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SITE SOUTH OF OUSE HOUSE, PURFLEET QUAY, KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK PE30 1HP

MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

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NGR: TF 6153 2009	Report No: 4845	
District: King's Lynn and West Norfolk	Site Code: ENF 135596	
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 5949	
Signed:	Date: 29 th May 2015	

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CONTENTS

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

SUMMARY

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS**
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 5 METHODOLOGY**
- 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 7 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 8 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 9 DISCUSSION**
- 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

BIBLIOGRAPHY

OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details Site South of Ouse House, Purfleet Quay, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 1HP			
Project name			
<i>In May 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control on a site south of Ouse House, Purfleet Quay, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 1HP (NGR TF 6153 2009). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a dwelling (King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council Ref 13/00427/F, Appeal Approval Ref APP/V2635/A/13/2207866), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES).</i>			
<i>Based on recorded archaeological sites and finds in the immediate area, including extant structures and structural remains, the Ouse House site had a potential for archaeological remains. In the event the monitoring encountered only modern features, comprising a 20th century ceramic pipe, and two parallel iron rails. That said the foundations were relatively shallow (c.0.60m) and were contained within modern made ground.</i>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		May 2015	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work (Y/N/?) N
P. number		5949	Site code ENF 135596
Type of project		Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control	
Site status		None	
Current land use			
Planned development		Single dwelling	
Main features (+dates)		-	
Significant finds (+dates)		-	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Norfolk	King's Lynn and West Norfolk King's Lynn
HER/ SMR for area		Norfolk Historic Environment Record	
Post code (if known)		PE30 1HP	
Area of site		Approximately 200m ²	
NGR		TF 6153 2009	
Height AOD (min/max)		c. 4.90m	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		Barlow, G.	
Funded by		Mr & Mrs Link	
Full title		Site South of Ouse House, Purfleet Quay, King's Lynn, Norfolk. Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control	
Authors		Barlow, G.	
Report no.		4845	
Date (of report)		May 2015	

SITE SOUTH OF OUSE HOUSE, PURFLEET QUAY, KING'S LYNN, NORFOLK PE30 1HP

MONITORING OF WORKS UNDER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL

SUMMARY

In May 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control on a site south of Ouse House, Purfleet Quay, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 1HP (NGR TF 6153 2009). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a dwelling (King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council Ref 13/00427/F, Appeal Approval Ref APP/V2635/A/13/2207866), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES).

The site lies within an area of archaeological potential on the line of the former medieval quaysides within the historic core of the town. To the immediate east, nearer King Street, is a standing building of late medieval date – listed and described as a 16th century timber-framed extension of a 15th century brick warehouse (Norfolk Historic Environment Record NHER 12006), rear of 5-7 King Street. The NHER 12014 also records an early 17th century warehouse to the south. The site therefore had a potential for medieval and post-medieval quayside remains in particular to be encountered during the groundworks for the proposed new dwelling.

In the event the monitoring encountered only modern features, comprising a 20th century ceramic pipe, and two parallel iron rails. That said the foundations were relatively shallow (c.0.60m) and were contained within modern made ground.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In May 2015 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control on a site south of Ouse House, Purfleet Quay, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE30 1HP (NGR TF 6153 2009; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a dwelling (King's Lynn & West Norfolk Borough Council Ref 13/00427/F, Appeal Approval Ref APP/V2635/A/13/2207866), 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 issued by Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service

(NCC HES; dated 24/09/2012) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 03/09/2014), and approved by NCC HES. The project conformed to the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA) *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief* (revised 2014), as well as Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

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.

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 on Purfleet Quay, to the west of King Street within the historic core of Kings Lynn. The site lies is a rear yard on the river frontage side of Purfleet Quay. It was proposed to construct a new dwelling following the removal of an existing metal framed storage building.

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site lies at approximately 5m AOD immediately east of the canalised River Great Ouse, on low lying land prone to flooding until it was reclaimed. The site lies on a solid geology of marine alluvium in an area where Romney soils and Wisbech soils are prevalent. The complex local geology is formed in places from a succession of deposit layers since the medieval period.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 An extensive settlement existed by late Saxon times. The Domesday survey describes Lynn as an essentially agricultural settlement, but also states that its occupants harvested the salt marshes producing enough to have a surplus for trade. However, it was not until c.1101 that the medieval town was founded when Bishop Hugh de Losinga granted the land between the Millfleet and Purfleet to the Benedictines, and gave the people of Lynn the right to hold weekly markets and annual fairs. The settlement expanded eastwards and then northwards during the 12th century. The northward expansion took place onto what was known as 'the New Land', between c.1146 and 1173, and was planned by Bishop William (Clarke and Carter 1977, 1).

4.2 The site lies within an area of archaeological potential on the line of the former medieval quaysides within the historic core of the town, and consequently there are approximately 150 HER points recorded within 250m. Excavation 200m to the south-east of the site, revealed wattle and daub buildings and yards dating from c.1250 covered by flood silt, and then built over with more timber structures and jetties (NHER 1219). The site of a re-erected medieval arched wall thought to have been part of a wool warehouse is located 190m to the north (NHER 1161). Excavations 240m to the north-east revealed evidence of medieval and post-medieval occupation including hearths and pits in an area prone to waterlogging (NHER

1163). Remains of a medieval house were identified at 20 King Street (NHER 1165), and medieval and post-medieval buildings were recorded on the site of Baker Street lavatories (NHER 32891).

4.3 The closest medieval archaeological finds to the site are two large fragments of 14th century limestone tracery found 3m deep in a trench 60m to the south-east (NHER 24205). Traces of a cobbled surface below a layer of oyster shell were also present. A medieval stonework window and shaft base, were found on the site of a demolished bakery at 22 King Street (NHER 12676). A medieval glazed floor tile and a bone figurine were found near the Custom House (NHER 28587).

4.3 In addition to the above there are a large number of listed buildings within 250m of the site, some dating from the 16th century. The closest building lies to the immediate east of the site, and to the rear of 5-7 King Street. It is Grade II listed and described as a 16th century timber-framed extension of a 15th century brick warehouse (NHER 12006). The majority of buildings in King Street and the vicinity of the site are 17th century and later buildings, comprising a mix of houses and warehouses. The closest is a Grade II listed 17th century warehouse on Purfleet Quay adjoining 3 King Street, which is within 40-50m of the site (NHER 12014). The Custom House, one of the most recognizable buildings in King's Lynn and dating from 1683, is located approximately 90m south-east of the site (NHER 5479).

4.2 A Desk-Based Assessment carried out in 2008 including the site, demonstrated that there has been continuous expansion of made ground into the river in this area from c.1100-1800, and that development of the area may have an impact on post-medieval jetties and riverside building evidence (NHER 51549). The site therefore had a potential for medieval and post-medieval quayside remains in particular, to be encountered during the groundworks for the proposed new dwelling.

5 METHODOLOGY

5.1 The foundation trenches were excavated using a mini 360° mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket. They were 0.60m wide and up to 0.60m deep.

5.2 The archaeological investigation 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

6.1 The stratigraphy was recorded in three sample sections:

<i>Sample section 1 (Fig. 4; DP3)</i> 0.00 = 4.96m AOD		
0.00-0.05m	L1000	Concrete surface. Pale yellow grey concrete.
0.05-0.28m	L1001	Modern Made Ground. Firm, mid brown orange, silty sand with frequent medium to large sub-rounded and rounded sandstone.
0.28-0.34m	L1002	Modern Made Ground. Firm, mid brown orange, silty coarse sand.
0.34-0.40m	L1003	Modern Made Ground. Compact, dark brown grey, silty sand with occasional medium pale yellow CBM fragments.
0.40-0.46m	L1004	Iron Rails
0.46-0.60m+	L1005	Modern Made Ground: Compact, dark brown grey, silty sand with occasional small sub-angular flints.

<i>Sample section 2 (Fig. 4; DP4)</i> 0.00 = 4.80m AOD		
0.00-0.05m	L1006	Modern Made Ground. Compact, mid brown grey, clay silt with frequent small CBM fragments (current ground surface).
0.05-0.30m	L1001	Modern Made Ground. As above.
0.30-0.36m	L1002	Modern Made Ground. As above.
0.36-0.60m+	L1007	Modern Made Ground. Compact, dark brown grey, silty sand with moderate small to medium sub-rounded flints.

<i>Sample section 3 (Fig. 4; DP4)</i> 0.00 = 4.91m AOD		
0.00-0.30m	L1001	Modern Made ground. As above.
0.30-0.50m+	L1007	Modern made ground. As above.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

6.2 A modern Iron rail (L1004) was identified in Sample Section 1, overlying modern made ground (L1005) and overlain by modern made ground (L1003). It was parallel to another iron rail c.30m to the south; both rails orientated east/west, possibly bounding a path way. A concrete pillar (c.0.38m in diameter) was recorded south-east of Sample Section 1, located between the two iron rails. A modern ceramic pipe was observed in Sample Section 1 within modern made ground (L1005).

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 site was devoid of any Topsoil. The present ground surface was a pale yellow grey concrete surface, L1000, recorded in Sample Section 1 (c.0.50m thick); and modern Made Ground L1006, in Sample Section 2, a compact, mid brown grey, clay silt with frequent small CBM fragments (c.0.05m). Sealed beneath, was modern Made Ground L1001, a firm, mid brown orange, silty sand with frequent medium to large sub-rounded and rounded sandstone, observed in all three Sample Sections. L1001 overlay L1002 in Sample Sections 1 and 2 and Made Ground L1007 in Sample Section 3. L1002 was a firm, mid brown orange, silty coarse sand, which overlay Made Ground L1003 in Sample Section 1, whilst in Sample Sections 2 and 3, it overlay Made Ground L1007. L1003 was a compact, dark brown grey, silty sand with occasional medium pale yellow CBM fragments.

8.2 The deepest made ground deposits comprised L1005 (c.0.60m below present ground surface) in Sample Section 1, and L1007 in Sample Section 2 and 3 (c.0.5-0.60m below present ground surface). They both consisted of compact, dark brown grey, silty sand, differentiated only by their inclusions; with the latter containing moderate quantities of small to medium sub-rounded flints, and the former had sparse quantities of small sub-rounded flints.

9 DISCUSSION

9.1 Based on recorded archaeological sites and finds in the immediate area, including extant structures and structural remains, the Ouse House site had a potential for archaeological remains.

9.2 In the event the monitoring encountered only modern features, comprising a 20th century ceramic pipe, and two parallel iron rails. That said the foundations were relatively shallow (c.0.60m) and were contained within modern made ground.

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.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions Ltd would like to thank Mr & Mrs Link for commissioning and funding the project, Mr Martin Rayner of MER Construction Services Ltd, and Mr David Taylor of David Taylor Associates UK Ltd for assistance.

AS is also pleased to acknowledge the advice and input of Dr Ken Hamilton of Norfolk County Council, and the NHER for the provision of Historic Environment Record Data.

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Society for medieval archaeology, monograph series no. 7.

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Web Sites

www.Heritage Explorer

www.Norfolk Heritage Exporer

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1
General shot of site after excavation of footings



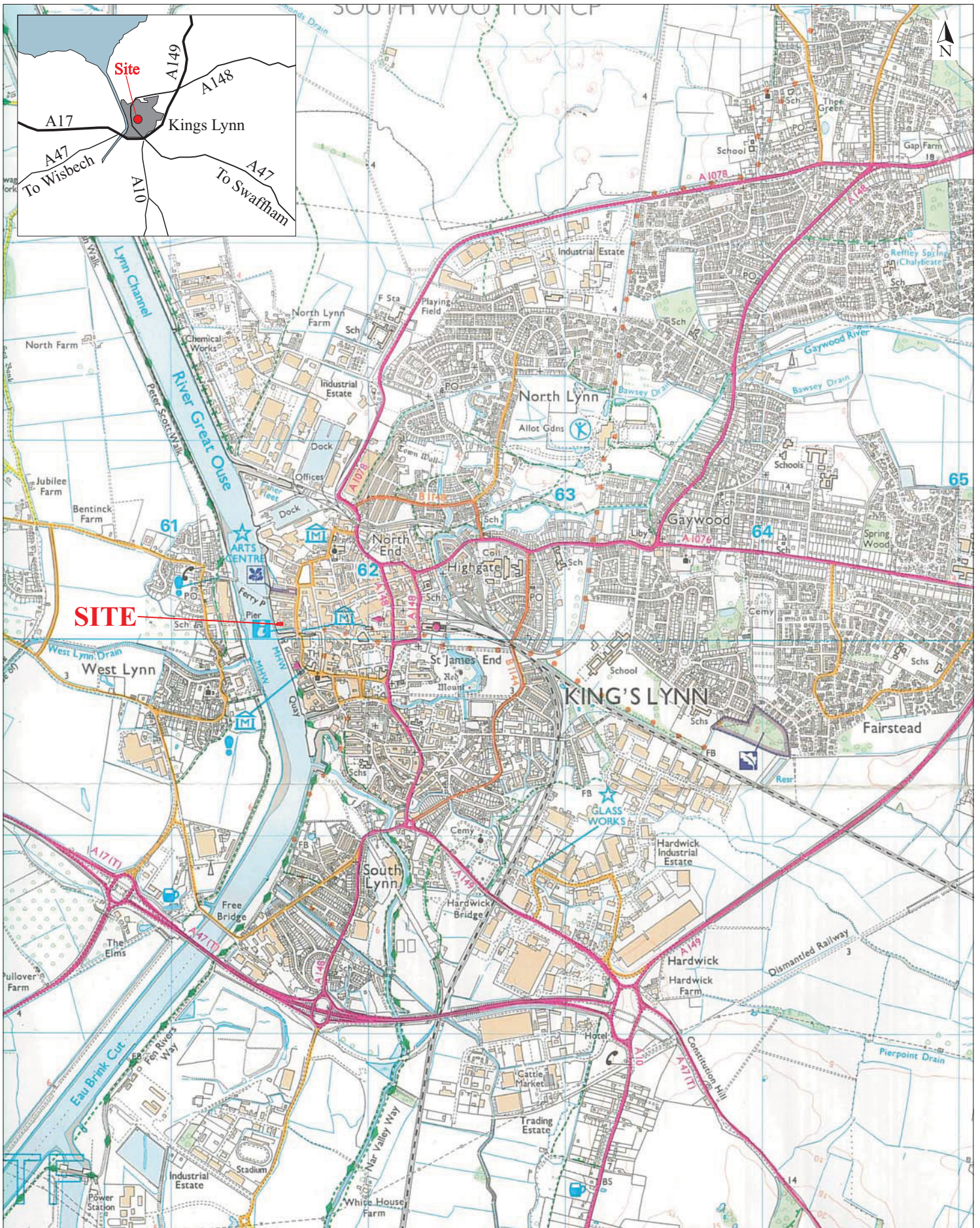
2
Sample section 1



3
Sample section 2



4
Sample section 3



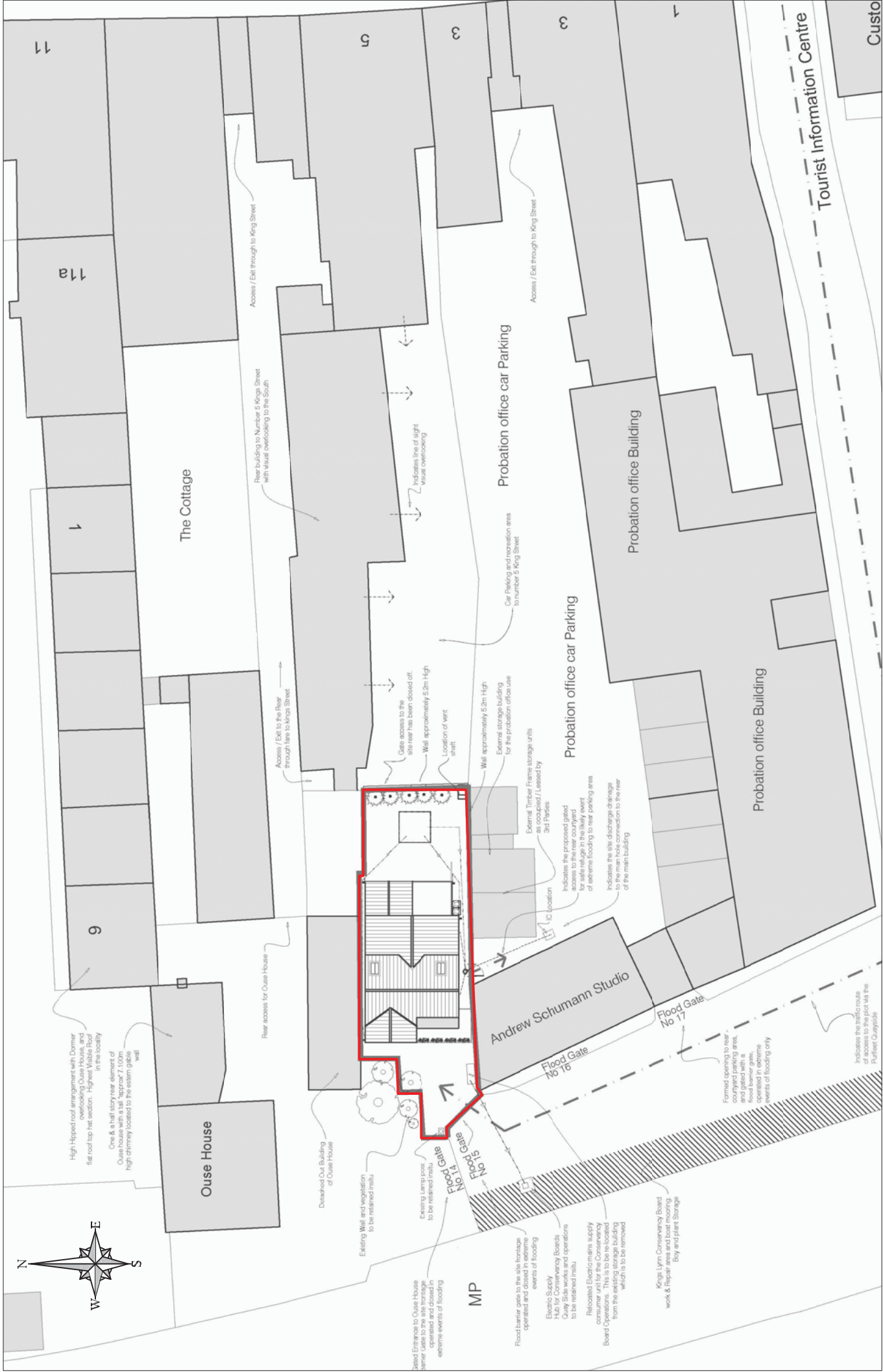
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4
 Purfleet Quay, Kings Lynn, Norfolk (P5949)



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Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan
 Scale 1:750 at A4
 Purfleet Quay, Kings Lynn, Norfolk (P5949)

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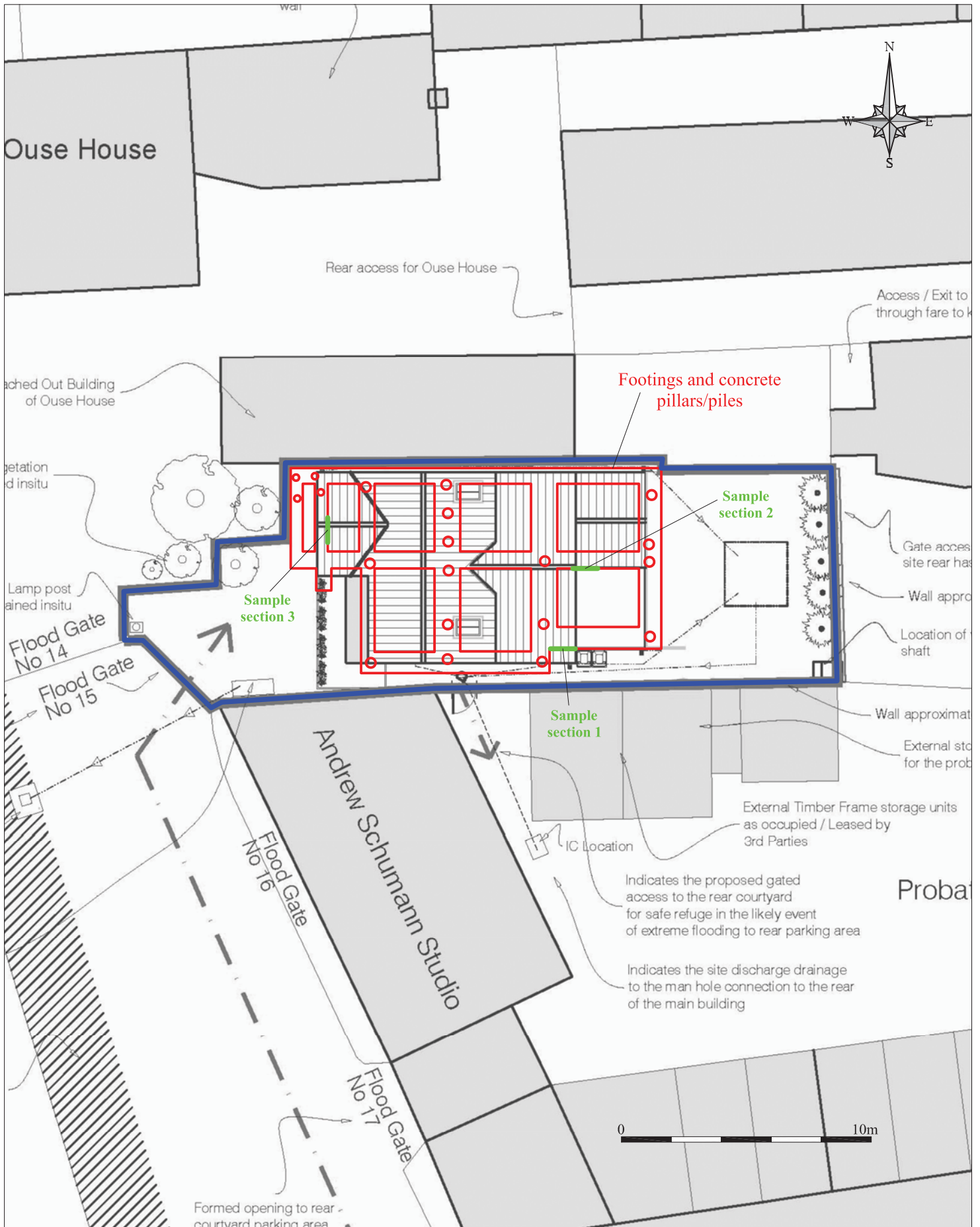
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Fig. 3 Proposed site plan

Scale 1:400 at A4

Purfleet Quay, Kings Lynn, Norfolk (P5949)

0 25m

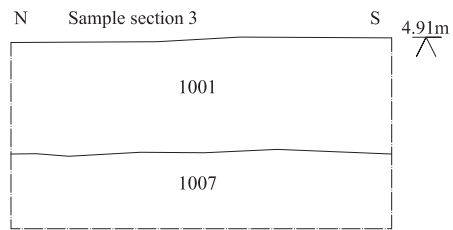
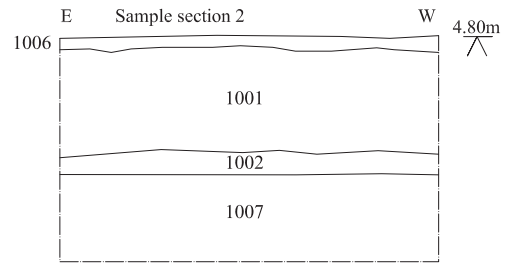
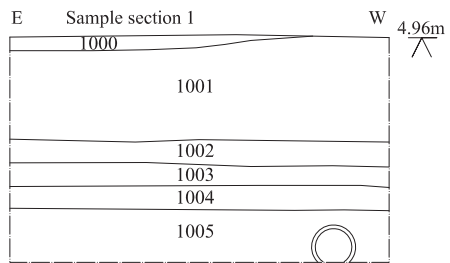


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Fig. 4 Location of monitoring

Scale 1:200 at A4

Purfleet Quay, Kings Lynn, Norfolk (P5949)



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Fig. 5 Sample sections
Scale 1:20 at A4
Purfleet Quay, Kings Lynn, Norfolk (P5949)