
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD

**LAND ADJACENT TO 12 THE STREET,
GOODERSTONE, NORFOLK PE33 7DD**

**MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SUPERVISION AND CONTROL**

| | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Authors: Julie Walker (Field work and report) Peter Thompson (Background Research) | |
| NGR: TF 7598 0199 | Report No: 5122 |
| District: Breckland | Site Code: ENF138625 |
| Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA | Project No: 6371 |
| Signed: | Date: 13 th July 2016 |

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

| | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Project details | | | |
| Project name | | <i>Land adjacent to 12 The Street, Gooderstone, Norfolk PE33 7DD</i> | |
| <i>In May 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to 12 The Street, Gooderstone, Norfolk PE33 7DD (NGR 575884 301998). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for construction of a detached dwelling (Breckland Planning Ref. 3PL/2015/0321/O), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES).</i> | | | |
| <i>The site lies within an area of archaeological potential in the historic core of Gooderstone, where late Saxon activity in particular has been recorded. The NHER records the discovery of late Saxon features some 50m to the north-east of the current site, including a square pit containing burnt daub indicative of a nearby building, two post holes and gullies and a ditch (NHER 35779). Late Saxon settlement is thought to have followed the line of the Street, with finds of Saxon date also being made to the north, south and west which may suggest that the settlement continued into these areas. Multi-period finds from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods have been recovered from around the village.</i> | | | |
| <i>The monitoring recorded three features: Ditches F1003 and F1005, and Land Drain F1007. None contained finds but the similarity of their fills to the topsoil suggests that they were modern. The topsoil and subsoil contained only modern finds and no residual finds were present.</i> | | | |
| Project dates (fieldwork) | | <i>1st & 2nd June 2016</i> | |
| Previous work (Y/N/?) | | <i>N</i> | Future work (Y/N/?) <i>N</i> |
| P. number | | <i>4970</i> | Site code <i>ENF138625</i> |
| Type of project | | <i>Archaeological Monitoring & Recording</i> | |
| Site status | | <i>n/a</i> | |
| Current land use | | <i>Vacant plot</i> | |
| Planned development | | <i>Dwelling</i> | |
| Main features (+dates) | | <i>Undated ditch, wheel rut, land drain</i> | |
| Significant finds (+dates) | | | |
| Project location | | | |
| County/ District/ Parish | | <i>Norfolk</i> | <i>Breckland</i> <i>Gooderstone</i> |
| HER/ SMR for area | | <i>Norfolk Historic Environment Record</i> | |
| Post code (if known) | | <i>-</i> | |
| Area of site | | <i>0.099 ha</i> | |
| NGR | | <i>TF 7598 0199</i> | |
| Height AOD (min/max) | | <i>c.12m AOD</i> | |
| Project creators | | | |
| Brief issued by | | <i>Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service</i> | |
| Project supervisor/s (PO) | | <i>Julie Walker</i> | |
| Funded by | | <i>Messrs NA & PA Cater</i> | |
| Full title | | <i>Land adjacent to 12 The Street, Gooderstone, Norfolk PE33 7DD. Monitoring of Works under Archaeological Supervision and Control.</i> | |
| Authors | | <i>Walker, J.</i> | |
| Report No. | | <i>5122</i> | |
| Date (of report) | | <i>July 2016</i> | |

LAND ADJACENT TO 12 THE STREET, GOODERSTONE, NORFOLK PE33 7DD

MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

SUMMARY

In May 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to 12 The Street, Gooderstone, Norfolk PE33 7DD (NGR 575884 301998). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for construction of a detached dwelling (Breckland Planning Ref. 3PL/2015/0321/O), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES).

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential in the historic core of Gooderstone, where late Saxon activity in particular has been recorded. The NHER records the discovery of late Saxon features some 50m to the north-east of the current site, including a square pit containing burnt daub indicative of a nearby building, two post holes and gullies and a ditch (NHER 35779). Late Saxon settlement is thought to have followed the line of the Street, with finds of Saxon date also being made to the north, south and west which may suggest that the settlement continued into these areas. Multi-period finds from the prehistoric to post-medieval periods have been recovered from around the village.

The monitoring recorded three features: Ditches F1003 and F1005, and Land Drain F1007. None contained finds but the similarity of their fills to the topsoil suggests that they were modern. The topsoil and subsoil contained only modern finds and no residual finds were present.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2016 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out an archaeological monitoring and recording on land adjacent to 12 The Street, Gooderstone, Norfolk PE33 7DD (NGR TF 7598 0199; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for construction of a detached dwelling (Breckland Planning Ref. 3PL/2015/0321/O), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance to a generic brief prepared by the Norfolk CC Historic Environment Service (NCC HES)

and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 23 July 2015), and approved by NCC HES. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Brief* (2014), and 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 excavation and 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;
- to secure the full analysis and interpretation of the site archive and the appropriate publication of the project results, if required; and
- to secure the analysis, long-term conservation and storage of the project archive

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 Gooderstone is located 21km south-east of King's Lynn and 14km east of Downham Market. The site lies on the southern side of The Street in the centre of Gooderstone, and comprises an existing garden plot to the south west and south west of No 12. It is proposed to build a new detached dwelling adjacent to 12 The Street.

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

3.1 The site is located at approximately 12-14m AOD in a low lying valley, with the east to west flowing River Gadder some 200m to the north. The local soils comprise deep stoneless permeable silty soils to the north of the site, and shallow well drained calcareous sandy and coarse loamy soils over chalk or chalk rubble to the south. These soils overlie drift geology of chalky till of the Lowestoft Formation. The solid geology comprises New Pit Chalk Formation

3.2 In 2000, an archaeological evaluation prior to redevelopment for housing commencing approximately 50m north-east of the site, identified Late Saxon features including a square pit, post holes, two gullies and a ditch. Burnt daub found in the pit suggests there was a wattle and daub building nearby. Late Saxon settlement is thought to have followed the line of the Street, with finds of Anglo-Saxon date also being made to the north, south and west, which may suggest that the settlement continued into these areas. Middle Saxon pottery was found in the above ditch suggesting there was also activity nearby during this period (NHER 35779). A gilt copper-alloy 9th century strap-end made from a 6th century zoomorphic mount was also found some 120m north-west of the site (NHER 56116).

3.3 An evaluation in 2007 centred on 370m north-east of the site, revealed the remains of a possible Early to Middle Saxon pit, medieval ditches, pits and a buried soil indicating occupation in this area. There were also post-medieval floor surfaces associated with farm buildings (NHER 49731). In 2005 an archaeological watching brief 470m east of the site recorded a pit or gully which contained pottery dated to the Late Saxon period. This feature cut the upper fills of a large predominantly peat-filled feature at least 9.5m wide and 2.4m deep. It is most likely that the large feature was a palaeochannel of the River Gadder of ancient, probably early Holocene, date (Percival 2005).

3.4 Finds of mainly prehistoric, Anglo-Saxon and medieval date have been recovered from the fields to the south and south-east of the site. These reach to within 215m and include a Late Saxon sword (NHER 36082, 4578, 56117, 59951, 20940). Several Roman coins, a Late Saxon strap end and an early medieval key have been found in gardens between 170-350m east of the site (NHER 16889, 19641, 4580, 38099). In the area of the village to the north-east, between Clarke's Lane and the moated site, a Mesolithic axe head, a Neolithic axe head, and Samian pottery has been recovered (NHER 20942, 17684, 19411).

3.5 A medieval sub-rectangular moat can be seen as a cropmark on aerial photographs centred on 460m north-east of the site. The moat ditches can be identified but are no longer filled with water. A Roman coin and a medieval token were found here (NHER 4579). Parts of St George's church (NHER 4594) were built in the Norman period and the rest was added and adapted in the 13th to 15th centuries. The site of a medieval stone cross (NHER 14478) is also recorded on 19th century maps but has since disappeared.

3.6 Metal detecting over a large area to the north of Swaffham Road recovered an array of multi-period finds dating from the Romano-British to the post-medieval periods inclusive (NHER 31759, 56912, 56903, 25825, 33543). Iron Age, Anglo-Saxon and medieval metal finds have also been recovered from beyond the west end of the village (NHER 32043, 20334, 19121, 33547).

4 METHODOLOGY

4.1 A mechanical excavator was used to reduce the ground level and dig the foundations of the new dwelling. The digging was closely monitored by an archaeologist. The natural deposits were only exposed on the southern side of the site and within the footing trenches.

4.2 Exposed sections 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.

5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

A sample section of the stratigraphy encountered was recorded (Fig.3):

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <i>Sample Section 1</i> 0.00 = 14.70m AOD | | |
| 0.00 – 0.37m | L1000 | Topsoil. Firm, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints and chalk. |
| 0.37 – 0.96m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. Firm, pale brown yellow weathered chalk marl. |

| | | |
|----------------------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
| <i>Sample Section 2</i> 0.00 = 14.68m AOD | | |
| 0.00 – 0.18m | L1000 | Topsoil. As above. |
| 0.18 – 0.70m+ | L1002 | Natural deposits. As above. |

Description: Three features were present (Ditches F1003 and F1005, and Land Drain F1007). None contained finds but the similarity of their fills to the topsoil suggests that they were modern.

Ditch F1003 was linear, orientated NE / SW (2.00m + x 0.77m x 0.36m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1004, was firm, dark grey brown, clayey silt with occasional small stones. It contained no finds.

Ditch F1005 was linear, orientated N / S (2.00m + x 0.64m x 0.12m). It had moderately sloping sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1006, was firm, dark grey brown, clayey silt with occasional small stones. It contained no finds.

Land Drain F1007 was linear, orientated N / S (2.00m + x 0.49m x 0.33m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1008, was a firm, dark grey brown, clayey silt with occasional small stones. It contained no finds.

6 CONFIDENCE RATING

6.1 Within the parameters of monitoring during groundworks it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds excepting that the natural deposits were only exposed on the southern side of the site and within the footing trenches.

7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a firm, dark grey brown clay silt with occasional small and medium angular and sub-angular flints and chalk. (0.18 – 0.37m thick). It commonly overlay the natural deposits L1002, a firm, pale brown yellow weathered chalk marl (c.40m below the current ground surface).

8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The site is located in the historic core of Gooderstone, on the southern side of The Street. It had the potential for remains of Saxon date, with the line of the Saxon settlement thought to have followed the line of The Street. Features of Saxon date have been found only 50m to the north of the site.

8.2 The monitoring recorded three features: Ditches F1003 and F1005, and Land Drain F1007. None contained finds but the similarity of their fills to the topsoil suggests that they were modern. The topsoil and subsoil contained only modern finds and no residual finds were present.

9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

9.1 The requirements for archive storage will be agreed with the Norwich Castle Museum, and the archive deposited there within three months of the conclusion of fieldwork.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Limited would like to thank Messrs NA & PA Cater for funding the works, R & I Builders Ltd assistance, and Parsons & Whittleby Ltd in particular Ms Tamsin Minty and Mr Dan Higginbotham

AS is pleased to acknowledge the advice and assistance of Mr James Albone of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service, and Ms Heather Hamilton of the Norfolk Historic Environment Record.

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

WEB SITES

Norfolk Heritage Explorer

www.soilsworldwide.net

Concordance of Finds

ENF138625 - P6371, 12 The Street, Gooderstone, Norfolk

| Feature | Context | Segment | Trench | Description | Spot Date (Pot Only) | Pot Qty | Pottery (g) | CBM (g) | A.Bone (g) | Other Material | Other Qty | Other (g) |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|-------------|-------------------------|---------|-------------|---------|------------|----------------|-----------|-----------|
| | 1000 | | | Topsoil | 19thc | 10 | 86g | 233g | | Fe.Frag | 1 | 26g |
| | 1001 | | | Subsoil | 19thc | 11 | 308g | 372g | 273g | S.Flnt | 3 | 93g |

APPENDIX 2 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Struck Flint

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The monitoring recovered a total of 3 pieces (76g) of struck flint from Subsoil L1001, in an un-patinated, slightly rolled condition. The flakes were produced utilizing a very dark grey, near black high quality flint with a mid orange-brown cortex. A single piece (46g) comprises a horseshoe scraper manufactured using coarse abrupt retouch applied to a primary flake, while the remaining flint comprises secondary debitage flakes. All the flakes are relatively thick with pronounced, broad bulbs of percussion, consistent with the decline in knapping skill characteristic of late Neolithic to early Bronze Age assemblages in the region; if not entirely of Bronze Age origin.

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The monitoring recovered 18 sherds (394g) of 19th century pottery from Topsoil L1000 and Subsoil L1001 in a highly fragmented, slightly abraded condition.

Topsoil L1000 contained 10 sherds (86g) of tin-glazed, transfer-printed ware from a variety of bowls and plates; while Subsoil L1001 contained a single large sherd (199g) from an English stone ware bottle associated with seven small sherds (109g) of glazed red earthen ware, including a curved handle. The pottery can collectively be regarded as 19th century (Victorian), and probably represents rubbish distributed across fields as part of efforts to improve soil or drainage.

The Ceramic Building Materials

Andrew Peachey MCIfA

The monitoring recovered a total of 17 fragments (656g) of late post-medieval to early modern pantile from Topsoil L1000 and Subsoil L1001 in a highly fragmented, slightly abraded condition. The red, s-profile tiles are unlikely to have been associated with a building on the site and probably represent rubbish distributed across fields as part of efforts to improve soil or drainage.

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
F1003 looking north-west



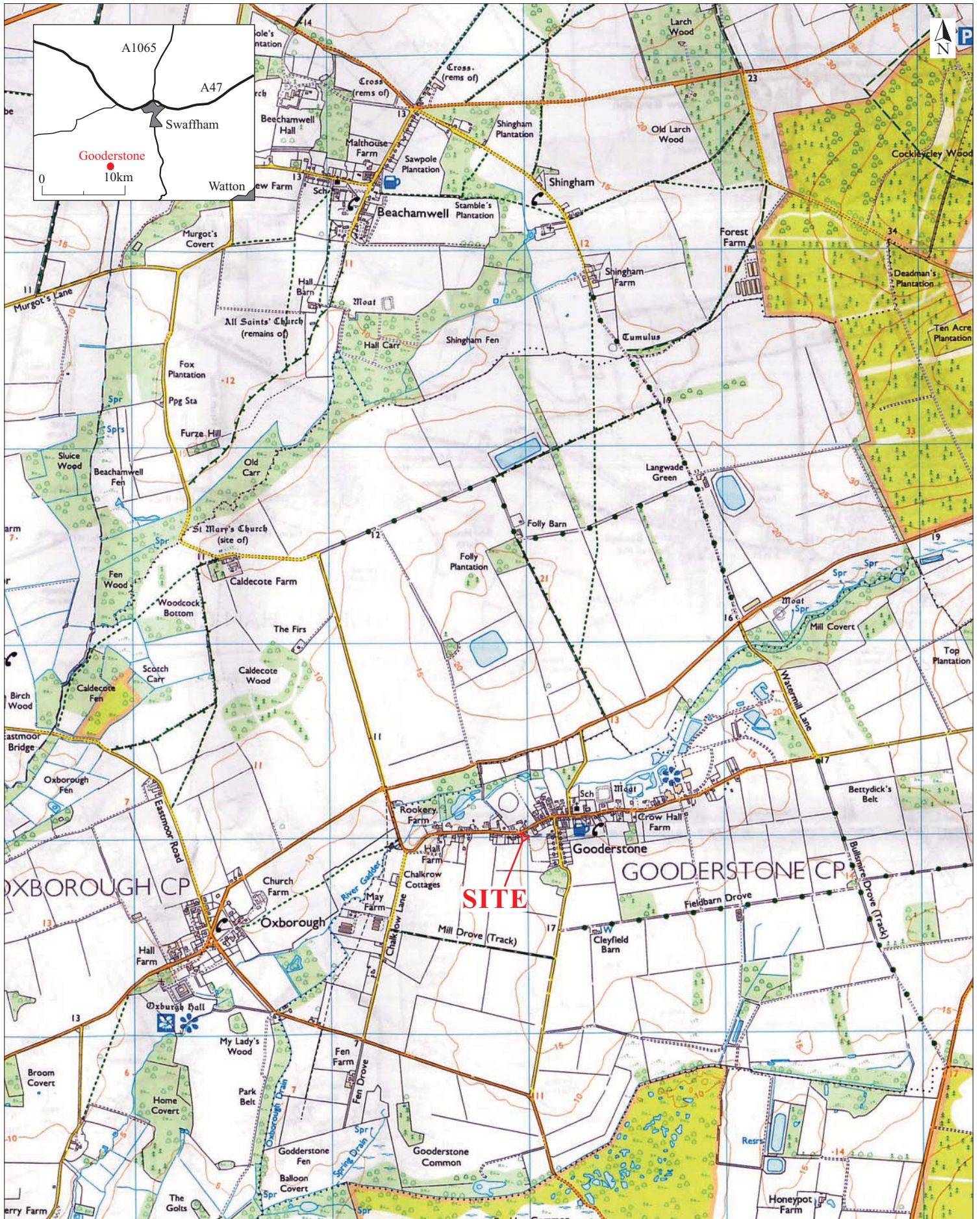
2
F1005 looking south-east



3
F1007 looking south-east

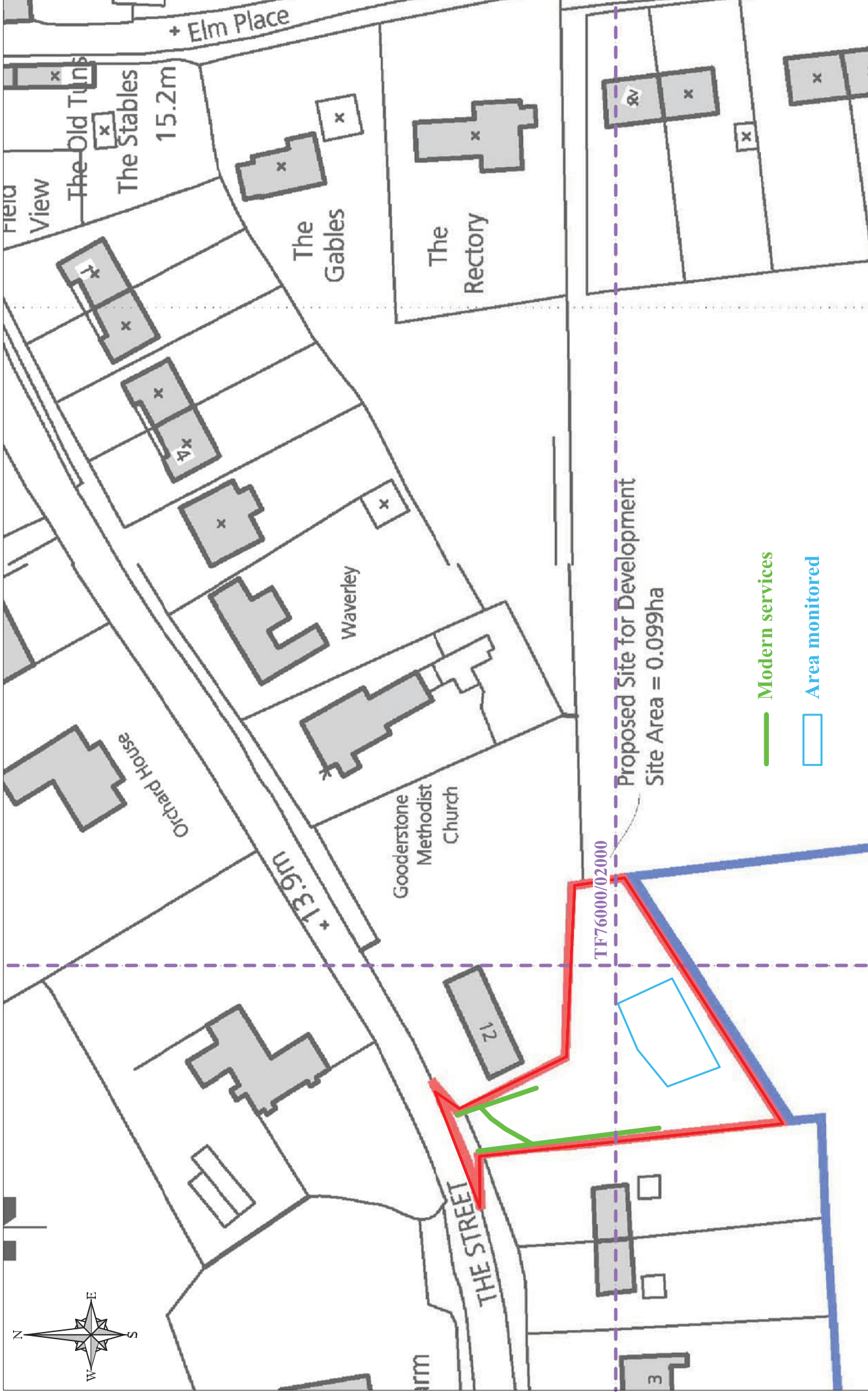


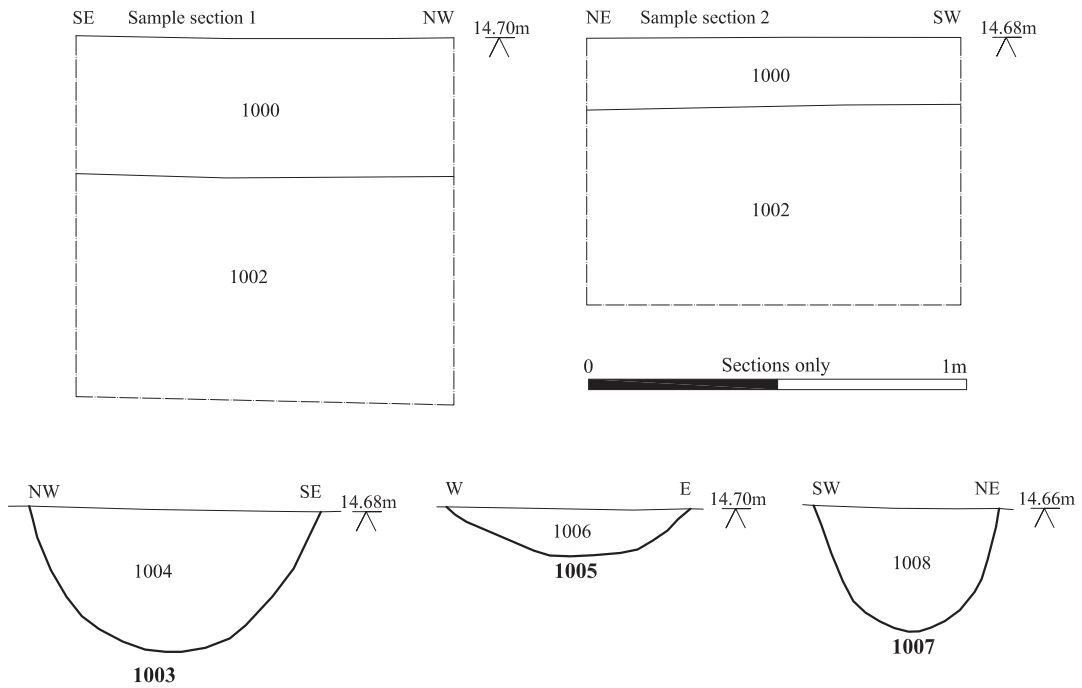
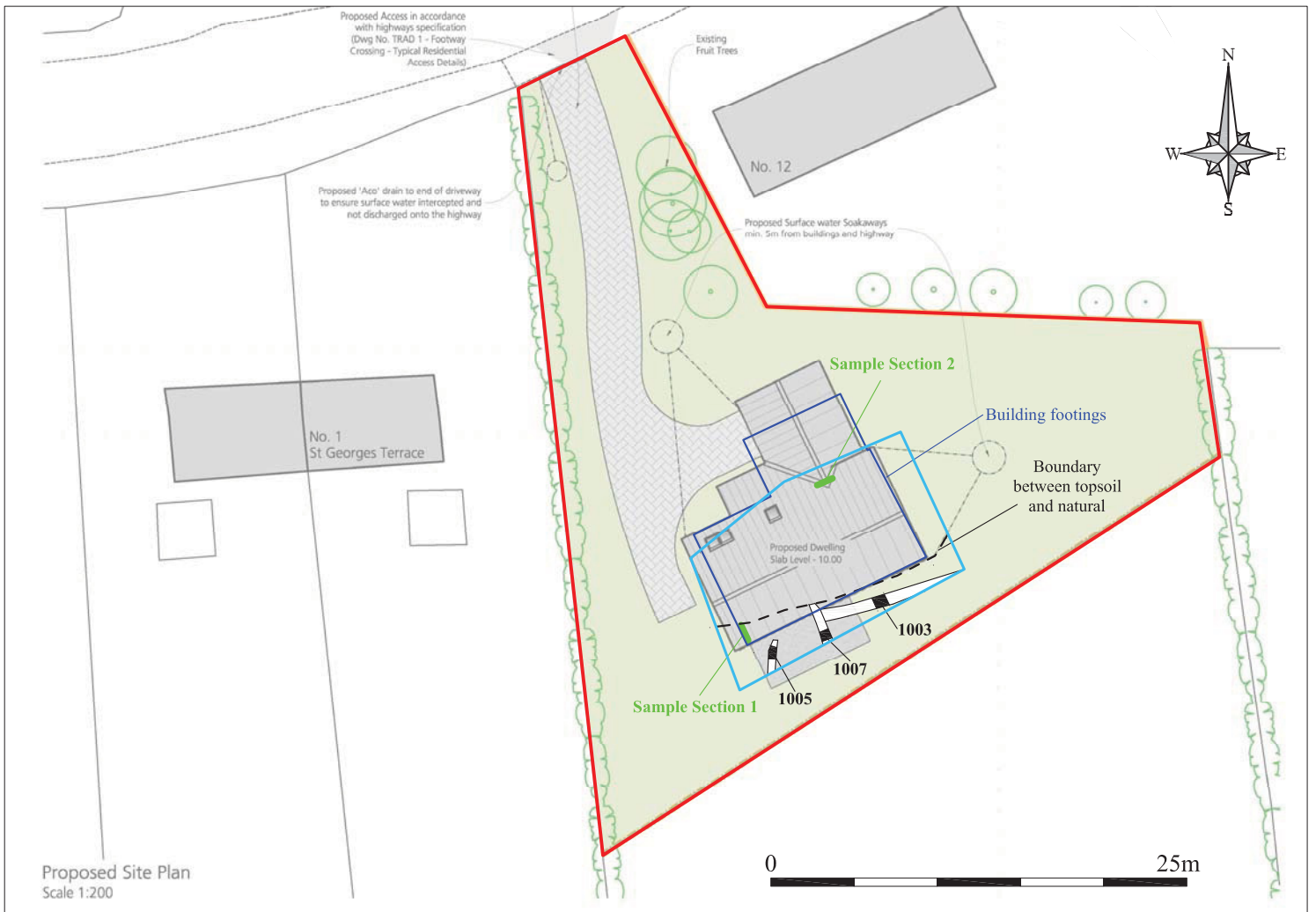
4
General view of site looking north-east



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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Gooderstone, Norfolk (P6371)





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Fig. 3 Site plan and sections

Scale 1:400 and 1:20 at A4

Gooderstone, Norfolk (P6371)