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**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS LTD**

**DETACHED HOUSE, HOBLAND ROAD, BRADWELL,  
GREAT YARMOUTH, NORFOLK NR31 9AR**

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

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUPERVISION AND CONTROL**

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Illustrations:	Thomas Light	
NGR: TG 50900 01590	Report No: 5005	
District: Norfolk	Site Code: ENF133513	
Approved: Claire Halpin MCIfA	Project No: 5528	
Signed:	Date: 16 December 2015	

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#### ***SUMMARY***

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
<b>Project name</b>		Detached House, Hobland Road, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 9AR	
<p><i>In January 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control at Hobland Road, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk. The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a detached house and garage.</i></p> <p><i>The site occupies an area of archaeological potential including numerous prehistoric and later cropmarks. Multiple find spots of Mesolithic to middle Bronze Age stone tools are recorded within 1km of the site, and include a hoard of Neolithic axe heads and a polisher. Romano-British finds/ sites are less well represented. Anglo-Saxon and later finds are relatively plentiful from Bradwell and include coins and items of personal adornment. The site is also close to 18<sup>th</sup> century Hobland House and Hobland Hall Park.</i></p> <p><i>In the event, the project encountered no archaeological features or finds.</i></p>			
<b>Project dates (fieldwork)</b>		20/01/2014	
<b>Previous work (Y/N/?)</b>		N	<b>Future work (Y/N/?)</b> N
<b>P. number</b>		5528	<b>Site code</b> ENF133513
<b>Type of project</b>		Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control	
<b>Site status</b>		-	
<b>Current land use</b>		Garden	
<b>Planned development</b>		Residential	
<b>Main features (+dates)</b>		None	
<b>Significant finds(+dates)</b>		None	
<b>Project location</b>			
<b>County/ District/ Parish</b>		Norfolk	Great Yarmouth Bradwell
<b>HER/ SMR for area</b>		Norfolk Historic Environment Record	
<b>Post code (if known)</b>		NR31 9AR	
<b>Area of site</b>		1200m <sup>2</sup>	
<b>NGR</b>		TG 50900 01590	
<b>Height AOD (min/max)</b>		c. 23m	
<b>Project creators</b>			
<b>Brief issued by</b>		Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service	
<b>Project supervisor/s (PO)</b>		Kamil Orzechowski	
<b>Funded by</b>		Bateman Groundworks Ltd	
<b>Full title</b>		Detached House, Hobland Road, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth, Norfolk NR31 9AR. Monitoring of Works Under Archaeological Supervision and Control	
<b>Authors</b>		McClellan, C. and Mustchin, A.R.R.	
<b>Report no.</b>		5005	
<b>Date (of report)</b>		16 December 2015	

**DETACHED HOUSE, HOBLAND ROAD, BRADWELL, GREAT YARMOUTH,  
NORFOLK NR31 9AR**

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

**SUMMARY**

*In January 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out monitoring of works under archaeological supervision and control at Hobland Road, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth (centred on NGR TG 50900 01590). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a detached house and garage.*

*The site occupies an area of archaeological potential including numerous prehistoric and later cropmarks. Multiple find spots of Mesolithic to middle Bronze Age stone tools are recorded within 1km of the site, and include a hoard of Neolithic axe heads and a polisher. Romano-British finds/ sites are less well represented. Anglo-Saxon and later finds are relatively plentiful from Bradwell and include coins and items of personal adornment. The site is also close to 18<sup>th</sup> century Hobland House and Hobland Hall Park.*

*In the event, the project encountered no archaeological features or finds.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In January 2014 Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) carried out a programme of archaeological monitoring and recording at Hobland Road, Bradwell, Great Yarmouth NR31 9AR (centred on NGR TG 50900 01590; Figs. 1-2). The monitoring was undertaken in compliance with a condition attached to planning permission for the construction of a detached house and garage (Planning ref. 06/13/0103/F), based on the advice of Norfolk County Council Historic Environment Service (NCC HES).

1.2 The monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a generic brief prepared by NCC HES and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (29/10/2013) 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* (2014), and relevant sections of Gurney's (2003) *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England*.

**Objectives**

1.3 The objectives of the archaeological monitoring and recording (as set out in the written scheme of investigation) 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 Hobland Road is located to the south/ south-west of Bradwell village, some 3km from the centre of Great Yarmouth on the Norfolk coast. The meandering, east/west line of a watercourse passes approximately 1km to the south and the coast is c. 2.2km distant.

2.2 The site is set back from Hobland Road, c.75m to the north. The development plot comprises a private garden/paddock, currently laid down to pasture. Existing residences bound the site to the east, while a yard area and light industrial/agricultural buildings are present to the south, fronting Hobland Road. The

site is bounded by further garden and/ or agricultural land to the north and west. The buildings of Hobland Farm are present c. 135m to the south-west.

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

3.1 The site occupies the gently undulating Norfolk coastal plain, some 2.2km inland and c. 5.2km south-east of the confluence of the Rivers Yare and Waveney. The site sits at approximately 23m AOD, above the solid geology of Pleistocene sands and gravels (British Geological Survey 1978). The site's soils are those of the Wick 3 Association, comprising 'deep well drained coarse loamy often stoneless. Some similar sandy soils. Complex pattern locally. Risk of water erosion' (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983, 9). These soils are suitable for cereal cultivation (*ibid.*).

### **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

#### *Prehistoric*

4.1 Prehistoric sites and find spots, mostly comprising cropmarks, are numerous in the surrounding area. The earliest finds within 1km of the site are Mesolithic stone tools found by systematic field walking and metal detecting by Cambridge Archaeological Unit, some 850m to the north-east (NHER 60114). This site yielded stone tools spanning the Mesolithic to middle Bronze Age (*ibid.*). Finds of Neolithic stone axes, including a hoard of axe heads and a polisher are known approximately 1km to the south-west of the site (NHER 10494) and 880m to the south-east (NHER 60114), respectively.

4.2 Numerous cropmark ring-ditches, mostly of ?Bronze Age date are recorded in the area of Bradwell (e.g. NHERs 12777 and 12779). However, a recently excavated example at Wheatcroft Farm, some 1.6km to the north-west, has been found to be a windmill mound of medieval to post-medieval date (Mustchin 2015). Further cropmarks include possible prehistoric or Romano-British field boundaries at Hopton-on-Sea (NHER 45188), some 370m to the south-west of the site, and extensive field and settlement cropmarks, thought to be of late Iron age or Romano-British date (NHER 45052), located c. 550m to the north-east.

#### *Romano-British*

4.3 Romano-British evidence is relatively scarce from the area, although includes cropmarks of possible Roman date within the site and its immediate surroundings (NHERs 43467 and 43476). Local finds of this date include copper alloy coins of Constantine I or II and Vespasian (NHERs 10559 and 10560) and a 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman coin (NHER 12433), all from Gorleston-on-Sea.

#### *Anglo-Saxon to Medieval*

4.4 Metal detecting has recovered a number of Anglo-Saxon finds, including a brooch, a book mount and a silver ingot (NHERs 18004, 21796 and 39556), all within



the area of Bradwell. Various pieces of medieval metalwork, including coins (e.g. NHERs 18991, 18992 and 18993), a buckle (NHER 21795), a brooch (NHER 30084) and a lead seal matrix (NHER 19242) have also been found in the vicinity. Neighbouring Gorleston-on-Sea and Browston are also recorded in the Domesday Book ([www.opendomesday.org](http://www.opendomesday.org)). The deserted medieval village of Browston is thought to be located in the vicinity of Browston Hall (NHER 11433), some 900m to the north-west of the site.

### *Post-Medieval and Modern*

4.5 Post-medieval evidence in the immediate vicinity of the site includes 18<sup>th</sup> century Hobland House (NHER 42863) and Hobland Hall Park (NHER 56288). Browston Hall (NHER 24633) is located some 900m to the north-west. In addition, a number of local cropmarks are thought to relate to post-medieval field systems and trackways. A large corpus of records relates to the World War II landscape and includes the site of a high frequency direction finding station (NHER 42232), to the north-east of the site and a gun emplacement (NHER 42230), also to the north-east.

## **5 METHODOLOGY**

5.1 The archaeological monitoring and recording comprised the observation of all groundworks associated with the proposed development. The foundation trenches were excavated under close archaeological supervision and control using a mechanical 360° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket.

5.2 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 finds.

## **6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**

A sample section of the stratigraphy encountered was recorded:

<i>Sample Section 1</i>		
<i>0.00m = 22.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.31m	L1000	Topsoil. Firm, dark brown grey clayey silt with moderate to occasional rounded and angular flint and occasional demolition material
0.31 – 0.72m+	L1001	Subsoil. Friable, dark brown silty sand with occasional medium to small angular flint
0.72m +	L1002	Natural. Loose, dark orange yellow coarse sand with occasional medium to small angular flint

*Description: No archaeological finds or features were present.*

## **7 CONFIDENCE RATING**

7.1 Within the parameters of monitoring during groundworks it is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## **8 DEPOSIT MODEL**

8.1 Uppermost Topsoil L1000 was a firm, dark grey brown, clayey silt with moderate to occasional rounded and angular flint, and occasional demolition material (c. 0.31m thick). Below L1000 was Subsoil L1001, a friable, dark brown silty sand with occasional medium to small angular flint (c. 0.41m thick). Below L1001 was the natural, L1002, a loose, dark orange yellow coarse sand with occasional medium to small angular flint.

## **9 DISCUSSION**

9.1 The site lies close to Hobland Hall and Hobland Hall Cottages at Bradwell. It lies within an area of archaeological potential. Multi-period cropmarks, enclosure, settlements and field systems of later prehistoric, Roman and medieval date have been located in the area. Cropmarks to the north of the site may extend into it.

9.2 The archaeological potential at the site, the monitoring and recording revealed no archaeological features or finds.

## **10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

10.1 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 (AS) would like to thank Mr Richard Bateman for funding the monitoring. AS also thanks Mr Simon Nicholas of Paul Robinson Partnership (UK) LLP.

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

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
*Entrance to the site looking north*



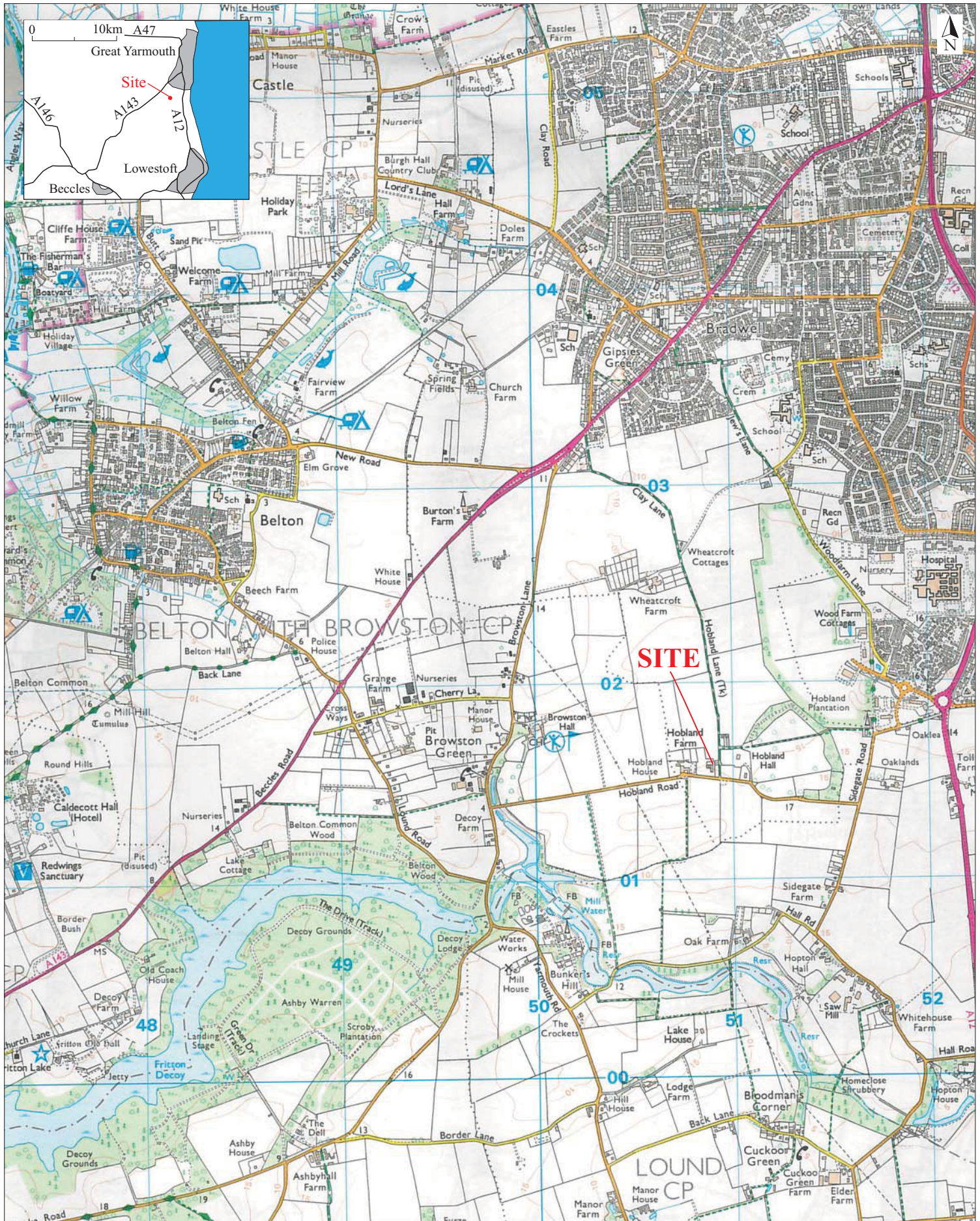
2  
*Complete footing excavation looking west*



3  
*Complete footing excavation looking east*

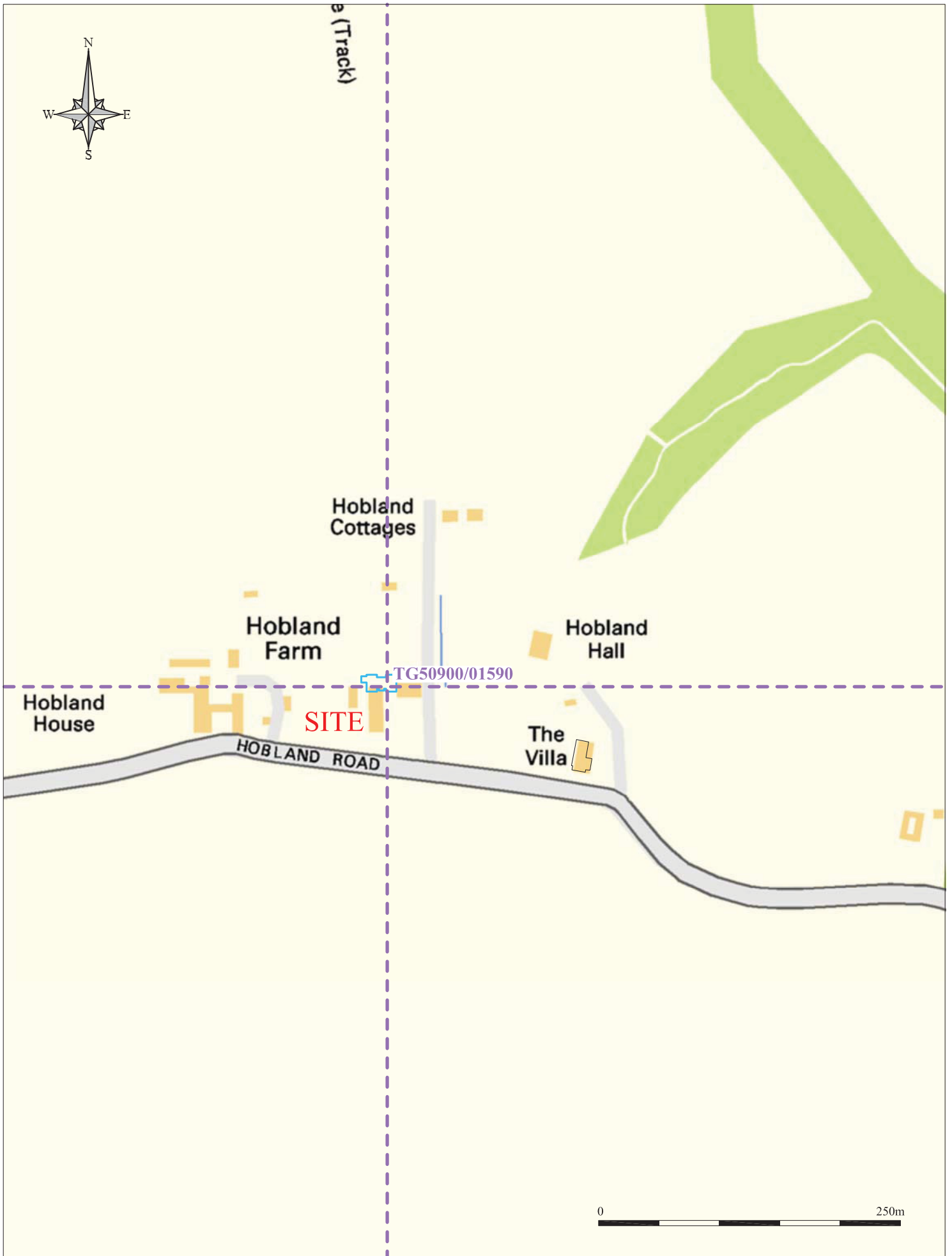


4  
*Sample section No.1(SS1) – facing south*

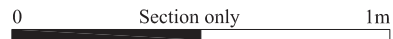
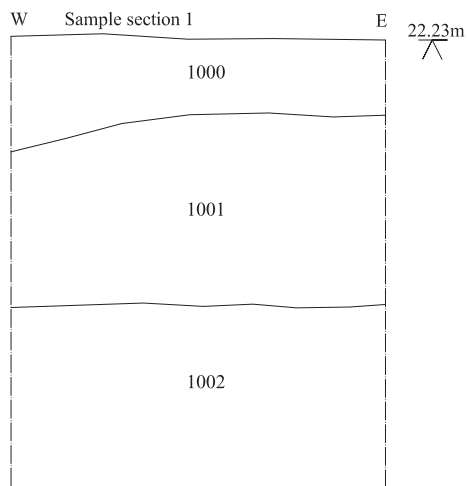
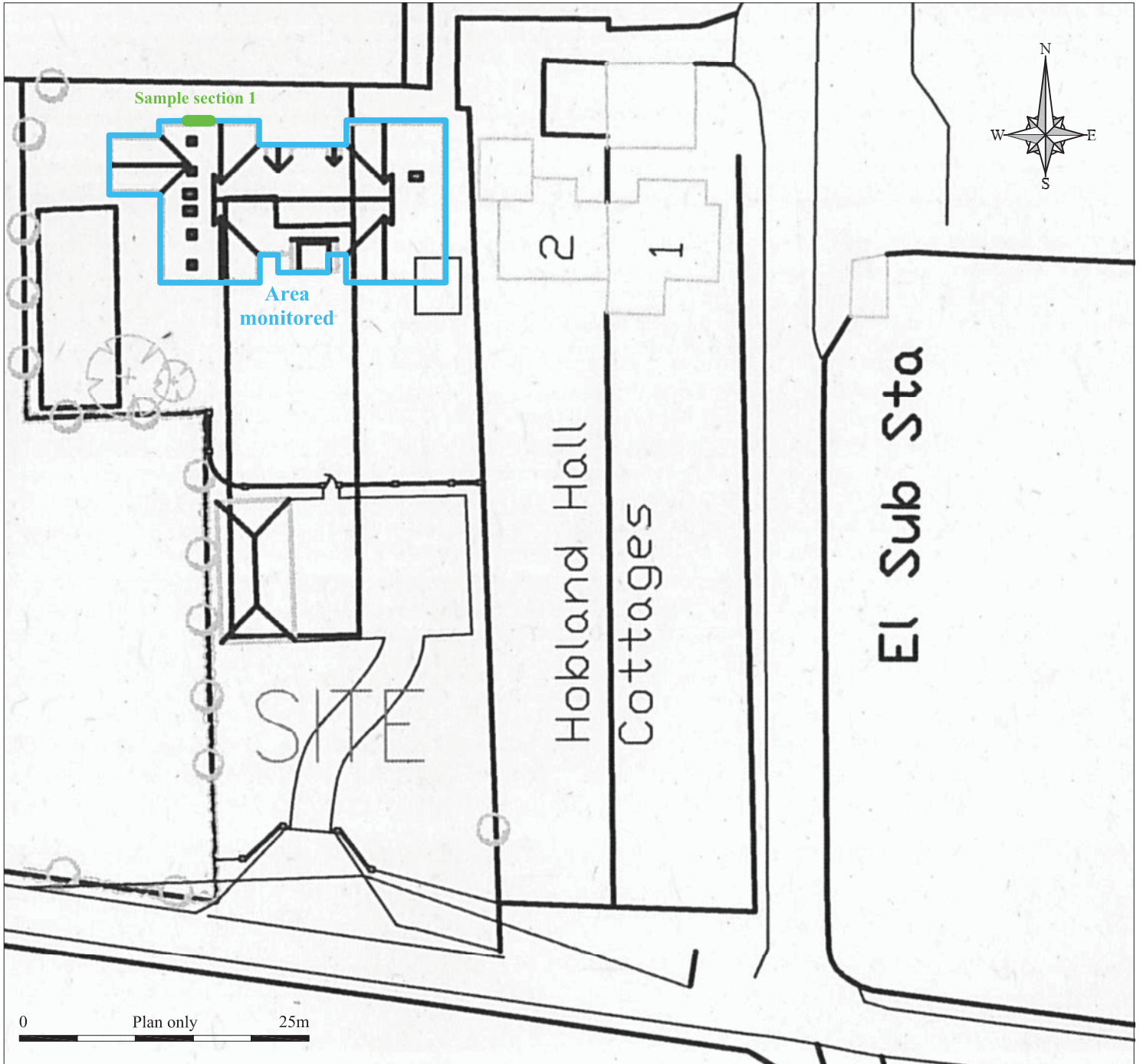


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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4  
 Hobland Road, Bradwell, Norfolk (P5528)



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**Fig. 2 Detailed site location plan**  
 Scale 1:4000 at A4  
 Hobland Road, Bradwell, Norfolk (P5528)



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**Fig. 3 Site plan and sample section**

Scale 1:500 and 1:20 at A4

Hobland Road, Bradwell, Norfolk (P5528)