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|------------|----------------|---|
| 1.0 | PARISH | Godsfield, now Old Alresford CP (Map 1) |
| 2.0 | HUNDRED | Bountisborough |
| 3.0 | NGR | 460400 137060 |
| 4.0 | GEOLOGY | Upper Chalk |

5.0 SITE CONTEXT (Map 2)

Godsfield is a small land parcel of approximately 3km². The highest point is on the northern boundary of the former parish, on the peak of Bugmore Hill which is 160m AOD. The only known buildings of antiquity are the chapel and associated farm that comprise the site of the C14 preceptory of the Knights Hospitaller (125m AOD). Here, the water supply is derived from a well.

6.0 PLAN TYPE & DESCRIPTION (Maps 3, 4, and 5)

Religious house

- 6.1.1** According to a source cited in VCH (4: 189) there was only one house in Godsfield in c. 1830. This house was the farmhouse and it is of C18 date. Attendant barns to the west are C17. The other building within the group is a chapel and living rooms of C14 date that was the principal component of the preceptory of the Knights Hospitaller. The precise layout of the site is not known but in addition to the standing buildings VCH (4: 190) notes that to the north-west (of the chapel) the broken lines of the ground suggest the existence of the remains of ruined buildings.
- 6.1.2** VCH also quotes a C16 survey that describes (adjoining the chapel) *a convenient house for a gentleman built of timber with 8 or 9 good lodging chambers* (presumably the predecessor of the present farmhouse)...*watered with a well of excellent good water with garden, orchard, barns, stables and all other out housing of all sorts sufficient* (VCH 4: 191). The well thus described is probably the one that is marked on the 1874 OS 10,560 map (see paragraph 11.0, no.1). Out houses have been lost to the south and east of the chapel since 1874.
- 6.1.3** The layout of a post-Conquest religious house normally can be inferred from a general conformity to church with cloisters and other buildings to the south. At Godsfield, a plan of this kind would be interrupted by the course of a track. However, Aston (1993: 82) states that Hospitaller preceptories were *similar to contemporary manor houses and served as collecting centres for the goods and revenues produced by the estates. ...Their impact upon their local landscapes was slight in most cases.* The physical remains of Godsfield comply with this description.
- 6.2** *Site visit conditions:* Strong sun (19.4.2002).

7.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL (Map 5)

7.1 AsAP

7.1.1 The group of buildings around a well as described in paragraph 11.0, no. 1.

7.2 AsHAP

7.2.1 The medieval chapel, barns and post-medieval manor house / farm house within their collective boundary as described in paragraph 6.0 and sub-paragraphs.

8.0 CHURCH & CHURCHYARD

- A preceptory of the Knights Hospitallar, an organization founded in C12;
- Priest's house attached at west end, one room at ground level, one above;
- 3 x C17 single lights at west end;
- Garderobe attached to the house;
- Entire construction dates to c. 1360-70;
- Useful phased plan in VCH 4: 190.

9.0 BUILDINGS (Map 4)

PRN	Details	Dates	Grade
10269	Godsfield Manor (formerly Farmhouse)	C18, 19	II
10270	Godsfield Farmhouse: barn 20m north-west of	C17, 18	II
10271	Godsfield Chapel	late C14, 15, 17, C19, 20	I

10.0 SMR DATA SW 459925 136780, NE 460865 (Map 4)

See paragraph 11.0

10.1 Hampshire Romano-British Settlements survey

Hants No.	NGR	Parish	NAR / NMR Nos
None known.			

10.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)

SAM No.	NGR	Site
11	460400 137000	Godsfield chapel.

11.0 ADDITIONAL SITES / FEATURES (Map 4)

- 1 460390 137010 Approximate centre of a group of buildings south of the chapel arranged in rectangular order around the site of a well as seen on the OS 10,560 map of 1874. None of these buildings now stands and the present owner (IH 2002) has no recollection of them. It is possible that the well is contemporary with the monastic buildings 20m to the north.

- | | | |
|---|---------------|--|
| 2 | 460460 137040 | Outbuildings marked on the OS 10,560 map of 1874. These have been demolished since C19. |
| 3 | 459250 137700 | According to VCH (4: 189) Swarraton and Godsfield charters frequently refer to the wood of <i>Buggenore</i> and also to a <i>well-known landmark at one of its corners known as the Buggenores Thorn</i> . Buggenore wood survives on the northern boundary of Godsfield on what is now known as Bugmore Hill and it is quite possible that the Buggenore Thorn was close to the summit of the hill. A little to the east of the wood is a number of disused pits, suggesting that this area is one and the same as that described by HTS (1: 224) as Brick Kiln Copse, Bugmore Hill. HTS goes on to suggest that the pits are ancient tile workings. Quarry pits were frequently sited close to parish boundaries, thus indicating the former importance of Bugmore as a boundary marker (see also paragraph 15.2). |
| 4 | 458550 136695 | VCH (4: 189) refers to a gift of land to Godsfield as lying between the <i>new ditch</i> as it extends from the bishop's grove as far as the boundaries of Swarraton. This can only be on the west side of Godsfield and the <i>new ditch</i> referred to is probably the one that is masked by Bush Plantation, that was planted in c. 1830. According to VCH (4: 195) the Spye Bush was a white thorn that was a well-known landmark. Conceivably, it was planted upon a prehistoric barrow that is situated upon the eastern margin of the plantation. |

NB It would seem that thorn bushes were frequently planted (and replaced as necessary) as boundary markers for pre-Conquest land charters. The Buggenore Thorn and the Spye Bush are paralleled by Thickthorn (Dorset), a meeting point of five parish boundaries on the Cranborne Chase.

12.0 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- Tithe Map 21M65/F7/178/2 (* / 1841)
- GSGB 300 Alresford
- OS 1: 2500 SW 459925 136780, NE 460865
- OS 1: 25000 Explorer 132: Winchester, New Alresford & East Meon
- OS 1: 10,560 460662 136890 (1874)

13.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Aston M 1993 *Monasteries* London, Batsford
- Beresford M & Hurst JG *Deserted Medieval Villages* Guildford & London, Lutterworth: 188
- Ryre WLW 1887 Godsfield and its ancient chapel *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society* 1 (2): 73-80
- Gelling M 1984 *Place-names in the landscape* Phoenix, London
- Coates, R 1989 *The Place-names of Hampshire* Southampton, Ensign
- HTS 1: 219-224
- VCH 4: 189-90

14.0 PRIMARY HISTORIC SOURCES

14.1 Domesday Book

Not mentioned but possibly included within Old Alresford.

14.2 Subsidy Rolls

1334		No return.	
1524	<i>1st survey:</i>	£1.14.4	(9 taxpayers)
	<i>2nd survey:</i>	£1.3.8	(10 taxpayers)

NB Taxed with Swarraton in 1524 and the above returns cannot be distinguished from those of that parish / manor.

14.3 Manors

A tithing of Old Alresford. See also Swarraton.

14.4 Hearth Tax 1665

No return listed, probably included in Old Alresford, or with Swarraton as before.

15.0 PLACE NAME

15.1 Late C12 *Godefeld*; 1305 *Godesfeld*. Gover believes that this area was detached from Itchen Stoke and granted to the Knights Hospitaller in the late C12; from which he infers that the name is self-explanatory but the earliest forms do not show the expected *-s*. If the form is OE it could be ‘Goda’s open land’, reinterpreted in the light of its being held by the Hospitallers.

15.2 Gelling (1984: 179) interprets the *ora* element as *hill-slope* or *foot of slope*. This is an accurate description of Bugmore.

16.0 PHOTOGRAPHS

None taken.

Godsfield

Godsfield

17.0 OTHER PROJECT ELEMENTS

17.1 Pre-Conquest Charters & Writs

None known, but see Swarraton.

17.2 Other parish settlements include:

<i>Name</i>	<i>MSP No.</i>	<i>NGR / map ref.</i>	<i>First recorded</i>
None recorded.			

17.3 Enclosures

None recorded.

Parliamentary:

<i>NEP No.</i>	<i>Act</i>	<i>Order</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Details</i>
None.				

Formal Agreements:

<i>NEP No.</i>	<i>Agreement</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Details</i>
None.			

17.4 Commons & Greens (residual)

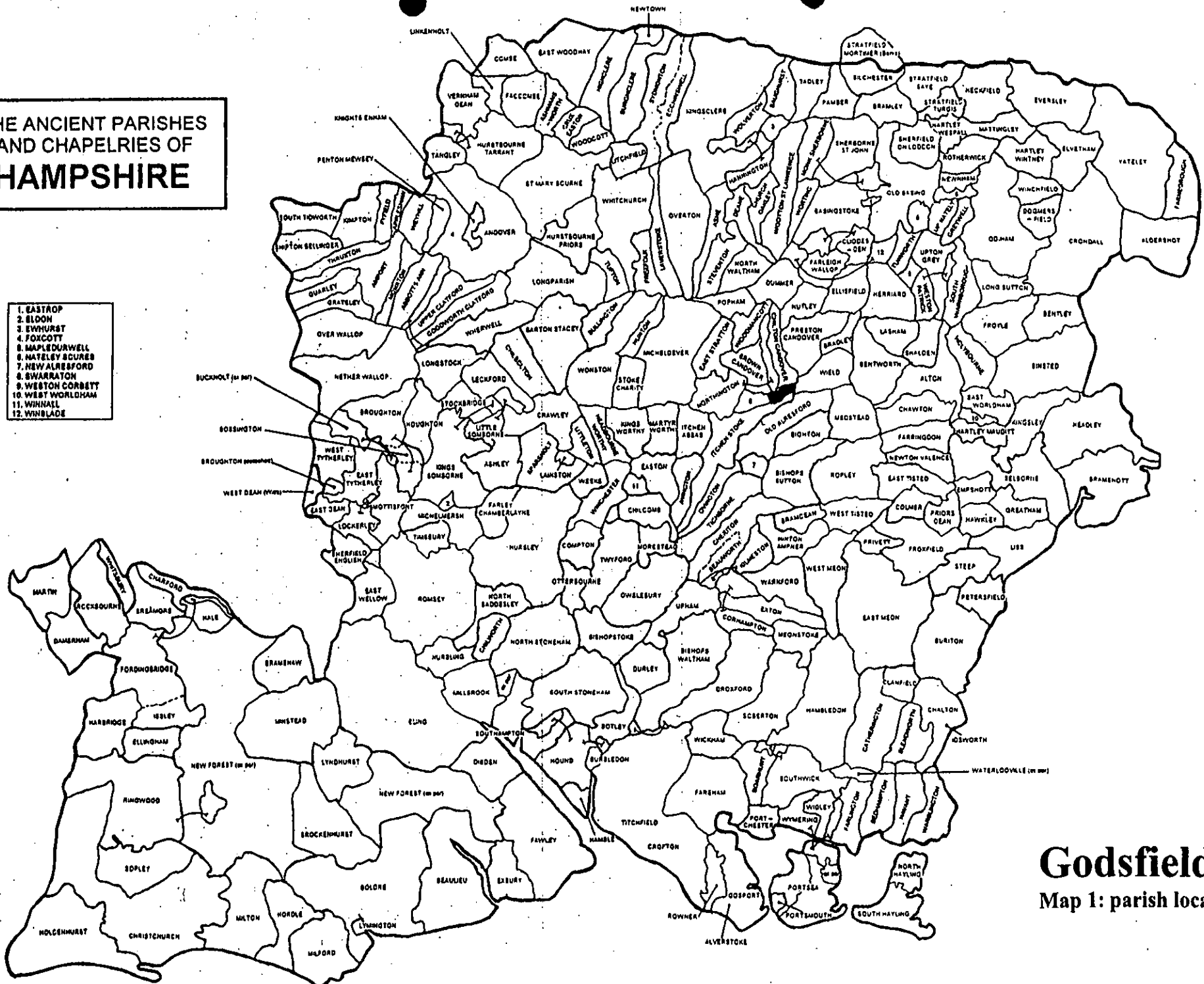
None known.

18.0 ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1 Map 1: Parish location (not to scale)
- 2 Map 2: General (settlement) location at 1: 25000
- 3 Map 3: Ordnance Survey First Edition County Series (c. 1870s) not to scale
- 4 Maps 4: Development & archaeological features at 1: 2500 reduced to 71%
- 5 Maps 5: Areas of archaeological potential at 1: 2500 reduced to 71%.

**THE ANCIENT PARISHES
AND CHAPELRIES OF
HAMPSHIRE**

- 1. EASTROP
- 2. ELDON
- 3. EWHURST
- 4. FOXCOTT
- 5. MAPLEDURWELL
- 6. NATELEY SQUARE
- 7. NEW ALRESFORD
- 8. SWARRATON
- 9. WESTON CORBETT
- 10. WEST WORTHAM
- 11. WINNAIL
- 12. WINBLADE



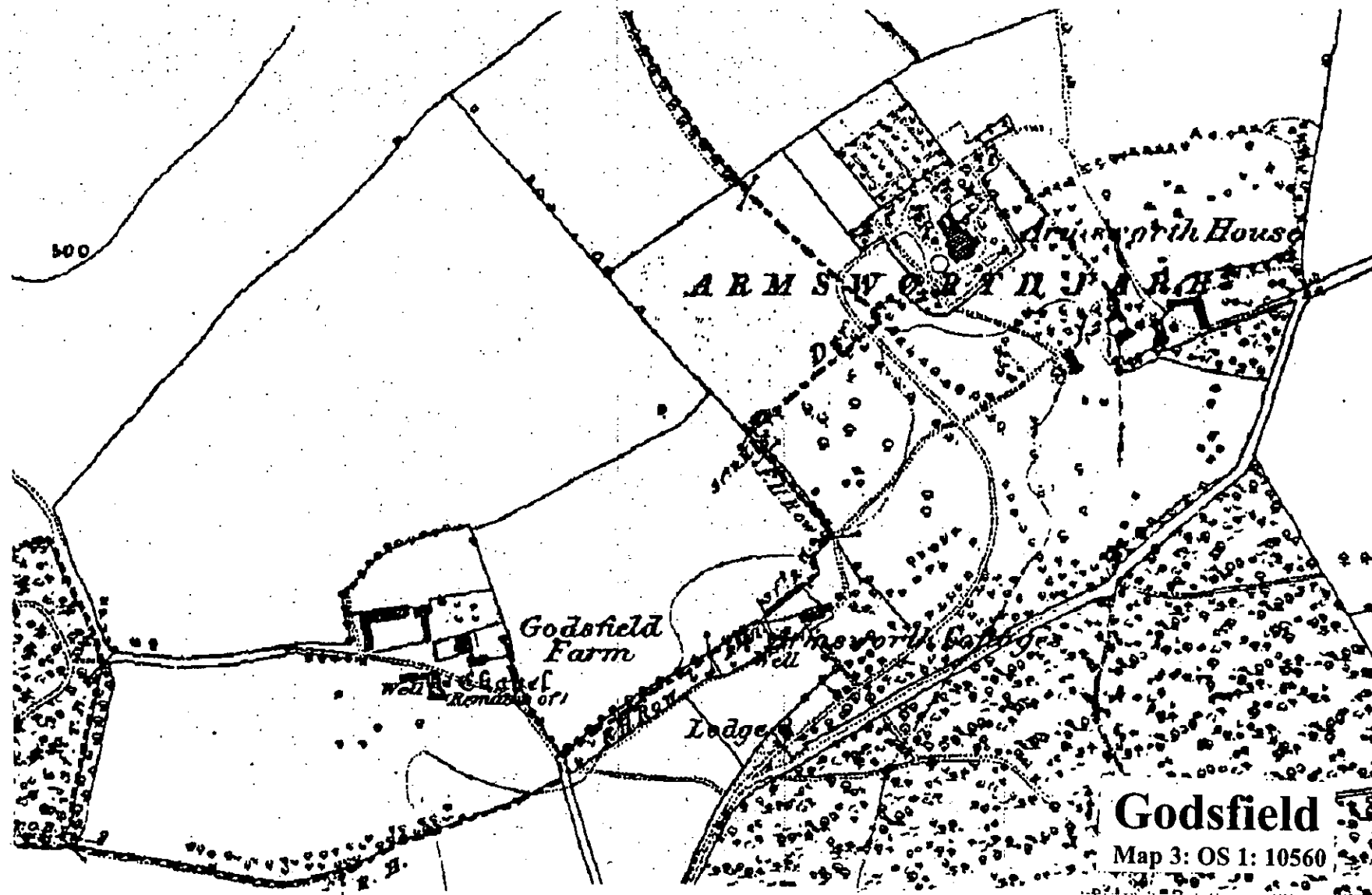
Godsfield
Map 1: parish location



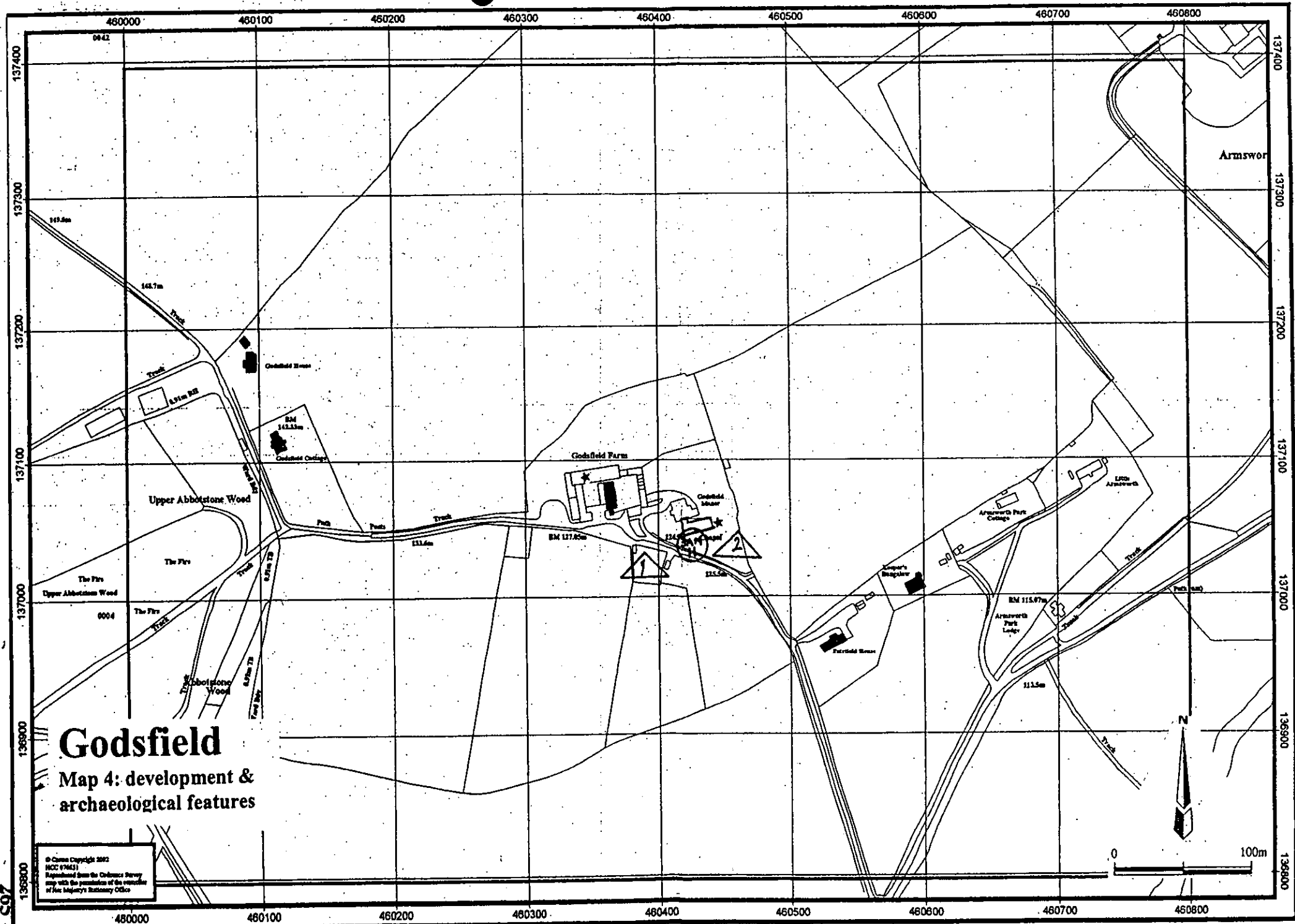
Godsfield

Map 2: general location

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Godsfeld
Map 3: OS 1: 10560

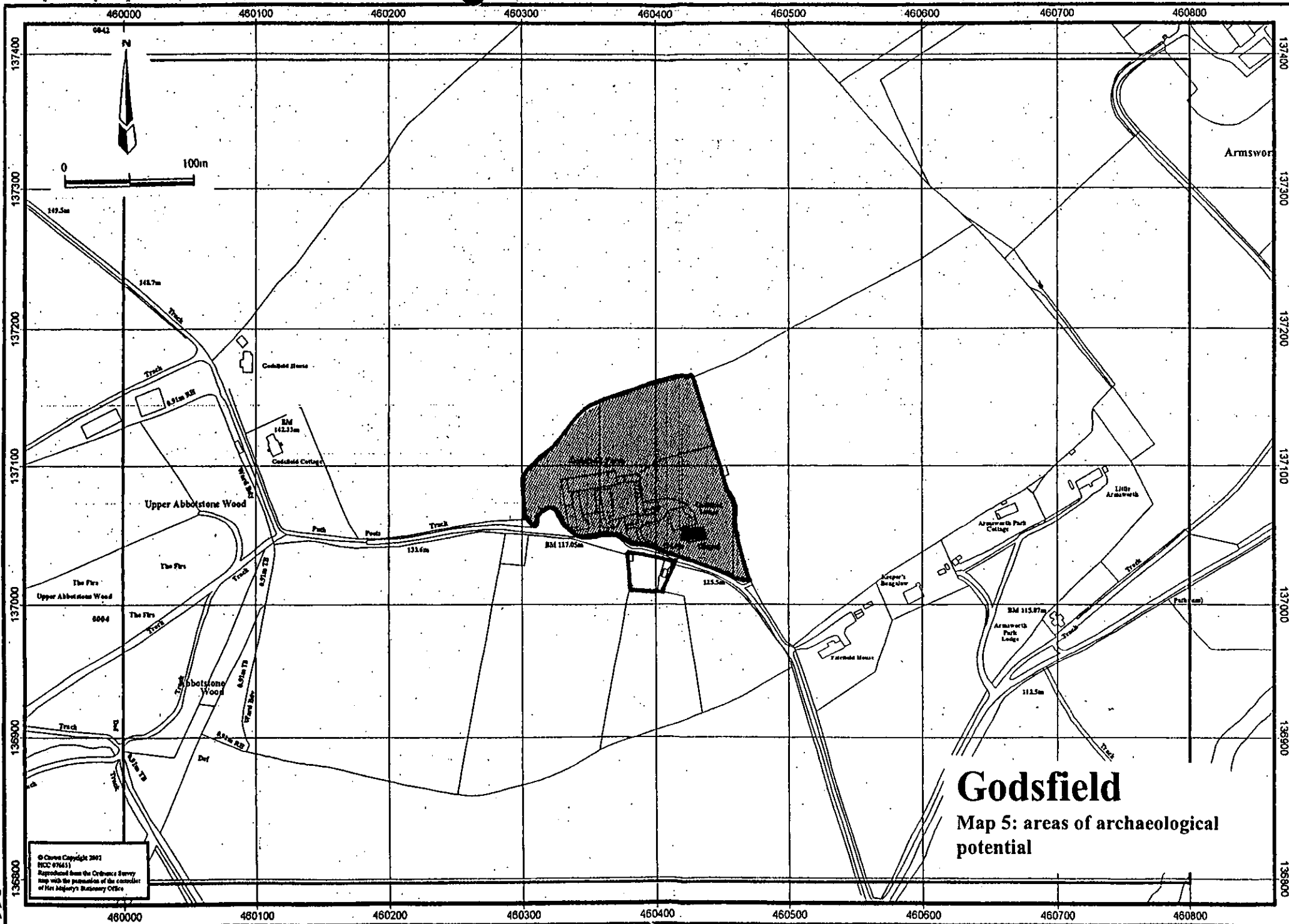


Godsfield

Map 4: development & archaeological features

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Godsfield

Map 5: areas of archaeological potential

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