

# HERITAGE NETWORK



## 'LARKS', MALTING LANE Clare, Suffolk

CLA070  
(HN890)

### *ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING REPORT*



# *THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD*

*Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation*

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

## ‘LARKS’, MALTING LANE Clare, Suffolk

HER code: CLA070  
SEBC Planning Ref.: SE/10/0895

### *Archaeological Monitoring Report*

*Prepared on behalf of Mr and Mrs Little*

By

Greg Jones BA (Hons) MA AIfA

Report no. 652

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*The cover photograph shows the site looking south*

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by Greg Jones. The report was written by Greg Jones and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to: Mr & Mrs Little; Roger Gee, site contactor; and Keith Wade, Archaeological Service, Shire Hall, Suffolk County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	'Larks', Malting Lane, Clare, Suffolk, CO10 8PU		
<b>County:</b>	Suffolk	<b>District:</b>	Sudbury
<b>Village/town:</b>	Clare	<b>Parish:</b>	Clare
<b>Planning reference:</b>	SE/10/0895	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 7697 4519
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Mr and Mrs Dennis Little, 'Larks', Malting Lane, Clare, Sudbury, CO10 8PU		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	Garage and conservatory extension	<b>Former land use:</b>	Garden/garage
<b>Site status:</b>	AAI	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of local planning authority (PPS 5)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	After full determination	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local Authority
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	c.80m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	c.80m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site Code:</b>	HN890	<b>HER reference:</b>	CLA070
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc.:</b>	Monitoring	<b>Archive recipient:</b>	Suffolk County Historic Environment Record
<b>Start of work</b>	08/11/2010	<b>Finish of work</b>	29/03/2011
<b>Related HER Nos:</b>	CLA008	<b>Periods represented:</b>	Post-medieval
<b>Oasis UID</b>	Heritage1-84765	<b>Significant finds:</b>	None
<b>Monument types:</b>	Quarry pit		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	None		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	None		

**Synopsis:**

In response to a condition on the planning permission for the construction of a new side extension, attached garages and garden shed at ‘The Larks’, Malting Lane, Clare, Sudbury, Suffolk, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks. The site lies within the Area of Archaeological Interest defined for medieval Clare, and in particular the site lies on the edge, or just outside of, the motte ditch of Clare Castle .

The groundworks for the present project revealed two post-medieval quarry pits. The garden to the east appears to have remained relatively undisturbed.

No other archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the present project.

## **1. Introduction**

**1.1** This report has been prepared at the request of Mr and Mrs Dennis Little , as part of a programme of archaeological work to be carried out as part of the construction of a new side garage and side extension at ‘Larks’, Malting Lane, Clare, Suffolk.

**1.2** The planning permission for the development (ref: SE/10/0895) granted by St. Edmundsbury Borough Council (SEBC), was originally subject to an archaeological condition (Condition 3) issued in line with the Department of Communities and Local Government’s *Planning Policy Statement 5*. Condition 6 of the planning consent states that:

*No development shall take place within the area indicated on the location plan until the developer has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall have been submitted by the applicant to, and approved in writing by the Local Planning Authority.*

**1.3** The investigation forms part of an incremental process that could include further stages of field investigation, analysis and report preparation, leading to the publication of the findings and the deposition of the project archive with an approved repository. The extent of the present stage of work was defined in an advice letter dated 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2010, prepared by the Archaeological Service Conservation Team (ASCT) of Suffolk County Council, acting as advisers to the SEBC (ref: SE/10/0895). A full specification for the work was contained in the Heritage Network’s approved Project Design, dated October 2010.

**1.4** The present development proposes the erection of a side extension and attached garage on the north-western side of the present house, following the demolition of an existing structure, and the construction of a single storey extension on the south-eastern side of the existing building.

**1.5** The study area is located on the north-east side of Malting Lane, centred on NGR TL 7697 4519 (Figure 1). It is bounded on the north-west by residential properties and to the south and east by Clare Castle and park land.

**1.6** The development site lies within the Area of Archaeological Interest defined for medieval Clare and, in particular, the site lies on the edge, or just outside of, the motte ditch to Clare Castle.

**1.7** The aim of the investigation has been to identify and record any archaeological features and deposits which might have been uncovered; and to retrieve artefactual and ecofactual elements which would allow the date, character, and significance of the site to be assessed in accordance with current regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997; Brown and Glazebrook 2000; Medlycott & Brown 2008), subject to the limitations of reasonable safety and practicality.

**1.8** It was considered that the investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the development of settlement in Clare during the medieval period. In particular it was hoped that the work might increase our understanding of the extent and development of Clare Castle.

**1.9** 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 mitigation measures, if any, may be required to allow the development to proceed.



## **2. Fieldwork**

### ***TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY***

**2.1** The site is located on the north-east side of Malting Lane, Clare. The ground is relatively level at approximately 45mOD.

**2.2** Locally the soils belong to the Melford Association (571o), described as “Deep well drained fine loamy over clayey, coarse loamy over clayey and fine loamy soils, some with calcareous clayey subsoils.” (SSEW 1983).

**2.3** The underlying solid geology comprises Holywell nodular chalk formation and new pit chalk formation (undifferentiated) overlain by a deposit of Head, comprising mixed clay, silt, sand and gravel (British Geological Survey).

### ***METHODOLOGY***

**2.4** The timetable for the fieldwork followed the client’s groundwork schedule. Two site visits were made to monitor the groundworks.

**2.5** Machining was undertaken using a mini tracked excavator fitted with 0.6m toothed bucket.

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

### ***MONITORING AND RECORDING***

#### ***Footings trenches***

**2.7** The proposed new extensions are located on the south-eastern and north-western sides of the existing building at ‘Larks’, Malting Lane, Clare, Suffolk (Figure 2). Their foundation trenches measured c.0.6m in width and averaged 1.1m in depth, with slight variations across the site.

**2.8** The work was carried out in two phases, with the excavation of the south-eastern extension in November 2010 and the groundworks for the north-western extension in March 2011.

#### ***South-eastern extension***

**2.9** The stratigraphy exposed in these trenches consisted of a compacted dark grey (10YR 4/1) clay silt topsoil, between 0.45m in depth at the southern end and 0.6m in depth at the northern end. There was no subsoil present and the topsoil sat directly above the natural substratum, which consisted of brownish yellow (10YR 6/8) sand and gravel.

**2.10** Located at c.0.7m to the south-east of the existing building was pit [101]. The full extent of the feature was not visible, but its exposed area measured c.0.6m in width, c.2m in length and over 1.1m in depth, with irregular sides which widened at the top. It contained fill (102), a very dark grey (5YR 3/1) sandy clay (Figures 3 & 4, Plate 1). The feature was cut into the natural

substratum and has been interpreted as a back filled quarry pit. No dating material was recovered from within the fill.

*North-western extension*

**2.11** The stratigraphy exposed in the footings trenches to the north-western extension consisted of reddish brown (5YR 4/3) compact silty clay deposit, context (201) *c.*1m in depth, which covered the southern two thirds of the excavated area (Figures 3 & 5). This may have been imported on to the site as a make-up layer below the former garage. No topsoil was present in this area.

**2.12** Pit [202] was located in the northern corner, cutting into layer (201) (Plates 2 & 4). The full extent of the feature was not visible, but its exposed area measured over 4m by 3m and over 1.1m in depth. It contained fill (203), a grey (5YR 5/1) clay silt (Figure 5). No finds were present to date this fill.

**2.13** The south-western side of [202] was truncated by cut [204], which also apparently cut deposit (201) (Figure 5, section 2; Plate 2). The exposed area had a maximum width of 2.5m, a maximum length of 1.5m and was over 1.1m in depth. It contained fill (205), a firm reddish yellow (7.5YR 6/8) clay gravel (Figures 3 & 5; Plates 2 & 3). No finds were present to date this fill, which appears to consist of redeposited make-up.

**2.14** No other archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered during the present project.

## **3. Discussion**

### ***HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTEXT***

**3.1** Evidence for prehistoric activity has been recorded within a 500m radius of the present site. Fragments of a bronze axe (CLA040) of probable early Bronze Age date and a bronze socketed hammer (CLA053) of mid to late Bronze Age date were found by a metal detector to the north of the site. Roman and medieval metal artefacts were also found in the same area.

**3.2** Clare Castle (CLA008) is located on the southern side of the town. It has a large motte mound, which has a circumference of approximately 243m and a height of approximately 15m, and a double bailey. The site lies immediately adjacent to the ditch surrounding the castle motte on its north-western side. The castle, which is a Scheduled Monument (SMSF52), is likely to have been established by Richard Fitz Gilbert in the 11<sup>th</sup> century and occupied until the 15<sup>th</sup> century. Limited excavations took place in the outer bailey in the 1950s.

**3.3** The collegiate church of St. John the Baptist (CLA008) founded between 1044 and 1065 is thought to have been located in the area of the north bailey of the castle. The church was moved to Stoke-by-Clare in 1124.

**3.4** Archaeological investigations on the site of the children's playground in the Clare Castle Country Park in 2000 (CLA035) revealed a layer of large flints within the topsoil which may represent a dump of building material. Medieval pottery and Roman building material was also found.

**3.5** A human skull was recovered during the excavation of a deep posthole cut for a Millennium Post within the area of SM52 (CLA036). Other human remains have been recovered in the vicinity (CLA007).

**3.6** Clare Priory (CLA001), a house of Austin Friars, lies on the south bank of the River Stour, to the south of the present site. It was founded around 1248 by Richard de Clare and was probably the first house of the order in England. Parts of the Priory still stand.

**3.7** Monitoring of development groundworks on sites on Nethergate Street, to the south-west of the present site, revealed a large pit at 16 Nethergate Street (CLA041) and a similar feature at Nethergate Street Garage (CLA043). Medieval pottery, including a complete pitcher and fragments of a decorated jug, were recovered from a pit at the garage site. Two further medieval pits were encountered during monitoring of footings trenches at 22 Nethergate Street (CLA054).

### ***CONCLUSIONS***

**3.8** It was considered that the present investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the development of settlement in Clare during the medieval period. In particular it was hoped that the work might increase our understanding of the extent and development of Clare Castle.

**3.9** The evidence from the present project has demonstrated that the land on either side of the existing building and the garden area has been disturbed by gravel quarrying of uncertain date. These activities are likely to have removed any potential archaeological features.

**3.10** No evidence for archaeological features, deposits or finds associated with Clare Castle was encountered during the present project.

***Confidence Rating***

**3.11** Conditions on site were generally acceptable for the identification and recording of any potential archaeological remains, and as such there are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

## 4. Schedule of site visits

Date	Staff	Hours	Comments
04/11/2010	GJ	8	Monitored excavation of foundation trenches for conservatory extension
29/03/2011	GJ	10	Monitored excavation of foundation trenches for new garage extension

## 5. Bibliography

Archaeology Data Service: <http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue>

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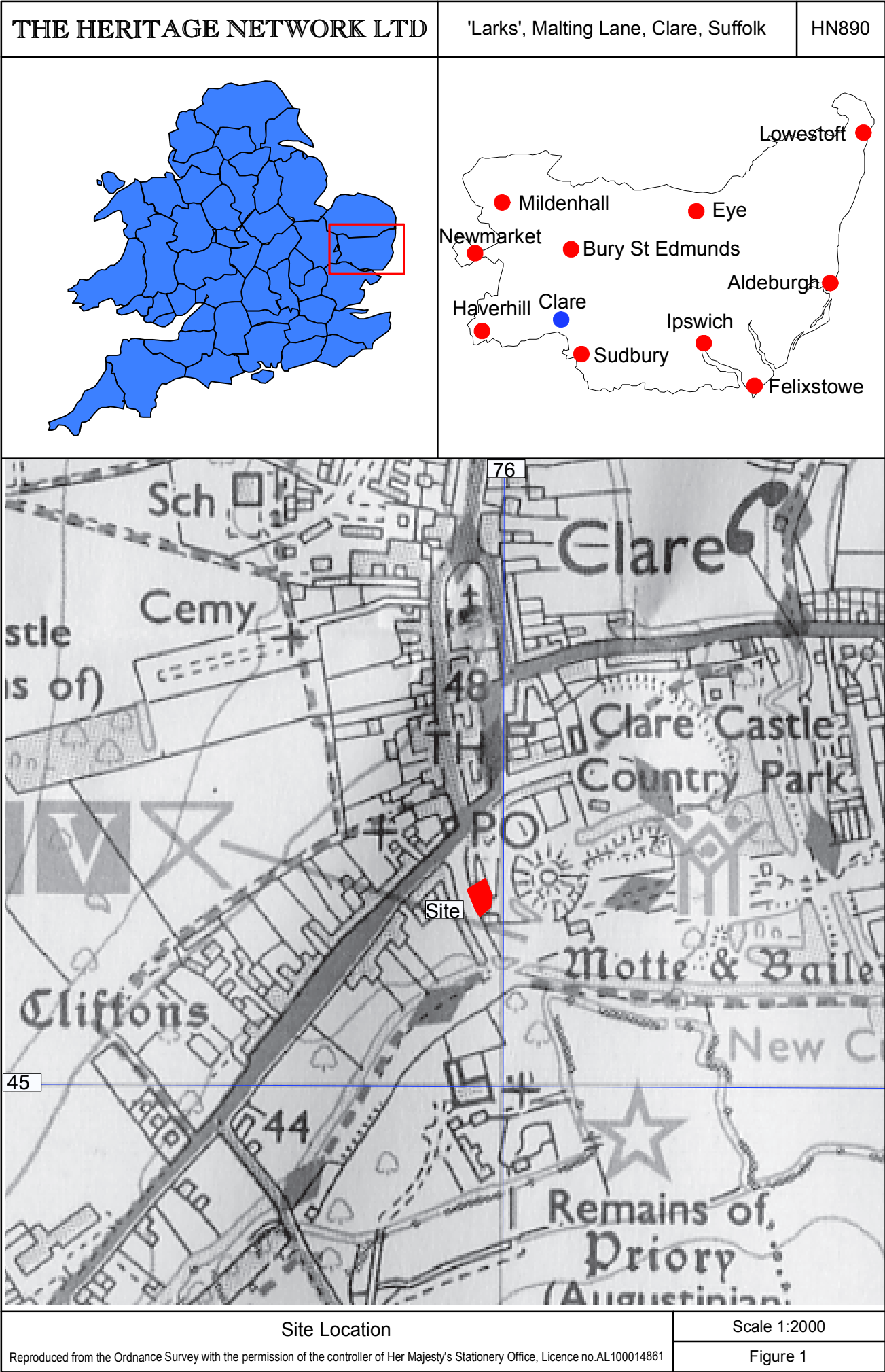
Medlycott, M. & Brown, N. 2008 *Revision of the Regional Archaeological Framework for the Eastern Region*. ALGAO East of England

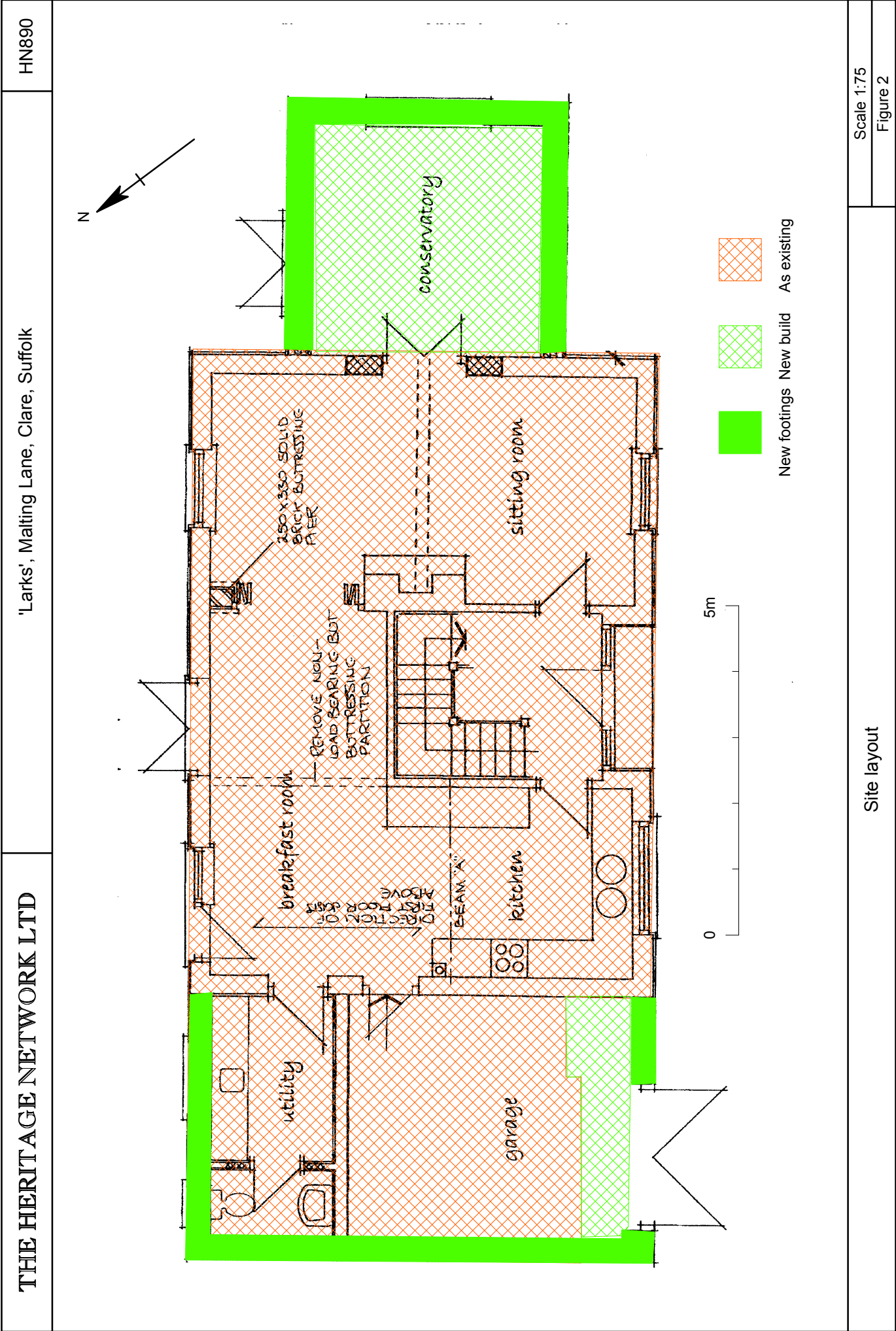
Soil Survey of England & Wales (SSEW) 1983 *1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales. Sheet 4: Eastern England*. Harpenden: Soil Survey of England and Wales

Wade, K. 2010 Brief and Specification for Archaeological Monitoring at ‘Larks’, Malting Lane, Clare. Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team

## **6. Illustrations**

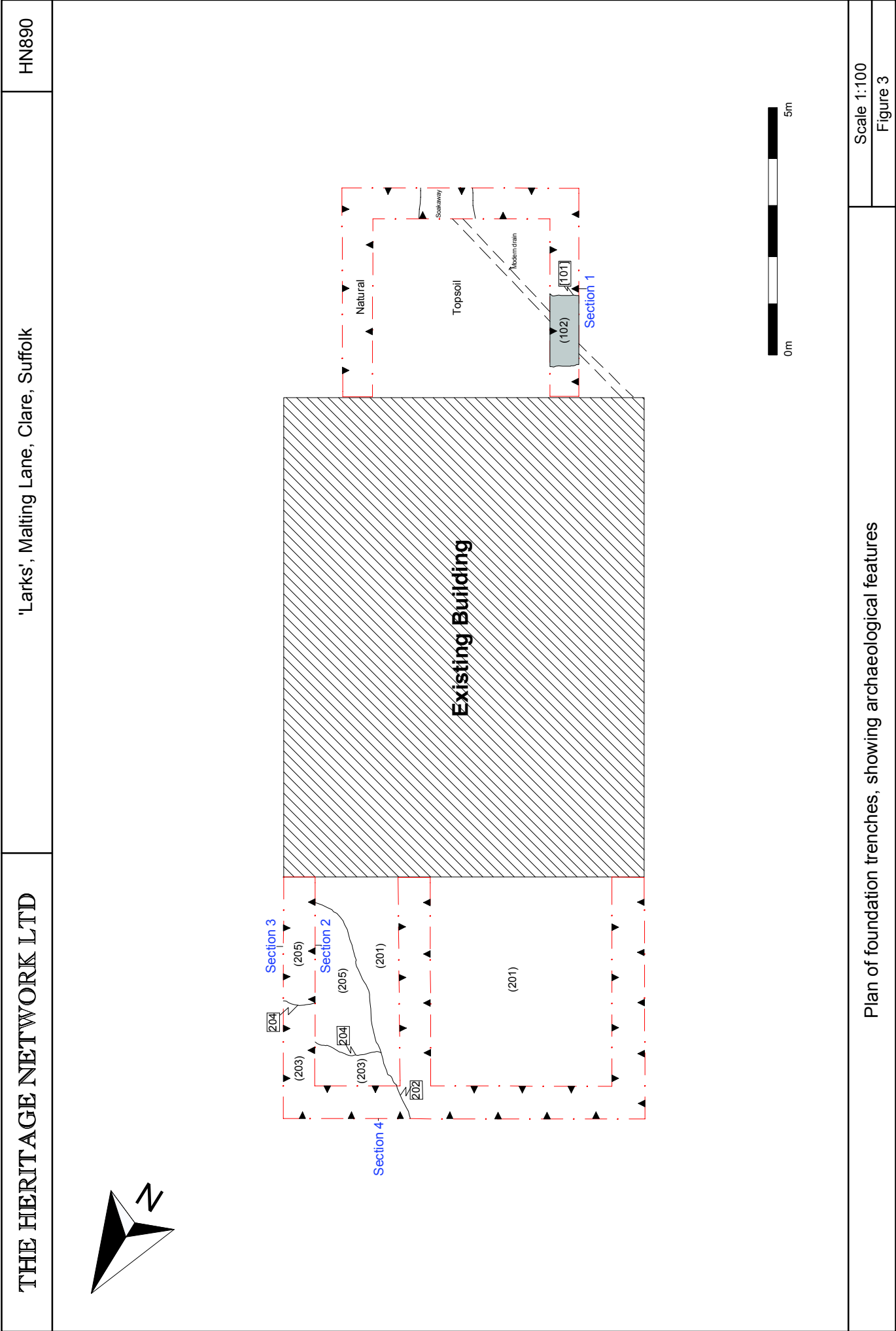
Figure 1.....	Site Location
Figure 2.....	Site layout
Figure 3.....	Plan of foundation trenches showing archaeology
Figure 4.....	Section cut [101]
Figure 5.....	Sections cuts [202] & [204]
Plate 1.....	[101] Section 1 looking NE
Plate 2.....	[204], Section 2 looking NE
Plate 3.....	[204] Section 3 looking SW
Plate 4.....	[202] Section 4 looking SE

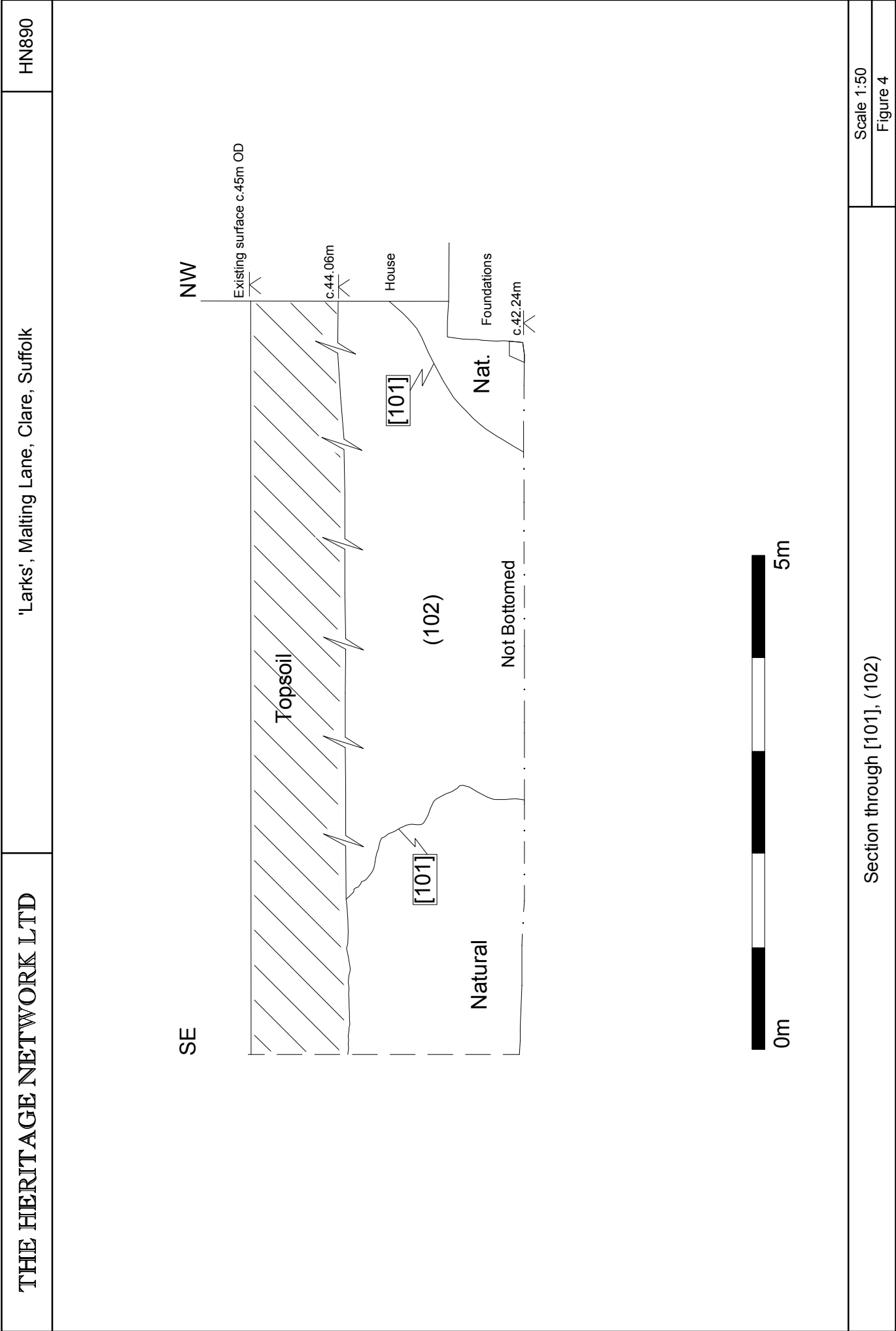




Site layout







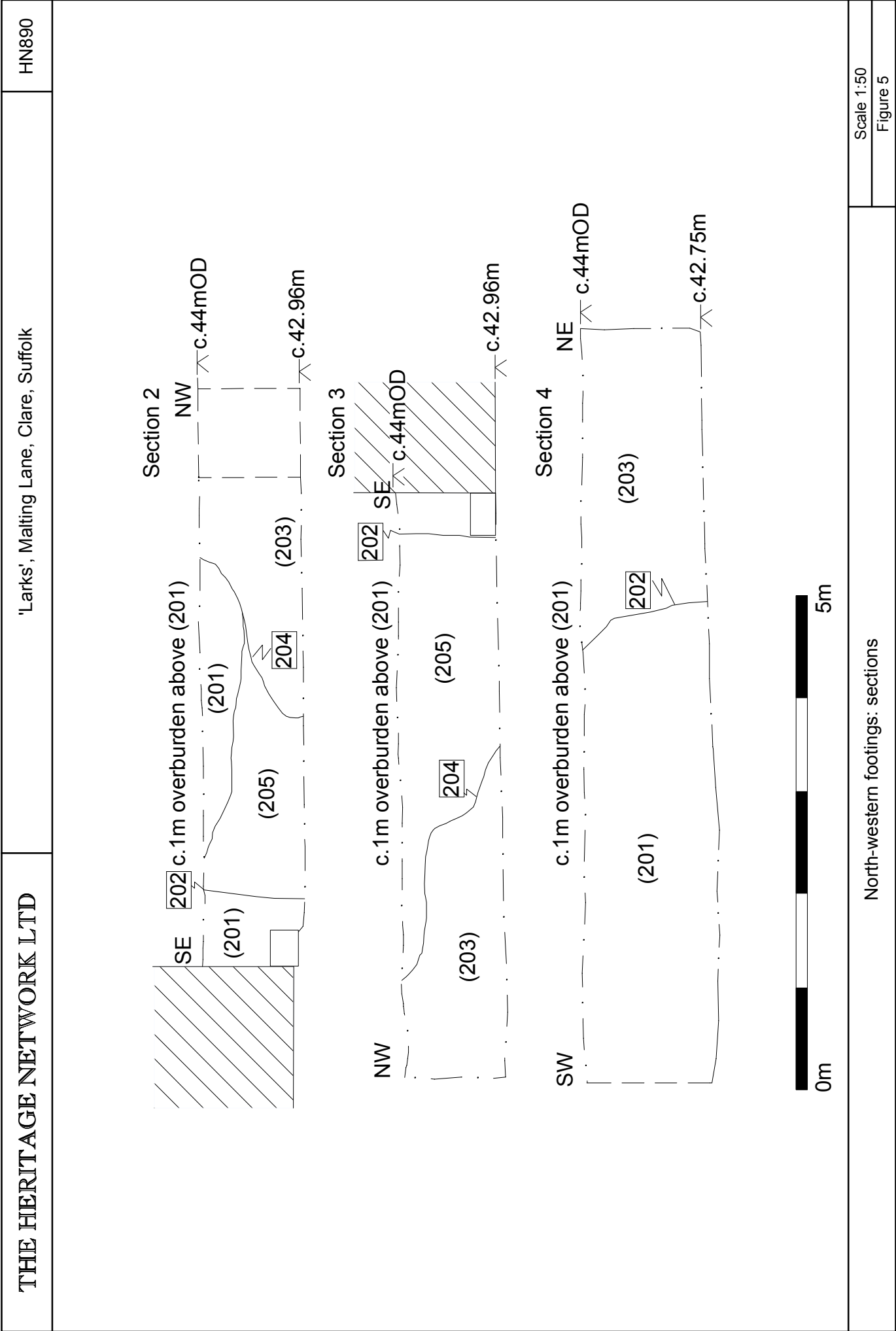






Plate 1: [101] Section 1 NE facing



Plate 2: [204], Section 2 NE Facing





Plate 3: [204] Section 3 SW facing



Plate 4: [202] Section 4 SE Facing

## Appendix

### Oasis Data Entry Form

<b>OASIS ID: heritage1-84765</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	‘Larks’, Malting Lane, Clare, Suffolk, CO10 8PU
Short description of the project	In response to a condition on the planning permission for the construction of a new side extension, attached garages and garden shed at ‘The Larks’, Malting Lane, Clare, Sudbury, Suffolk, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the owners to undertake the archaeological monitoring of the development groundworks. The site lies within the Area of Archaeological Interest defined for medieval Clare and in particular the site lies on the edge, or just outside of, the motte ditch of Clare Castle . The groundworks for the present project revealed two quarry pits of uncertain date. The garden to the east appears to have remained relatively undisturbed. No other archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered during the present project.
Project dates	Start: 04-11-2010 End: 29-03-2011
Previous/future work	None/unknown
Any associated project reference codes	CLA070 – HER Event No.
Any associated project reference codes	HN890 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 5 – Garden/Garage
Monument type	Quarry pit Uncertain
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	‘Watching brief’
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	SUFFOLK ST EDMUNDSBURY CLARE ‘Larks’ Malting Lane
Postcode	CO10 8PU
Study area	80 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 7697 4519
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project originator brief	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project originator design	Heritage Network
Project	David Hillelson

director/manager	
Project supervisor	Greg Jones
Type of sponsor/funding body	Landowner
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Digital Contents	'none'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service
Paper Contents	'none'
Paper Media available	'Diary', 'Plan', 'Report'
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	'Larks', Malting Lane, Clare, Suffolk, archaeological monitoring
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Jones, G.
Other bibliographic details	Report no.652
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth, Herts.
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 10 pages, 5 figures, 4 photographic plates