

HERITAGE NETWORK



Land West of NATIONAL STUD ROUNDABOUT Cambridge Road, Stetchworth, Cambs.

HN610

Archaeological Evaluation Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

LAND W OF NATIONAL STUD ROUNDABOUT Cambridge Road, Stetchworth, Cambs.

HN610

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Stetchworth Equine Ltd

By

Geoff Saunders, BA, AIFA

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The cover illustration shows the site during machining

Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by David Kaye, Geoff Saunders and Chris Turner. The report text was compiled by Geoff Saunders, and the illustrations were prepared by Geoff Saunders and Chris Turner. The report was edited by David Hillelson.

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Summary

Site name and address:	Land to the west of the National Stud Roundabout, Stetchworth, Cambridgeshire		
County:	Cambridgeshire	District:	East Cambridgeshire
Village/town:	Newmarket	Parish:	Stetchworth
Planning reference:	05/01387/FUM	NGR:	TL 6125 6117
Client name and address:	Stetchworth Equine Ltd, c/o Hall Farm, London Rd, Newmarket, Suffolk		
Nature of work:	New Equine Hospital	Former land use:	Arable
Site status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
Position in planning process:	Post determination	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c. 2.5ha	Size of area investigated:	c. 1764m ²
Site Code:	HN610	Other reference:	n/a
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Evaluation	Archive recipient:	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Start of work	12/09/2006	Finish of work	18/09/2006
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	n/a
Oasis UID	heritage1-18484	Significant finds:	No significant finds
Monument types:	None		
Physical archive:	None		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis: In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct a new equine hospital on land to the west of the National Stud Roundabout, Cambridge Road, Cambridgeshire, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation.

A total of 29 trenches were opened across the development area. Despite the site's location in an area of high archaeological potential, the fieldwork did not reveal any archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts demonstrably predating the modern period.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on the instructions of *Keymer Cavendish*, acting on behalf of *Stetchworth Equine Ltd*, as part of the archaeological evaluation of a proposed development site located on land to the west of National Stud Roundabout, Cambridge Road, Stetchworth, Cambridgeshire. The investigation is a requirement of the planning consent for the development (ref. 05/01387/FUM), under the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning (DoE 1990). The work undertaken was defined in a *Brief for Archaeological Evaluation* prepared by the *Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice* (CAPCA) section of Cambridgeshire County Council (ref. KG 04/05/2006), acting as archaeological advisers to the local planning authority, East Cambridgeshire District Council (ECDC). A full specification for the work is contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated July 2006.

1.2 The study area comprises a triangular plot of land between the A1303 Cambridge Road and the A1304 London Road, immediately west of the National Stud Roundabout, centred on NGR TL 6125 6117. The site is cultivated agricultural land, which will be made available for the archaeological works after the current crop has been harvested. The development proposes the construction of a new equine hospital facility consisting of a main building, with associated stable blocks, menage, lunge, access road, parking and landscaping.

1.3 The development is situated in an area of known archaeological activity, with two Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAM) in the vicinity. The line of Devil's Dyke (SAM 5), a Saxon landscape boundary, runs 500m to the east of the site. The remains of a Bronze Age bowl barrow (SAM 27170) lies on the opposite side of Cambridge Road, c.50m to the north of the site.

1.4 It was considered that the investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins, development, and growth of settlement in the vicinity from the Prehistoric period onwards.

1.5 The aim of the present evaluation has been to consider the location, depth, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), if they were discovered.

1.6 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further, if any, mitigation measures may be required to allow the development to proceed.

2. Background

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The site is located 0.5km to the south-west of Newmarket Heath. The ground falls across the site from approximately 52.80mOD on its southern boundary to approximately 45.30m on its northern boundary. The land is currently used for arable farming.

2.2 The drift geology is recorded as chalk and chalky drift (343g) (SSEW1983), overlying chalk (Geological Survey 1948).

ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.3 The site is situated within an area of known archaeological activity dating from the prehistoric period onwards. A Bronze Age bowl barrow (SAM 27170) is located immediately to the north of the site. The line of Devils Dyke (SAM 5), a Saxon landscape boundary, runs approximately 500m to the east of the site. Further find spots of Neolithic, Roman, and Saxon material are recorded within a 4km radius of the site (NMR 374967, 377456, and 377461).

2.4 An aerial photographic assessment of the site was undertaken in August 2006 (Palmer, 2006). This did not identify any definite archaeological features within the development area (Figure 3).

- A linear feature to the south-west of the development area appears on photographs taken in and later than 1956. Its alignment suggests it may continue north to Egerton House. On this basis it probably represents a pipeline for domestic use.
- Several linear features of unknown origin were identified to the south and south-west of the development area. The features do not align with Devil's Dyke or any modern or recent field boundaries. The features may, therefore, represent boundaries from a former field system or other form of land allotment which may predate Devil's Dyke.

3. Fieldwork Results

METHODOLOGY

3.1 All work was carried out in accordance with the approved *Project Design*, current health and safety legislation, and both IFA and ALGAO standards.

3.2 A total of twenty-nine trenches were set out using a total station theodolite. They were located across the principal elements of the proposed development. This includes one additional trench (Trench 29) opened to investigate the archaeological potential of an alternative route for part of the new access road.

3.3 The trenches were excavated using a tracked 360⁰ digger fitted with a 2.15m wide toothless ditching bucket. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts. Trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon.

3.4 The trenches were cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

3.5 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled sections were drawn on drafting film at a scale of 1:20.

GENERAL

3.6 The stratigraphy was consistent across the site and comprised a layer of friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay topsoil over firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), natural chalk.

3.7 Only one of the 29 trenches contained features which were not natural in origin. Trench 1 contained two boundary ditches which align with the present field boundaries.

3.8 Of the other features recorded in twenty-one of the 29 trenches, ten were investigated to confirm that they were natural in origin. The features included tree boles, animal burrows, and glacial anomalies.

TRENCH DESCRIPTIONS

Note: All co-ordinates define the mid point at either end of trench, and all levels are quoted as meters above Ordnance Datum (mOD)

Trench 1

Length (m):	20.50	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.40	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	45.28	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	45.44
			Base	44.91				Base	45.10
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561105 261135		Co-ord 2		561114 261117
No. of features		2							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	

101	Cut	Shallow linear cut feature on a NE – SW alignment with shallow slightly concave sides and a slightly rounded base. Boundary ditch.	2.15 +	0.35	0.02
102	Fill	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments. Fill of [101].	2.15 +	0.35	0.02
103	Cut	Shallow linear cut feature on a NE – SW alignment with shallow straight sides and a slightly rounded base. Boundary ditch.	2.15 +	0.90	0.09
104	Fill	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments. Fill of [103]	2.15 +	0.90	0.09
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments	20.50 +	2.15 +	0.27
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints	20.50 +	2.15 +	-

3.9 Trench 1 contained two boundary ditches. The ditches were observed in the north-west end of the trench running parallel to each other on a NE – SW alignment. The fill of the ditches was identical to the topsoil. The larger of the ditches survives to a depth of only 0.09m, the smaller to a depth of only 0.02m. This poor preservation may be the result of modern ploughing combined with a shallow topsoil of only 0.27m depth. Although the features yielded no archaeological artefacts their alignment and location suggest that they are associated with the existing field boundary.

Trench 2

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.37	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	47.22	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	47.07
			Base	46.88				Base	46.76
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561150 261093		Co-ord 2		561131 261077
No. of features		1							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
201	Feature	Irregular shaped feature with uneven sides and base. Geological feature.				1.00	0.60	0.06	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.25	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.10 Trench 2 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. An irregularly shaped feature [201] was investigated. The feature has been interpreted as geological in origin.

Trench 3

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.40	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	48.23	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.37
			Base	47.86				Base	49.01
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561155 261067		Co-ord 2		561172 261048
No. of features		0							

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments	25 +	2.15 +	0.30
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints	25 +	2.15 +	-

3.11 Trench 3 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. No natural features were observed in the trench.

Trench 4

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.37	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.38	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.34
			Base	50.08				Base	50.01
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561201 261037		Co-ord 2		561182 261021
No. of features		1							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
401	Feature	Large irregular shaped feature with uneven sides and base. Tree bole.				-	-	-	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.28	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.12 Trench 4 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. A large irregular shaped feature [401] was investigated. The feature has been interpreted as a tree bole.

Trench 5

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.38	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	51.46	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	52.18
			Base	51.13				Base	51.83
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561214 260998		Co-ord 2		561231 260979
No. of features		2							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.30	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.13 Trench 5 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. Two tree boles were observed in the trench but not investigated.

Trench 6

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.38	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	51.84	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	52.23
			Base	51.59				Base	51.98
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561244 260997		Co-ord 2		561260 260978
No. of features		0							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.30	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.14 Trench 6 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. No natural features were observed in the trench.

Trench 7

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.35	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	52.12	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	52.47
			Base	51.87				Base	52.12
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561284 260982		Co-ord 2		561265 260966
No. of features		1							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.30	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.15 Trench 7 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed in the trench. A single tree bole observed in the trench was not investigated.

Trench 8

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.36	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.21	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.84
			Base	48.96				Base	50.53
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561197 261072		Co-ord 2		561229 261034
No. of features		2							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
801	Feature	Large irregular shaped feature with uneven sides and base. Tree bole.				-	-	-	
802	Feature	Irregular shaped feature with uneven sides and base. Geological feature.				-	-	-	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				50 +	2.15 +	0.28	

-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints	50 +	2.15 +	-
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3.16 Trench 8 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. Two irregular shaped features were observed in the trench both were investigated, one [801] has been interpreted as a tree bole, the other [802] as being geological in origin.

Trench 9

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.42	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.22	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.73
			Base	48.94				Base	49.31
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561255 261106		Co-ord 2		561217 261073
No. of features		2							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
901	Feature	Irregular shaped feature with uneven sides and base. Tree bole.				-	-	-	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				50 +	2.15 +	0.28	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				50 +	2.15 +	-	

3.17 Trench 9 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. Two irregular shaped features were observed in the trench one of which [901] was investigated, both features have been interpreted as tree boles. Ploughmarks were also visible in the base of the trench.

Trench 10

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.37	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.33	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.58
			Base	50.05				Base	50.21
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561257 261066		Co-ord 2		561238 261049
No. of features		0							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.29	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.18 Trench 10 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. No natural features were observed in the trench. Ploughmarks were visible in the base of the trench.

Trench 11

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.35	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	51.13	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	51.65
			Base	50.87				Base	51.30
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561257 261031		Co-ord 2		561274 261012
No. of features		1							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
1101	Feature	Irregularly shaped linear feature with uneven sides and base. Root activity.				-	-	-	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.28	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.19 Trench 11 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. One irregularly shaped linear feature [1101] was investigated. The feature has been interpreted as the result of root activity. Ploughmarks were visible in the base of the trench.

Trench 12

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.35	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	51.38	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	51.68
			Base	51.08				Base	51.42
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561309 261020		Co-ord 2		561290 261004
No. of features		0							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.26	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.20 Trench 12 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. No natural features were observed in the trench. Ploughmarks were visible in the base of the trench.

Trench 13

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.45	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	51.08	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	52.20
			Base	50.82				Base	51.75
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561359 261008		Co-ord 2		561321 260976
No. of features		1							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
1301	Feature	Irregular shaped feature with uneven sides and base. Geological feature.				-	-	-	

-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments	50 +	2.15 +	0.32
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints	50 +	2.15 +	-

3.21 Trench 13 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. A single irregular shaped feature [1301] was investigated. The feature has been interpreted as geological in origin.

Trench 14

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.39	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.95	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.52
			Base	49.68				Base	50.13
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561256 261081		Co-ord 2		561272 261062
No. of features		3							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.23	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.22 Trench 14 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. Three tree boles were observed in the trench but not investigated.

Trench 15

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.32	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.57	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.98
			Base	50.29				Base	50.67
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561298 261057		Co-ord 2		561279 261041
No. of features		1							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.25	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.23 Trench 15 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. A single tree bole was observed in the trench but not investigated. Ploughmarks were visible in the base of the trench.

Trench 16

Length (m):	50	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.38	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.92	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	51.52
			Base	50.61				Base	51.22
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561297 261040		Co-ord 2		561329 261002
No. of features		1							

Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)		
			Length	Width	Depth
1601	Feature	Irregular shaped feature with uneven sides and base. Tree bole.	-	-	-
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments	50 +	2.15 +	0.32
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints	50 +	2.15 +	-

3.24 Trench 16 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. A single irregular shaped feature [1601] was investigated. The feature has been interpreted as a tree bole.

Trench 17

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.43	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.75	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.14
			Base	49.44				Base	49.72
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561289 261094		Co-ord 2		561270 261077
No. of features		2							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.36	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.25 Trench 17 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. Two tree boles were observed in the trench but not investigated.

Trench 18

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.39	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.95	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.41
			Base	50.61				Base	50.14
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561340 261046		Co-ord 2		561330 261030
No. of features		2							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.30	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.26 Trench 18 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. Two tree boles were observed in the trench but not investigated.

Trench 19

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15	Maximum Depth (m):	0.40	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	50.59	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	50.99
		Base	50.38			Base	50.59
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1	561337 261033	Co-ord 2	561354 261014	
No. of features		1					
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
1901	Feature	Irregular shaped feature with uneven sides and base. Tree bole.			-	-	-
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments			25 +	2.15 +	0.32
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints			25 +	2.15 +	-

3.27 Trench 19 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. A single irregular shaped feature [1901] was investigated. The feature has been interpreted as a tree bole.

Trench 20

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15	Maximum Depth (m):	0.44	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	48.50	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	49.22
		Base	48.26			Base	48.95
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1	561258 261125	Co-ord 2	561274 261106	
No. of features		4					
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments			25 +	2.15 +	0.34
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints			25 +	2.15 +	-

3.28 Trench 20 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. Four tree boles were observed in the trench but not investigated.

Trench 21

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15	Maximum Depth (m):	0.45	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	49.60	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	50.11
		Base	49.31			Base	49.78
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1	561296 261093	Co-ord 2	561312 261074	
No. of features		0					
Context	Type	Description			Dimensions (m)		
					Length	Width	Depth
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments			25 +	2.15 +	0.38
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints			25 +	2.15 +	-

3.29 Trench 21 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. No natural features were observed in the trench.

Trench 22

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.38	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.96	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.42
			Base	49.65				Base	50.05
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561336 261074		Co-ord 2		561317 261058
No. of features		1							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.30	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.30 Trench 22 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. A single tree bole was observed in the trench but not investigated.

Trench 23

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.45	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	48.88	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.47
			Base	48.47				Base	49.02
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561292 261124		Co-ord 2		561308 261105
No. of features		0							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.36	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.31 Trench 23 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. No natural features were observed in the trench.

Trench 24

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.45	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.22	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.63
			Base	48.89				Base	49.24
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561333 261109		Co-ord 2		561314 261093
No. of features		1							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.40	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.32 Trench 24 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. A single tree bole was observed in the trench but not investigated.

Trench 25

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.37	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.99	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	50.26
			Base	49.69				Base	49.89
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561350 261067		Co-ord 2		561367 261048
No. of features		1							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.30	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.33 Trench 25 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. A single tree bole was observed in the trench but not investigated.

Trench 26

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.40	Orientation	NW-SE	
Level at NW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	48.10	Level at SE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	48.72
			Base	47.77				Base	48.33
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561330 261147		Co-ord 2		561346 261128
No. of features		1							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
2601	Feature	Irregular shaped feature with uneven sides and base. Tree bole.				-	-	-	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.36	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.34 Trench 26 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were observed in the trench. An irregular shaped feature [2601] was investigated. The feature has been interpreted as a tree bole.

Trench 27

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.45	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	48.98	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.48
			Base	48.67				Base	49.16
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561359 261111		Co-ord 2		561340 261095
No. of features		1							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	

-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments	25 +	2.15 +	0.38
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints	25 +	2.15 +	-

3.35 Trench 27 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. A single tree bole was observed in the trench but not investigated.

Trench 28

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.39	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.28	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	49.86
			Base	48.97				Base	49.47
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561377 261089		Co-ord 2		561358 261073
No. of features		4							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.28	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.36 Trench 28 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. Four tree boles were observed in the trench but not investigated.

Trench 29

Length (m):	25	Width (m):	2.15		Maximum Depth (m):	0.37	Orientation	NE-SW	
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)			Top	52.55	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)			Top	52.80
			Base	52.31				Base	52.43
National Grid Reference			Co-ord 1		561265 260958		Co-ord 2		561246 260941
No. of features		0							
Context	Type	Description				Dimensions (m)			
						Length	Width	Depth	
-	Topsoil	Friable, dark olive brown (10YR 3/3), silty clay with frequent small sub-rounded chalk fragments				25 +	2.15 +	0.30	
-	Natural	Firm, white (2.5Y 8/1), chalk with moderate flints				25 +	2.15 +	-	

3.37 Trench 29 contained no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts. No natural features were observed in the trench.

CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

3.38 During machining of the trenches the spoil was inspected for archaeological artefacts. Very occasional pottery and ceramic building material (CBM) of Victorian and later date was observed within the topsoil. Due to its unstratified and modern nature this material was not deemed archaeologically significant and was not collected.

4. Discussion & Conclusion

4.1 The evaluation of the present site revealed no features which might be directly associated with settlement activity.

4.2 Two boundary ditches [101] and [103], were observed in the north-west end of Trench 1. The two ditches yielded no archaeological artefacts but ran on the same alignment and in close proximity to the existing field boundary on the northern edge of the site. It is likely that they represent earlier alignments of the boundary.

4.3 During the course of the evaluation the spoil from the trenches was inspected for archaeological artefacts. No artefacts definitively predating the Victorian period were observed.

4.4 Several tree boles were observed within the evaluation trenches suggesting that the site was at sometime at least partially wooded.

4.5 The site is located in a field that is presently used for arable farming and several of the trenches showed evidence for modern ploughmarks. The presence of a large amount of chalk fragments within the topsoil suggests that ploughing in the field regularly impacts on the underlying natural geology.

4.6 Given the site's location in an area of high archaeological potential, the absence of any archaeological activity predating the modern period is surprising. It is possible that any archaeological remains on the site would have been truncated by modern ploughing. However the lack of unstratified artefacts of archaeological origin suggests that any earlier activity on the site was not intensive.

Conclusions

4.7 The archaeological evaluation of the site did not reveal any archaeological remains of significance.

4.8 The study area is located in a well documented archaeological landscape, but no archaeological features, deposits, or artefacts demonstrably predating the Victorian period were observed. A combination of shallow topsoil and modern ploughing may have resulted in the gradual erosion of any archaeological remains on the site. However a lack of unstratified artefacts predating the modern period suggests a genuine lack of intensive archaeological activity on the site.

4.9 On the basis of these findings, it is considered that there is a low risk that significant archaeological features, deposits or artefacts will be disturbed by the proposed development.

Confidence Rating

4.10 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

4.11 There are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than High.

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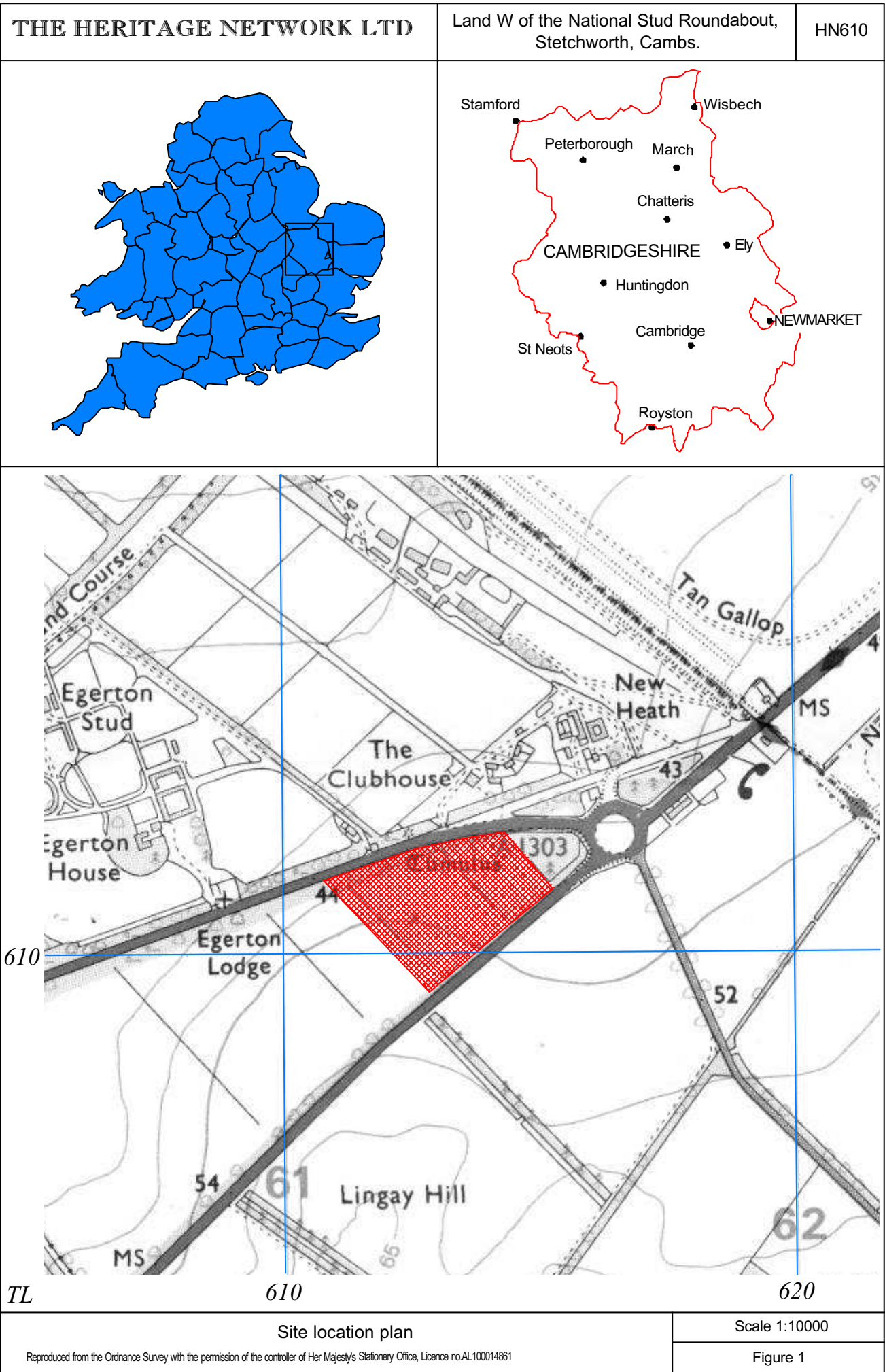
<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk>

6. Illustrations

Figure 1 Site location

Figure 2 Trench layout

Figure 3 Features identified on aerial photographs





Land W of the
National Stud Roundabout
Stetchworth, Cambs.

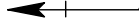
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Trench Layout

Evaluation Trenches
with tree boles

Evaluation Trenches
without tree boles

Evaluation Area



Scale 1:1000

Figure 2

