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## ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

### **PROPOSED CAR PARK EXTENSION, STOCKS GOLF CLUB, STOCKS ROAD, ALDBURY, TRING, HERTFORDSHIRE HP23 5RX**

### **ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE' INVESTIGATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

HER Enquiry No. 283/17

Author: Gareth Barlow & Andrew Newton (Field work and report) Kate Higgs MA (Oxon.) (Background research)	
NGR: SP 9605 1296	Report No: 5580
District: Dacorum	Site Code: AS1948
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 7234
	Date: 10 May 2018 Revised 5 June 2018

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**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](mailto:info@ascontracts.co.uk)  
[www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk](http://www.archaeologicalsolutions.co.uk)**



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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET****Project details**

Project name	Proposed car park extension, Stocks Golf Club, Stocks Road, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire. HP23 5RX
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*In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological 'strip, map, and sample' investigation in advance of the construction of a proposed car park extension at Stocks Golf Club, Stocks Road, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire. HP23 5RX (NGR SP 9605 1296). The investigation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/03446/16/MFA), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).*

*The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.*

Project dates (fieldwork)	10 <sup>th</sup> & 11 <sup>th</sup> January 2018
---------------------------	--------------------------------------------------

Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	N
-----------------------	---	-------------	---

P. number	7234	Site code	AS1948
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Type of project	Archaeological strip, map, and sample investigation
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Site status	Within Area of Archaeological Significance
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Current land use	Golf Club
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Planned development	New car park extension
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Main features (+dates)	None
------------------------	------

Significant finds (+dates)	None
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**Project location**

County/ District/ Parish	Hertfordshire	Dacorum	Aldbury
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HER for area	Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER; enquiry No. 283/17)
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Post code (if known)	HP23 5RX
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Area of site	c.1058m <sup>2</sup>
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NGR	SP 9605 1296
-----	--------------

Height AOD (max/ min)	c.155m AOD
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**Project creators**

Brief issued by	Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Team
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Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
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Funded by	Stocks Golf Club
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Full title	Proposed car park extension, Stocks Golf Club, Stocks Road, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire. HP23 5RX. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
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Authors	Barlow, G & Newton, A.
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Report no.	5580
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Date (of report)	May 2018
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# **PROPOSED CAR PARK EXTENSION, STOCKS GOLF CLUB, STOCKS ROAD, ALDBURY, TRING, HERTFORDSHIRE. HP23 5RX**

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL 'STRIP, MAP & SAMPLE' INVESTIGATION AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING & RECORDING**

### **SUMMARY**

*In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological 'strip, map, and sample' investigation in advance of the construction of a proposed car park extension at Stocks Golf Club, Stocks Road, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire. HP23 5RX (NGR SP 9605 1296). The investigation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/03446/16/MFA), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).*

*The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.*

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In February 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological 'strip, map, and sample' investigation in advance of the construction of a proposed car park extension at Stocks Golf Club, Stocks Road, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire. HP23 5RX (NGR SP 9605 1296). The investigation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/03446/16/MFA), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT).

1.2 The monitoring adhered to the requirements of HCC HEAT, and a specification compiled by AS (dated 29<sup>th</sup> August 2017, rev 20<sup>th</sup> September 2017). It was also undertaken according to the requirements of the document, *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003), and the *CIfA Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (2014).

1.3 The requirements of the project were:

- Archaeological monitoring by a programme of 'strip, map & record' of the area of the proposed new development, where ground disturbance is proposed, with the investigation and recording of any archaeology thereby revealed;
- The archaeological monitoring of all other groundworks associated with the scheme likely to have an impact on any remains;
- The analysis, conservation and long-term storage of any artefactual/ecofactual material recovered from the site in appropriate conditions;

- The provision of an adequately detailed project report that will place the findings of the monitoring and recording of the development programme in their local and regional context, having made reference to the relevant regional research agendas and through cartographic, documentary and other research; and
- The full analysis and interpretation of the site archive in order to promote local and regional research, and the appropriate dissemination and publication of the project results.

### *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**

2.1 The site lies within the parish of Aldbury, which lies within the district of Dacorum and the county of Hertfordshire. The site lies 600m to the north-west of the village of Aldbury and is part of Stocks Golf Course, which fronts Stocks Road. The site lies within an area of archaeological potential on the north-western side of the village of Aldbury. Historic landscape characterisation also reveals that the site also lies within and at the southern extent of the historic park of Stocks (HER 11733).

2.2 The site is an irregularly shaped plot of land. It comprises the existing Stocks Golf Club with the golf course extending to the immediate north. To the west and

south of the site is agricultural land. To the east is Greenings Farm. It is proposed to build an extension to the existing car park in the western sector of the site, and remodel part of the site to accommodate the surplus material from the car park excavation

### **3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**

3.1 The village of Aldbury is located at the foot of the Chiltern Hills. It lies on a varied and undulating relief, which generally slopes down from the Ridgeway and Aldbury Nowers to the north-west. The site itself slopes down from a spot height of 156m AOD in its south-western corner to 150m AOD in the site's north-eastern corner. The site also lies on the edge of Ashridge Forest which extends to the east. The Grand Union Canal flows roughly southwards 1.2km to the south-west of the site.

3.2 The underlying geological formation of the local area, in common with the Chiltern Hills as a whole, consists of Cretaceous Upper Chalk (BGS 2015). Soils of the area comprise those of the Charity 2 Association, which are described as calcareous fine silty soils over chalk or chalk rubble on valley sides, sometimes shallow (SSEW 1983).

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

#### *Prehistoric*

4.1 The site lies at the foot of the Chiltern Hills, which has revealed extensive evidence for prehistoric activity and occupation, particularly *Grim's Ditch* and barrows at Aldbury Nowers to the north-west. An archaeological investigation within the site revealed pits, hearths, post holes, stakeholes all of later Bronze Age date (HER 18478). Late Bronze Age flint-tempered pottery, largely undecorated, was derived from nine features but the significant assemblages were found in two or three large pits. One contained partially complete vessels that had either been broken within the pit, or placed upside down and gradually crushed. An evaluation also revealed linear ditches, pits and post holes characteristic of an early Iron Age farmstead 200m to the north-west of the site (HER 9922).

#### *Romano-British*

4.2 Romano-British occupation is well-attested in the vicinity of Aldbury, specifically the small, scheduled Romano-British settlement located to the south of Aldbury and now known as Cow Roast. Although no Roman findspots are recorded in the immediate vicinity of the site, a Roman building and coin hoard are recorded to the east of the site along Moneybury Hill (Davis 1987).

#### *Saxon and medieval*

4.3 The manor of Albury is first mentioned in the Domesday Book of 1086, when it belonged to the Count of Mortain (Morris 1976). Local history sources suggest that several Saxon cremation cemeteries have been identified in the wider area, while the parish church of St John the Baptist was granted to the Canons of the Priory of St

Mary at Missenden in 1203 (Page 1908). However within the vicinity of the site, medieval remains are limited to a trapezoidal arrangement of three gullies (HER 18479). In the fills was medieval pottery, and residual struck flint.

#### *Post-medieval and later*

4.4 A large number of historic listed buildings are located within Aldbury, particularly along the frontage of Stocks Road to the south-east of the site. They include Stocks Farm to the north-east which is a post-medieval farmstead with interesting range of buildings (HER 9427). Also to the north-east lie earthworks of a large square enclosure with an outer ditch which is site of the Hide family's manor house, demolished in 1691 (HER 2625).

4.5 Stocks House, which stands 450m to the north-west, is a Grade II listed country house built on a new site in 1773 for Arnold Duncombe, replacing an older house nearby (HER 11733). The original entrance front was the south side; at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century the house was enlarged to twice the depth with two north (rear) wings. Associated with Stocks House is the historic park of Stocks (HER 11733), within which the site lies.

#### *The Site*

4.6 Stocks Golf Club was subject to a programme of archaeological work in association with the construction of the clubhouse, maintenance facility and car park (HERs EHT7315 & EHT7316). This revealed a late Bronze Age settlement with pits, post holes, stake holes and hearths recorded (Hunn 2011 & 2016). A pit contained a large quantity of Bronze Age pottery. Residual Mesolithic, Neolithic and early Bronze Age struck flints were also present. A medieval structure with significant quantities of pottery, iron work and slag was also recorded and a post-medieval boundary ditch was also found. The HER database also reveals that a previous evaluation of 97 trenches was undertaken at Aldbury Golf Course in advance of the construction of the golf course in 1992, revealing features characteristic of an Iron Age farmstead (HER EHT4412).

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The area of the car park was stripped of topsoil and overburden using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket, down to the natural deposits (Figs. 2 - 3).

5.2 The archaeological monitoring comprised the observation of all groundworks likely to affect archaeological remains, the inspection of the subsoil and natural deposits for archaeological features, the examination of spoil heaps and the recording of soil profiles. Encountered features and deposits were cleaned by hand and recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was checked for finds.



## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS Figs. 2 - 3

6.1 The encountered stratigraphy was recorded in sample sections presented below:

Sample section 1 0.00 = 155.43		
0.00 - 0.09m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown humic silt with moderate small sub-rounded stones.
0.09 – 0.36m	L1005	Subsoil. Firm, dark grey clay silt.
0.36m+	L1003	Natural deposits. Very firm, mid orange brown clay with frequent medium and large angular and sub-angular flints.

Sample section 2 0.00 = 154.86		
0.00 - 0.32m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.32 – 0.93m	L1001	Made ground. Friable, pale grey brown mixed clay and chalk fragments.
0.0.93 – 0.98m	L1002	Buried topsoil. Firm, dark grey silty clay.
0.98m+	L1003	Natural deposits. As above.

*Description: The ground reduction revealed no archaeological features or finds.*

*The area of the proposed car park was stripped to the natural clay, and revealed deposits of made ground in the form of redeposited chalk and clay from the previous construction of the golf club facilities in 2011, sealing a buried former topsoil in places. A number of dumper ruts from the previous construction were recorded cutting the buried topsoil.*

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 Within the confines of the monitoring it is not felt that any factors restricted the identification of archaeological features or finds.

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential and significance, as recorded on the Hertfordshire County Historic Environment Record, on the north western side of the village of Aldbury. It comprises the existing Stocks Golf Club.

8.2 The Stocks golf club was subject to a programme of archaeological work in association with the construction of the clubhouse, maintenance facility, and car park. This revealed a late Bronze Age settlement with pits, post holes, stake holes, and hearths (Hunn 2011 & 2016). A medieval structure, and a post-medieval boundary ditch were also find. Residual struck flints were also present.

8.3 The site, therefore, had a high potential to reveal remains of Bronze Age, medieval, and post-medieval date, with a lower potential for early prehistoric date.

8.4 The area of the proposed car park was stripped to the natural clay, and revealed deposits of made ground in the form of redeposited chalk and clay from the previous construction of the golf club facilities in 2011, sealing a buried former topsoil in places. A number of dumper ruts from the previous construction were recorded cutting the buried topsoil.

8.5 No archaeological features or finds were present. It is possible that archaeological features may have been removed during the groundworks associated with the construction of the golf club facilities in 2011.

## **DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Dacorum Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Stocks Golf Club for funding Mrs G MacFarlane for funding the archaeological investigation (in particular Mr Alan Draper), Matthew Dalby of Colvin & Moggridge for all his assistance and the groundworks contractor JP Hopper for assistance on site.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the staff of the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record, in particular Dr. Isobel Thompson. AS would also like to thank the staff of the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS), based in County Hall, Hertford.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input and advice of Dr Simon Wood, HCC Historic Environment Advisor.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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SSEW 1983 *Soil Survey of England and Wales: Legend for the 1:250,000 Soil Map of England and Wales* Harpenden, Rothamsted Experimental Station/Lawes Agricultural Trust

## APPENDIX 1            CONTENTS OF THE ARCHIVE

<b>Records</b>	<b>Number</b>
Brief	N
Specification	Y
Registers	Context, Photo, Digital Photo, Drawing
Context Sheets	65
	-
Site drawings A1	
Site drawings A3	1
Site drawings A4	-
Site photographs b/w	-
Site photographs colour slides	-
Digital Photographs	18

## APPENDIX 2

## HER SUMMARY SHEET

<b>Site name and address:</b>	<i>Proposed car park extension, Stocks Golf Club, Stocks Road, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire. HP23 5RX</i>
<b>County:</b> <i>Hertfordshire</i>	<i>District: Dacorum</i>
<b>Village/Town:</b>	<i>Parish: Aldbury</i>
<b>Planning application reference:</b>	<i>Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/03446/16/MFA</i>
<b>Client name/address</b>	<i>Stocks Golf Club</i>
<b>Nature of application:</b>	<i>New car park</i>
<b>Present land use:</b>	<i>Golf club</i>
<b>Size of application area:</b> <i>1058m<sup>2</sup></i>	<i>Size of area investigated c .1058m<sup>2</sup></i>
<b>NGR (8 figures):</b>	<i>SP 9605 1296</i>
<b>Site Code:</b>	<i>AS 1948</i>
<b>Organisation:</b>	<i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i>
<b>Type of work:</b>	<i>Archaeological 'strip, map &amp; sample' investigation/monitoring and recording.</i>
<b>Date of work:</b>	<i>10<sup>th</sup> &amp; 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018</i>
<b>Location of Curating museum:</b>	<i>Dacorum</i>
<b>Related SMR Nos:</b>	<i>Periods represented: None</i>
<b>Relevant previous summaries/reports:</b> -	<i>None</i>
<b>Summary of fieldwork results:</b>	<i>The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i>
<b>Author of summary:</b> <i>Barlow, G.</i>	<i>Date of Summary:</i> <i>May 2018</i>

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## Printable version

**OASIS ID: archaeol7-330897**

### Project details

Project name	STOCKS GOLF CLUB, STOCKS ROAD, ALDBURY, TRING, HERTFORDSHIRE (SMS)
Short description of the project	In January 2018 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out archaeological 'strip, map, and sample' investigation in advance of the construction of a proposed car park extension at Stocks Golf Club, Stocks Road, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire. HP23 5RX (NGR SP 9605 1296). The investigation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Dacorum Planning Ref. 4/03446 /16/MFA), based on the advice of Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Advisory Team (HCC HEAT). The monitoring revealed no archaeological features or finds.
Project dates	Start: 10-01-2018 End: 11-01-2018
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	P7234 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	AS1948 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI)
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Recorded Observation","Test-Pit Survey"
Prompt	Planning condition

### Project location

Country	England
Site location	HERTFORDSHIRE DACORUM ALDBURY tocks Golf Club, Stocks Road, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire. HP23 5RX
Postcode	HP23 5RX
Study area	1058 Square metres
Site coordinates	SP 9605 1296 51.806565106893 -0.606715269725 51 48 23 N 000 36 24 W Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 155m Max: 155m

**Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Project brief originator	Hertfordshire County Council Historic Environment Unit
Project design originator	Jon Murray
Project director/manager	Jon Murray
Project supervisor	Archaeological Solutions Ltd
Type of sponsor/funding body	Stocks Golf Club
Name of sponsor/funding body	Stocks Golf Club

**Project archives**

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Dacorum Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Database", "Spreadsheets", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Dacorum Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Drawing", "Map", "Photograph", "Plan", "Report", "Section", "Survey "

**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Proposed car park extension, Stocks Golf Club, Stocks Road, Aldbury, Tring, Hertfordshire. HP23 5RX. Archaeological Monitoring and Recording
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Barlow, G
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Newton, A
Other bibliographic details	5580
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Entered on	15 October 2018

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
View of site with topsoil being stripped looking north-east



2  
View of site looking north



3  
View of chalk natural beneath the clay terracing looking south-west



4  
View of site after stripping looking south

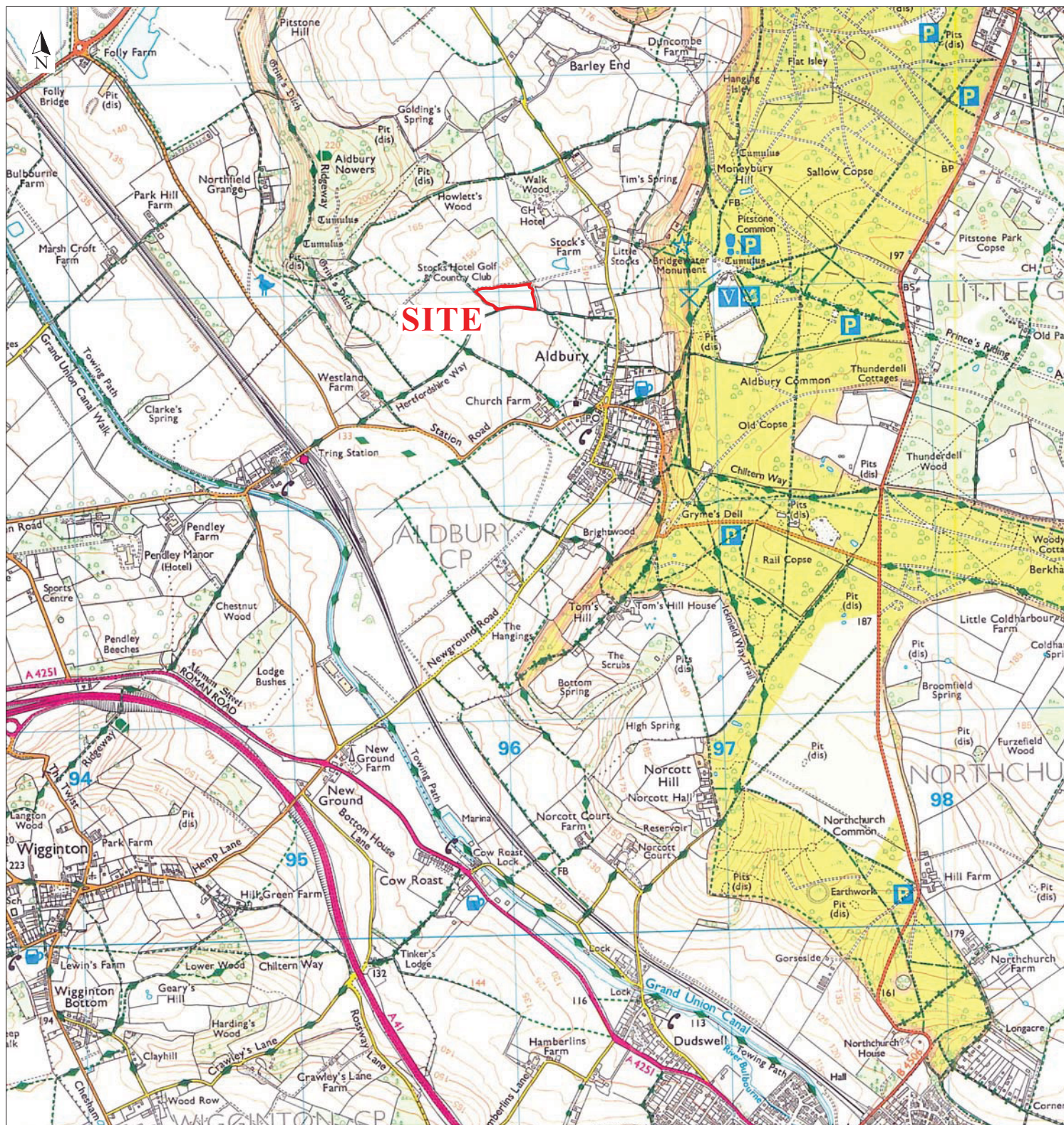


5  
Sample section 1



6  
Sample section 2

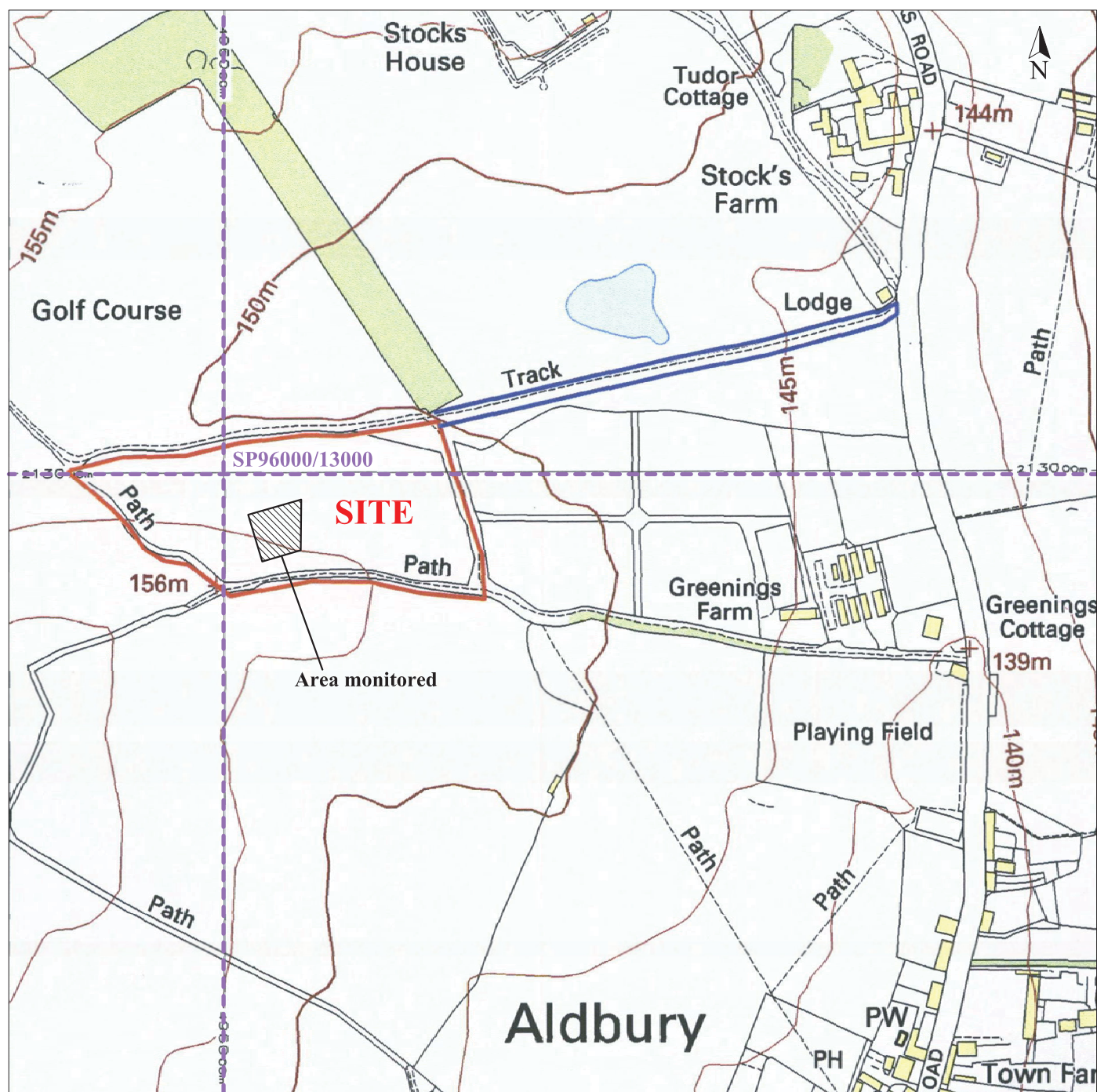




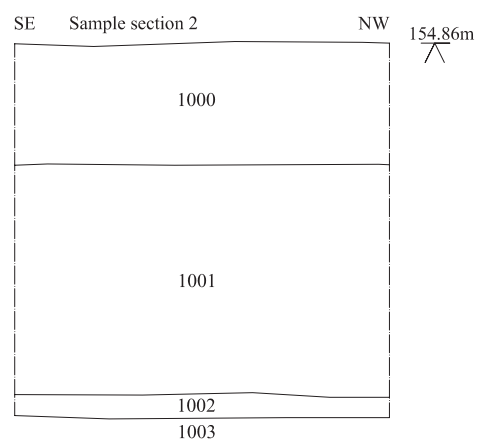
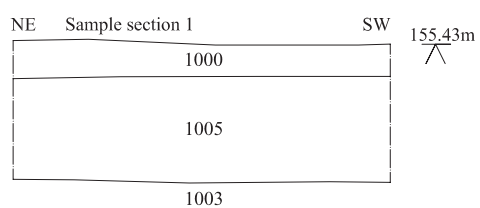
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
Stocks Golf Club, Aldbury, Hertfordshire (P7234)





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<b>Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan</b>
Scale 1:4000 at A4
Stocks Golf Club, Aldbury, Hertfordshire (P7234)



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**Fig. 3 Sample sections and location plan**

Scale 1:500 and 1:20 at A4

Stocks Golf Club, Aldbury, Hertfordshire (P7234)