

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**SAND ARENA, PROPOSED FOALING UNIT,
WOODDITTON STUD, KIRTLING ROAD,
WOODDITTON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

CHER NO. ECB 3902

Authors: Sam Egan (Fieldwork & report)	
NGR: TL 6600 5780	Report No: 4339
District: East Cambridgeshire	Site Code: AS 1597
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 5116
Signed:	Date: 25 June 2013

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	Proposed Foaling Unit, Woodditton Stud, Kirtling Road, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation.		
<p>In June 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation on land at Woodditton Stud, Kirtling Road, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6600 5780; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Darley Stud management Co Ltd in advance of the construction of a new sand arena to serve a new foaling unit. The evaluation was required as a condition of planning permission for the development (12/00922/FUL).</p> <p>The site lies within an area where many archaeological finds have been made, principally on the areas where local chalk deposits are not capped by Boulder Clays. Evidence of Bronze Age barrows and other activity, including scatters of prehistoric flintwork, indicative of occupation, are known from the NE/SW aligned chalk band which traverses the area. Crop mark evidence of likely prehistoric activity is recorded in fields to the immediate east of the proposed foaling unit site (recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record – HER MCB10959). The site thus has a potential for remains of prehistoric and later activity.</p> <p>In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	June 2013		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	N
P. number	5116	Site code	AS1597
Type of project	Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Stud		
Planned development	Foaling Unit		
Main features (+dates)	None		
Significant finds (+dates)	None		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	Cambridgeshire	East Cambridgeshire	Woodditton
HER/ SMR for area	Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CCC HER)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c.90m x 60m		
NGR	TL 6600 5780		
Height AOD (max/ min)	Approx.119m AOD		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (Daniel McConnell)		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Sam Egan		
Funded by	Darley Stud Management Co Ltd		
Full title	Proposed Foaling Unit, Woodditton Stud, Kirtling Road, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation.		
Authors	Egan, S.		
Report no.	4339		
Date (of report)	June 2013		

**SAND ARENA, PROPOSED FOALING UNIT, WOODDITTON STUD,
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ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In June 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation on land at Woodditton Stud, Kirtling Road, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6600 5780; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Darley Stud Management Co Ltd in advance of the construction of a new sand arena to serve a new foaling unit. The evaluation was required as a condition of planning permission for the development (12/00922/FUL).

The site lies within an area where many archaeological finds have been made, principally on the areas where local chalk deposits are not capped by Boulder Clays. Evidence of Bronze Age barrows and other activity, including scatters of prehistoric flintwork, indicative of occupation, are known from the NE/SW aligned chalk band which traverses the area. Crop mark evidence of likely prehistoric activity is recorded in fields to the immediate east of the proposed foaling unit site (recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record – HER MCB10959). The site thus has a potential for remains of prehistoric and later activity.

In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2013 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological evaluation on land at Woodditton Stud, Kirtling Road, Woodditton, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 6600 5780; Figs. 1 & 2). The evaluation was commissioned by Darley Stud Management Co Ltd in advance of the construction of a new sand arena to serve a new foaling unit. The evaluation was required as a condition of planning permission for the development (12/00922/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (Daniel McConnell 08/05/2013), and a specification compiled by AS (06/06/2013), and approved by CCC HET. The documents *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*, East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14 (Gurney 2003) and the Institute for

Archaeologists' (IFA) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Evaluations* (1994, revised 2008) were used for guidance.

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

Planning policy context

1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF 2012) states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The NPPF aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. The NPPF requires applications to describe the significance of any heritage asset, including its setting that may be affected in proportion to the asset's importance and the potential impact of the proposal.

1.5 The NPPF aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance, with substantial harm to designated heritage assets (i.e. listed buildings, scheduled monuments) only permitted in exceptional circumstances when the public benefit of a proposal outweighs the conservation of the asset. The effect of proposals on non-designated heritage assets must be balanced against the scale of loss and significance of the asset, but non-designated heritage assets of demonstrably equivalent significance may be considered subject to the same policies as those that are designated. The NPPF states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment, to record and advance the understanding of heritage assets and to make this publicly available is a requirement of development management. This opportunity should be taken in a manner proportionate to the significance of a heritage asset and to impact of the proposal, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

2 SITE DESCRIPTION

2.1 The site is situated within the existing Woodditton Stud complex, to the west of Kirtling Road and south of the settlement at Ditton Green. It is located to the immediate south of an existing American barn. The site lies at a height of c.119m AOD, on chalk deposits.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site lies within an area where many archaeological finds have been made, principally on the areas where local chalk deposits are not capped by Boulder Clays. Evidence of Bronze Age barrows and other activity, including scatters of prehistoric flintwork, indicative of occupation, are known from the NE/SW aligned chalk band which traverses the area. Crop mark evidence of likely prehistoric activity is recorded in fields to the immediate east of the proposed foaling unit site (recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record – HER MCB10959).

3.2 The site thus had a potential for remains of prehistoric and later activity.

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 Five trenches each 30m long were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trench locations were approved by CCC HET.

4.2 Undifferentiated overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a 180° back acting mechanical excavator fitted with a 1.60m wide toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed.

5 RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below:

Trench 1 (Fig. 3)

<i>Sample section 1A</i> <i>SW end</i> <i>0.00 = 119.32m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid grey brown, friable, silty clay with sparse chalk.
0.20 – 0.61m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid orange brown, cohesive, clayey silt with sparse chalk.
0.61 m+	L1002	Natural. Pale, greyish white, chalky clay and pale orangish yellow silty clay.

<i>Sample section 1B</i> <i>NE end</i> <i>0.00 = 119.35m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.17m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.17 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above.
0.58m+	L1002	Natural. As above.

Description: Trench 1 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 2 (Fig.3)

<i>Sample section 2A</i> <i>SE end</i> <i>0.00 = 119.33m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.19 – 0.55m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.55m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

<i>Sample section 2B</i> <i>NW end</i> <i>0.00 = 119.31m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.23 – 0.61m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.61m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 3 (Fig.3)

<i>Sample section 3A</i> <i>SW end</i> <i>0.00 = 119.38m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.27 – 0.65m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.65m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 3B NE end 0.00 = 119.36m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.23 – 0.63m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.63m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 3 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 4 (Fig.3)

Sample section 4A SE end 0.00 = 119.41m AOD		
0.00 – 0.19m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.19 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.58m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 4B NW end 0.00 = 119.40m AOD		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.23 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.58m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 4 contained no archaeological features or finds.

Trench 5 (Fig.3)

Sample section 5A SE end 0.00 = 119.41m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.61m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.61m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Sample section 5B NW end 0.00 = 119.45m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.26 – 0.66m	L1001	Subsoil. As above Tr.1.
0.66m +	L1002	Natural. As above Tr.1.

Description: Trench 2 contained no archaeological features or finds.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds present.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Topsoil L1000 was uppermost and it comprised a mid grey brown, friable, silty clay with sparse chalk (0.17 – 0.27m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid orange brown, cohesive, clayey silt with sparse chalk (0.35 – 0.41m thick). Subsoil L1001 overlay the natural, L1002, a pale, greyish white, chalky clay and pale orangish yellow silty clay (up to 0.66m below the current ground surface).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site lies within an area where many archaeological finds have been made, principally on the areas where local chalk deposits are not capped by Boulder Clays. Evidence of Bronze Age barrows and other activity, including scatters of prehistoric flintwork, indicative of occupation, are known from the NE/SW aligned chalk band which traverses the area. Crop mark evidence of likely prehistoric activity is recorded in fields to the immediate east of the proposed foaling unit site (recorded on the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record – HER MCB10959). The site thus had a potential for remains of prehistoric and later activity.

8.2 In the event the evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at Cambridgeshire County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Darley Stud Management Co Ltd for funding the project. AS would also like to acknowledge Taylor Vinters, in particular, Ms Amy Richardson for assistance.

AS gratefully acknowledge the input and advice of Mr Dan McConnell of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team

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Gurney, D. 2003 *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*. East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 14

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SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Soils of South East England (sheet 4)*. Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
General shot of site looking south-west



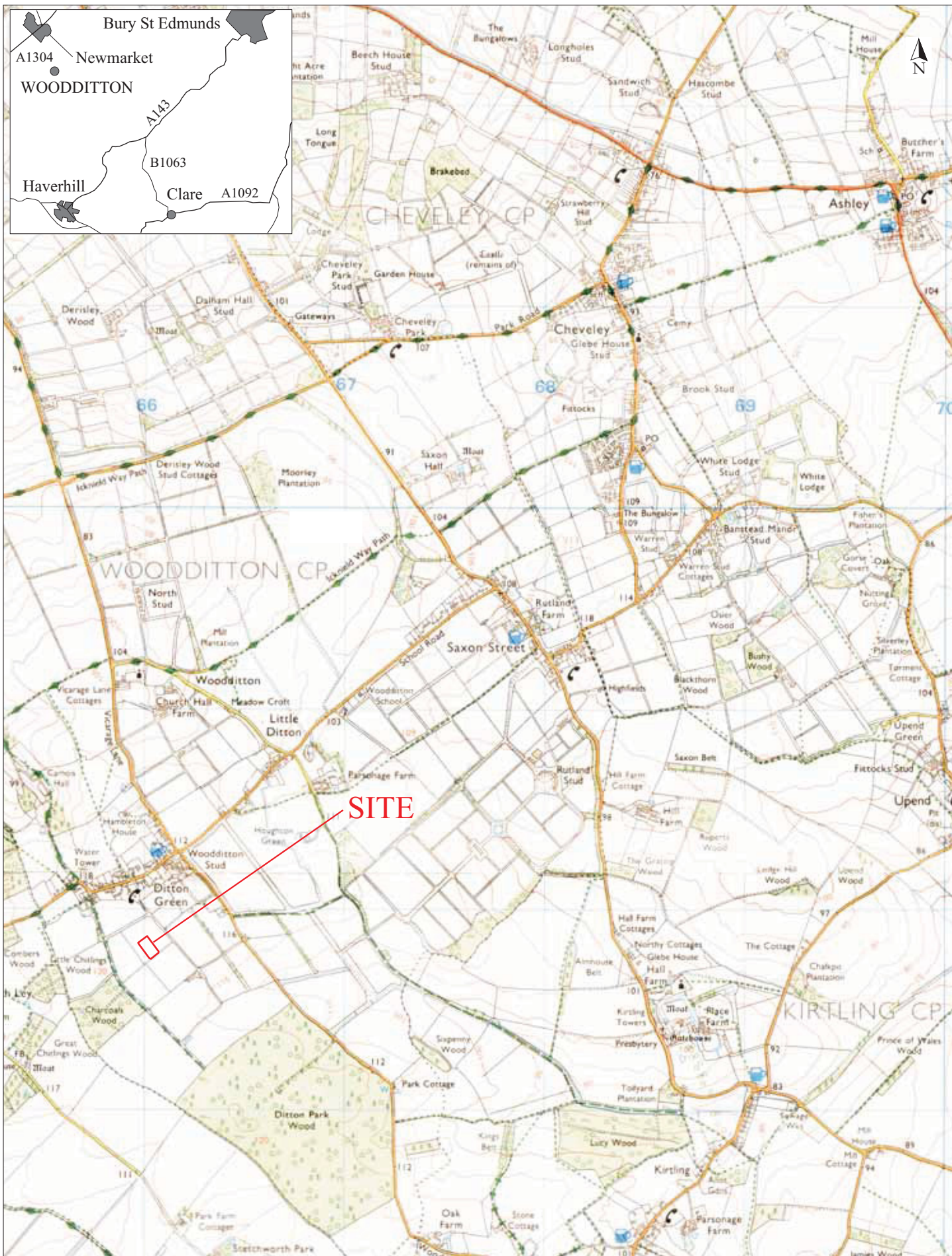
2
Trench 1 looking north-east



3
Trench 5 looking north-east

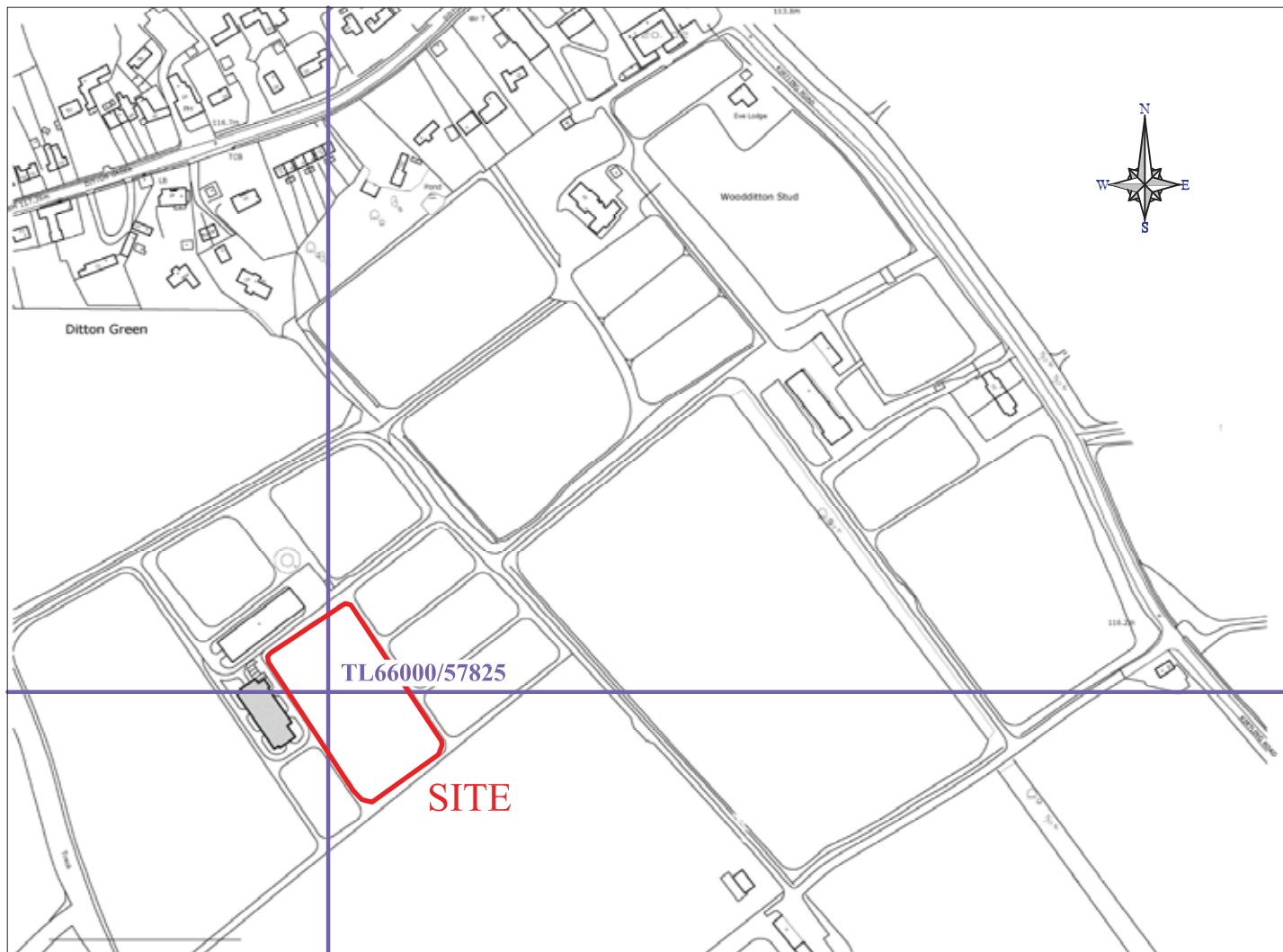


4
Sample section 5A looking south-east



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



0 300m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:5000 at A4



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Fig. 3 Trench location plan
Scale 1:750 at A4