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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**CHARLCOMBE LODGE 'SEAWALKER' PROJECT,  
HAMILTON ROAD, NEWMARKET, SUFFOLK**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

Authors: Peter Thompson MA (Desk-based assessment) Tim Schofield BSc (Fieldwork & report)	
NGR: TL 626 639	Report No: P3599
District: Forest Heath	Site Code: EXG093
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P3992
Signed:	Date: August 2010

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name	Charlcombe Lodge 'Seawalker' Project, Hamilton Road, Newmarket, Suffolk		
<p><i>In August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Charlcombe Lodge, Hamilton Road, Newmarket, Suffolk (NGR TL 676 639). The evaluation was commissioned by Darley Stud Management Co Ltd in conjunction with a planning enquiry for development of stables, seawalker and associated plant room, parking and vehicular access. The evaluation was required to provide information prior to the determination of the planning application (Forest Heath District).</i></p> <p><i>Burials of probable Early Bronze Age date have been found off Edinburgh Road to the south-east (EXG 027) and Iron Age and Roman occupation finds are known to the north (EXG 030). An excavation in 2009 at Gainsborough Stables, Hamilton Stud found two undated post-holes and a chalk wall foundation, but no artefactual evidence predating the post-medieval period (McCall 2009).</i></p> <p><i>In the event the current evaluation revealed no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	05 – 06 August 2010		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work	TBC
P. number	3992	Site code	EXG093
Type of project	Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
Site status	-		
Current land use	Grass		
Planned development	Stables, seawalker and associated plant room, parking and vehicular access		
Main features (+dates)	-		
Significant finds (+dates)	-		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Suffolk	Forest Heath	Newmarket
HER/ SMR for area	Suffolk HER (Bury St Edmunds)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	0.41 ha		
NGR	TL 626 639		
Height AOD (max/ min)	22m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Suffolk County Council (Sarah Poppy)		
Project supervisor(PO)	Tim Schofield		
Funded by	Darley Stud Management Co Ltd		
Full title	Charlcombe Lodge 'Seawalker' Project, Hamilton Road, Newmarket, Suffolk An Archaeological Trial Trench Evaluation		
Authors	Schofield, T., & Thompson P.,		
Report no.	3599		
Date (of report)	August 2010		

## **CHARLCOMBE LODGE 'SEAWALKER' PROJECT, HAMILTON ROAD, NEWMARKET, SUFFOLK**

### **AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION**

#### **SUMMARY**

*In August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Charlcombe Lodge, Hamilton Road, Newmarket, Suffolk (NGR TL 676 639). The evaluation was commissioned by Darley Stud Management Co Ltd in conjunction with a planning enquiry for development of stables, seawalker and associated plant room, parking and vehicular access. The evaluation was required to provide information prior to the determination of the planning application (Forest Heath District).*

*Burials of probable Early Bronze Age date have been found off Edinburgh Road to the south-east (EXG 027) and Iron Age and Roman occupation finds are known to the north (EXG 030). An excavation in 2009 at Gainsborough Stables, Hamilton Stud found two undated post-holes and a chalk wall foundation, but no artefactual evidence predating the post-medieval period (McCall 2009).*

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

#### **1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In August 2010, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at Charlcombe Lodge, Hamilton Road, Newmarket, Suffolk (NGR TL 676 639; Figs.1-2). The evaluation was commissioned by Darley Stud Management Co Ltd in conjunction with a planning enquiry for the development of stables, seawalker and associated plant room, parking and vehicular access (Fig.4). The evaluation was required to provide information prior to the determination of the planning application (Forest Heath District Council).

1.2 The evaluation was conducted in accordance with a brief issued by Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team (SCC AS-CT, Sarah Poppy, dated 09/07/2010), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 12/07/2010). The archaeological evaluation followed the procedures outlined in the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment* (both revised 2008), as well as those highlighted in the IFA *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008) and *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. The evaluation also aimed to identify area of previous ground disturbance on the site.

#### *Planning policy context*

1.4 PPG16 (1990), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to archaeology and PPG15 (1994), the national Planning Policy Guidance Note which applies to conservation of the historic environment (by protecting the character and appearance of Conservation Areas and protecting listed buildings (of architectural or historical interest) from demolition and unsympathetic change and safeguarding their settings as far as is possible) have been replaced by Planning Policy Statement 5 (2010), the national Planning Policy Statement that applies to the historic environment

1.5 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement 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. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## **2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1 - 2)**

2.1 The site is located on the north-west side of Newmarket immediately to the west of Hamilton Road, and adjacent to the Newmarket Racecourse. The site is c.0.41ha, and currently occupied by a bungalow and other structures.

## **3 METHODOLOGY (Desk-based assessment)**

### **3.1 Archaeological databases**

The Suffolk Historic Environment Record (SHER) was consulted in order to identify any local archaeological finds or remains in the area that might be

affected by the development. Secondary sources were also consulted either at the Record Office (Bury St Edmunds) or from AS's own library.

## **4 THE EVIDENCE**

### **4.1 Topography, geology and soils (Fig. 1)**

4.1.1 The local soil comprises loam overlying mixed subsoils of silty sand and gravel with chalk beneath. The site is located on fairly flat ground at c.22m AOD with rising ground to the east.

### **4.2 Archaeological and historical background**

#### *Prehistoric (c. 700,000 BC – AD 43)*

4.2.1 To the south of the Exning Newmarket Road a Palaeolithic hand axe and side scraper were found at Hamilton Stud (EXG 004), and a pit containing a Palaeolithic handaxe and flake was found “3/4 of a mile south-east of Exning”.

4.2.2 Burials of 7 individuals were found at Edinburgh Road to the east during a house extension (EXG 027). They were associated with a sherd of Early Bronze Age pottery and radiocarbon dated to 1570 +/- bc.

4.2.3 An Iron Age enclosure is situated on the east side of Exning although its full extent is not known.

#### *Romano-British (AD 43 – 410)*

4.2.4 A fairly large amount of Roman occupation evidence has been found to the north, the closest comprising 4 late Roman coins and an Iron Age or possibly Roman spiral headed bronze pin found during metal detecting (EXG 030). In 1904 a Roman villa was discovered just north of Exning (EXG 012), and to its south Roman burials with grave goods were found during digging of a gravel pit in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Also between the site and Exning, Roman wells have been identified (EXG 001,002 and 0023), and metal detecting investigations have uncovered finds including coins and pottery (EXG 053 and 054). Several Roman coins have also been found to the south on Newmarket Heath.

#### *Anglo-Saxon (AD 411 – 1065)*

4.2.5 Early Saxon remains including an inhumation cemetery and a middle Saxon royal centre of the East Anglian king Anna were located at Exning (Dymond and Martin 1999). The grounds of Hamilton Stud contain the site of St Wendreda's well said to have been used as a healing spring by Anna's daughter

(EXG 025). Just over 2km to the west is the Devils Dyke earthwork built in the Saxon period as a territorial boundary.

#### *Medieval (AD 1066 – 1539)*

4.2.6 Stray medieval finds have been found around Exning and probable medieval fishponds are noted on the map (EXG 040). Newmarket did not originate until the early medieval period and is first mentioned in 1200 as *Nova Forum*

#### *Post-medieval (AD 1540 – 1900)*

4.2.7 Gaps cut into the Devils's Dyke mainly relate to the horse racing on Newmarket Heath that developed from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. During WW II No. 3 Group Bomber Command had its Headquarters at Exning House, and New Market Heath was used as an airfield during which another cut was made through the Devil's Dyke for heavily laden aircraft to taxi through.

#### *Undated*

4.2.8 A mass of mainly rectilinear cropmarks have been identified at The Marsh, to the north of the site, which are probably drainage systems (EXG 049). Rectangular crop marks have been noted from aerial photography on Newmarket Heath which are possibly connected with the airfield (EXG 05). An evaluation carried out at the adjacent site of Gainsborough Stables, Hamilton Road, found two undated post-holes and a chalk wall foundation. No artefacts predating the post-medieval period were found on the site (McCall 2009).

## **5 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION)**

5.1 Eight trenches, each 10 – 15m x 1.60m were excavated (Figs.2 & 8). Undifferentiated overburden was mechanically excavated using a 180° back acting mechanical excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket under the close supervision of an archaeologist. 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.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

Individual trench descriptions are presented below

### Trench 1 Figs. 2-3

<i>Sample Section: NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 22.95 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid orange brown sandy silty clay with occasional angular flint and chalk
0.29 m+	L1003	Natural geology. Pale white chalk with occasional angular flint.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

### Trench 2 Figs. 2-3

<i>Sample Section: SE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 23.30 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.27 m+	L1003	Natural geology. As above Tr.1

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

### Trench 3 Figs. 2-3

<i>Sample Section: SW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 22.63 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.07m	L1004	Tarmac. Grey black.
0.07 – 0.14m	L1005	Hard core base. Pale yellow, loose, crushed hardcore
0.14 m+	L1003	Natural geology. As above Tr.1

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

### Trench 4 Figs. 2-3

<i>Sample Section: SE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 22.70 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1004	Tarmac. As above Tr.3
0.11 – 0.29m	L1005	Hard core base. Pale yellow, loose, crushed hardcore
0.29 m+	L1003	Natural geology. As above Tr.1

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present



**Trench 5** Figs. 2-3

<i>Sample Section: NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 23.07 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.14m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.14 - 0.30m	L1001	Levelling layer. Light brown / white, silty chalk with frequent angular flint
0.30 – 0.48m	L1002	Buried Topsoil. Mid grey brown sandy silty clay with occasional angular flint and chalk
0.48 m+	L1003	Natural geology. As above Tr.1

<i>Sample Section: NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 23.15 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.10 - 0.24m	L1001	Levelling layer. As above Tr.5
0.24 – 0.42m	L1002	Buried Topsoil. As above Tr.5
0.42 m+	L1003	Natural geology.

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Trench 6** Figs. 2-3

<i>Sample Section: NW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 22.78 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.11m	L1004	Tarmac. As above Tr.3
0.11 – 0.33m	L1005	Hard core base. Pale yellow, loose, crushed hardcore
0.33 m+	L1003	Natural geology. As above Tr.1

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

**Trench 7** Figs. 2-3

<i>Sample Section: NE facing</i> <i>0.00 = 23.50 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.39m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.39 m+	L1003	Natural geology. As above Tr.1

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

## Trench 8 Figs. 2-3

<i>Sample Section: NW facing</i> <i>0.00 = 23.23 m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.13m	L1000	Topsoil. As above Tr.1
0.13 – 0.32m	L1002	Buried Topsoil. As above Tr.5
0.32 m+	L1003	Natural geology. As above Tr.1

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 In Trenches 1, 2 & 7 the topsoil, L1000, directly overlies the natural geology, L1003. Topsoil L1000 is a mid orange brown sandy silty clay with occasional angular flint and chalk (0.27 – 0.29m thick). In Trenches 3, 4 and 6 tarmac, L1004, and hardcore, L1005, directly overlies the natural geology.

8.2 In Trenches 5 and 8 below Topsoil L1000 a levelling layer, L1001 and buried topsoil, L1002, were present. L1001 is a light brown / white, silty chalk with frequent angular flint (c.0.15m thick), and L1002 is a mid grey brown sandy silty clay with occasional angular flint and chalk (c.0.18m thick)

8.3 At the base of the stratigraphic sequence is the natural (L1003). It is a pale white chalk with occasional angular flint (0.14 – 0.48m below the present day ground surface).

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Burials of probable Early Bronze Age date have been found off Edinburgh Road to the south-east (EXG 027) and Iron Age and Roman occupation finds are known to the north (EXG 030). An excavation in 2009 at Gainsborough Stables, Hamilton Stud found two undated post-holes and a chalk wall foundation, but no artefactual evidence predating the post-medieval period (McCall 2009).

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

## 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

The archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at Suffolk County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

AS is grateful to Darley Stud Management Co Ltd for their co-operation and funding of the project (in particular Mr James Midwood and Ms Teresa Peters for their assistance).

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Colin Pendleton of Suffolk Historic Environment Office.

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Ms Sarah Poppy of Suffolk County Council Archaeological Service Conservation Team

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**CHARLCOMBE LODGE, 'SEAWALKER' PROJECT, HAMILTON ROAD,  
NHEWMARKET, SUFFOLK.  
PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX**



*DP 1. TRENCH 1 - Post excavation*



*DP 2. TRENCH 2 – Post excavation*



*DP 3. TRENCH 3 – Post excavation.*



*DP 4. TRENCH 4 – Post excavation.*

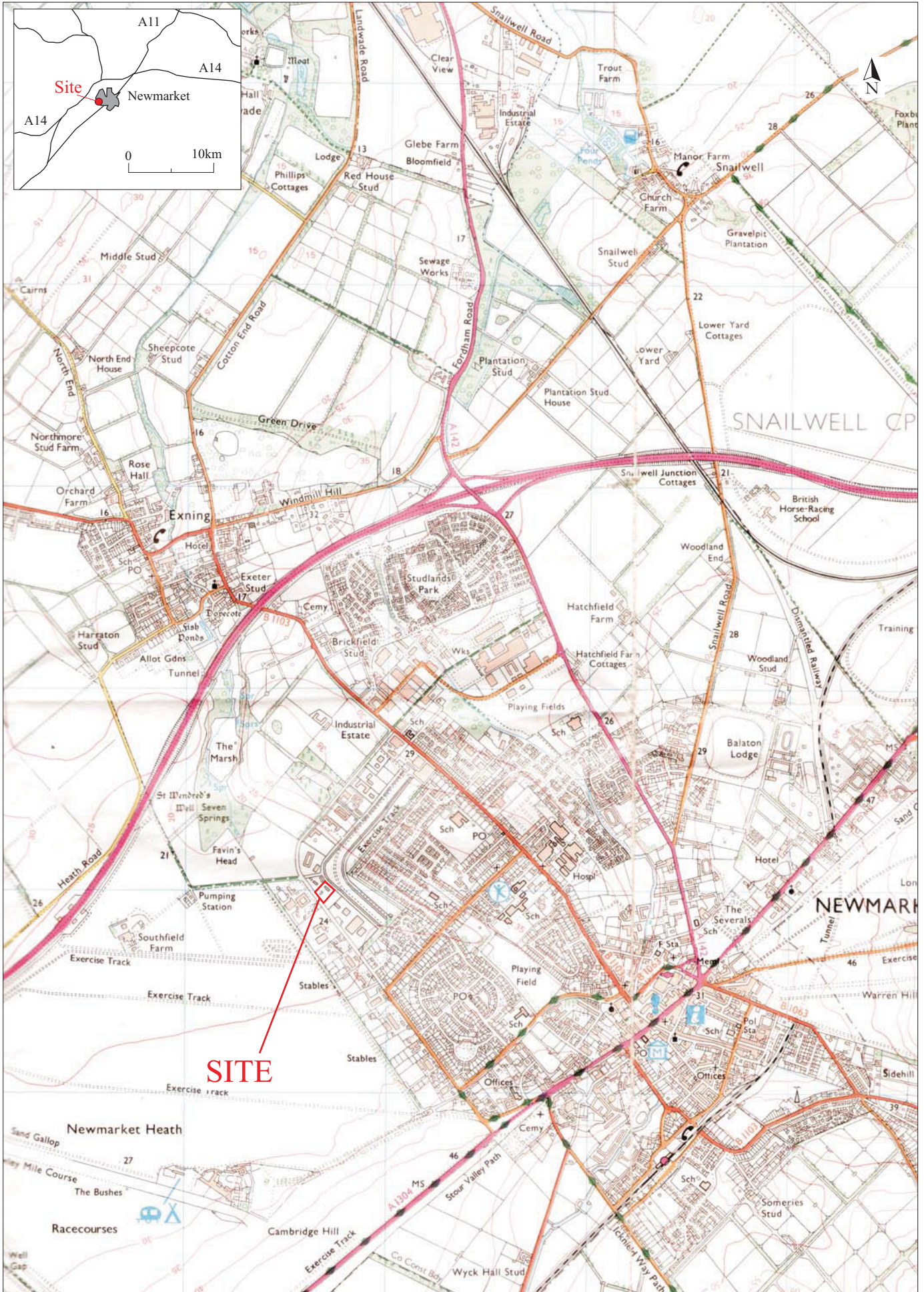


*DP 5. Site. View S*



*DP 6. Site. View NW*

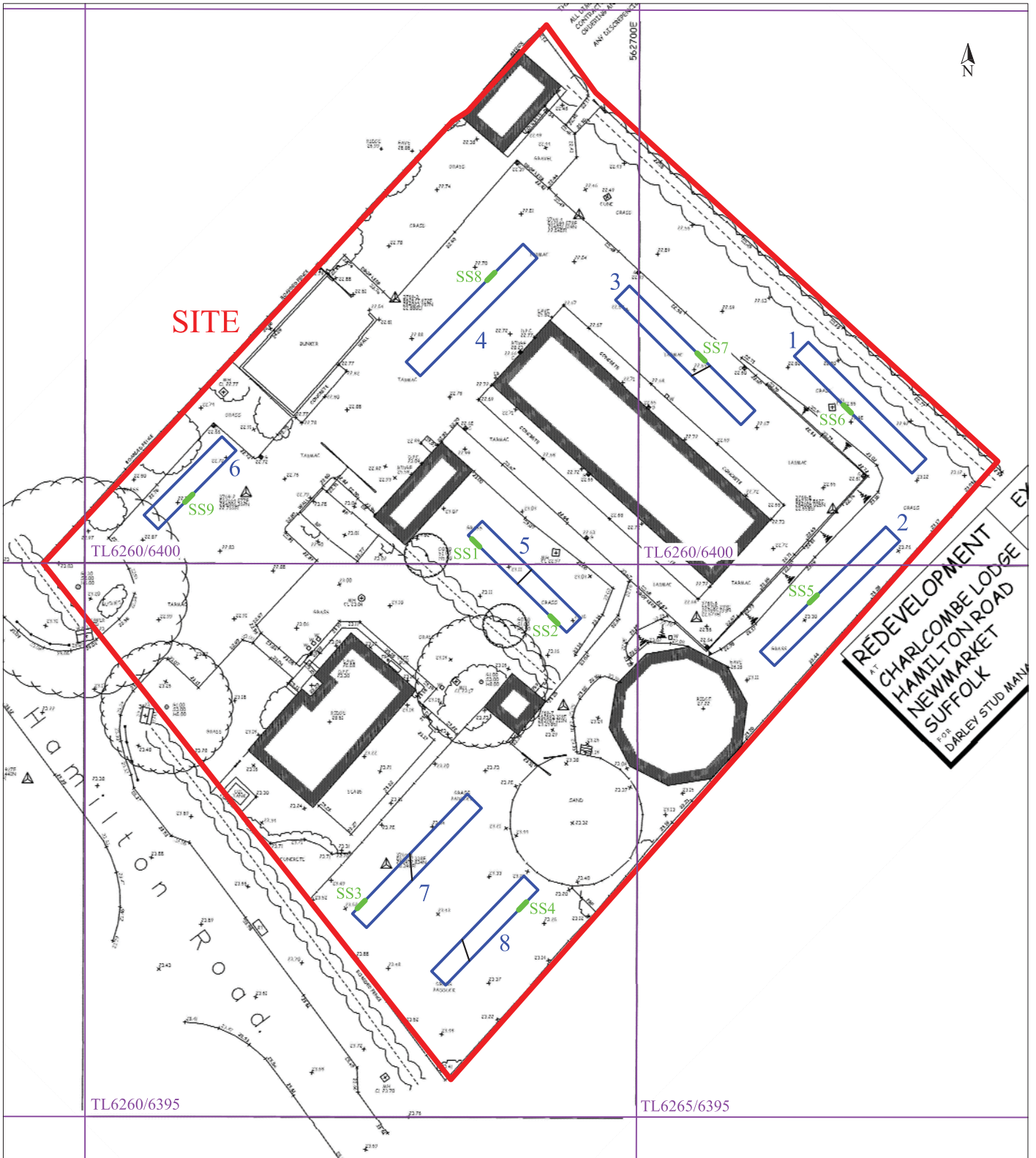




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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



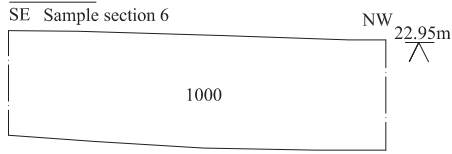


SS = Sample section

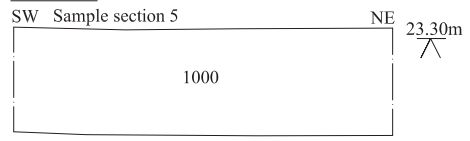


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**Fig. 2 Trench location plan**  
 Scale 1:500 at A4

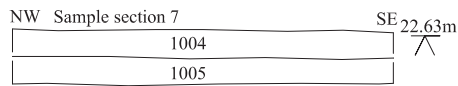
**Trench 1**



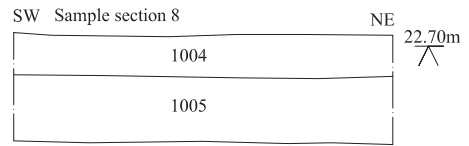
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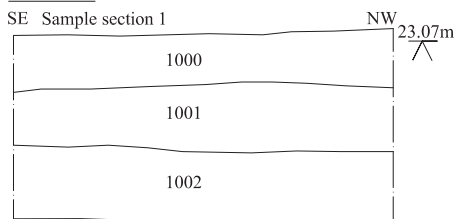
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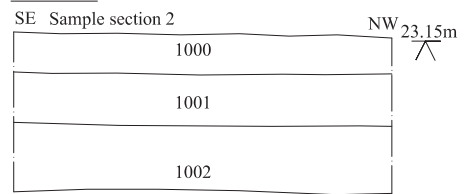
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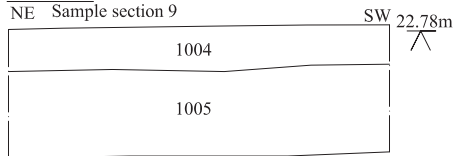
**Trench 5**



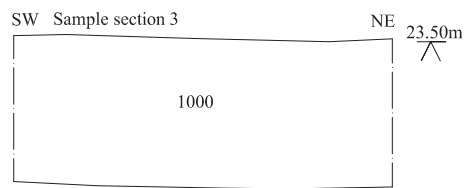
**Trench 5**



**Trench 6**



**Trench 7**



**Trench 8**

