

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT

## Meridian Gardens, Newmarket NKT 026

A REPORT ON THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING OF GROUNDWORKS ASSOCIATED WITH DEVELOPMENT AT MERIDIAN GARDENS, FORMERLY KNOWN AS THE GABLES, BURY ROAD, NEWMARKET

Planning Application No. F/2006/0769/FUL

NGR: TL 6515 6414

OASIS Ref. Suffolk1-38843

Funded by: Highland Homes Ltd

Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Report No. 2008/101

### *Summary*

*An archaeological monitoring of footing trenches at Meridian Gardens, Bury Road, Newmarket did not identify any archaeological deposits, indicating that the site has generally been in use as open land on the outskirts of the town.*

### **Introduction**

A series of visits was made to the site from 3rd March to 3rd April 2008 to monitor the excavation of footing trenches for three new buildings at Meridian Gardens, Bury Road, Newmarket, the site formerly being known as The Gables, 20 Bury Road (Fig. 1). The work was carried out to a Brief and Specification issued by R.D. Carr (Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service, Conservation Team) to fulfil a planning condition on application F/2006/0769/FUL. The work was funded by the developer, Highland Homes Ltd.

Interest in the site was based upon its location at the foot of the chalk downs to the north of Newmarket, a landscape with potential for evidence of prehistoric occupation although the general vicinity has not previously been subject to any archaeological survey. Two ring ditches indicating possible Bronze Age burial mounds are known in the wider area, EXG 032 being 50m in diameter and lying 1.4km to the north-west while MUN 004, 30m in diameter, lies 1.2km to the north-east. The development therefore had the potential to disturb evidence of prehistoric activity which would require archaeological recording.

### **Methodology and Results**

Trenching for each of the three plots was observed after excavation. Each trench measured c.1.1m wide and 1.4m deep and showed a profile of 0.3m-0.5m of topsoil directly overlying the undisturbed natural chalk subsoil. After the foundations were poured the interior of the plots was

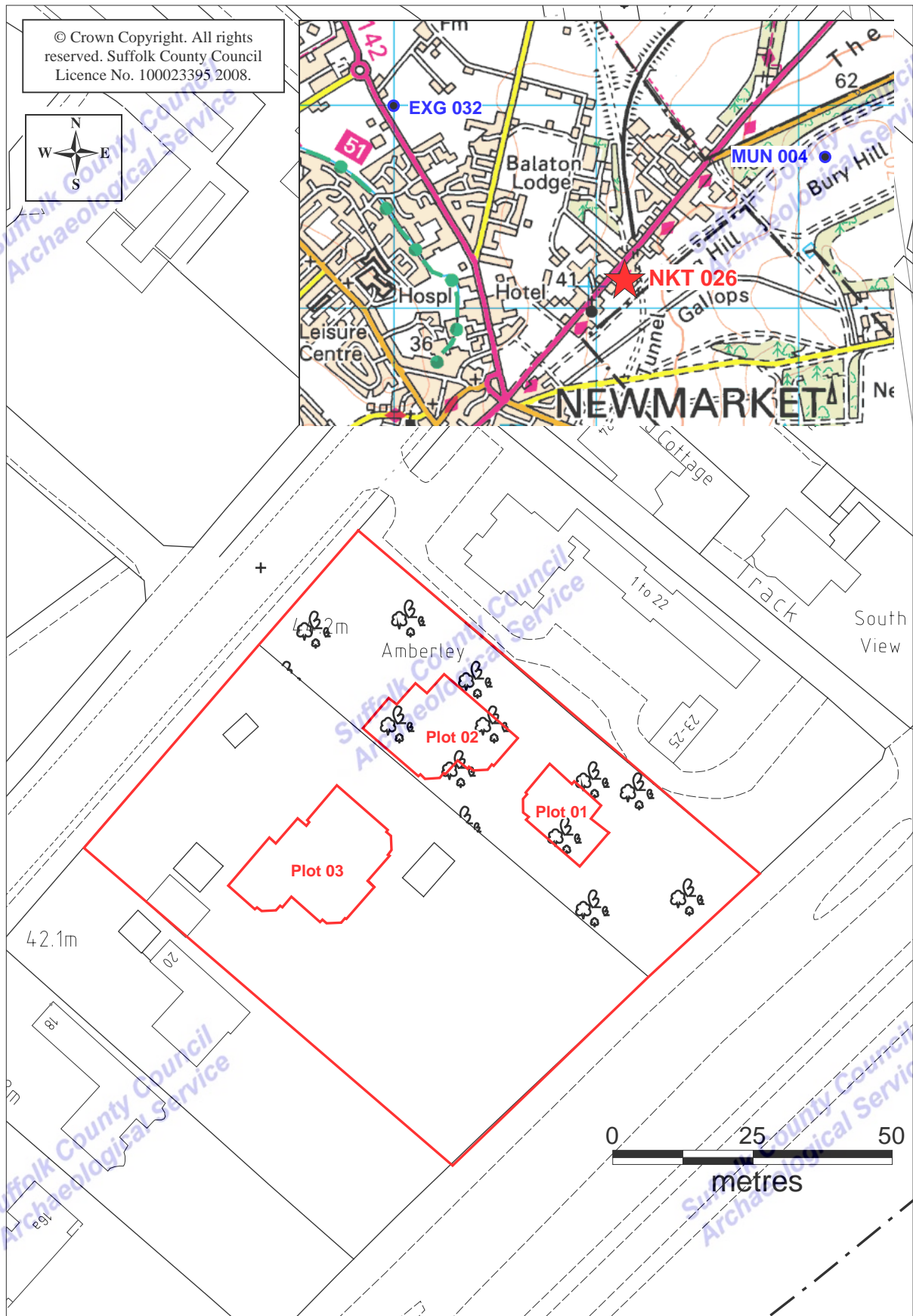


Figure 1. Site location plan

stripped of topsoil to the subsoil level. No archaeological features or deposits were seen at any stage during the monitoring visits.

## Discussion

Monitoring of the topsoil trenches did not identify any archaeological deposits. The natural chalk subsoil was undisturbed, with no evidence of plough damage or other disturbance indicating that the site has not been the focus for activity in any period and has probably been open grassland or pasture for much of its history. The First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1886 (Fig. 2) shows the site as lying across two linear open fields, lying between the road and the open grassland of Long Hill which was in use as one of the many racehorse training grounds that surround the town.

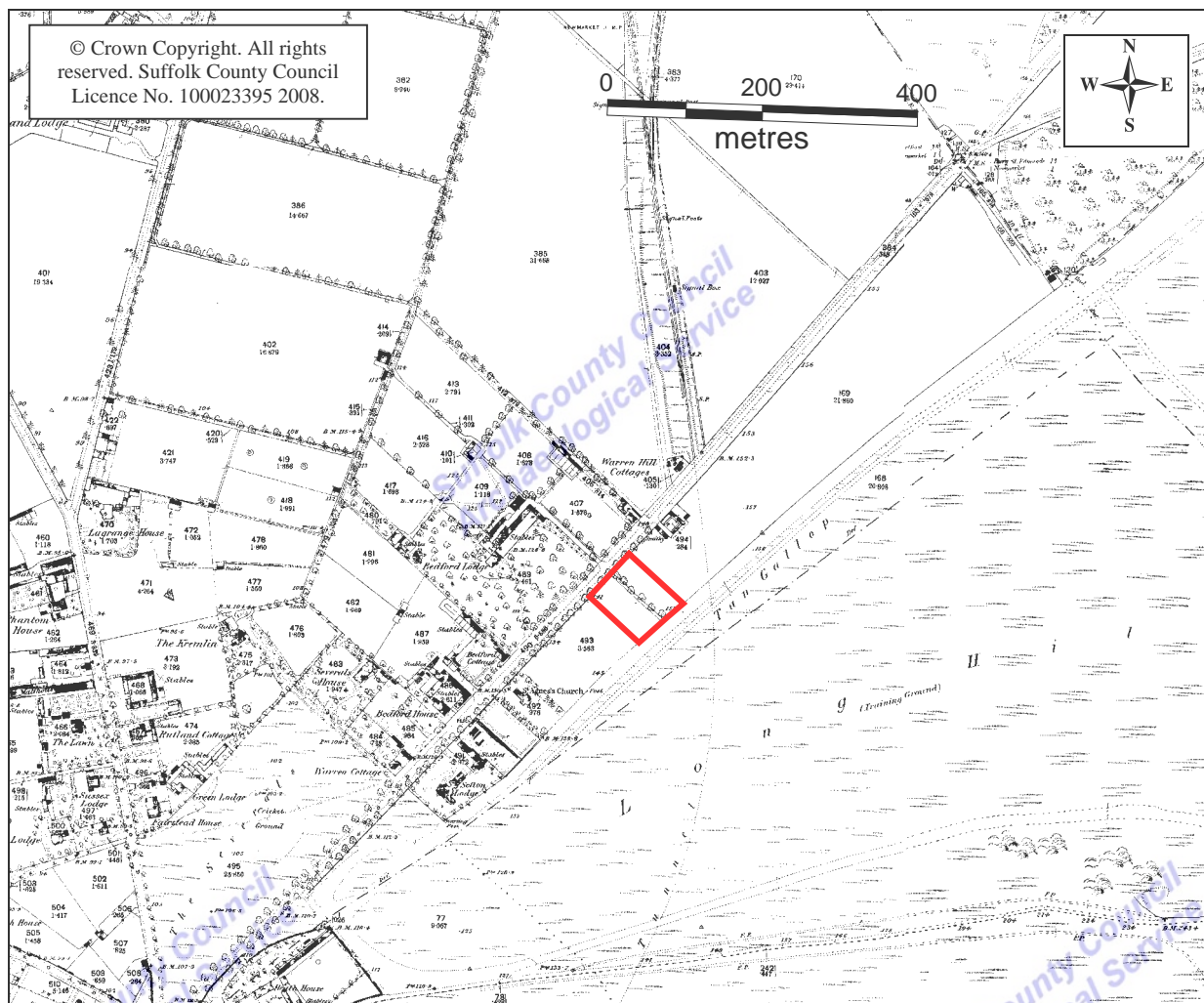


Figure 2. Site on the First Edition Ordnance Survey of 1886

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April 2008