and FSG 015, were fully excavated in 1997 (Anderson and Caruth, 1998). A third site, FSG 014, remains in situ beneath the bund on the western edge of the quarry. A recent evaluation, FSG 017, on farmland immediately to the north of the modern quarry also identified areas of dispersed Iron Age settlement (Craven, 2004).

The new area to be quarried lay in the middle of these sites and, although no archaeological evidence had been identified in this area during the evaluation, there was potential for the development to destroy additional evidence of dispersed prehistoric activity. Therefore a program of archaeological monitoring to record any archaeological deposits during the topsoil strip had been specified by Edward Martin (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) in order to fulfill the planning condition.

Methodology and Results

A series of visits was made to the site at periodic intervals during the topsoil strip. This consisted of the removal of 0.3m-0.4m of topsoil, and the upper 0.05m-0.15m of subsoil, across an area measuring c.8300 sqm with a box scraper. This revealed the natural subsoil, a mix of mid orange clay/silt and mid yellow clay/chalk with scattered gravel. No archaeological material or features were identified. Due to the lack of reference points the outline of the site was planned using a handheld GPS.

Discussion

The condition of the exposed surface, created by the box scraper and affected by heavy rainfall, was not ideal for observation and it is highly likely that any small

features present may have been missed. However any sizable archaeological deposits would have been apparent and the complete lack of features of any size indicates a genuine absence of activity in this particular part of the quarry.

References

Anderson, S. and Caruth, J., 1998, *Tarmac Ingham Quarry*. SCCAS Report No. 98/91.

Craven, J., 2004, *Extension to Ingham Quarry, Fornham St Genevieve FSG 017*. SCCAS Report No. 2004/122

Gill, D., 1996, *Archaeological evaluation report, FSG 012*. SCCAS Report No. 96/74.

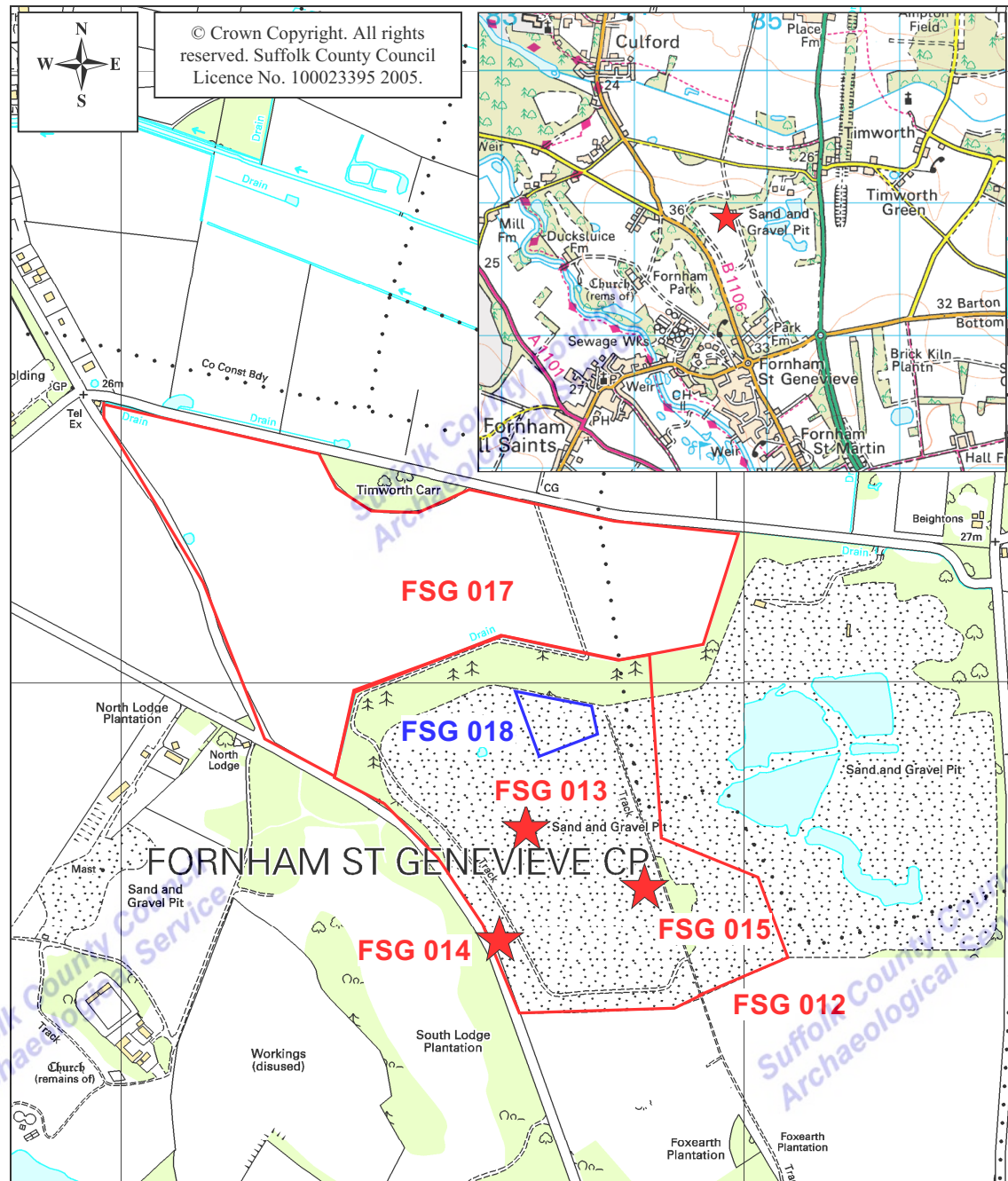


Figure 1. Site location plan

J.A.Craven, June 2005