

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

Land at 81a, The Old Coach House, London Road, Brandon BRD 183

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS ASSOCIATED WITH
WITH A BARN CONVERSION ON LAND AT 81A, THE OLD COACH HOUSE, LONDON ROAD,
BRANDON.

Planning Application No. F/2004/0591/FUL

NGR: TL 7828 8638

OASIS Ref. Suffolkc1-8932

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Summary

An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches within a standing flint and chalk lump barn on land at 81a, The Old Coach House, London Road, Brandon, located general scatters of 19th-20th century gunflint waste. Two pits were infilled with more intense deposits of this material and a dense deposit was located beneath the foundations of the southern wall of the barn.

Introduction

A single visit was made to the site on 22nd June 2005 to observe footing trenches that had been excavated within a barn undergoing conversion. The work was carried out to fulfill a Watching Brief recommendation made by R.D.Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) on planning application F/2004/0591/FUL. The work was funded by the Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service.

Interest in the site was based upon the barn and its general location within the area of post-medieval Brandon (Fig.1). The barn, which forms the south-east side of a courtyard behind the buildings fronting onto London Road, is built of flint and chalk lumps, with some repairs in brick. It is shown as part of a larger range of buildings on the c.1890 OS map (Fig. 2) and was apparently built some time after the c.1880 OS (Fig. 3) on which the area is shown as open land.

There are few known sites recorded on the SMR within the immediate vicinity of the site but post-medieval gunflint workshops are known at BRD 068, 300m to the west, and BRD 065 and BRD 069 550m to the east, with further flint waste seen at BRD MISC. Other post-medieval industries are known nearby, such as a lime kiln, BRD 102, and a brick works, BRD 092.

Methodology and Results

The groundworks consisted of a series of footing trenches which were all seen when fully open. The floor level within the barn had already been reduced, to a level 0.2m-0.5m below the exterior groundlevels, exposing a disturbed layer of mid yellow/brown sand. The

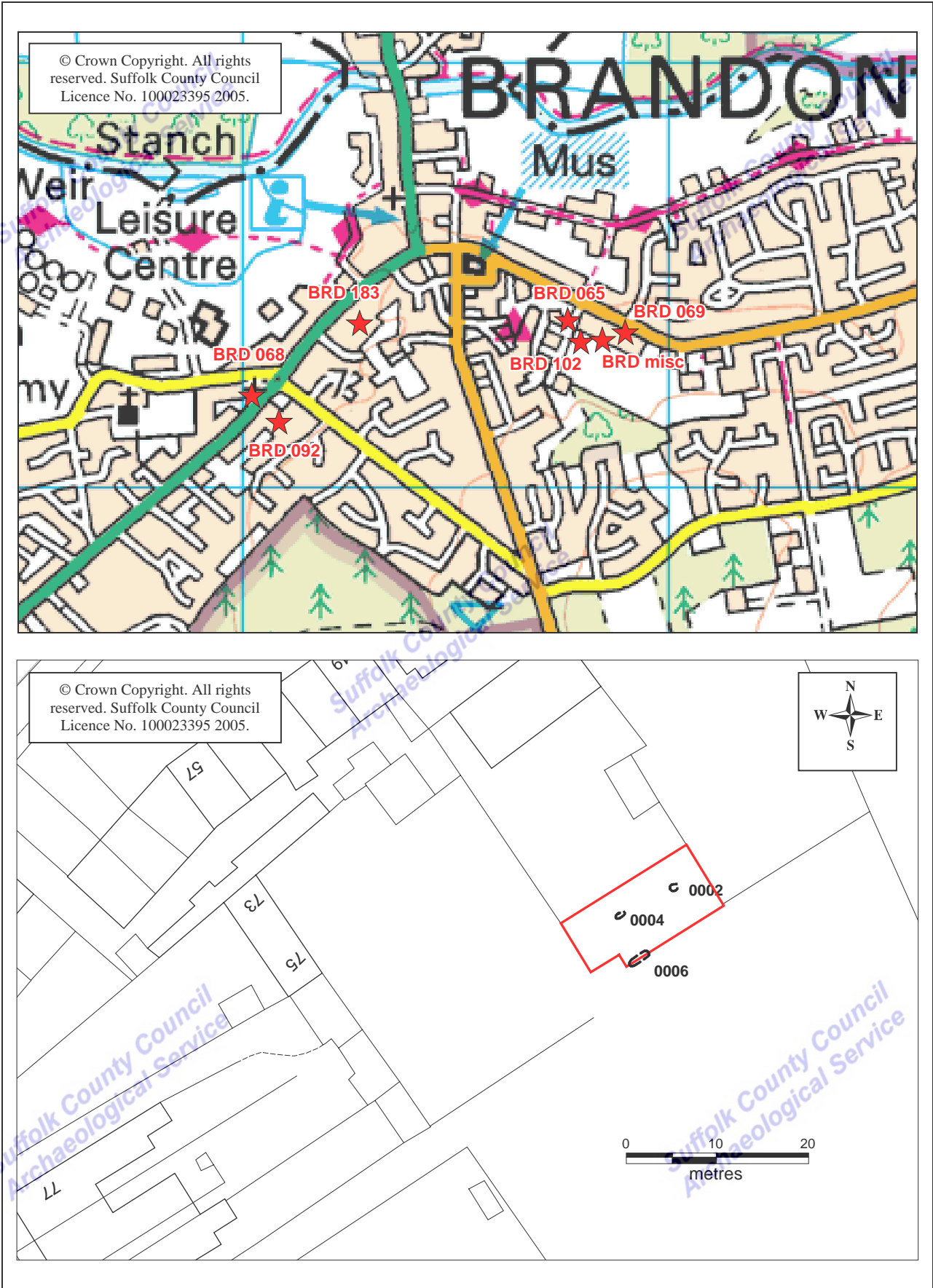


Figure 1. Site location plan

trenches were c.0.7m wide and c.0.7m deep, and showed this layer of disturbed sand to be up to 0.4m deep, overlying the natural yellow sand subsoil.

The reduced ground levels and trenches exposed the interior side of the barns foundations in several places. The foundations consisted of 3-4 rough courses of flint, extending from the original ground level to a depth of c.0.2m-0.3m, resting immediately upon the natural sand.

Two cut features, 0002 and 0004 were identified in section (Fig. 1). 0002 was a 0.9m wide, vertical sided pit with a fill, 0003, composed of 60-70% mid grey sand and 30-40% struck flint waste, of which a small sample was collected. 0004 was a shallower pit, c.1m wide and 0.4m deep with a fill, 0005, similar to 0003.

Further struck waste flint was visible throughout the trenches, composing c.5-10% of the disturbed layer. One footing trench also exposed a deposit, 0006, formed almost totally of flint waste. This deposit, measuring at least 2m wide and 0.5m deep, was situated immediately under the southern walls shallow flint foundations and had evidently caused subsidence problems as the above section of wall had had substantial brick repairs.

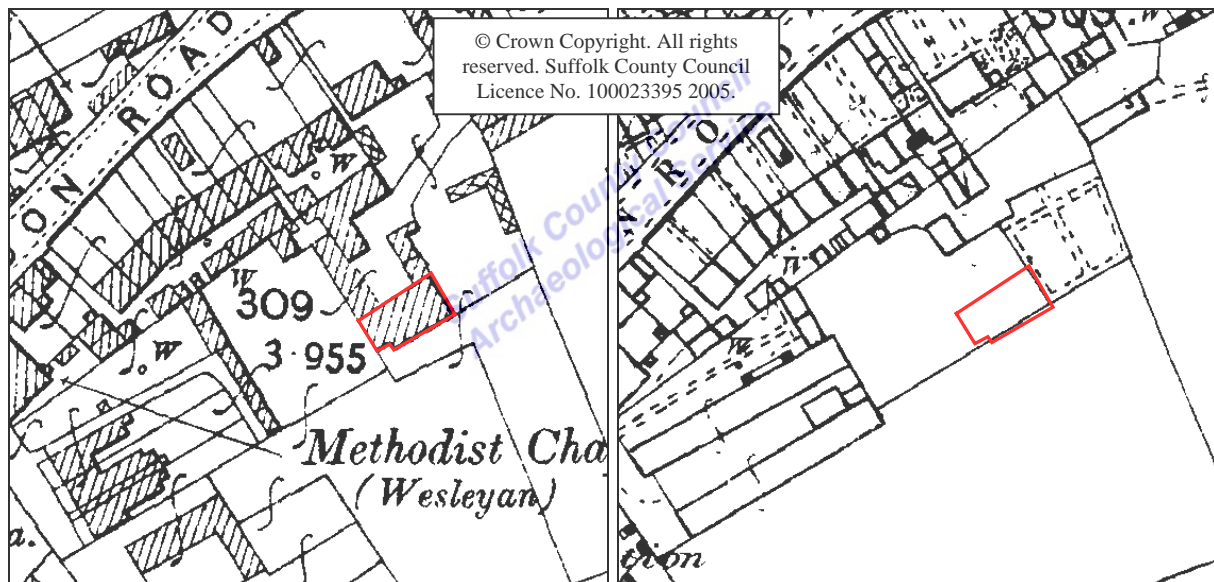


Figure 2. Site as shown on c.1890 OS

Figure 3. Site as shown on c.1880 OS

The Finds

Richenda Goffin, July 2005

Introduction

Finds were collected from a single context, as shown in the table below.

OP	Flint		Spotdate
	No.	Wt/g	
0003	8	247	Post-medieval
Total	8	247	

Flint (identifications and comments provided by Colin Pendleton)

A sample of 8 flint fragments was recovered from the fill 0003 of the pit 0002. The material represents a typical assemblage of gunflint debris dating to the 19th to 20th centuries. Some of

the fragments have a bulb of percussion remaining, although the gunflint itself has been removed. Two flakes have a central ridge, indicating that a double-edged gunflint had been removed, whilst other flakes are only single-edged. These would have been treated as seconds, and would therefore have been sold to a domestic, rather than a military market.

Discussion

The excavated footing trenches have shown clear evidence of 19th – 20th gunflint industry, with three defined deposits of flint debris and further material dispersed throughout a disturbed soil layer. No evidence was seen in the vicinity of any associated workshops producing the waste and while it could have been produced from the known workshops at BRD 065, BRD 068 or BRD 069, it would appear likely that another workshop could have been situated close by.

J.A.Craven, July 2005

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