TAPPING HOUSE, 38A COMMON ROAD, SNETTISHAM, NORFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

Authors: Quinn, S. (Fieldwork and report) Thompson, P. (Research)	
NGR: TF 6755 3365	Report No: 4608
District: King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Site Code: ENF134479
Approved: Claire Halpin MIfA	Project No: 5814
Signed:	Date: 19 June 2014

Archaeological Solutions is an independent archaeological contractor providing the services which satisfy all archaeological requirements of planning applications, including:

Desk-based assessments and environmental impact assessments
Historic building recording and appraisals
Trial trench evaluations
Geophysical surveys
Archaeological monitoring and recording
Archaeological excavations
Post excavation analysis
Promotion and outreach
Specialist analysis

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

Unit 6, Brunel Business Court, Eastern Way,
Bury St Edmunds IP32 7AJ
Tel 01284 765210

P I House, Rear of 23 Clifton Road, Shefford,
Bedfordshire, SG17 5AF
Tel: 01462 850483

e-mail info@ascontracts.co.uk
www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk

twitter.com/ArchaeologicalS

www.facebook.com/ArchaeologicalSolutions

CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name	*Tapping House, 38A Common Road, Snettisham, Norfolk.*		
In June 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Tapping House, 38A Common Road, Snettisham, Norfolk (NGR TF 6755 3365). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the demolition of the existing hospice buildings and the construction of nine detached dwellings. *The parish is rich in finds dating between the prehistoric and medieval periods. In particular cropmark evidence indicates an extensive area of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement to the south and east of the development site. Cropmarks representing a series of probable Roman period linear ditches, possibly defining field boundaries, roads or trackways, are also recorded on aerial photographs in the vicinity of the site, but a watching brief centred on 80m to the south, proved negative for archaeological features, and recovered one post medieval and one Roman pottery sherd (NHER 18236).* *The site thus had the potential for remains of Iron Age / Romano-British date in particular. In the event an undated ditch, F1004, was revealed in the far eastern edge of the site (Trench 6). It contained animal bone and mineralised plant matter. Examination of the latter indicated a likely post-medieval date for Ditch F1004.*			
Project dates (fieldwork)	*June 2014*		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	*N*	Future work (Y/N/?)	*N*
P. number	*5814*	Site code	*ENF134479*
Type of project	*Archaeological Evaluation*		
Site status	*None*		
Current land use	*Hospice*		
Planned development	*9 residential dwellings*		
Main features (+dates)	*Undated ditch*		
Significant finds (+dates)	*Animal bone*		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	*Norfolk*	*King's Lynn and West Norfolk*	*Snettisham*
HER/ SMR for area	*Norfolk Historic Environment Record*		
Post code (if known)	*PE31 7PF*		
Area of site	*c.* 6,500m^2		
NGR	*TF 6755 3365*		
Height AOD (min/max)	*c. 7m AOD*		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	*Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service*		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	*Steve Quinn*		
Funded by	*Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House*		
Full title	*Tapping House, 38A Common Road, Snettisham, Norfolk,* PE31 7PF *An Archaeological Evaluation*		
Authors	*Quinn, S. & Thompson, P.*		
Report no.	*4608*		
Date (of report)	*June 2014*		

TAPPING HOUSE, 38A COMMON ROAD, SNETTISHAM, NORFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In June 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Tapping House, 38A Common Road, Snettisham, Norfolk (NGR TF 6755 3365). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the demolition of the existing hospice buildings and the construction of nine detached dwellings.

The parish is rich in finds dating between the prehistoric and medieval periods. In particular cropmark evidence indicates an extensive area of Late Iron Age to Romano-British settlement to the south and east of the development site. Cropmarks representing a series of probable Roman period linear ditches, possibly defining field boundaries, roads or trackways, are also recorded on aerial photographs in the vicinity of the site, but a watching brief centred on 80m to the south, proved negative for archaeological features, and recovered one post medieval and one Roman pottery sherd (NHER 18236).

The site thus had the potential for remains of Iron Age / Romano-British date in particular. In the event an undated ditch, F1004, was revealed in the far eastern edge of the site (Trench 6). It contained animal bone and mineralised plant matter. Examination of the latter indicated a likely post-medieval date for Ditch F1004.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In June 2014 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Tapping House, 38A Common Road, Snettisham, Norfolk (NGR TF 6755 3365; Figs. 1-2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the demolition of the existing hospice buildings and the construction of nine detached dwellings (Borough of Kings Lynn & West Norfolk Council Ref. 12/00270/O).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance to a generic brief prepared by the Norfolk CC Historic Environment Service (NCC HES; 24/09/12) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 9th June 2014), and approved by NCC HES. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching*

Brief (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The objectives of the evaluation were to determine the presence/absence, date, extent, state of preservation and significance of any archaeological layers or subsoil archaeological features, in order to identify if any further mitigation is required as part of the development.

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 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Fig. 1-2)

2.1 Snettisham is situated approximately 12km north of Kings Lynn and 6km south of Hunstanton on the Norfolk Coast. The site is located on the west side of the village and comprises a sub-rectangular block of land of approximately 6,500m^2, which is bordered on its short east side by the A149. It contains the hospice buildings and an area of

hardstanding forming access from the west and a car parking area. Most of the remainder of the site comprises lawn.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOILS

3.1 The east coast of The Wash is located 3km west of Snettisham and is joined by the small Ingold River which flows just to the south of the village. The site is located at approximately 7m AOD in the river valley with ground rising to the north and west.

3.2 The local soils are of the Blackwood Association described as deep sandy and coarse loamy permeable soils, with the groundwater controlled by ditches. These overlie glaciofluvial drift which in turn are above a solid geology of Cretaceous Lower Chalk.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 The parish of Snettisham is rich in finds ranging from the prehistoric through to the medieval periods. It is particularly well known for the Snettisham Hoard comprising 180 late Iron Age gold torcs, or fragments of, representing the largest collection known in Western Europe (NHER 1487). In addition there is the Snettisham Roman Jeweller's hoard, dating to the 2nd century, which included a gold ring, silver ingots and 110 coins (NHER 1517). The area around the development site appears to have in particular provided a focus for extensive late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement.

4.2 Cropmarks indicating an extensive area of Late Iron Age and Romano-British settlement have been identified in an area to the south and east of Paper Hall Farm located beyond the south-west edge of Snettisham (NHER 26626, 38289). They include probable field systems and droveways, rectangular and square enclosures, a ring ditch, linear features and pits. Since 1949 objects associated with this settlement have been recovered from an area to the south of the development site between Paper Hall Farm and the minor road linking Snettisham to Shepherds Port (NHER 1515). Excavation took place in 1950, uncovering a number of rubbish pits filled with pottery sherds and oyster shells, and in 1952 quantities of firebar and briquetage were recovered, and a possible pottery kiln was identified. Since then, metal detecting has retrieved brooches, a number of coins, and metal working debris, supporting the theory of a Roman settlement in this area. Neolithic axeheads, the back of an Early Saxon brooch and a number of medieval and post medieval objects have also been found.

4.3 Cropmarks of a series of probable Roman period linear ditches, possibly defining field boundaries, roads or trackways, are recorded on aerial photographs from 1980 and 1990 within the vicinity of the site, and are given a centre point 80m to the south (NHER 18236). A

watching brief however, undertaken in 1990 prior to road construction noted no traces of these ditches, and recovered one post medieval and one Roman pot sherd. Cropmarks of a Late Iron Age and Roman field system, road, pits, structures and enclosures, have also been identified in the area to the east of the A149 bordering the site (NHER 28450). Roman pottery sherds have been recovered at Sheepbridge Farm Caravan Site which are given a grid reference 95m south-east of the site (NHER 11993, 20213). In the 1980s two Roman coins were found approximately 200-250m east of the site (NHER 24582).

4.4 Metal detecting in 1987 recovered a Late Saxon or early medieval lead spindle whorl or weight and a 17th century copper alloy sword belt fitting, with hangers for sword scabbard, from a location approximately 100m south-east of the site (NHER 24056, 24057). Field walking given a central grid reference of 190m north-east of the site recovered a scatter of Roman, Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval pottery sherds (NHER 20214). A medieval watch tower was located 650m to the west of the development site (NHER 1539). In Snettisham, the late 13th to 14th century Church of St Mary is Grade I listed (NHER 1582), and Snettisham Old Hall and Stable Block which dates from the 16th century with later additions, is Grade II* (NHER 1561). The 19th century Water Mill in Station Road is also Grade II* listed and partly scheduled (NHER 8312).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The evaluation was carried out while the Hospice was still occupied, and therefore the evaluation was limited to the accessible areas of the site i.e. the green areas. Six trenches were excavated, each up to 30m x 1.6m.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Trench 1 (Fig. 2)

Sample section 1A: west end, south facing *0.00 = 7.14m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid greyish brown, firm silty sand with occasional small angular flint and moderate CBM fragments.
0.45 – 0.59m	L1001	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown, friable silty sand with frequent small angular flint and occasional CBM fragments.
0.59m+	L1002	Natural. Pale white yellow, friable sand with flint and gravel patches.

Sample section 1B: east end, south facing *0.00 = 7.29m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.52m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.52m+	L1003	Natural. As above. Tr.1

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 2 (Fig. 2)

Sample section 2A: east end, north facing *0.00 = 7.70m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.22m	L1003	Made ground. Mottled grey white, firm stone/flint and sand.
0.22 – 0.58m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.58m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr. 1.

Sample section 2B (DP 9): west end, north facing *0.00 = 7.64m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.38m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.38 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.52m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr. 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 3 (Fig. 2)

Sample section 3A: north end, east facing *0.00 = 7.82m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.31 – 0.52m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.52m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr. 1.

Sample section 3B: south end, east facing *0.00 = 7.79m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.40 – 0.50m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.50m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr. 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 4 (Fig. 2)

Sample section 4A: west end, south facing *0.00 = 8.06m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.39 – 0.44m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.44m+	L1002	Natural. As Above Tr. 1.

Sample section 4B: east end, south facing *0.00 = 7.87m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.43m	L1000	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.43 – 0.53m	L1001	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.53m+	L1002	Natural. As above, Tr. 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 5 (Fig. 2)

Sample section 5A: west end, south facing *0.00 = 7.82m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.45m	L1001	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.45 – 0.65m	L1002	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.65m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr. 1.

Sample section 5B: east end, south facing *0.00 = 8.06m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.48m	L1001	Topsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.48 – 0.55m	L1002	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.55m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr. 1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Trench 6 (Figs. 2 & 3)

Sample section 6A: south end, east facing *0.00 = 7.98m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.35m	L1002	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.35m+	L1003	Natural. As Above Tr. 1.

Sample section 6B north end, east facing *0.00 = 7.95m AOD*		
0.00 – 0.40m	L1002	Subsoil. As above, Tr. 1.
0.40m+	L1020	Natural. As above, Tr. 1.

Description: Trench 6 contained Ditch F1004 and it contained animal bone..

Ditch F1004 was linear in plan (1.00+ x 1.15 x 0.50m), orientated NE/SW. It had steep sides and a flattish base. It contained two fills. Its basal fill, L1005, was a dark orange brown, compact, silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flint. It contained animal bone (21g) and mineralised plant matter (58g). Its upper fill was a mid greyish brown, friable, silty sand with occasional small and medium sub-angular flint. It contained no finds. Ditch F1004 was cut by modern services.

7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 The uppermost layer was commonly Topsoil L1000 (0.39 – 0.52m thick), a mid grey brown, firm silty sand with occasional small angular flint and moderate CBM fragments (0.39 – 0.52m thick). L1000 overlay Subsoil L1001, a mid yellowish brown, friable silty sand with frequent small angular flint (0.07-0.40m thick).

8.2 In the eastern end of Trench 2 the uppermost layer was a modern car park surface, L1003, a mottled grey white, firm stone/flint sand (0.22m thick). It overlay Subsoil L1001.

8.3 The natural geology, L1002, was present between 0.35 and 0.65m below the existing ground level, and overlain by Subsoil L1001. It comprised a pale white yellow, friable, sand and flint with frequent small and medium gravel.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The archaeological potential of the site stemmed from its location in an area where an extensive Iron Age to Roman field system is known from cropmark evidence, and a high density of archaeological remains has been recorded in advance of the A149 bypass construction in the 1980s. The Norfolk HER records cropmarks of

Roman ditches and Roman/post-medieval pottery sherds being found nearby, for example, HER 18236 and HER 11993.

9.2 The site thus had the potential for remains of Iron Age / Romano-British date in particular. In the event an undated ditch, F1004, was revealed in the far eastern edge of the site (Trench 6). It contained animal bone and mineralised plant matter. Examination of the latter indicated a likely post-medieval date for Ditch F1004 (Environmental Report below).

9.3 There was little evidence for modern disturbance on the site,

10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

10.1 Archive records, with inventory, will be deposited at Norwich Castle Museum in accordance with their requirements. 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 would like to thank The Norfolk Hospice, Tapping House for funding the project (in particular Mr Richrd Shaw for his assistance), and Mr Ian Bix of Ian H Bix Associates Ltd for his assistance.

AS would also like to thank Anj Beckham of Norfolk County Council for providing the Historic Environment information

AS would like to acknowledge the input and advice of Mr James Albone of Norfolk Historic Environment Service.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

British Geological Survey 1991 *East Anglia Sheet 52°N-00° 1:250,000 Series Quaternary Geology.* Ordnance Survey, Southampton

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

Institute of Field Archaeologists 1994 (revised 2008) *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief*

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

WEB SITES

British Listed Buildings
Norfolk Heritage Explorer
www.soilsworldwide.net

APPENDIX 1 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

ENF134479, Tapping House, Snettisham
Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Segment	Trench	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1004	1005		6	Fill of Ditch				21	Mineralized Plant Matter - 58g

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Environmental Remains

Dr John Summers

Introduction

A single bulk sample was collected and processed from organic fill L1005 within un-dated ditch F1004, along with a number of hand collected mineralised plant stems. This report presents the results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fraction and associated hand collected material, and discusses the significance and potential of any remains recovered.

Methods

Samples were processed at the Archaeological Solutions Ltd facilities in Bury St. Edmunds using standard flotation methods. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 500µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 1mm. The dried light fractions were scanned under a low power stereomicroscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and faunal remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant). Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

Results

Mineralised plant material - hand collected

A number apparently mineralised plant stem segments were hand collected from L1005 (Plate 1). These fragments measured up to 60mm long, with a diameter of approximately 10mm. All pieces were hollow and some displayed culm nodes and buds, which are likely to represent the beginnings of side shoots. Deposit L1005 was wet and quite organic and may have either concentrated leached minerals from overlying sandy deposits. An orange crust on a number of the fragments was similar to iron pan deposits.

Plate 1: Mineralised large Poaceae stems from L1005

The fragments appear to be from the stem of a large monocotyledonous plant, being most comparable to large grasses (Poaceae) such as bamboo or maize. These plants are both relatively modern introductions to the UK (18th/ 19th century and 20th century respectively) but a native parallel for the material has not yet been recognised. Such information may indicate a post medieval date for ditch F1004 and its fills.

Bulk sample light fraction

No botanical or faunal remains were present in the sample from L1005 (Table 1). The only material present were a small number of coal fragments, modern roots and modern seeds (*Fallopia convolvulus*).

Conclusions and statement of potential

Based on the material present, particularly the mineralised plant stems and coal fragments, it appears likely that the deposit is relatively modern in date. The material represents no further potential for archaeobotanical investigation.

Site code	Sample number	Context	Feature	Feature type	Spot date	Volume taken (litres)	Volume processed (litres)	% processed	Cereals			Non-cereal taxa		Charcoal		Molluscs		Contaminants					Other remains
									Cereal grains	Cereal chaff	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Charcoal>2mm	Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Roots	Molluscs	Modern seeds	Insects	Earthworm capsules	
ENF134479	1	1005	1004	Fill of Ditch	-	40	20	50%	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	X	-	X	-	-	Coal (X)

Table 1: Results from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from Snettisham.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX

1
Post excavation shot of Trench 1

2
Post excavation shot of Trench 2

3
Post excavation shot of Trench 3

4
Post excavation shot of Trench 4

5
Post excavation shot of Trench 5

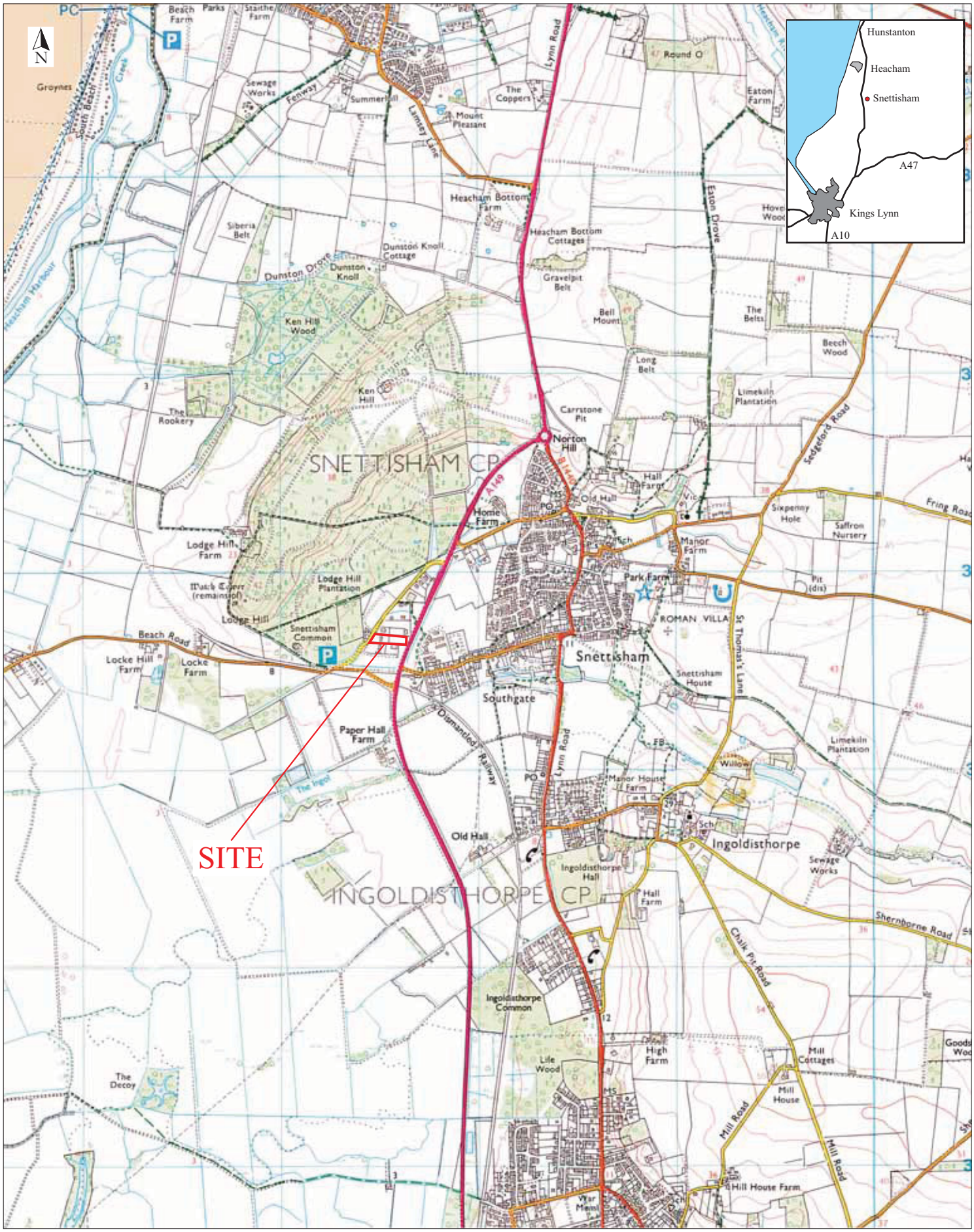
6
Post excavation shot of Trench 6

7
F1004 in Trench 6

8
Sample section 1B

9
Sample section 3A

10
Sample section 4A

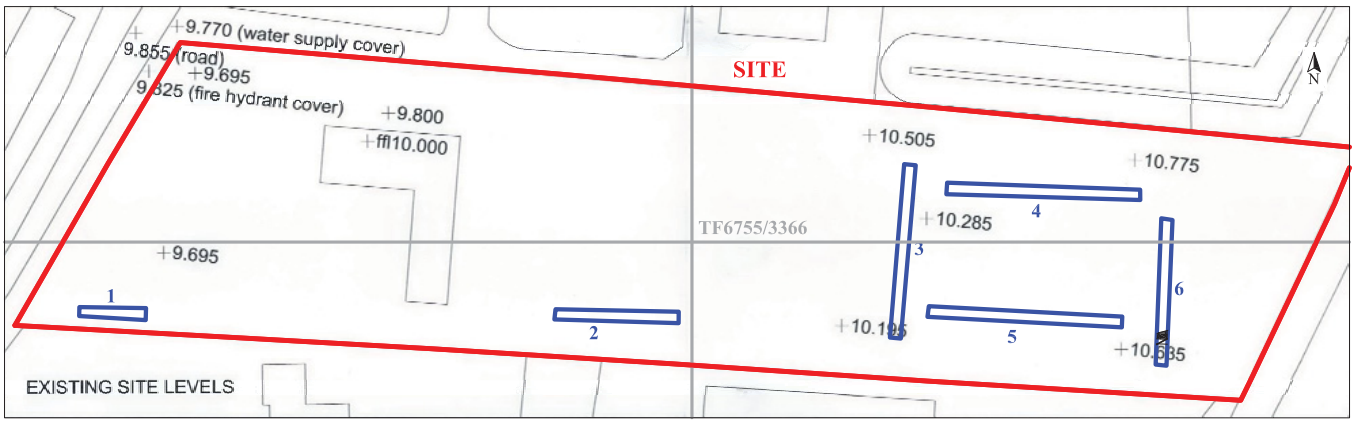


Reproduced from the 1999 Ordnance Survey 1:25000 map with the permission of Her Majesty's Stationery Office. © Crown copyright Archaeological Solutions Ltd Licence number 100036680

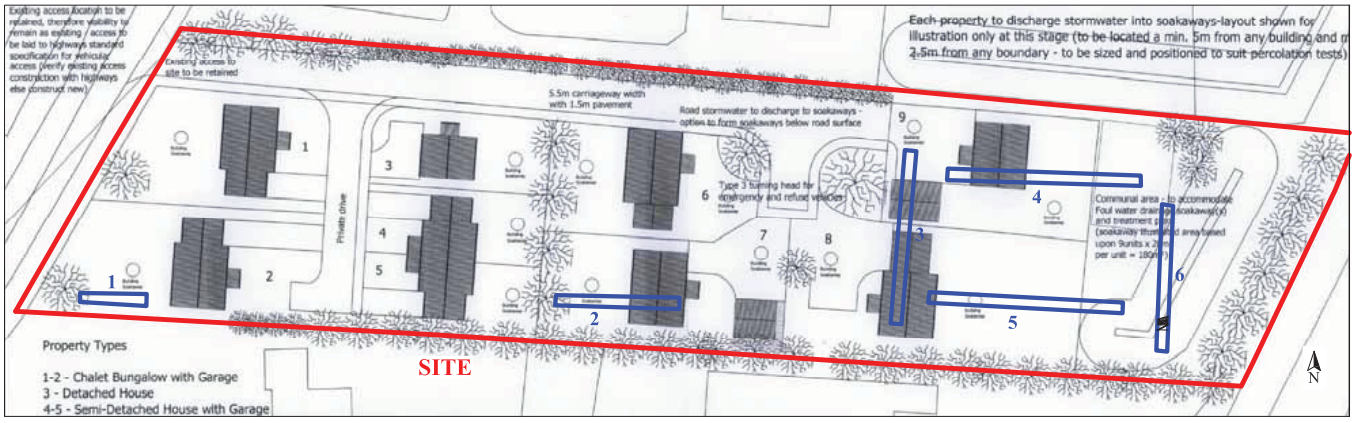
Archaeological Solutions Ltd

Fig. 1 Site location plan

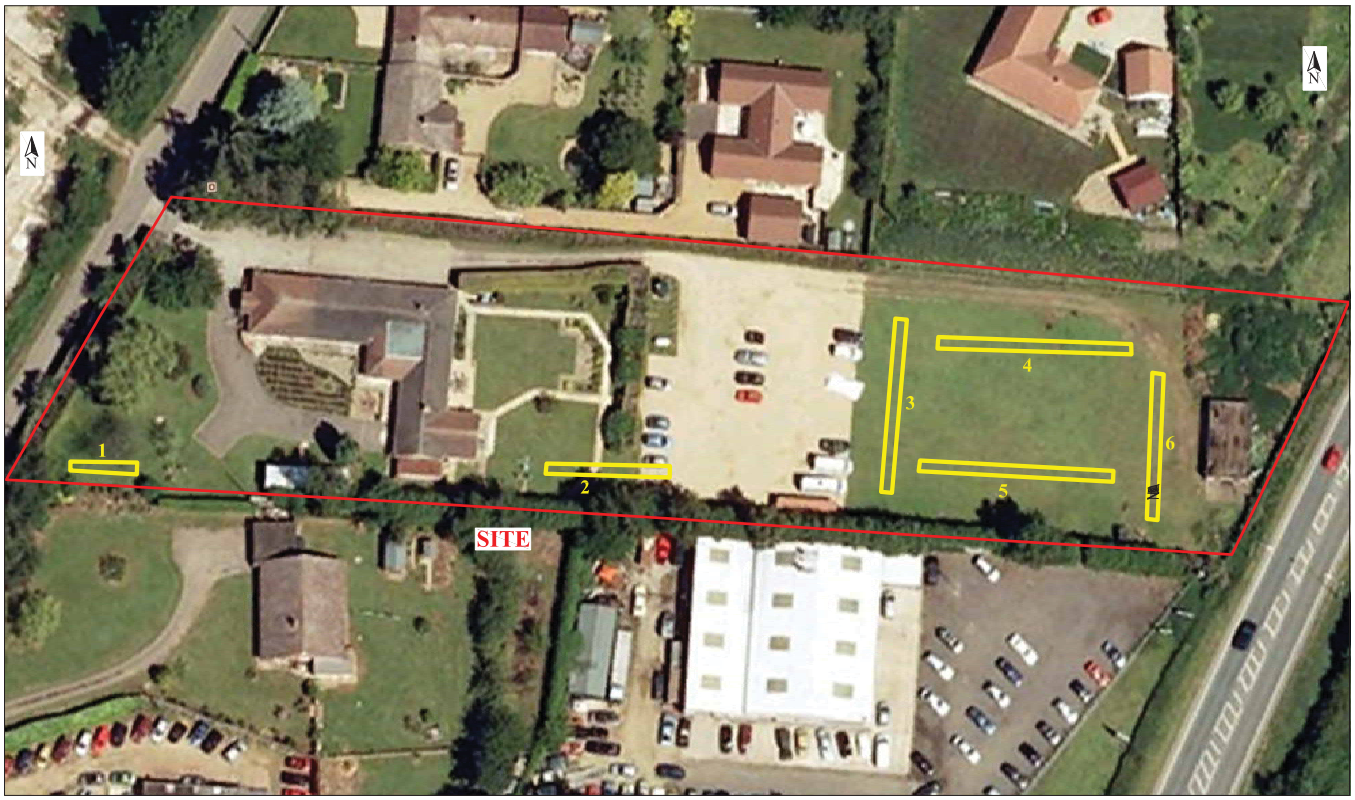
Scale 1:25,000 at A4



Existing development plan



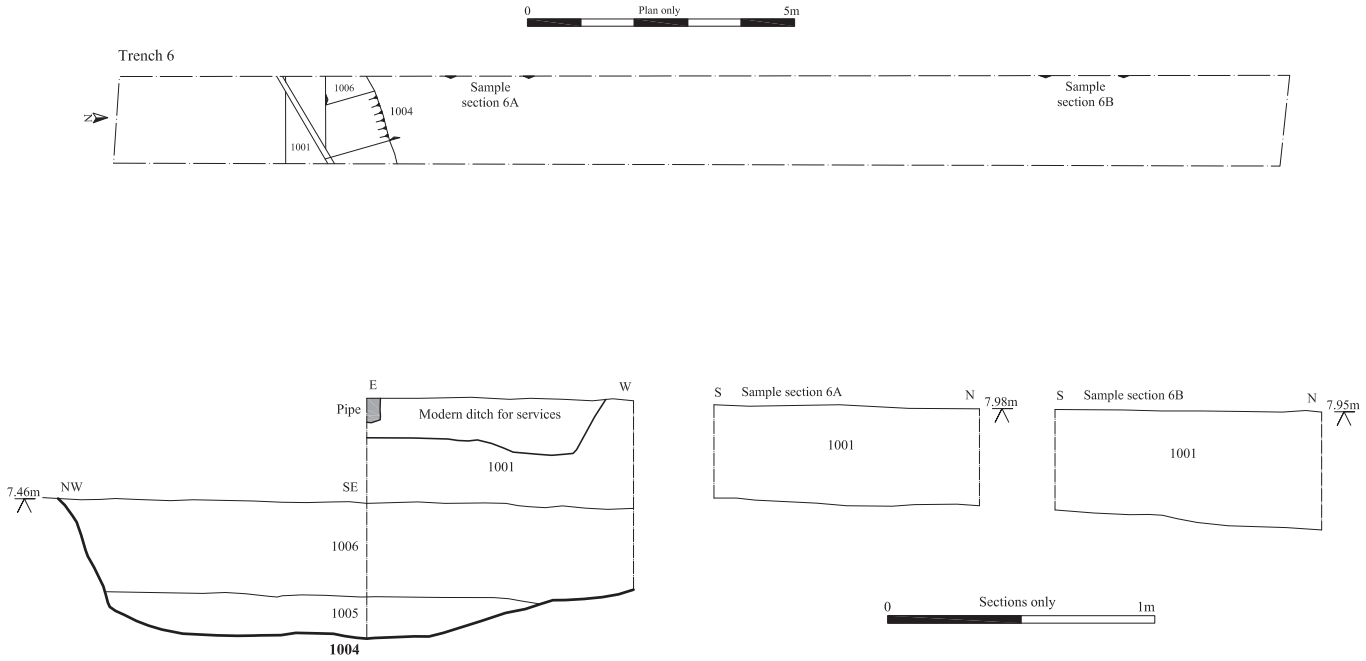
Proposed development plan



Aerial photo information

0 1:800 50m

Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:800 at A3



Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Fig. 3 Trench plans and sections
Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4