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**GODWICK GREAT BARN, GODWICK HALL,
TITTLISHALL, NORFOLK, PE32 2RJ**

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

Authors: Joseph Bampton MA	(Fieldwork and report)
NGR: TF 9041 2209	Report No: 4216
District: Breckland	Site Code:
Approved: Claire Halpin MlfA	Project No: 4610
Signed:	Date: December 2012

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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 4 METHODOLOGY**
- 5 RESULTS**
- 6 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 7 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 8 DISCUSSION**

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

APPENDIX 1 NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST ENTRY

OASIS SUMMARY

Project name	<i>Godwick Great Barn, Godwick Hall, Tittleshall, Norfolk</i>		
<p><i>In April 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Godwick Great Barn, Godwick Hall, Tittleshall, Norfolk. The monitoring was carried out during the groundworks associated with the construction of extensions to a 16th century barn.</i></p> <p><i>Godwick Great Barn is a Grade II* listed building and part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument associated with the deserted medieval village. The barn is of a late 16th century date and constructed from brick with a fine alternating hammer-beam and tie-beam roof. The site had potential to reveal other features associated with the 16th century barn.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring revealed no evidence for structures contemporary to the construction of the barn. Elements of the now lost 18th or 19th century north-east range were recorded, such as the east wall foundation as well as a possible floor layer or construction pad. However, most of the evidence related to mid-20th century activities such as the partial-demolition and conversion of the north-east range to cattle sheds and the application of a concrete yard surface. These later activities have caused the truncation and loss of many earlier features.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	12 th April 2012		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	N
P. number	4610	Site code	
Type of project	<i>Archaeological monitoring and recording</i>		
Site status	<i>Grade II Listed</i>		
Current land use	<i>Barn</i>		
Planned development	<i>To be altered, repaired and extended</i>		
Main features (+dates)	<i>16th century barn with evidence for later agricultural ranges</i>		
Significant finds (+dates)	<i>None</i>		
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish	<i>Norfolk</i>	<i>Breckland</i>	<i>Tittleshall</i>
HER/ SMR for area	<i>Norfolk HER</i>		
Post code (if known)	<i>PE32 2RJ</i>		
Area of site	<i>c.480 m²</i>		
NGR	<i>TF 9041 2209</i>		
Height AOD	<i>c. 65-68m AOD</i>		
Project creators			
Brief issued by	<i>Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service</i>		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	<i>Joseph Bampton</i>		
Funded by	<i>Wood Stephen Ltd</i>		
Full title	<i>Godwick Great Barn, Godwick Hall, Tittleshall, Norfolk</i>		
Authors	<i>Joseph Bampton</i>		
Report no.	<i>4216</i>		
Date (of report)	<i>December 2012</i>		

GODWICK GREAT BARN, GODWICK HALL, TITTLESHALL, NORFOLK

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING AND RECORDING

SUMMARY

In April 2012 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Godwick Great Barn, Godwick Hall, Tittleshall, Norfolk. The monitoring was carried out during the groundworks associated with the construction of extensions to a 16th century barn.

Godwick Great Barn is a Grade II listed building and part of a Scheduled Ancient Monument associated with the deserted medieval village. The barn is of a late 16th century date and constructed from brick with a fine alternating hammer-beam and tie-beam roof. The site had potential to reveal other features associated with the 16th century barn.*

The monitoring revealed no evidence for structures contemporary to the construction of the barn. Elements of the now lost 18th or 19th century north-east range were recorded, such as the east wall foundation as well as a possible floor layer or construction pad. However, most evidence of the evidence related to mid-20th century activities such as the partial-demolition and conversion of the north-east range to cattle sheds and the application of a concrete yard surface. These later activities have caused the truncation and loss of many earlier features.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In April 2012, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Godwick Great Barn, Godwick Hall, Tittleshall, Norfolk (TF 9041 2209; Figs.1-2). The monitoring was carried out during the groundworks associated with the construction of extensions to the 16th century barn (Breckland District Council Planning Approval Ref. 3PL/2010/1200/LB & F; HES Ref. CNF 43190, works carried out under Scheduled Monument Consent). There are two proposed extensions shown on Fig. 4, one following the line of a former north-east range and a second to the north of the existing south-east lean-to.

1.2 The monitoring was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (James Albone dated 11th November 2011) and a specification by AS (14/11/2011). 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 project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

1.4 A historic building recording report (Collins 2012) and a programme of tree-ring dating by the Nottingham Tree-ring Dating Laboratory (Howard 2012) were also undertaken.

Planning policy context

1.5 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.

1.6 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 (Figs. 1 – 2)

2.1 Godwick Great Barn lies in the parish of Tittleshall in central Norfolk, approximately 40 km north-west of Norwich. The surrounding landscape remains largely agricultural with some wooded areas to the south. The immediate setting is distinguished by the presence of earthworks of a deserted medieval village, which are scheduled and remain in excellent condition. The remains of the medieval parish church tower provide a visual focus. Immediately to the south, a large square enclosure defined by banks marks the site of old Godwick Hall, which had been ruinous since the 19th century and was cleared in the 1960s. A large farm complex lies to the east, while modern Godwick Hall has been constructed to the north.

2.2 The barn is aligned north–south and is given access from a metalled trackway to the north. It is Grade II Listed (Appendix 1). The rear (east) side of the building has a large cement slab, marking the position of a former modern agricultural building which until recent times abutted the building. The barn is currently used as a wedding venue.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The barn is located at approximately 65-68m AOD on land sloping gently down from south-east to north-west. The local soil is of the Beccles 1 Formation comprising seasonally waterlogged slowly permeable soils with a distinctive topsoil which occur widely in lowland Britain, on tills and soft argillaceous rocks (SSEW 1983). The underlying solid geology is Upper Cretaceous Chalk.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Known prehistoric activity in the area is limited to finds of a flint scraper (NHER 39369) and occasional flint flakes associated with possible Iron Age pottery (NHER 39371), while the Roman and Saxon periods are similarly represented by dispersed finds of pottery (NHER 39377).

4.2 The principal archaeological feature of the area comprises the earthworks and other traces of the deserted medieval village of Godwick, which was recorded in Domesday Book and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (NHER 1104, List Entry No. 1002889). Within the earthworks, the course of the main thoroughfare and house-platforms or toft enclosures remain discernible. Amid these remains, the Grade II listed tower of the medieval All Saints church still

stands. The church remained in use after repair in c.1600, before becoming progressively ruinous thereafter. The tower remained fairly complete until it collapsed during a storm in 1981, leaving just three walls standing.

4.5 The barn, constructed of timber felled in 1597 (Howard 2012), once stood as an architectural introduction to the contemporary hall, standing to one side of an outer courtyard, so facing the principal public entrance. It has been subject to a number of alterations from the 18th century onwards with the insertion of floors and addition of units to the east (Collins *et al.* 2012).

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The monitoring and recording encompassed the excavation of the foundation trench for the extension to the east side of the barn (Fig. 4).

5.2 The archaeological investigation comprised the observation of all intrusive activity associated with the ground works. 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 archaeological finds.

6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

6.1 A modern concrete yard surface (L1001) and a cattle shed had been demolished and removed prior to the visit. The cattle shed abutted the northern wall. The latter was part of an 18th/19th century extension on the eastern side of the barn, which had already been demolished.

6.2 The groundworks were carried out using a tracked 360° excavator fitted with a smooth bladed ditching bucket. The foundation trench was 0.60m wide and c.1.20m deep.

6.3 Four sample sections of the stratigraphy within the footing trench were recorded. The concrete yard surface, L1001, was removed from the site during the initial ground preparation; consequently it was not recorded within any of the sample sections. It was a light grey concrete (c.0.18m thick).

Sample Section 1

<i>Central south side, north facing</i>		<i>DP 1</i>
<i>0.00 = 66.57m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1002	Made ground. Grey, loose, sandy gravel with modern rubble.
0.20 – 0.60m	L1003	Made ground. Mid-light pink red, loose, sandy demolition rubble.
0.60 – 1.05m+	L1005	Natural. Mid orange, friable, sand - mid blue grey, compact, clay.

Sample Section 2

<i>South west corner, east facing</i>		<i>DP 2</i>
<i>0.00 = 66.53m AOD</i>		
0.93 – 1.27m+	L1005	Natural. As above.

Description: Sample section 2 revealed the lower courses of the barn (M1010) and the construction cut for the demolished cattle shed (F1007).

The lower brick courses of the barn's eastern wall were revealed, M1010, and comprised unweathered, regularly-coursed brickwork (0.24x0.07x0.11m) constructed with lime mortar. Above ground the brick was laid in English bond, while King closer bricks (chamfered) were seen on the northern side of the section and may have formed part of a buttress for an earlier extension or support for a stone step at the threshold of a doorway above and slightly north of the section.

F1007 was the construction cut for a support, perhaps to the demolished cattle shed and contained L1009 and L1008. L1009 was a light grey cementitious mortar pad. L1008 was a mid blue grey, firm, clay, construction backfill (re-deposited natural clay). F1007 abutted the barn wall (M1010) and may have followed the course of the demolished 18th/19th century extension.

Sample Section 3

<i>North east corner, west facing</i>		<i>DP 3</i>
<i>0.00 = 66.59m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey brown, friable, sandy silt.
0.20 – 0.87m	L1004	Made ground. Mottled mid orange- and blue grey, friable, silty sand with frequent clay, CBM rubble and stones.
0.87 – 1.22m+	L1005	Natural. As above.

Description:

L1004 was made ground derived from the demolition of the 18th/19th century extension at the north end of the east side of the barn. The northern wall of this extension still survives but with alterations. Brick and worked flint, similar to that seen in the northern wall was present throughout the layer.

A drainage pipe recorded which ran from the eastern side of the footing trench to a pond on the edge of the 1960's farm complex to the east. It had a brick chamber (M1006; 0.23x0.07x0.11m) which was truncated by the footing trench. The brick was unweathered, had regular and ashlar coursing with occasional sandy cementitious bonding of poor quality.

Sample Section 4, east side

<i>South east corner, north facing</i>		<i>DP 4</i>
<i>0.00 = 66.61m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.24m	L1000	Topsoil. As above.
0.24 – 0.42m	L1004	Made ground. As above.
0.42 – 1.15m+	L1005	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 4, west side

<i>South east corner, north facing</i>		<i>DP 4</i>
<i>0.00 = 66.63m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.27m	L1002	Made ground. As above.
0.27 – 0.60m	L1003	Made ground. As above.
0.60 – 1.15m+	L1005	Natural. As above.

Description of features: F1011 and M1012 were recorded in sample section 4.

F1011 was the linear construction cut of a wall aligned north/south, perhaps of the demolished 18th/19th century extension. It had vertical sides and a flat base and was filled with masonry building material representing M1012. It appeared to have been truncated by the demolition, levelling and instatement of made ground on the east and west sides of the cut. These layers abut the surviving rubble and structure of M1012, which was levelled off and sealed by L1001.

M1012 was a damaged wall and its foundation. It was an uncoursed CBM rubble and mortar construction abutted by L1000, L1003 and L1004 and sealed by L1002. M1012 represents only a fragment of surviving wall, the majority of the wall having been demolished during earlier developments. This wall would originally have been the same style as, and been tied into the northern wall of the extension.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Within the boundaries of the development the current ground surface was a concrete yard deposit L1001, a light grey, concrete (c.0.18m thick). It was removed from site during initial ground preparation works and only survived beyond the area of development to the south of the barn. Beneath L1001 was a levelling layer, L1002, a grey, loose, sandy gravel (0.19 - 0.27m thick).

7.2 Beneath L1001 was Made Ground L1003, a red, loose, sandy demolition rubble associated with the post-demolition of the 18th/19th century northern extension. It provided the hard core foundations for the concrete yard and its depth varied between 0.31 and 0.37m.

7.3 Topsoil L1000 was only present in the far eastern section (Sections 3 & 4). It was a dark grey brown, friable, sandy silt with occasional modern rubble inclusions (c.0.20m thick). Beneath L1000 was Made Ground L1004, a mottled mid orange and blue grey, friable, silty sand with frequent CBM rubble, flint rubble and various stones (0.18 - 0.67m thick).

7.4 The natural geology deposit, L1005, varied between a mid orange, friable, sand, and a mid blue grey, compact, clay. It was 0.42 - 1.27m+ below the present ground level.

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The barn is Grade II* listed and comprises one of Norfolk's most interesting barns, as well as being located within a Scheduled Ancient Monument encompassing the deserted medieval village. Tree-ring dating has secured an accurate felling date for the timber as 1597, which is well reflected in the style and construction of the barn, the west side originally forming a visual counterpart to, or introduction to the nearby old hall. The east side, however, was treated with typical Elizabethan practicality where little expense was invested in the rear or working elevation which has ventilation slits and a large wagon door but no other pretence

8.2 Later phases of alteration saw various blockings in the outer walls as well as the addition of eastern ranges in the 18th or 19th century, the southern example which still survives. The 20th century works saw the northern range partially demolished and converted to cattle sheds and the yard laid with concrete, a common practice at this time relating to modern livestock regulations.

8.3 The proposed development was restricted to the footprints of the later ranges and so despite historic map evidence which indicates the barn was constructed across the main road of the medieval village no evidence was found relating to this and instead was limited to evidence for later structural work.

8.4 At the west end of the southern footing trench the lower brickwork of the barn was recorded (M1010) as well as a small area of possible earlier floor (L1009), almost completely truncated, or a construction pad relating to the 18th / 19th century or later ranges. This abutted, and so is later than the original barn but otherwise it is impossible to ascertain which phase of work this belongs to.

8.5 A foundation cut as well as a section of truncated wall (F1011 and M1012) were recorded in the eastern arm of the footing trench, these forming the remnants of the east wall of the lost 18th or 19th century range. This survived only in part and has been mostly lost with later alterations particularly the application of 20th century concrete yard surfaces.

8.6 The final phase of work reflected in the archaeological evidence comprised the remains of a drain pipe and surrounding brickwork (M1006) which is apparently linked to the 20th century phase of work but may represent an earlier drain associated with the 18th / 19th century phases of work.

ARCHIVE DEPOSITION

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

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Mr Stephen Doughty of Wood Stephen Ltd for commissioning the archaeological monitoring and recording.

AS would also like to acknowledge the input, assistance and advice of Mr James Albone of NCC HES and Mr Will Fletcher of English Heritage.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Collins, T *et al.* 2012. *Godwick Barn, Tittleshall, Norfolk. Historic Building Recording.* AS Report No. 4029.

Howard, R. 2012 *Godwick Great Barn, Godwick Hall, Tittleshall, Norfolk: Interim summary of the dendrochronological analysis* Prior to full report, English Heritage

APPENDIX 1 NATIONAL HERITAGE LIST ENTRY

List Entry Summary

This building is listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for its special architectural or historic interest.

Name: BARN 305 METRES SOUTH OF GODWICK HALL

List Entry Number: 1342509

Location: The building may lie within the boundary of more than one authority.

County: Norfolk

District: Breckland

District Type: District Authority

Parish: Tittleshall

National Park: Not applicable to this List entry.

Grade: II

Date first listed: 14-Jun-1984

Date of most recent amendment: Not applicable to this List entry.

Legacy System Information

The contents of this record have been generated from a legacy data system.

Legacy System: LBS

UID: 220508

Asset Groupings

This List entry does not comprise part of an Asset Grouping. Asset Groupings are not part of the official record but are added later for information.

List Entry Description

Summary of Building

TF 92 SW TITTLESHALL GODWICK

4/52 Barn 305 metres south of

Godwick Hall - II

Former house associated with Godwick Hall (demolished); now barn housing grain silos. Probably 1576. Brick in English bond with shingle (to west) and pantile roof. Formerly of 2 storeys with attic. Facade with remains of 7 symmetrically arranged 3-light brick chamfered mullion and transom windows with pediments. One original blocked doorway with pediment to northern end of facade. Several later openings. Rear facade obscured by corrugated asbestos barn. North gable end with remains of a window pediment. C18 gables with tumbling-in. Worn remains of decorative ridge tiles. Roof, probably original, of alternating hammerbeam and queen strut trusses arch braced with 3 sets (per pitch) of butt purlins, collars and wind bracing. Some surviving partitions and floor joists.

Listing NGR: TF9041422088

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
Sample section 1. Looking south.



2
Sample section 2. Looking west.



3
Sample section 3. Looking east.



4
Sample section 4. Looking south.



5
View of The Great Barn with flooded marl pits in foreground. Looking east.



6
The Great Barn and the site. Looking west.



7
Surviving north wall of 18th/19th century extension.
Looking west.



8
Footing trench to the south wall of the northern extension.
Looking west.



9
North west corner of the site. Looking west.



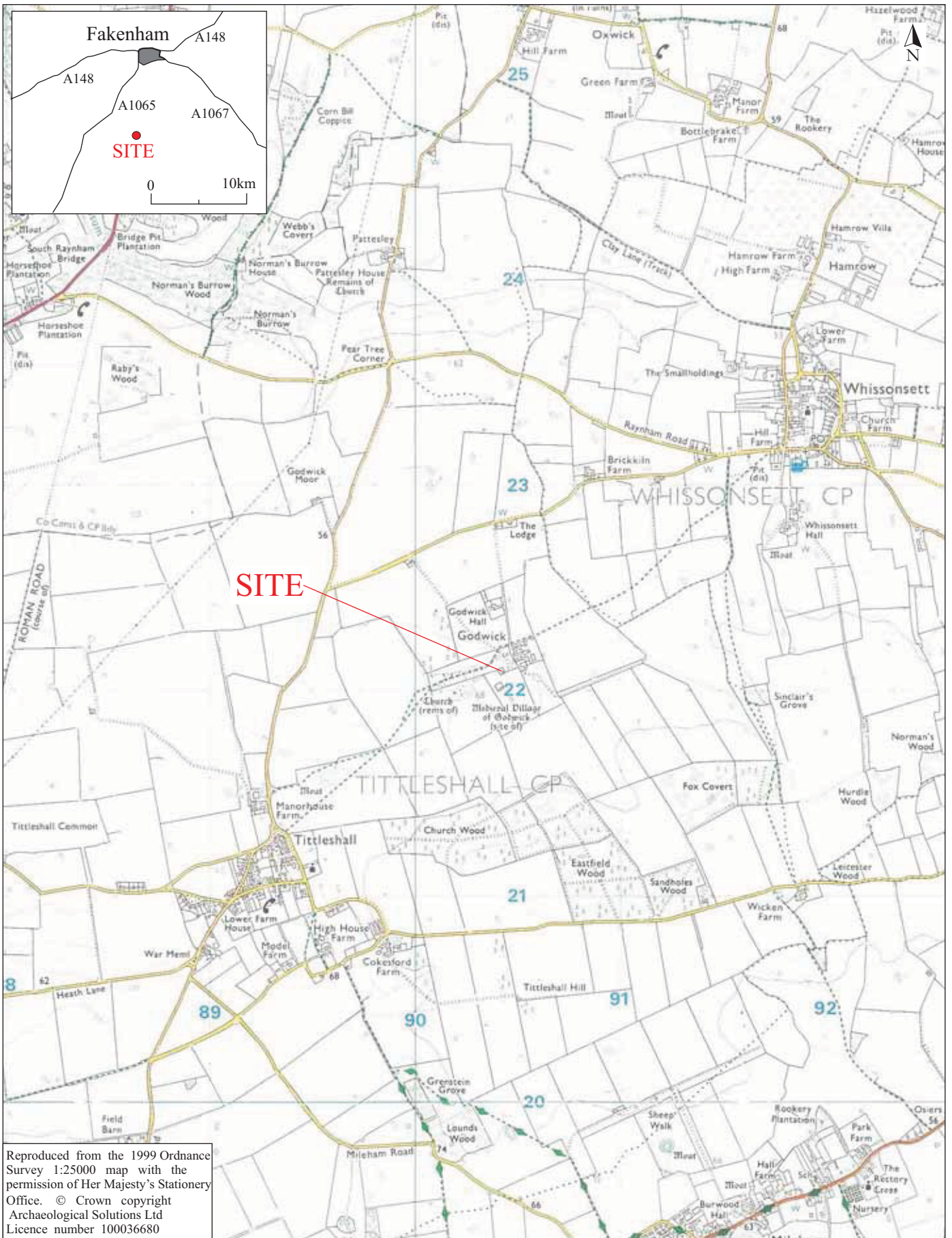
10
Late 16th century brickwork within the barn.



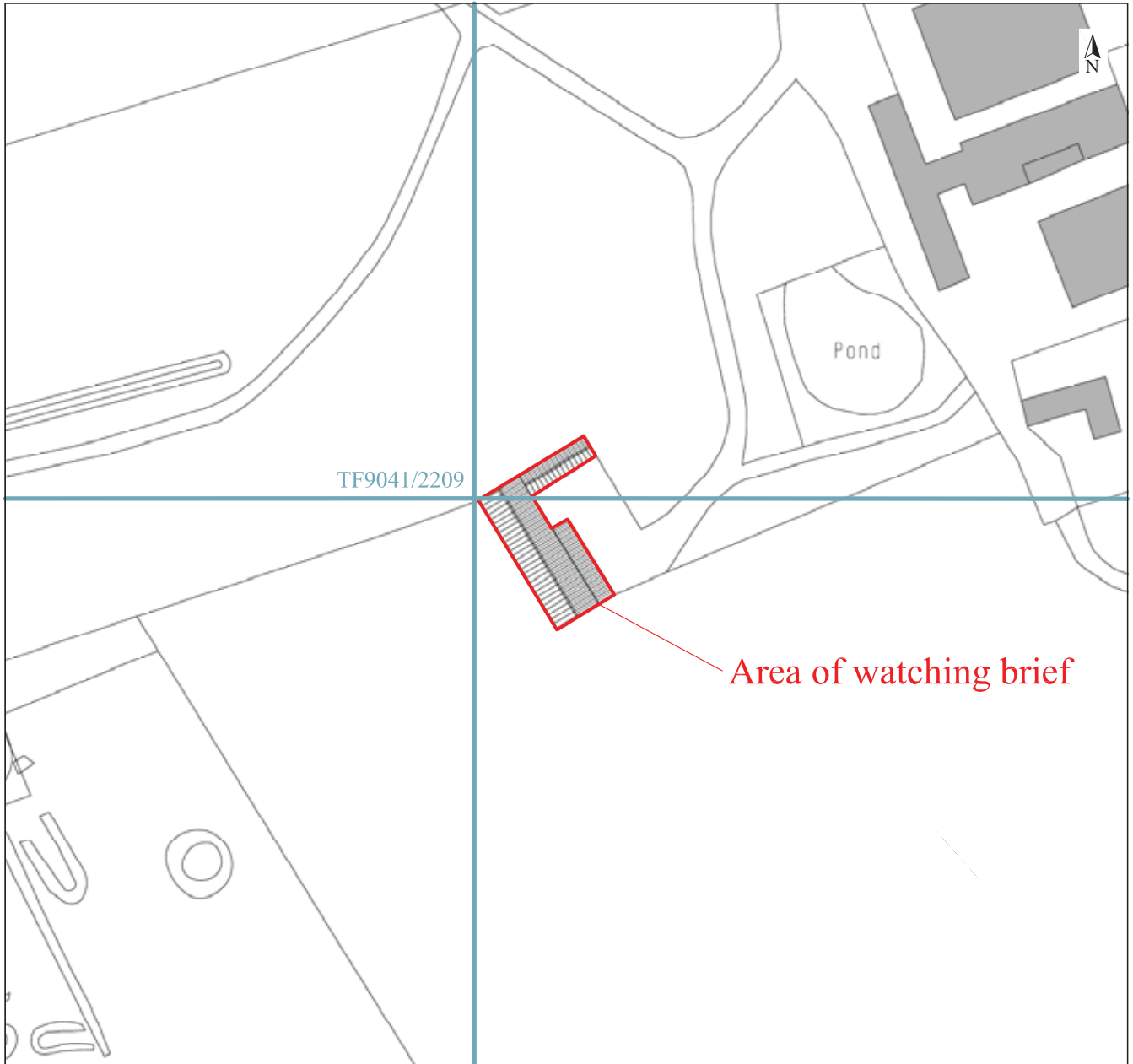
11
Medieval church ruins with The Great Barn in the distance.
Looking east.



12
Medieval sunken way and 18th/19th century marl pits.
Looking west.

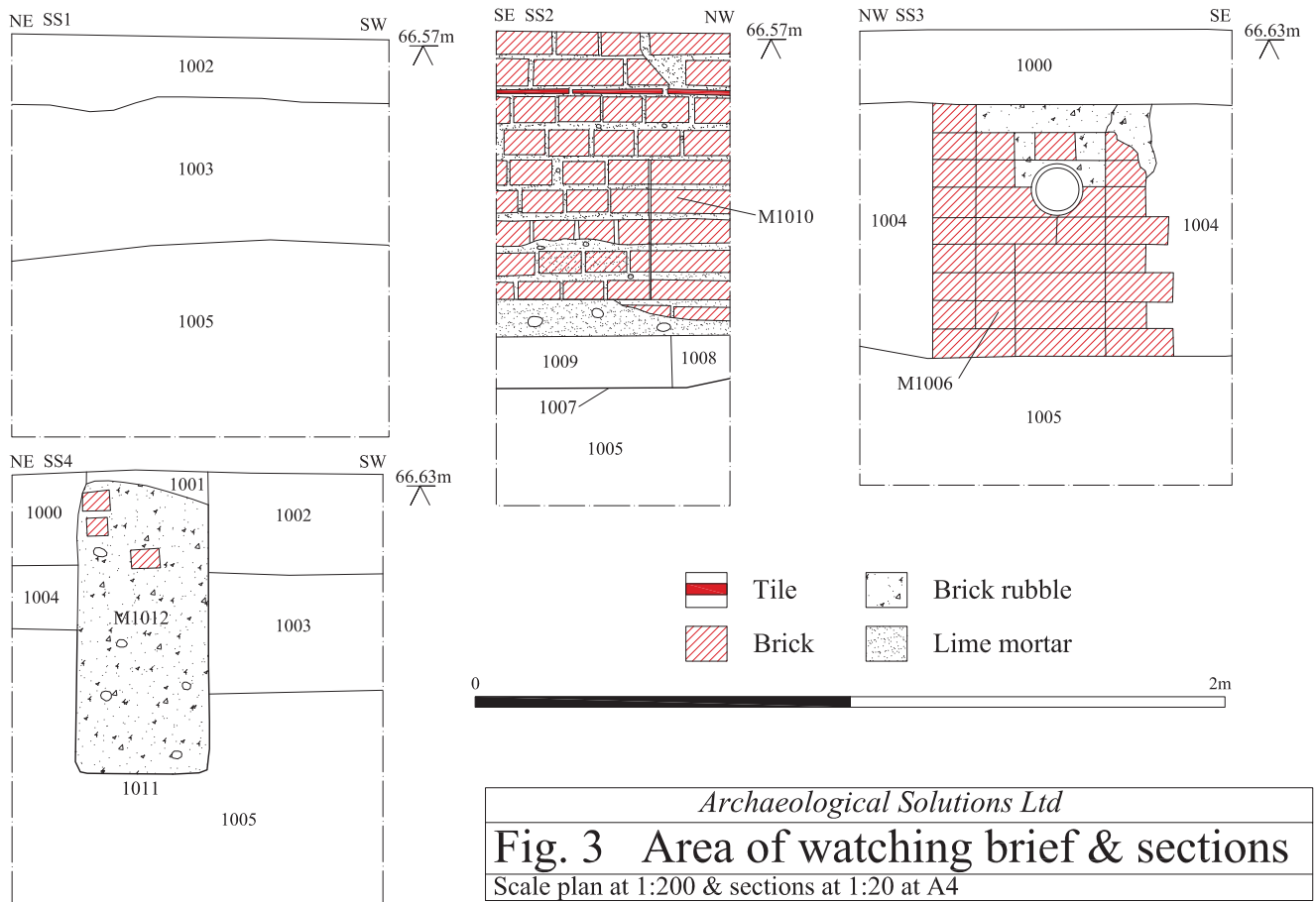
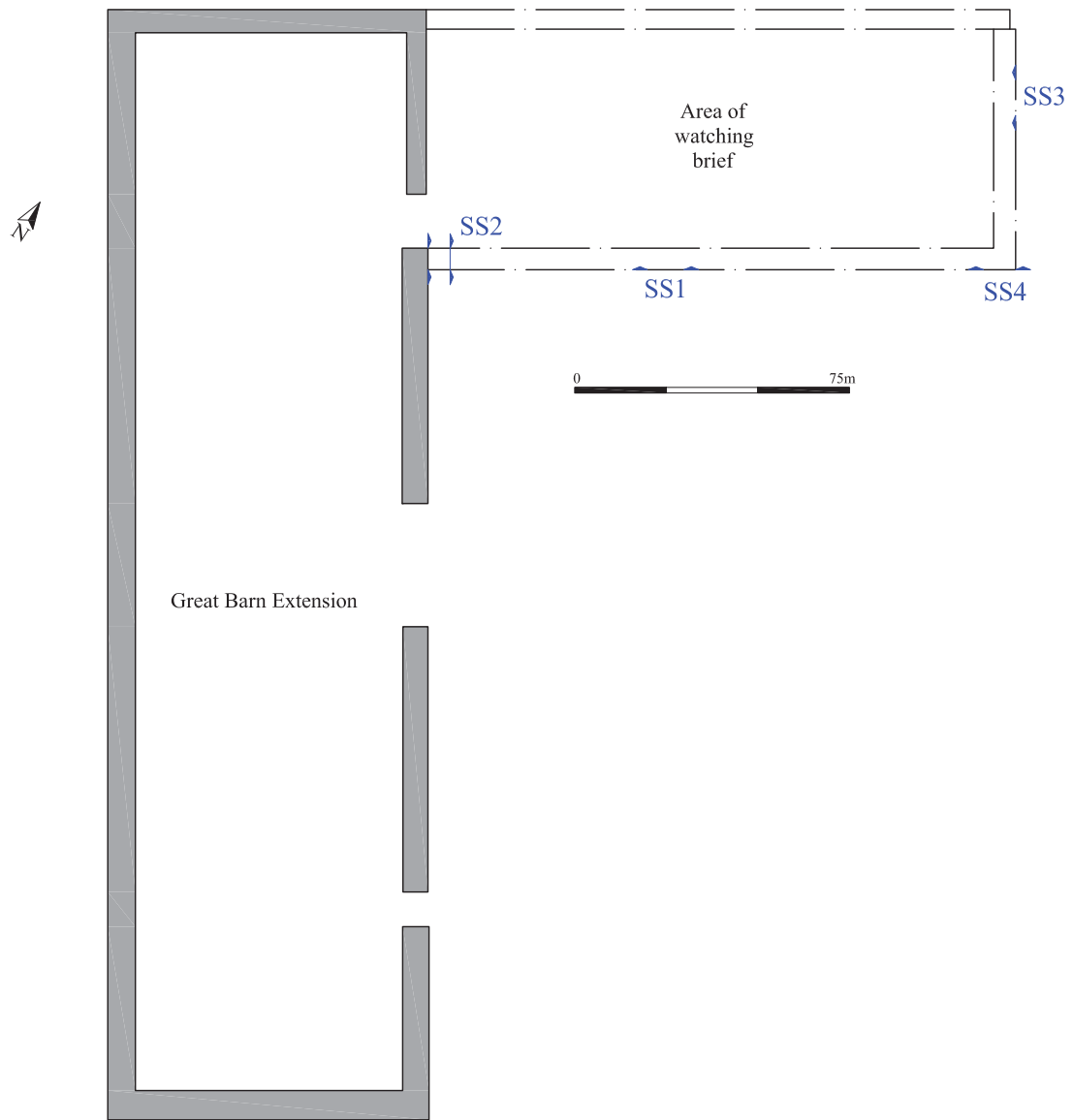


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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



0 75m

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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
Scale 1:1250 at A4



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Fig. 3 Area of watching brief & sections

Scale plan at 1:200 & sections at 1:20 at A4