

# HERITAGE NETWORK



## **BELMONT HOUSE** **Newport, Essex**

HN908

## ***ARCHAEOLOGICAL*** ***EVALUATION***





# *THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD*

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

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

## BELMONT HOUSE, Newport, Essex

Project ref.: HN908  
LPA ref.: UTT/0199/09  
Site Code: NP16

### *Archaeological Evaluation*

*Prepared on behalf of Archers Developments Ltd*

by

James Snee BSc (HONS)

Report no. 655

*April 2011*

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*The front cover shows the site looking northwest*

## Acknowledgements

The fieldwork for this project was carried out by James Snee and Mark Winter. The report text and illustrations were prepared by James Snee and edited by David Hillelson.

The Heritage Network would like to express its thanks to Kirk Hatherly, Archers Developments Ltd, and Richard Havis and Adam Garwood, Historic Environment Management Team, Essex County Council, for their co-operation and assistance in the execution of this project.

## Summary

<b>Site name and address:</b>	Land at Belmont House, Belmont Hill, Newport, Essex, CB11 3RF		
<b>County:</b>	Essex	<b>District:</b>	Uttlesford
<b>Village/town:</b>	Newport	<b>Parish:</b>	Newport
<b>Planning reference:</b>	UTT/0199/09	<b>NGR:</b>	TL 5219 3431
<b>Client name and address:</b>	Archers Developments Ltd, 70 Morley Road, Chadwell Heath, Romford, Essex, RM6 6XA		
<b>Nature of work:</b>	Housing	<b>Current land use:</b>	Garden and outbuildings
<b>Site Status:</b>	N/A	<b>Reason for investigation:</b>	Direction of LPA (PPS5)
<b>Position in planning process:</b>	After full determination	<b>Project brief originator:</b>	Local Authority
<b>Size of affected area:</b>	420m <sup>2</sup>	<b>Size of area investigated:</b>	26m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Site code:</b>	NP16	<b>HN ref:</b>	HN908
<b>Organisation:</b>	Heritage Network	<b>Site Director:</b>	David Hillelson
<b>Project type, methods etc...</b>	Field evaluation	<b>Archive recipient:</b>	Saffron Walden Museum
<b>Start of work:</b>	01/03/2011	<b>Finish of work:</b>	04/03/2011
<b>Related HER nos:</b>	N/A	<b>Periods represented:</b>	Medieval, Post-medieval
<b>OASIS UID:</b>	1-93710	<b>Significant finds:</b>	Pottery, Brick, Tile
<b>Monument types:</b>	Ditch, Pit, Well		
<b>Physical archive:</b>	Pottery, Brick, Tile, Bone, Iron, Shell.		
<b>Previous summaries/reports:</b>	Interim Summary, Report No. 645		

### Synopsis:

In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site of a proposed new development on land to the rear of Belmont House, Newport, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Archers Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological field evaluation. This work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority.

The site is located in the grounds of Belmont House, on the east side of Belmont Hill, towards the northern end of Newport. The site lies within a sensitive archaeological area of Newport focused on the Saxon and medieval town.

The current investigation revealed two features of medieval date, These were a north-south aligned ditch [110/122] that may represent the rear property boundary to a habitation fronting Belmont Hill, and an elongated water filled feature [117] which could be interpreted as the eroded remains of an unlined well.

Truncating the medieval ditch was a series of pit cuts [103], [105] and [106] of post-medieval and early modern date that are probably extraction pits similar to those revealed closer to Belmont House in earlier investigations. Another possible extraction pit [114] was recorded at the south-western end of the trench.

# 1 Introduction

**1.1** This report has been prepared at the request of Archers Developments Limited, to cover a programme of archaeological work carried out as part of a proposed development at Belmont House, Newport, Essex.

**1.2** The planning permission for the development (ref: UTT/0199/09) was granted by Uttlesford District Council (UDC), subject to a standard archaeological condition issued under the Department of Communities and Local Government's *Planning Policy Statement 5* (PPS5). *Archaeological Trenching and Potential Excavation at Belmont House, Newport* issued by the Historic Environment Management Team (HEMT) of Essex County Council, acting as advisers to the UDC (ref: RH 10/02/11). A full specification for the work is contained in the Heritage Network's approved Project Design, dated February 2011.

**1.3** The site is located in the grounds of Belmont House, on the east side of Belmont Hill, towards the northern end of Newport. It is centred on NGR TL 5219 3431 and is bounded by White Horse Lane to the east, the garden of Belmont Cottage to the north and the garden of number 7 Belmont Hill to the south (Figure 1).

**1.4** The site lies within a sensitive archaeological area of Newport focused on the Saxon and medieval town (HER 376 & 377). The historical records for the town indicate the presence of a Castle (HER 234), but to date no evidence has been found to support this or indicate its exact location. The town had a market and a fair during the medieval period (HER 18803). The town contains a number of important post-medieval buildings.

**1.5** The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, 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, Medleycott and Brown, 2008), should they be discovered. It was considered that such investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins of the Saxon manorial settlement of Newport, its development throughout the late Saxon period and its transition into a medieval town, the development of Newport as a medieval market town in relation to a larger and more successful rival and the prehistoric landscape and the pattern of occupations sites from the Mesolithic period onwards.

## 2 Fieldwork

### TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

**2.1** The study area is located at a height of approximately 56m AOD, on ground sloping down from the west towards the River Cam, to the east. Approximately 200m northeast of the present investigation is the confluence of the Wicken and Debden Waters and the River Cam.

**2.2** Locally the soils belong to the Melford Association (571o). These soils are 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 consists of New Pit chalk, overlain by head clay, silt, sand and gravel ([www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience](http://www.bgs.ac.uk/opengeoscience)).

### METHODOLOGY

**2.4** All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current health and safety legislation, and the appropriate IfA and ALGAO guidance documents.

**2.5** The trench was located by triangulation from known points using fibreglass tape measures. It was opened using a tracked digger fitted with a 1.2m wide toothless ditching bucket. Spoil from the machining was inspected for archaeological artefacts and a metal detector was used to scan the spoil heaps for ferrous finds. The trench was machined to the first significant archaeological horizon, or to the natural geological horizon, as appropriate.

**2.6** The trench was cleaned by hand, and any potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

**2.7** All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate proforma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10 and 1:50.

### RESULTS

**2.8** A single trench was excavated across the footprint of the proposed new dwelling (Figure 2). It was orientated northeast to southwest and measured 13m in length, 2m in width and was excavated to a depth of 1.0m (Plate 2).

#### Trial Trench data:

<b>Length (m):</b>	13	<b>Width (m):</b>	1.95	<b>Maximum Depth (m):</b>	1.00	<b>Orientation</b>	NE-SW
<b>Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	56.53	<b>Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)</b>		<b>Top</b>	56.77
		<b>Base</b>	56.04			<b>Base</b>	56.02
<b>Context</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Dimensions (m)</b>				
			<b>Length</b>	<b>Width</b>	<b>Depth</b>		
-	Layer	10YR 2/1 Black sandy silt with frequent roots, CBM and flint pebbles.	13	1.95	0.16		
-	Layer	10YR 5/2 Greyish brown slightly clayey silt with moderate CBM and flint pebbles.	13	1.95	0.30		
101	Fill	Mottled 10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown and 10YR 5/8 Yellowish brown clayey silt with occasional flint pebbles	>1.40	>1.15	0.30		



Length (m):	13	Width (m):	1.95	Maximum Depth (m):	1.00	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE End of Trench (mOD)		Top	56.53	Level at SW End of Trench (mOD)		Top	56.77
		Base	56.04			Base	56.02
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
102	Fill	10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent chalk flecks and occasional flint pebbles	>1.52	>1.95	0.45		
103	Cut	Pit cut with gently sloping sides.	>1.52	>1.95	0.45		
104	Fill	5Y 3/2 Dark olive grey sandy clayey silt with occasional flint pebbles.	>1.50	>1.95	0.54		
105	Cut	Pit cut with sloping sides and a rounded base.	>1.50	>1.95	0.54		
106	Cut	Pit cut with steep sloping sides and flattish base.	>2.46	>1.95	0.62		
107	Fill	10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown clayey silt with occasional flint cobbles.	2.46	>1.95	0.36		
108	Fill	10YR 5/2 Greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and flint pebbles	3.02	>1.95	0.26		
109	Fill	10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown sandy silty clay with rare flint pebbles.	>2.50	0.50	0.40		
110	Cut	Linear cut with steep sloping sides and a rounded base.	>2.50	0.50	0.40		
111	Fill	10YR 4/2 Dark greyish brown sandy silty clay with occasional flint cobbles towards the base.	>2.50	>1.35	0.80		
112	Cut	Linear cut with sloping sides.	>2.50	>1.35	0.80		
113	Fill	10YR 5/2 Greyish brown silty clay with occasional chalk flecks and angular flint pebbles.	>3.10	2.85	0.88		
114	Cut	Sub-rectangular pit cut with steep sides and stepped base.	>3.10	2.85	0.88		
115	Fill	10YR 2/1 Black clayey silt with occasional chalk flecks.	>1.95	>0.55	0.26		
116	Cut	Irregular linear cut with sloping sides and an irregular undulating base.	>1.95	>0.55	0.26		
117	Cut	Elongated cut with vertical or undercut sides and a stepped base.	>2.00	1.50	>1.20		
118	Fill	2.5Y 4/4 Olive brown sandy clay with moderate small stones.	-	-	>0.29		
119	Fill	2.5Y 4/1 Dark grey sandy clay with occasional small stones.	-	-	0.33		
120	Fill	GLE Y 1 4/10Y Dark greenish grey sandy clay with occasional small stones.	-	-	0.18		
121	Fill	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown sandy clay with occasional small stones.	-	0.60	0.10		
122	Fill	GLE Y 1 3/10Y Very dark greenish grey sandy clay with occasional stones.	-	-	0.20		
123	Fill	GLE Y 1 4/10Y Dark greenish grey sandy clay with occasional stones.	-	-	0.20		
124	Fill	2.5Y 4/1 Dark grey sandy clay with occasional stones.	-	-	0.34		
125	Fill	2.5Y 4/2 Dark greyish brown sandy clay with occasional stones.	-	0.55	0.16		
-	Layer	10YR 5/8 Yellowish brown clayey silt and occasional flint pebbles	13	1.95	> 1.0		

**2.9** The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of black sandy silt topsoil, 0.16m in depth, above greyish brown slightly clayey silt subsoil, 0.30m in depth. Beneath the subsoil the natural yellowish brown clayey silt was revealed.

**2.10** At the northeast end of the trench was a north-south oriented ditch [112] with a visible re-cut [110] at the east side. This contained silty clay fills (109) and (111). A single sherd of 11<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery was recovered from fill (111).

**2.11** Cutting the upper portions of ditch [110] and [112] was a large pit [106] with steep sides and flattish base. This contained two clayey silty fills (107) and (108). These fills contained fragments of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century tile. Adjacent to and possibly cutting pit [106] was pit [105] which had a sandy silty clay fill (104). The upper portions of this fill, and fill (108), were cut by another pit [103] which contained fills (102) and (101). Fragments of brick and tile were observed in these deposits. These pit cuts have been interpreted as post-medieval and early modern extraction pits similar to those found in earlier investigations close to Belmont House (Garwood, A. 2004).

**2.12** To the southwest of pit [106] was a deep elongated pit [117], with vertical or undercut sides and a series of water deposited fills (118 to 123) below two darker, possible backfill deposits. Upper fill (124) contained fragments of 17<sup>th</sup> century pottery and 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century tile whilst a lower fill (122) contained fragments of 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery.

**2.13** At the southwest end of the trench was an irregular linear feature [116] with a black silty fill (115), which had been truncated by a sub-rectangular pit [114] containing silty clay fill (113). This pit contained a quantity of residual medieval pottery and fragments of 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup> century tile. These features probably represent a former hedge line that has been cut by an extraction pit.

## FINDS ASSESSMENT

### Finds Concordance

Context	Pottery		Brick		Tile		An bone		Shell		Fe object		Flint		Comments
	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	No	Wt	
107	1	10	1	410			7	200							Pottery: 12 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> ; brick: 18 <sup>th</sup> /19 <sup>th</sup>
108					12	835	1	20							
111	1	15													Pottery: 11 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> C
113	8	155			2	180	3	25	2	10	2	10			Pottery: 12 <sup>th</sup> /14 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup>
122	7	95											1	25	Flint: naturally struck – discard. Pottery: 12 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> C
124	2	35			3	130									Pottery: 17 <sup>th</sup> C
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>310</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>410</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1145</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>25</b>	

### Pottery

**2.14** A total of 19 sherds of pottery, weighing 310g, was recovered from five stratified contexts. The pottery ranged in date from the early medieval period to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The bulk of the assemblage consisted of undiagnostic bodysherds of 12<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century date. The largest groups were recovered from fill (113) in pit [114], which produced 8 sherds weighing 155g, and from fill (122) in pit [117], which contained 7 sherds weighing 95g.

**2.15** Mill Green-type wares, of 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date, represented the largest group by fabric, comprising 6 sherds weighing 175g. Sherds of this ware were recovered from contexts (107), (113) and (122). Other fabrics present include one sherd, weighing 15g, of early medieval sandy ware, dating to the 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> centuries, from context (111); a base sherd, weighing 25g, in a reduced shell and grog tempered ware, from context (122); a single sherd

of Essex greyware of 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century date, weighing 10g, was collected from context (122); and a sherd of Hedingham ware, of mid 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century date, weighing 3g, came from context (122).

**2.16** Post-medieval pottery was also present. Three sherds of 17<sup>th</sup> century Harlow (or Metropolitan) slipware, weighing 37g, were collected from contexts (113) and (124). Several 19<sup>th</sup> century sherds were recovered from context (113), comprising a sherd of brown-glazed stoneware weighing 10g, and three sherds of blue and white glazed china weighing 5g, possibly from the same teacup.

**2.17** Only a limited number of sherds were diagnostic. Part of the rim and handle of a large jug or flagon in Mill Green-type ware was recovered as a residual find from context (113). The shell and grog tempered base from (122) may have come from a cooking pot as it was heavily sooted on the exterior. It also displayed evidence of re-use as it had been drilled after firing.

#### *Recommendations*

**2.18** This is a small and largely undiagnostic group. Further analysis of the assemblage is unlikely to improve archaeological information on the Newport area. On this basis, no further work is proposed.

#### **Brick**

**2.19** One brick fragment, weighing 410g, was collected from context (107), the lower fill in pit [106]. It is part of a handmade brick, of late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century date, in a dark red sandy fabric.

#### *Recommendations*

**2.20** As the assemblage comprises a single fragment, no other archaeological information is likely to be obtained from its further analysis. On this basis, no further work is proposed.

#### **Tile**

**2.21** A total of 17 tile fragments, weighing 1145g, was collected from three stratified contexts. The assemblage comprised broken pieces in sandy red wares, dating to the late 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

**2.22** The largest group, comprising 12 pieces weighing 835g, was recovered from context (108) the upper fill in pit [106]. Other fragments were present in contexts (113) and (124).

#### *Recommendations*

**2.23** As this material is a very common find on urban sites of similar date and the assemblage comprises a number of broken fragments, no other archaeological information is likely to be obtained from its further analysis. On this basis, no further work is proposed.

#### **Iron Objects**

**2.24** Two iron nails, weighing 10g, were recovered from fill (113) in pit [114]. Both were heavily concreted, suggesting that little original iron survives.

*Recommendations*

**2.25** Given the small size and decayed nature of this assemblage, no further work is proposed.

***Shell***

**2.26** Two halves of oyster shell, weighing 20g, were collected from context (113). Their presence indicates that shellfish formed a small part of the local diet in the post-medieval period.

*Recommendations*

**2.27** Given the small size of this assemblage, no further work is proposed.

***Animal bone***

**2.28** A total of 11 fragments of animal bone, weighing 245g, was collected from three stratified contexts, fills (107), (108) and (113). All of these have been dated to the post-medieval period on stratigraphic and artefactual evidence. The assemblage largely consisted of butchered long bone fragments, of unidentifiable species.

**2.29** The largest group, comprising 7 fragments weighing 200g, was recovered from context (107). The group included a fragment of chicken rib, a broken sheep's mandible and a sheep's tibia. The tibia had fused, indicating that the animal was an adult.

*Recommendations*

**2.30** Given the fragmentary nature of the assemblage, no further significant information is likely to be obtained. On this basis, no further work is proposed on the material.

## 3 Discussion

### *Archaeological Background*

**3.1** The site lies within the historic town of Newport and there are 20 HER entries located within a 500m radius of the site centre. These range in date from the Mesolithic to the modern period.

**3.2** Although Newport is primarily known as a town of Anglo-Saxon and medieval origins, excavations carried out during the early 1970s revealed evidence of significant Mesolithic activity suggesting a base camp from which hunting activities were undertaken (HER 275 & 47253). This suggests that Newport was established in a complex and very ancient archaeological landscape.

**3.3** The Domesday Survey of 1086 records that Newport was a royal manor in 1066 and this strongly suggests that the town was established in the Saxon period (HER 376). The name Newport means a new town with a market and Newport certainly had a market prior to 1141 when it was moved to Saffron Walden. The Domesday survey mentions a priest living on the manor and that suggests the presence of a Saxon church, possible the precursor of the 12<sup>th</sup> century church of St Mary the Virgin (HER 378). Late Saxon coins have been found with the name Newport on them and this has been used as evidence for a mint in the town, although the name Newport could also refer to Newport Pagnell (Medleycott 1999).

**3.4** In the early medieval period, Newport remained a royal manor (HER 377) and there is documentary evidence for a castle. The town initially prospered as a market, but the rise of Saffron Walden as a regional market seems to have thrown the town into decline from the beginning of the 14<sup>th</sup> century onwards (Medleycott 1999).

**3.5** Post-medieval Newport (HER 377) largely retained the plan of the medieval town, with many 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century building being constructed on the site of earlier dwellings. The town has a significant number of surviving 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings and so retains much of its post-medieval character.

**3.6** Belmont House (HER 25569) is a 19<sup>th</sup> century timber framed house. A watching brief undertaken during the construction of extensions to Belmont House revealed an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century extraction pit (Garwood, 2004).

### *New Data*

**3.7** The current investigation revealed two features of medieval date, These were north-south aligned ditch [110] and [122] that may represent the rear property boundary to a habitation fronting Belmont Hill, and a elongated water filled feature [117] which could be interpreted as the eroded remains of an unlined well.

- The absence of large quantities of material means that this feature can not be interpreted as any form of waste or cess pit. The gleyed clayey fills are all water deposited, possible material eroded from the sides of the feature which appear to have been unprotected. Therefore, the nature of this feature and its fills suggests that it may have been an unlined well. The finds from this feature show a considerable date range, with medieval pottery recovered from a lower clay layer and post medieval tile from an upper deposit,

interpreted as backfill. This would suggest that the feature was open during the medieval period, but prone to erosion, and was ultimately abandoned and backfilled in the post-medieval period.

**3.8** Truncating the medieval ditch was a series of pit cuts [103], [105] and [106] of post-medieval and early modern date that are probably extraction pits similar to those revealed closer to Belmont House in earlier investigations. Another extraction pit [114] was recorded at the south-western end of the trench.

### Research Design

**3.9** The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, 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), should they be discovered.

**3.10** It was considered that this investigation had the potential to contribute to an understanding of the origins of the Saxon manorial settlement of Newport, its development throughout the late Saxon period and its transition into a medieval town. The investigation could have also provided evidence about the development of Newport as a medieval market town in relation to a larger and more successful rival, in this case Saffron Walden (Medlycott 1999, page 14). In addition, there was potential to add to our knowledge and understanding of the prehistoric landscape and the pattern of occupations sites from the Mesolithic period onwards (Brown & Glazebrook 2000, page 7, Medlycott. & Brown 2008, pages 14 & 15)

- No evidence was revealed that added to our understanding of the pattern of landscape occupation in the prehistoric period.
- The recovery of 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery from a boundary ditch may contribute to our understanding of the transition from the Saxon settlement to medieval town. If the pottery actually derives from the earlier part of this date range, it might help to confirm the suggestion that medieval Newport developed of a layout of roads and properties already established by the end of the Saxon period. However, further information is required to clarify this.
- The possible well feature confirms activity on the site during the medieval period and could indicate that the property was domestic. This may contribute to our understanding of the development of the medieval town.
- The low quantity of finds and the limited range of features exposed provided little information about the development of Newport as a market town.

### Confidence Rating

**3.11** During the course of the fieldwork, the weather was good and the ground conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation. There were no circumstances which would lead to confidence rating for the work which was less than *High*.

## 4 Sources Consulted

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## 5 Illustrations

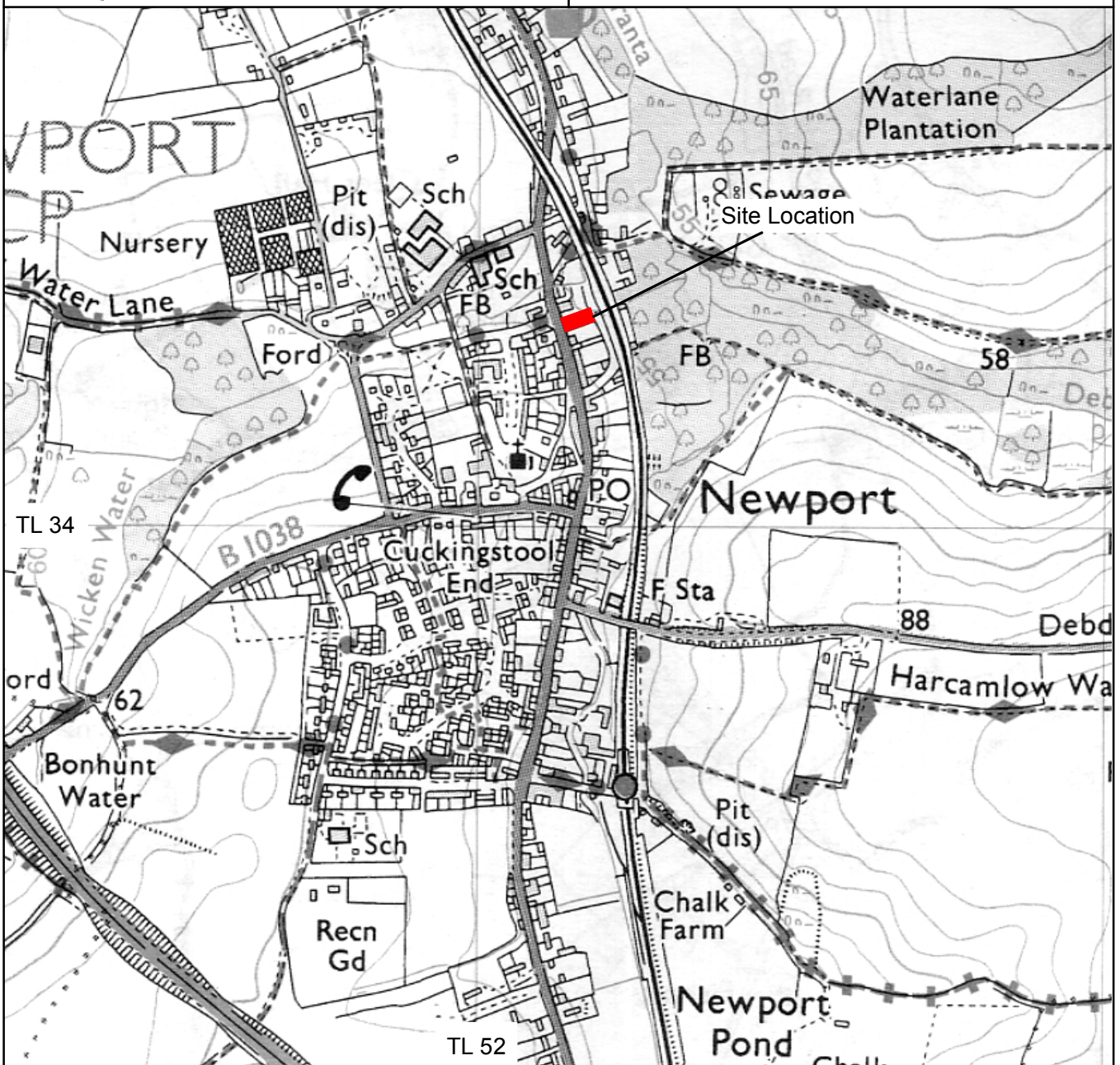
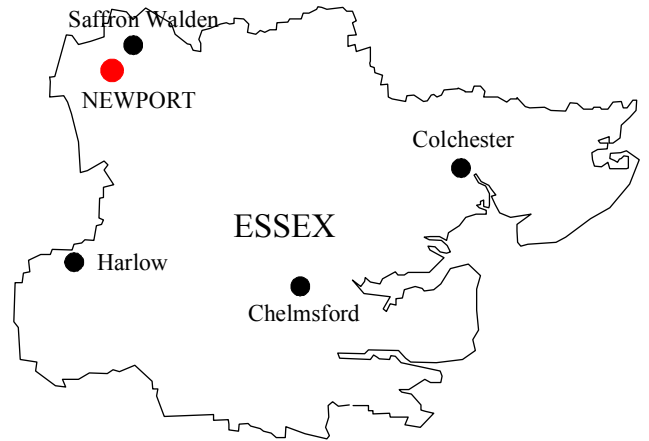
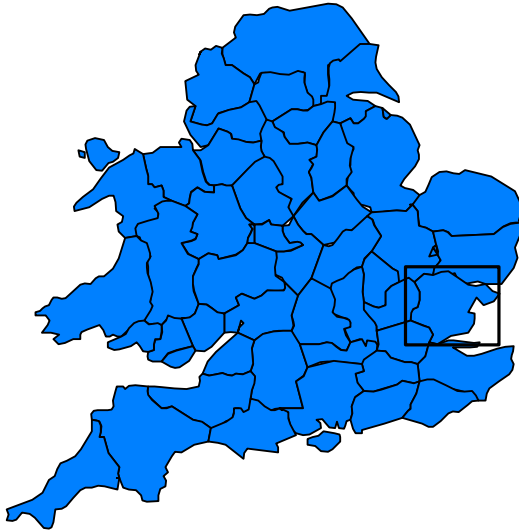
Figure 1 .....	Site location
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Plate 2 .....	Pre-excavation view of trial trench, looking northeast.
Plate 3 .....	Features [110], [112], [103], [105] & [106], looking east.
Plate 4 .....	Medieval well [114], looking east.
Plate 5 .....	Features [114] & [116], looking southwest
Plate 6 .....	Features [114] & [116], looking northeast



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Belmont House, Newport, Essex

HN908



Site Location

Scale 1:10,000

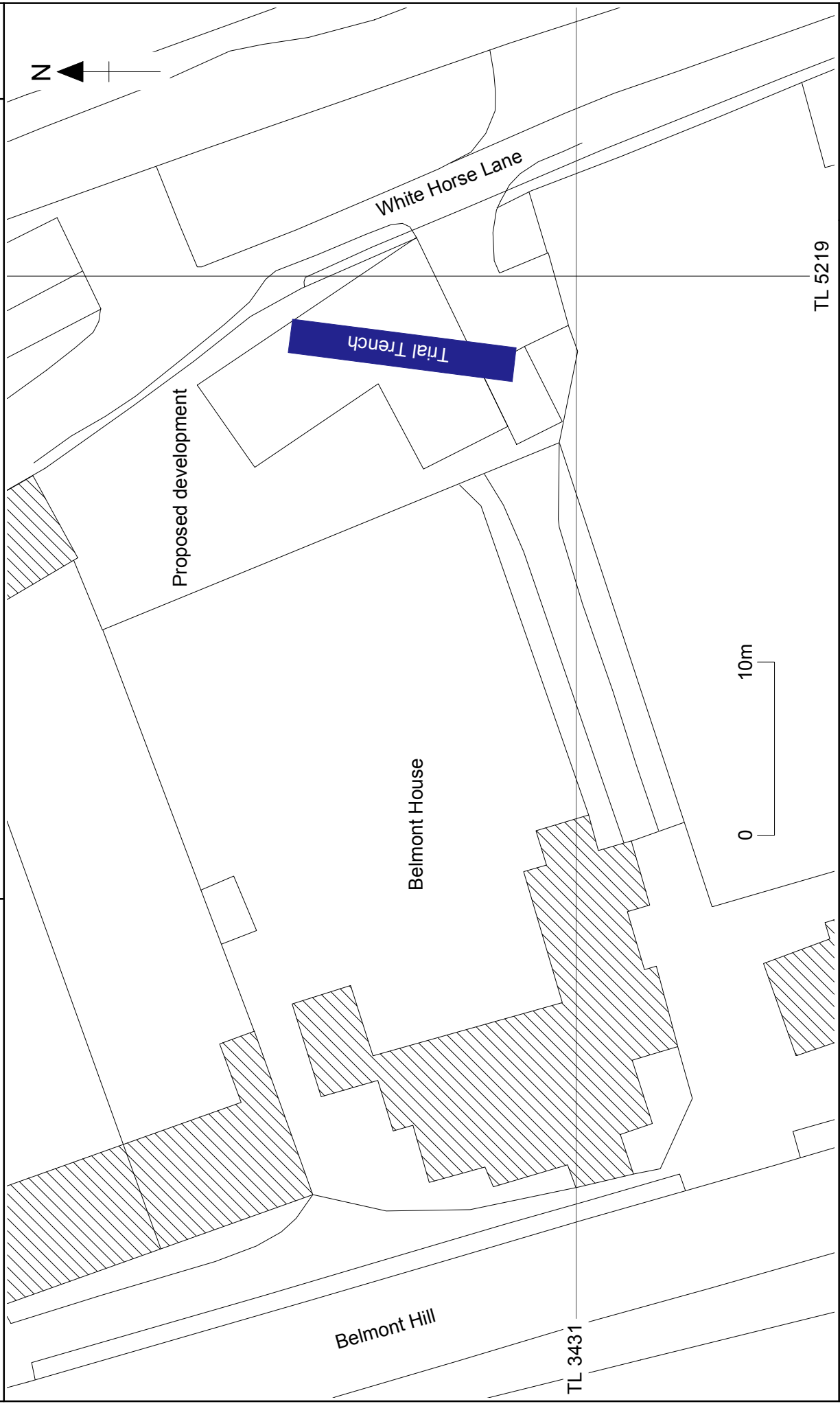
Reproduced from OS mapping with the permission of the controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, Licence no.AL52036A

Figure 1

THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Belmont House, Newport, Essex

HN908



TL 5219

0 10m

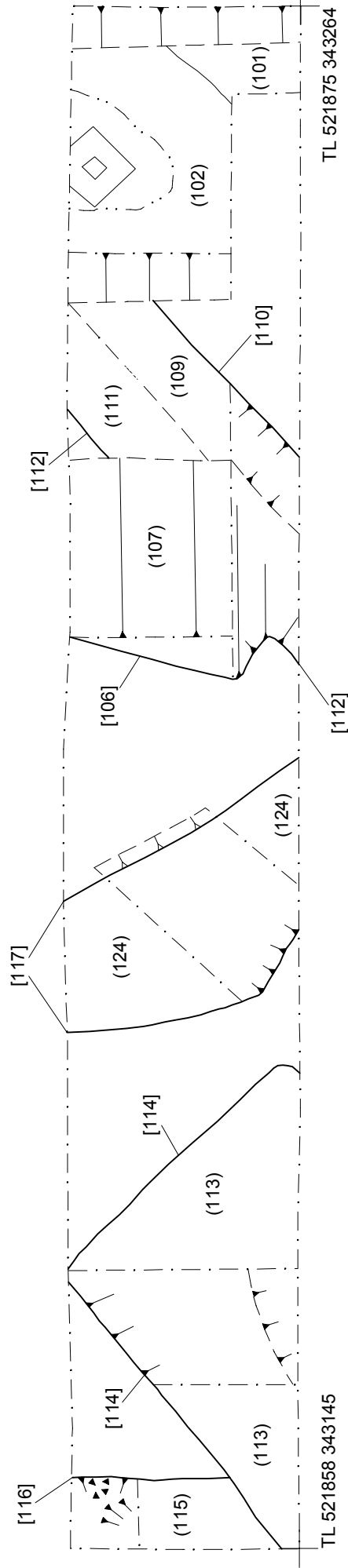
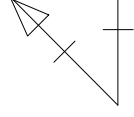
TL 3431

Scale 1:300

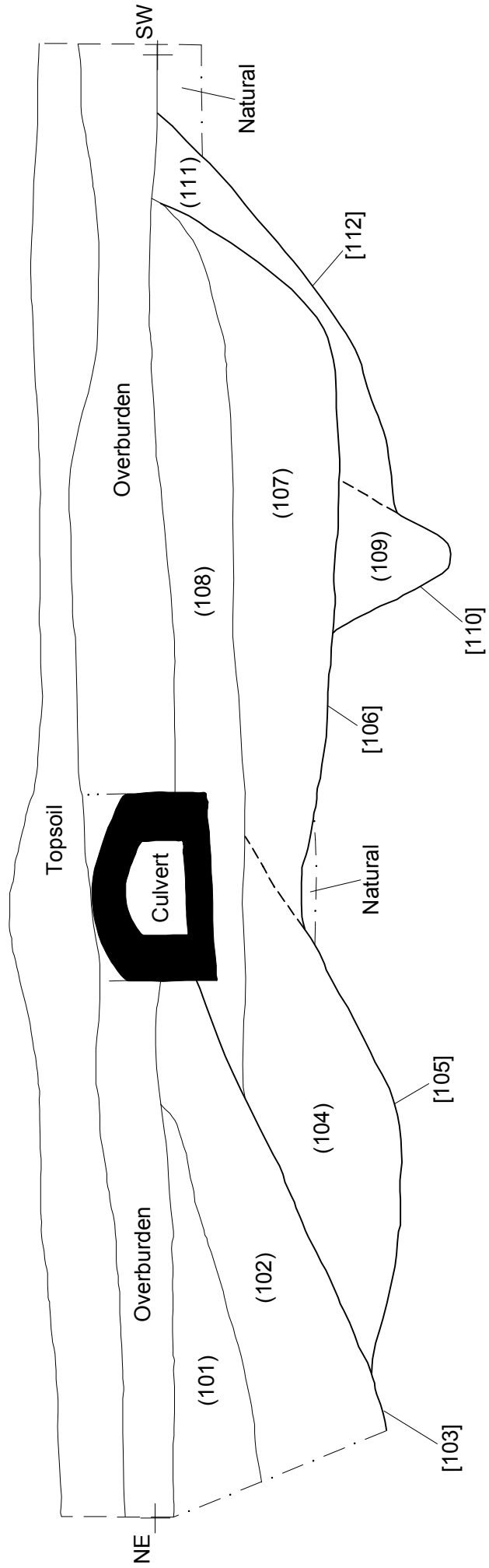
Figure 2

General plan

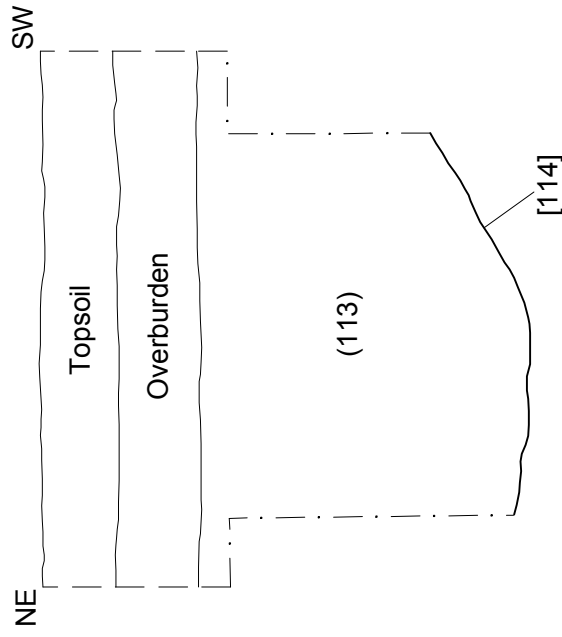
Site North



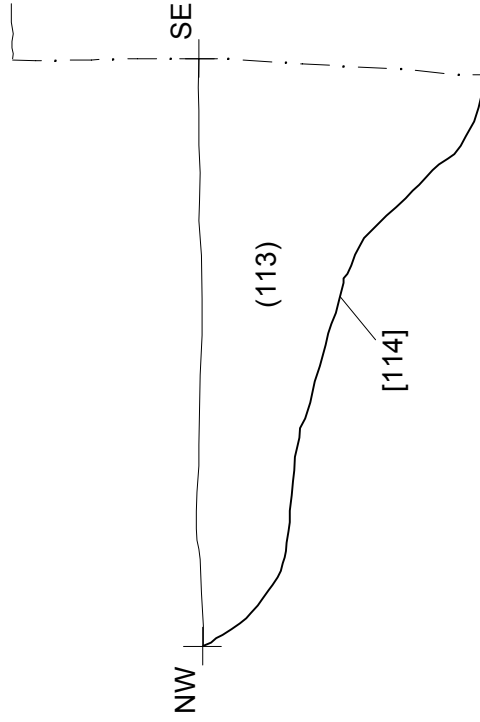
Plan of trial trench and archaeological features.



Section 2, northwest facing.

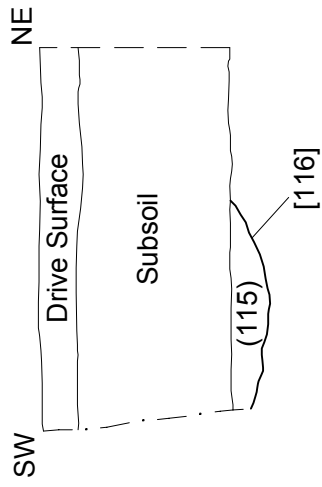


Section 4, northwest facing

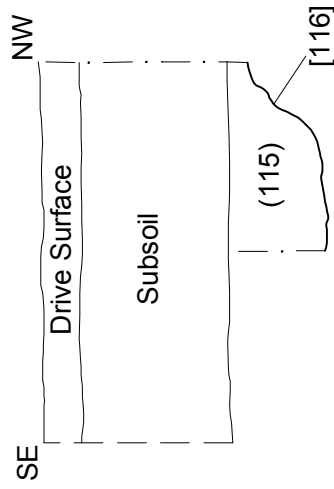


Section 3, southwest facing

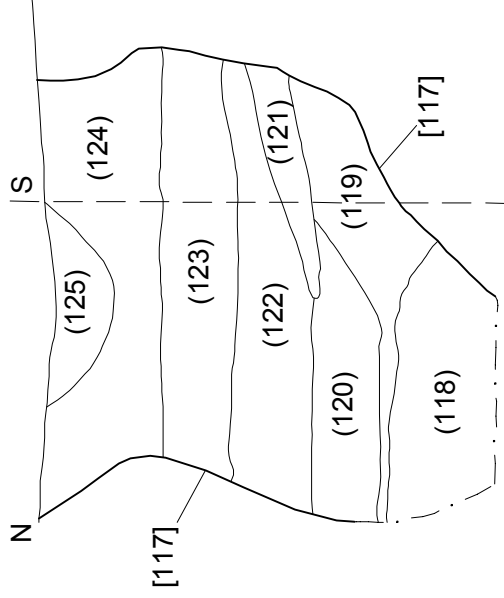




Section 5, southeast facing



Section 6, northeast facing



Section 7, west facing

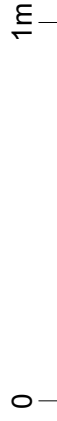






Plate 1: General site view, looking north.



Plate 2: Pre-excavation view of trial trench, looking northeast.



Plate 3: Medieval ditch [110] & [112] and post-medieval pits [103], [105] & [106], looking east.



Plate 4: Medieval well [117], looking east.



Plate 5: Post-medieval pit [114] and possible hedge line [116], looking southwest.



Plate 6: Post-medieval pit [114] and possible hedge line [116], looking northeast



# Appendix

## Oasis Summary Sheet

<b>OASIS ID: heritage1-93710</b>	
<b>Project details</b>	
Project name	Newport, Belmont House, High Street
Short description of the project	<p>In order to characterise the archaeological potential of the site of a proposed new development on land to the rear of Belmont House, Newport, Essex, the Heritage Network was commissioned by Archers Developments Ltd to undertake an archaeological field evaluation. This work was a requirement of the planning consent granted by the local planning authority.</p> <p>The site is located in the grounds of Belmont House, on the east side of Belmont Hill, towards the northern end of Newport. The site lies within a sensitive archaeological area of Newport focused on the Saxon and medieval town.</p> <p>The current investigation revealed two features of medieval date, These were a north-south aligned ditch [110/122] that may represent the rear property boundary to a habitation fronting Belmont Hill, and an elongated water filled feature [117] which could be interpreted as the eroded remains of an unlined well.</p> <p>Truncating the medieval ditch was a series of pit cuts [103], [105] and [106] of post-medieval and early modern date that are probably extraction pits similar to those revealed closer to Belmont House in earlier investigations. Another possible extraction pit [114] was recorded at the south-western end of the trench.</p>
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2011 End: 04-03-2011
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	NP16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 3 - Built over
Monument type	PIT Post Medieval
Monument type	DITCH Medieval
Monument type	WELL Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Medieval
Significant Finds	POT Post Medieval
Significant Finds	TILE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BRICK Post Medieval
Significant Finds	BONE Post Medieval
Significant Finds	SHELL Post Medieval
Significant Finds	NAIL Post Medieval
Methods & techniques	'Targeted Trenches'
Development type	Urban residential (e.g. flats, houses, etc.)
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	ESSEX UTTLESFORD NEWPORT Belmont House, High Street
Postcode	CB11 3RF
Study area	420.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TL 5219 3431 51.9859119859 0.216532452814 51 59 09 N 000 12 59 E Point

Height OD / Depth	Min: 56.01m Max: 56.19m
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Heritage Network
Project brief originator	Local Authority Archaeologist and/or Planning Authority/advisory body
Project design originator	Heritage Network
Project director/manager	David Hillelson
Project supervisor	James Snee
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Archers Developments Ltd
<b>Project archives</b>	
Physical Archive recipient	Saffron Waldon Museum.
Physical Contents	Animal Bones', 'Ceramics', 'Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	Saffron Waldon Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography', 'Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Saffron Waldon Museum
Paper Contents	'other'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Diary', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report', 'Section', 'Survey '
<b>Project bibliography 1</b>	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Belmont House, Newport, Essex.: Archaeological Evaluation
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Snee, J
Other bibliographic details	Report no. 655
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Heritage Network
Place of issue or publication	Letchworth Garden City
Description	A4 booklet, comb bound, green cover, 12 pages, 6 figures, 6 plates