

Proposed Solar Power Station on Land West of Boxted, Suffolk

Save Glem Valley Residents

Visual Baseline Study

February 2024

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SAVE GLEM VALLEY (SGV) is a group of residents from the Boxted and Hartest area of South Suffolk who are opposed to the plan by RES Ltd to develop a 100 acre solar power plant in the beautiful and ancient Glem Valley. Part of our objection is the severe visual impact that an industrial development will have on the side of a hill in this locally designated Special Landscape Area which has always been rural, part agricultural and part designated Ancient Woodland. We, guided by our professional Landscape Architect, Carly Tinkler BA CMLI FRSA MIALE, wanted to determine exactly where the site will be visible from and whether the contention of the developer’s visual impact study that *“the development can be accommodated without undue harm to landscape and visual amenity”* and *“the development proposals will not have an unacceptable adverse effect on the visual amenity value of the wider countryside”* is a true and accurate assessment of the likely impact of this development.

Our study involved visiting viewpoints, both public (roads, bridleways, footpaths etc) and residential, within the zone of theoretical visibility. Photographs were taken and the grid reference (bottom left of each photo) noted so that each viewpoint could be cross referenced to the maps. The proposed solar site has been superimposed on some of the photographs (red outlines or arrows) to show the potential visual impact that the development will have on a very wide area of countryside viewpoints.

The conclusion of SGV residents involved in documenting the visual impact are the same as those of our professional Landscape Architect which has been clearly laid out in her report:

“Not only would levels of landscape and visual effects be Major Negative, but also, contrary to the claims in the Applicant’s submission, there would be no beneficial landscape or visual effects at all”.

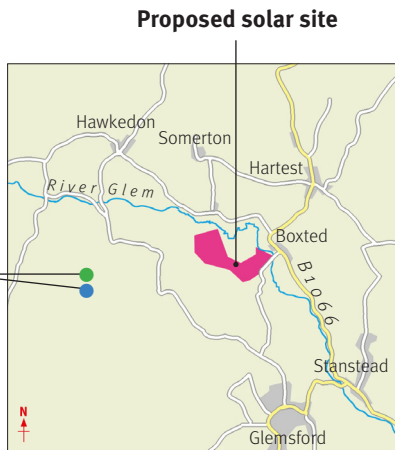
Note: Most of the views illustrated are from public footpaths/bridleways and roads unless otherwise stated. The proposed solar farm is defined as ‘site’.

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN PRODUCED BY LOCAL RESIDENTS. TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE THE INFORMATION SUPPLIED IS CORRECT

The photos in this document are a selection from a larger portfolio. The full portfolio of photographs with additional information can be viewed at www.saveglemvalley.org or by using the QR code below.

Key maps showing locations of where the photographs were taken. These locations are approximate; a more accurate location map can be seen on the SGV website

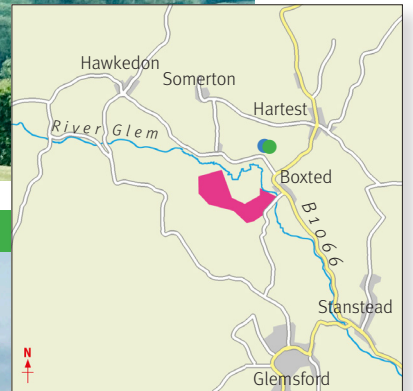
Locations of photos, all pointing towards the site. Blue dots show locations of the top photos, green the lower on the following pages



View of GlemValley from Millers Cottage, Hartest.



Private viewpoint
582555,252007



View of Glem Valley from Millers Cottage, Hartest, with view of west of site.

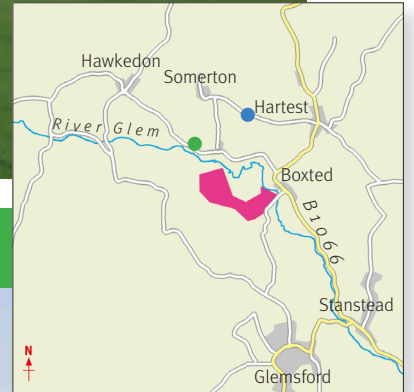


Private viewpoint
582555,252007

Drone photograph taken from Upper Somerton Road



View over Lower Somerton to the west slopes of site above trees. Shielding increases on descent to the road.

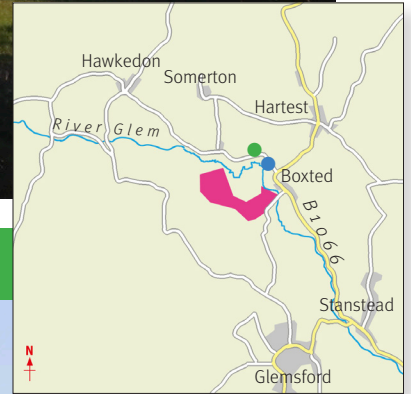


581074,252044

Wide break in hedge — w end of site visible above trees



580977,252183

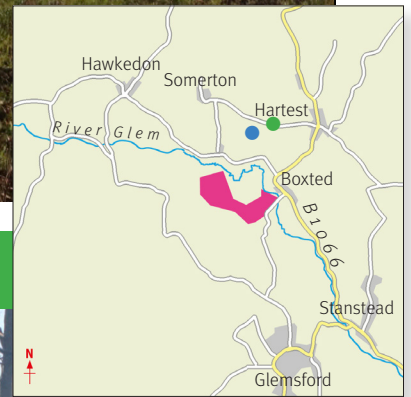


Break in hedge where path crosses sides. Beautiful view of glem valley in both directions. View to SE includes prominent view of the site



580898,252344

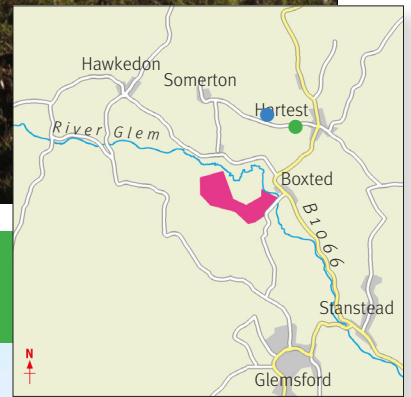
Path crosses ditch to other side of hedge. View of site from e side, clearly visible above the trees in the bottom of the valley



Path is on NW side of hedge & trees, view of site mainly screened but intermittently visible through gaps in hedge



Wide open view of Glem Valley including site from large gap in hedge



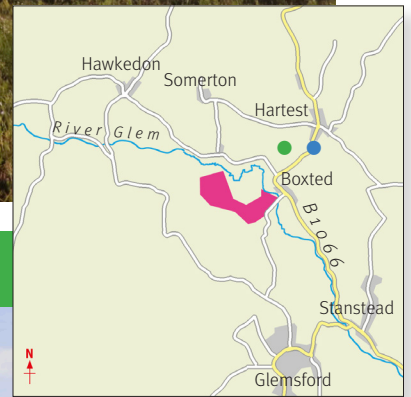
Junction of Somerton Road and road down to the valley bottom at Lower Somerton — wide view of site on opposite side of Glem Valley, visible above tops of trees in small woodland below



Footpath to Lower Somerton emerges through gap in hedge to top of field where there is a vista directly across to the site on opposite side of valley



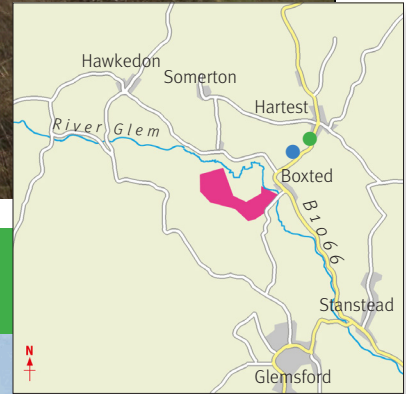
View of site across valley above Lower Somerton as path goes round corner before entering wood



Road past Eaton Cottages – w end of the site partially visible above the roofs of Eaton Cottages and Somerton Hall (likely to be visible from these houses)



581502,252141



Path up to Somerton Road. Site hidden by trees on lower portion but becomes visible above trees on other side of valley as path ascends toward Somerton Road

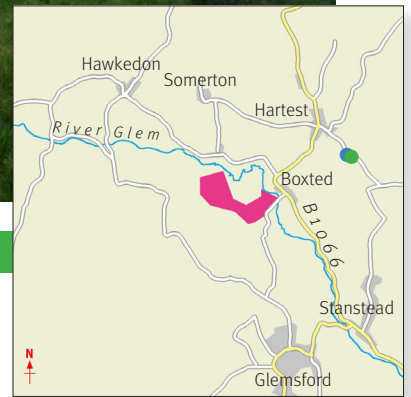


581590,252464

Path from Somerton Road follows hedge on right with view ahead and to left of Moorhouse Farm, Dripping Pan Wood and east part of site visible behind, sitting above the Glem Valley



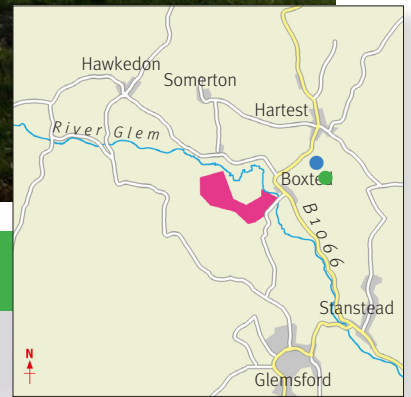
Moorhouse Farm setting (same view as above but with telephoto lens)



Views across the valley to site from Moorhouse Farm to east end of site visible on hillside opposite



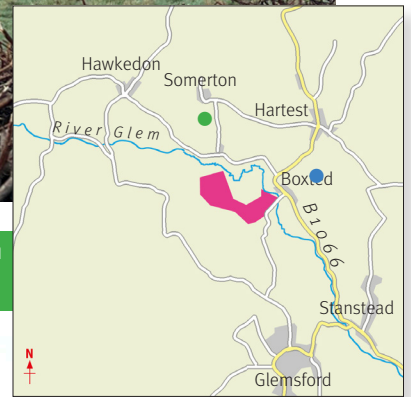
Road goes over the shoulder of a hill, a gap in the hedge where there is a gate which reveals view of west part of site



Example of view of part of site above hedge on road



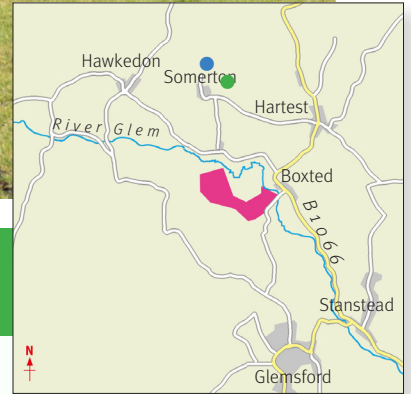
View from Hawkedon Green, east of church – distant views might be seen over and through gaps in hedging



Distant view from footpath beyond end of Cresslands Lane, Hawkedon, before it turns the corner behind some trees



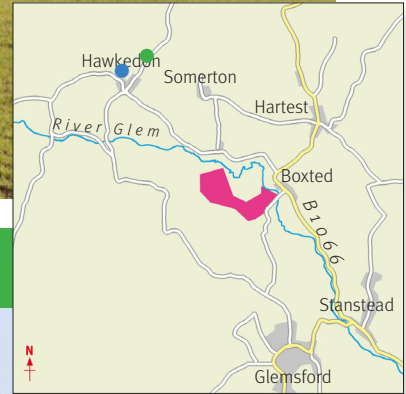
Distant view of site from just below the Cresslands Lane junction with the road through Hawkedon. Limited views as road descends to footpath, due to curve of hillside blocking view



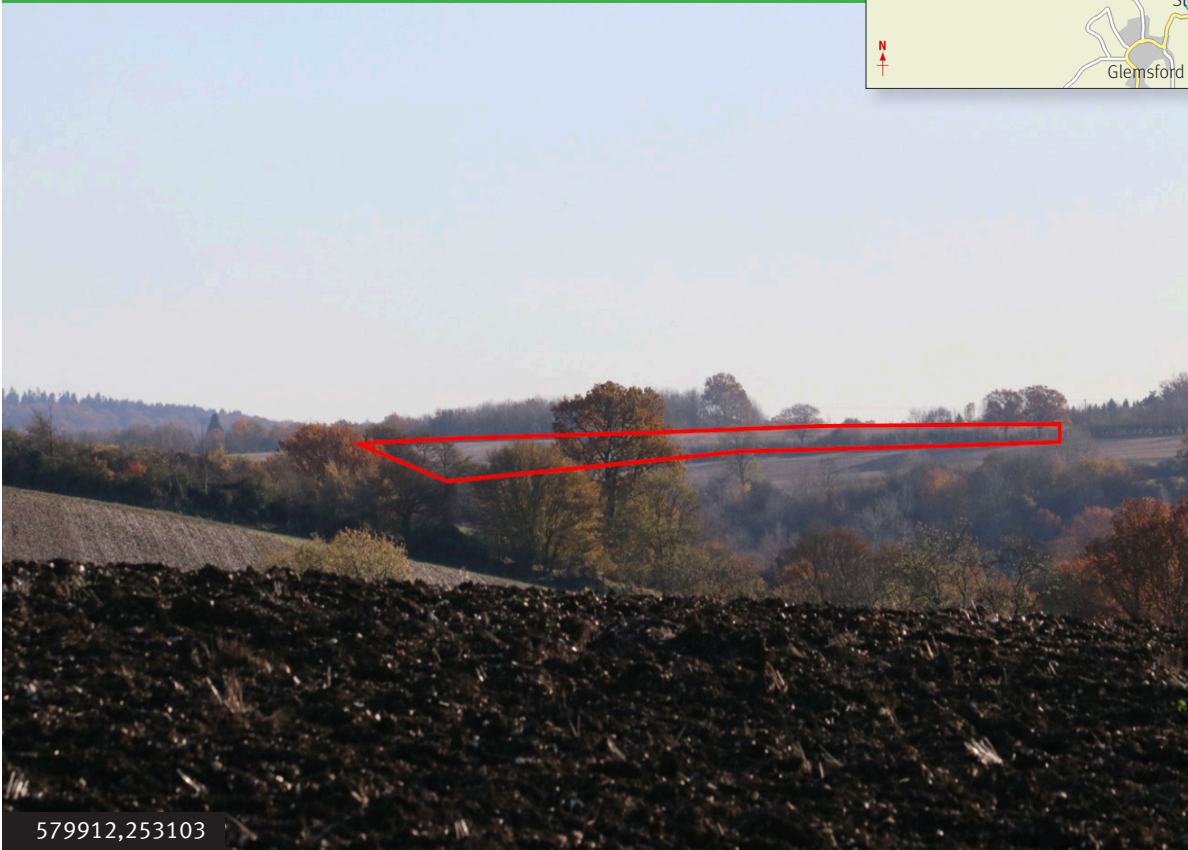
Limited views from road into Hawkedon – distant views towards site mainly blocked by Hawkedon Church and trees



579517,253196

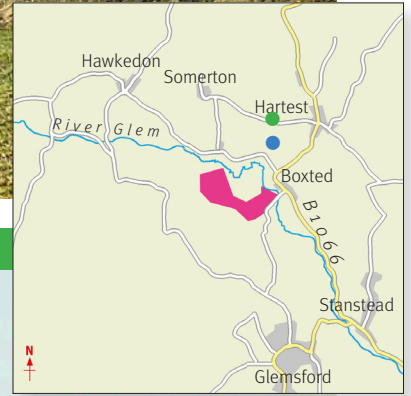


Beer garden of The Queens Head pub – possible distant views towards site across fields



579912,253103

Open view of site from footpath towards Rogers Lane



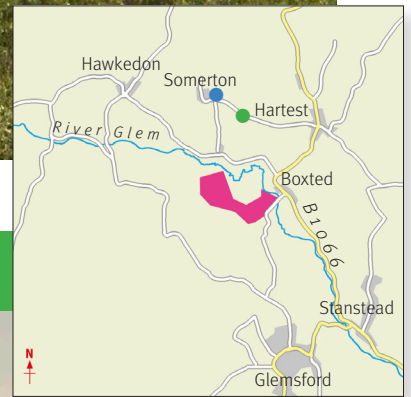
View from Somerton Heights on footpath – view of site in distance



View on corner outside entrance to Somerton Heights



581164,252857



Footpath entrance off road — view from start of footpath — view of Glem Valley and significant view of site

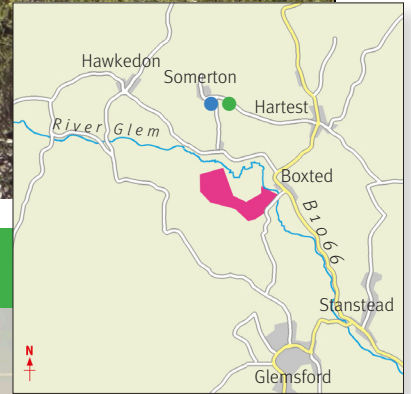


581228,252827

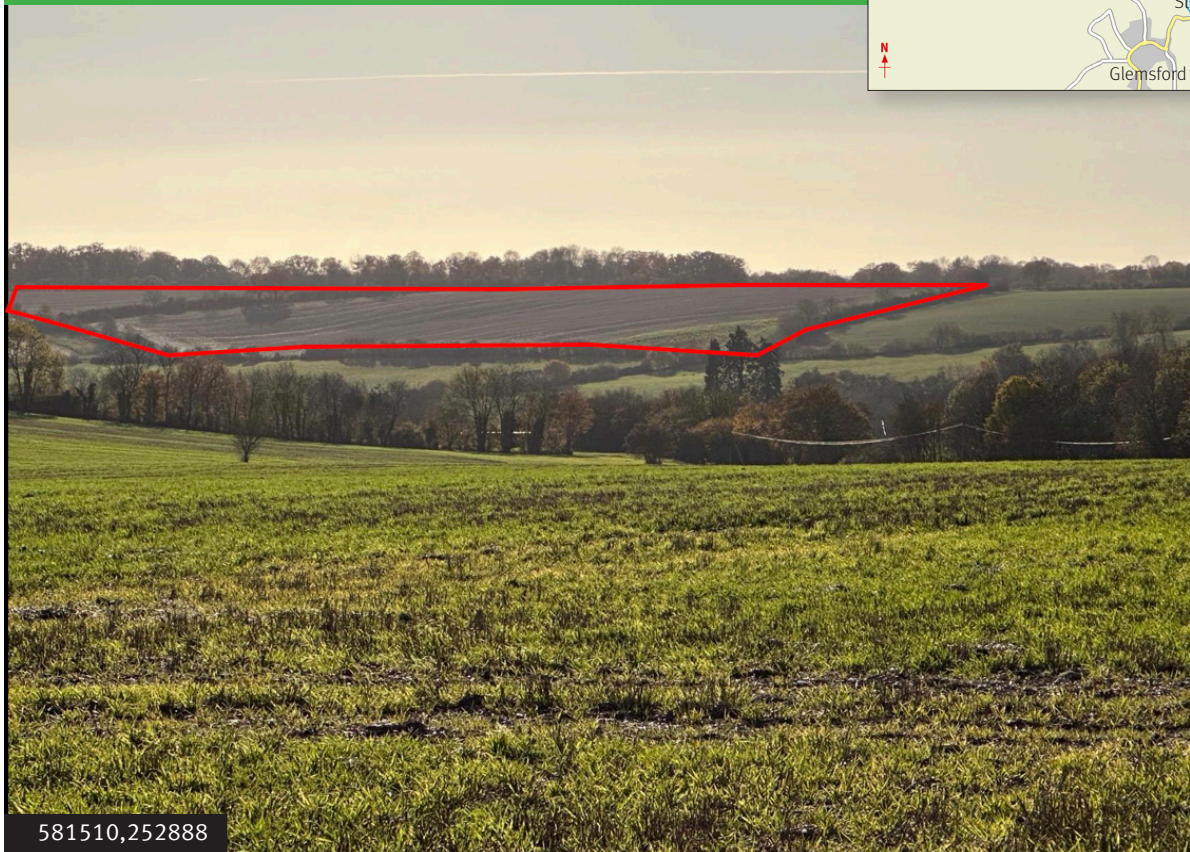
By junction of Somerton Road to hill down to Lower Somerton — full view of western aspect of site



581388,252899



Open full view of Glem Valley including significant part of west side of site

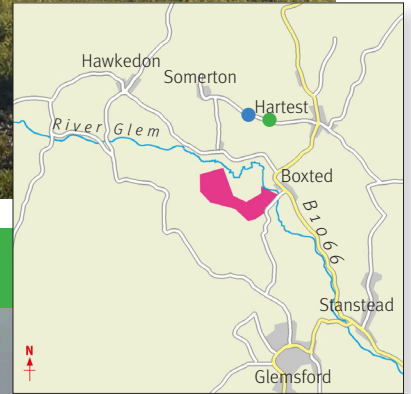


581510,252888

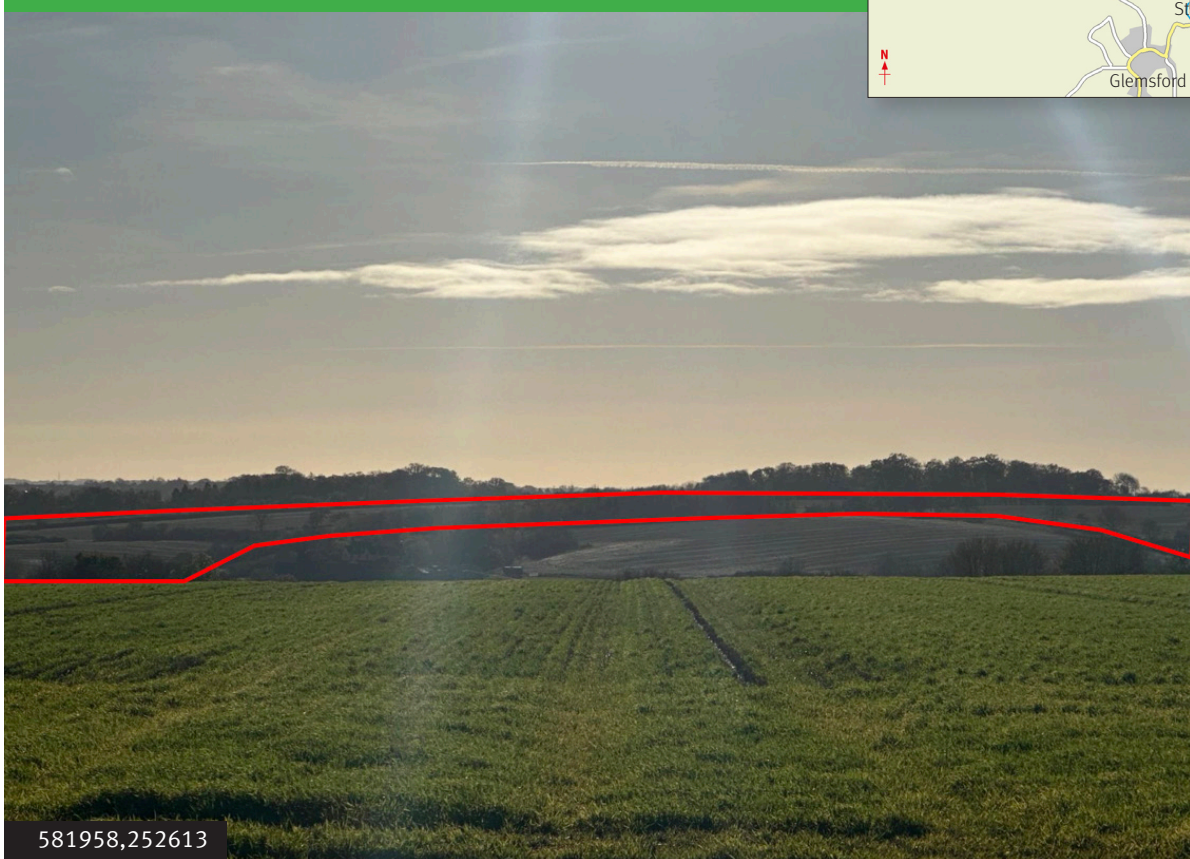
Views open up of Glem Valley and the site (west side)



581891,252649



Near Mile End Barn paddock — good view across valley to west side of site

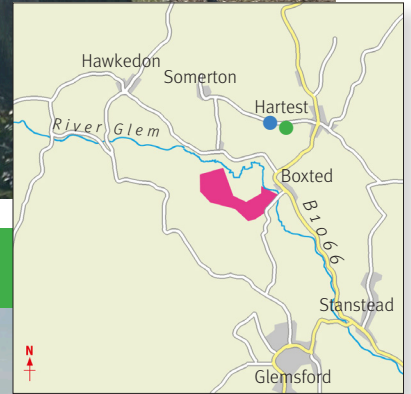


581958,252613

View from Somerton Road opposite Mile End Farm



582156,252561



Somerton Road over paddock – full view of site and Glem Valley to Moorhouse Farm / to west of site (west of Mill House farm)

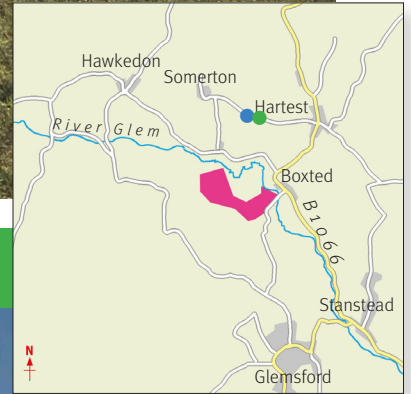


582335,252516

Somerton Road over paddock — full view of site and Glem Valley to Moorhouse Farm / to east of Moorhouse Farm



582335,252516

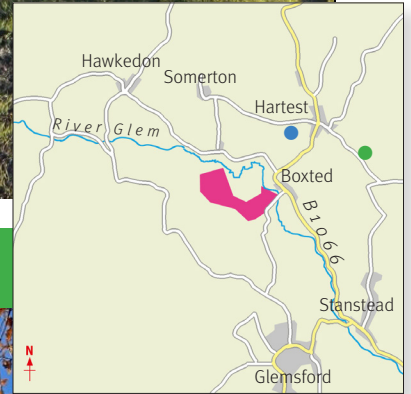


Full view of site and Glem Valley to Moorhouse Farm with full view of site by Hartwood House



582390,252502

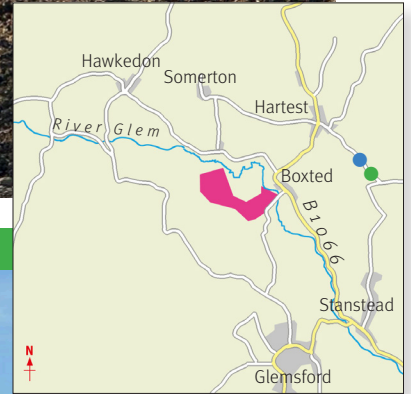
Limited views (due to hedges & trees) across valley but still with view to site



View from top of Hartest Hill with full view across Glem Valley and limited view to the site



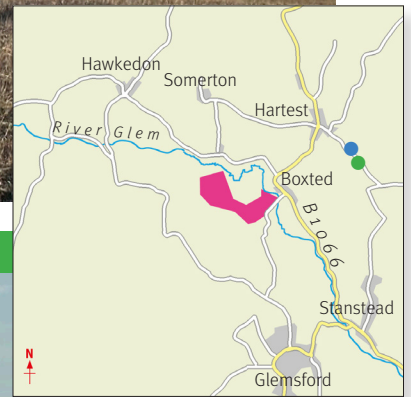
On Shimpling Road near Cawstons — full view across the valley to the site



On diverted footpath behind Whistlers — full view of site



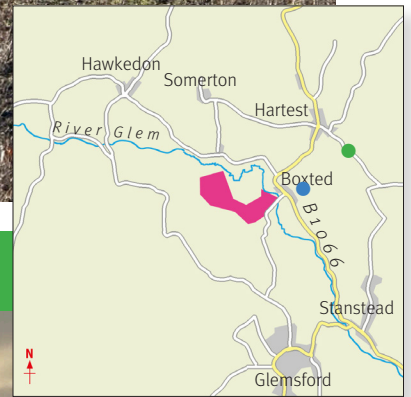
Full views of Townsend Farm and the site across the valley (from a diverted footpath due to heavy ploughing)



Views to east side of the site



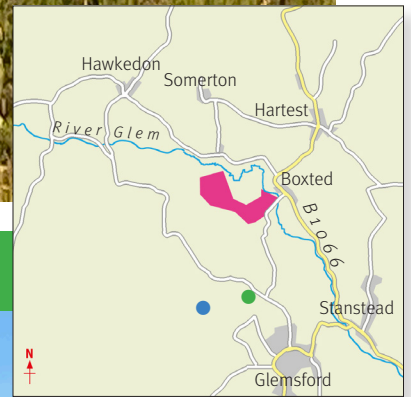
From footpath alongside Rochester Wood — full view to eastern part of site over Boxted and also to site entrance



Byway to Chadacre from top of Hartest Hill - limited view of site emerges over the trees — may be obscured in summer if trees in full foliage



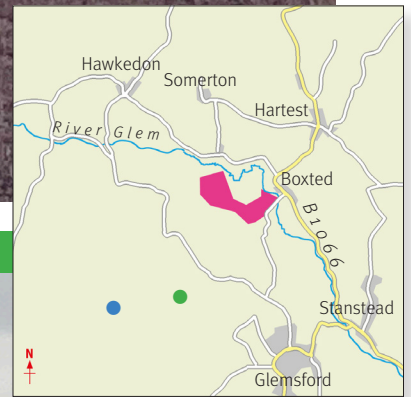
View from footpath in Glemsford, northwest from New Street Farm between Park Wood and Lownage Wood



View from Glemsford, field behind Mill Hill Farm about a third from next fieldboundary, before footpath descends to bottom of field



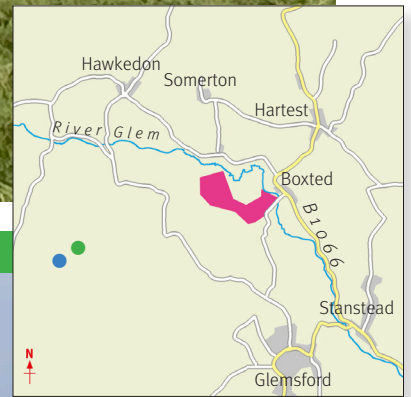
View from about half way east along footpath from Easty Wood towards Glemsford



Ridge to south east of King's Wood



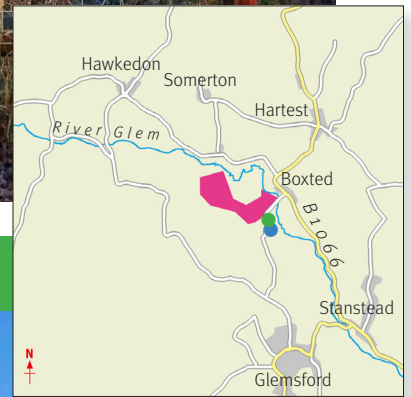
On path by Long Wood heading north



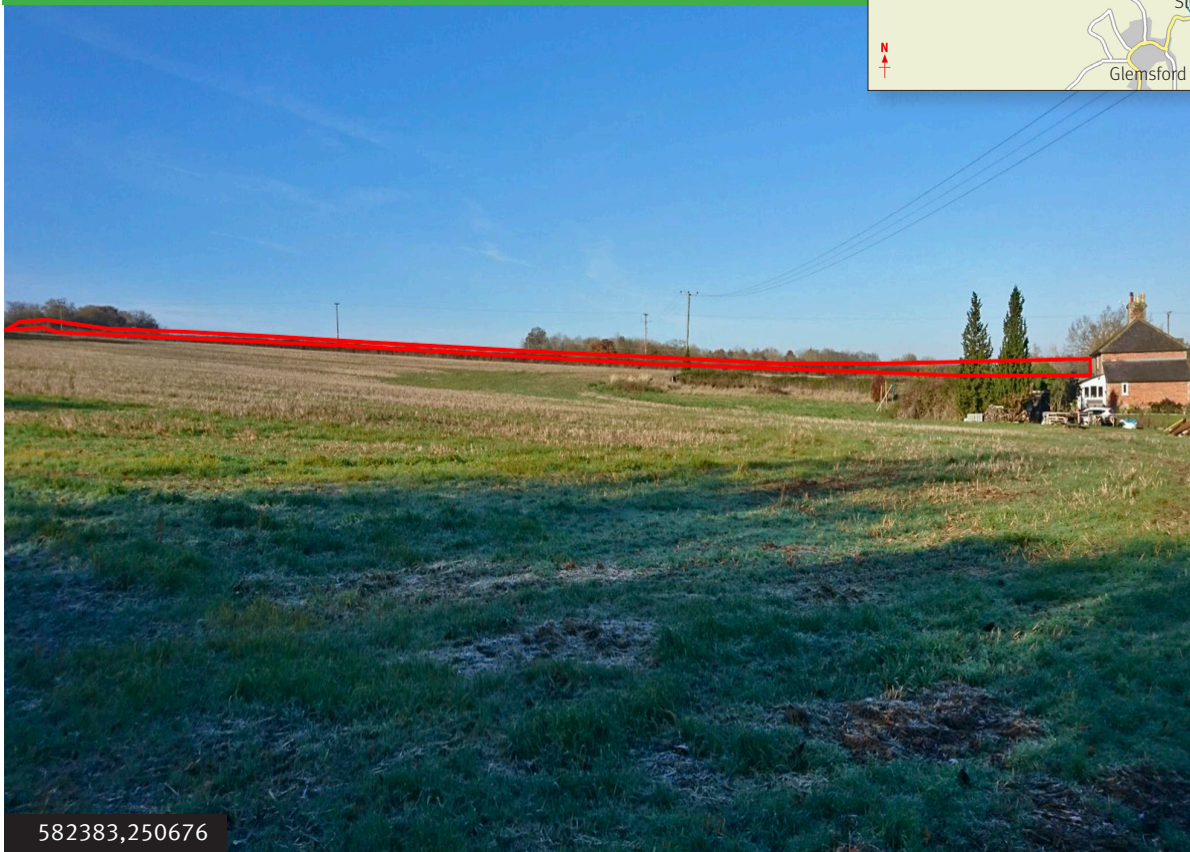
On path by Long Wood heading north



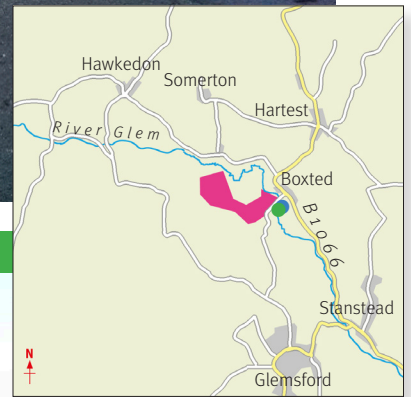
Holy Trinity Church car park – view northwest to track



Home Farm (Hall Farm) field access opposite farm gateway – view northwest to track, rear of HomeFarm Cottages 1 & 2



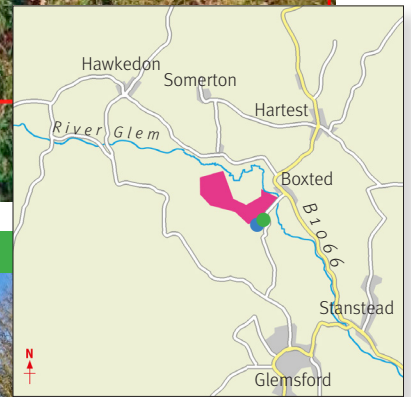
Moorhouse Farm drive junction of Water Hall gateway — view west



Moorhouse Farm drive junction of Water Hall gateway — view west



Title Hall Lane — site entrance, with footpath from track, view west



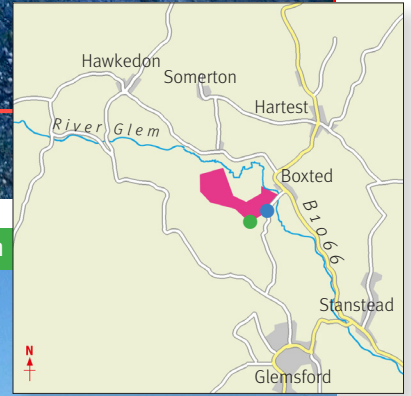
Title Hall Lane — site entrance, with footpath from track, view northeast



Tittle Hall Lane — site entrance, with footpath from track, view west



582408,250868

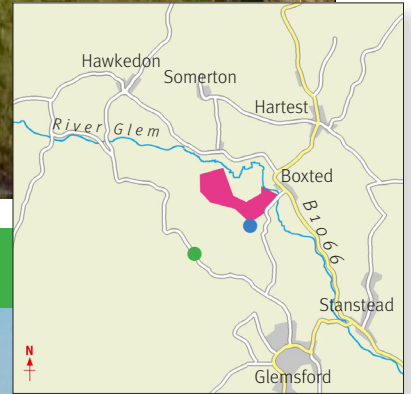


Tittle Hall Lane (restricted byway) — top of track — field access, view north



582082,250622

Title Hall Lane (restricted byway) — top of track — field access



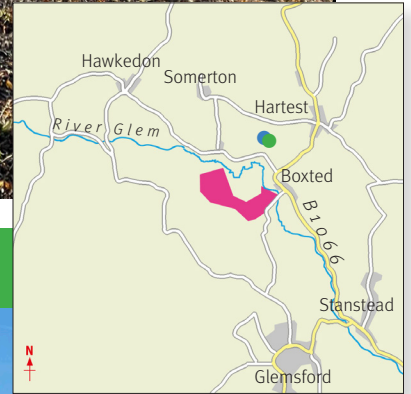
Truckett's Hall roadside field entrance – distant view with Brickhouse Farm beyond in far distance



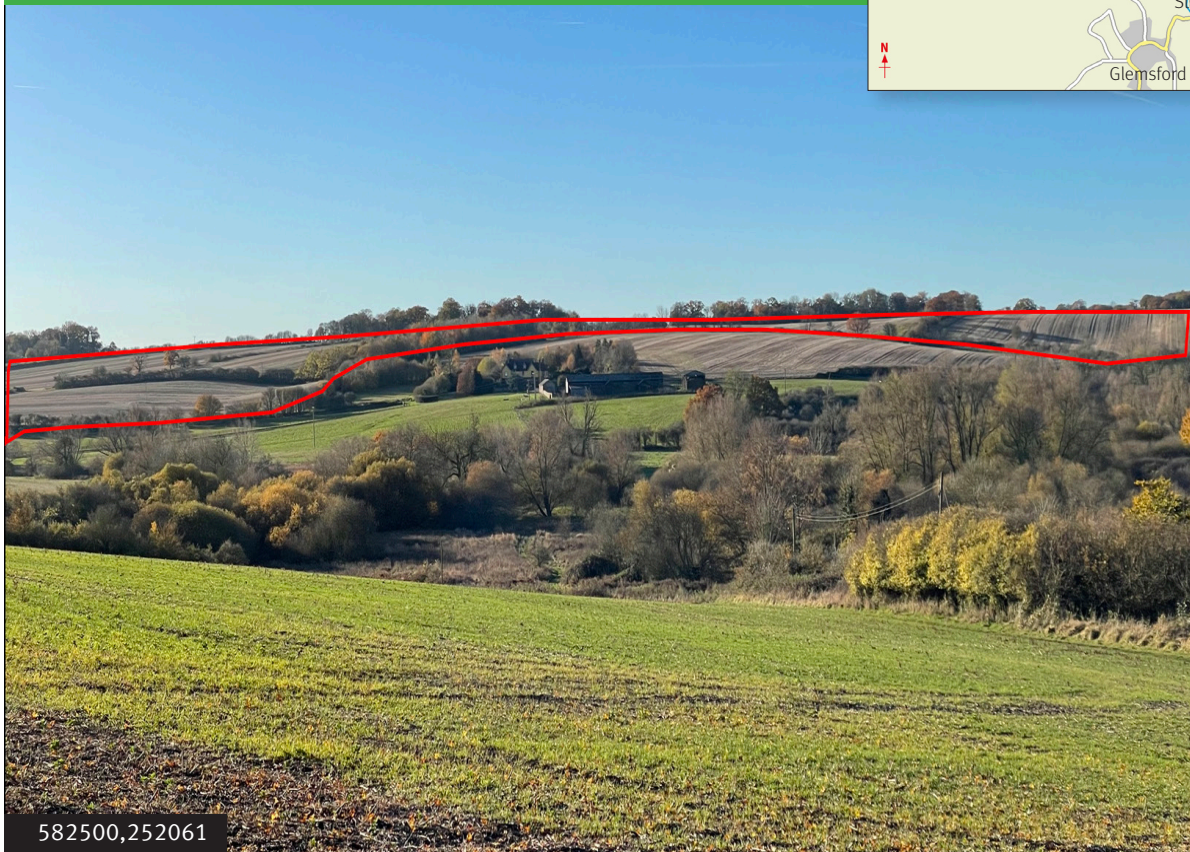
Open view of site from public footpath below Millers Cottage towards Rogers Lane



582500,252061



Open view of site from public footpath below Millers Cottage towards Rogers Lane

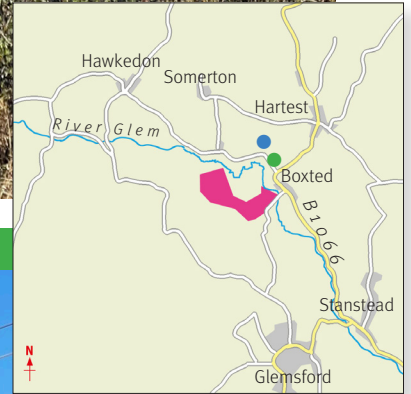


582500,252061

Open view of site from diverted footpath running alongside Rogers Lane byway



582421,251951

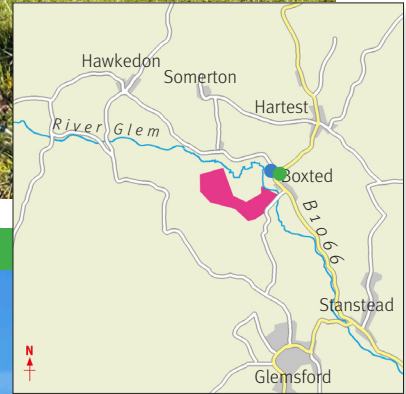


Partial view of site from Lower Somerton Road near The Wick



582421,251951

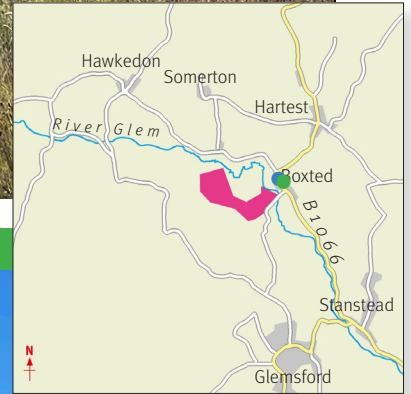
Junction of Lower Somerton Road and B1066



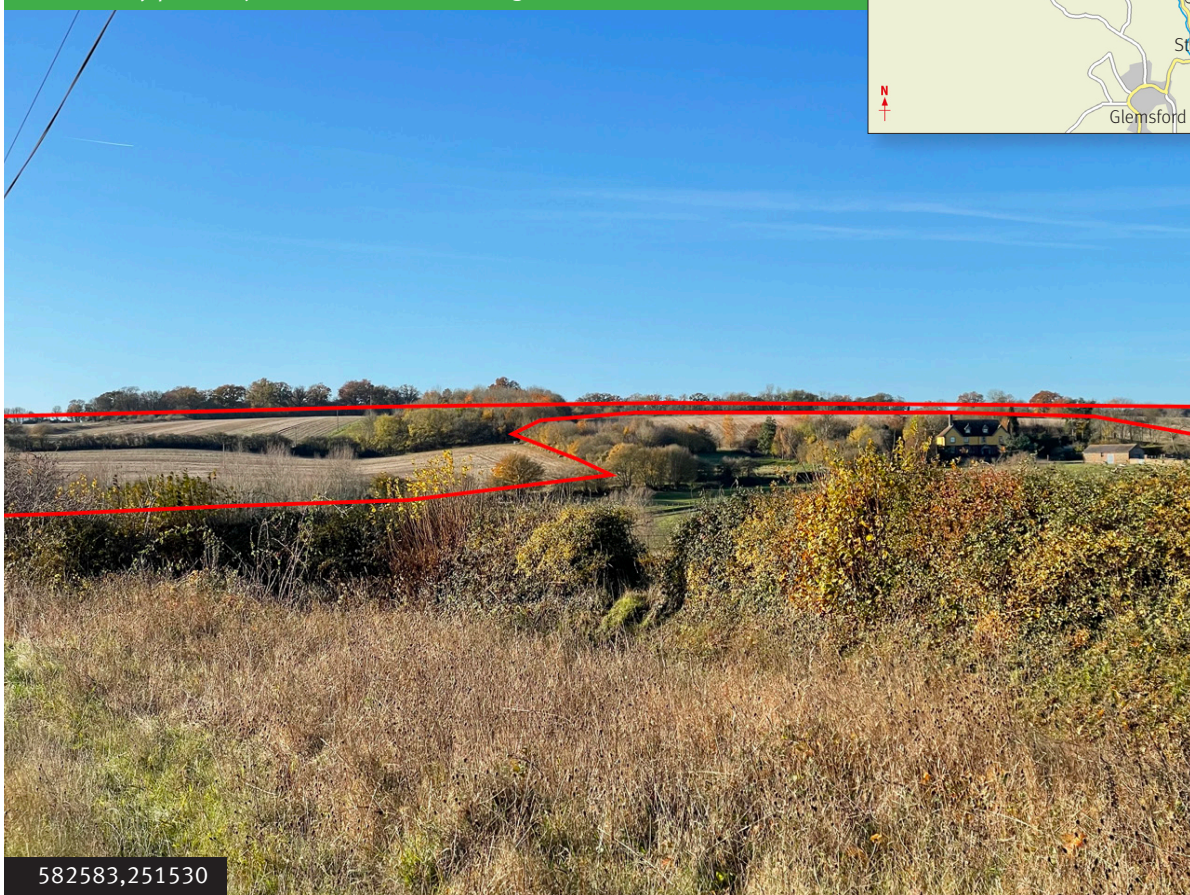
Junction of Lower Somerton Road and B1066



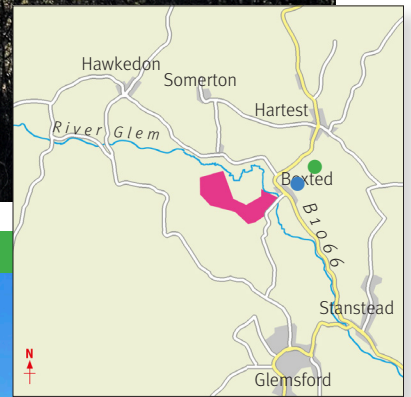
From safety path adjacent to B1066 opposite Lower Somerton Road junction, heading towards Boxted



From safety path adjacent to B1066 heading towards Boxted



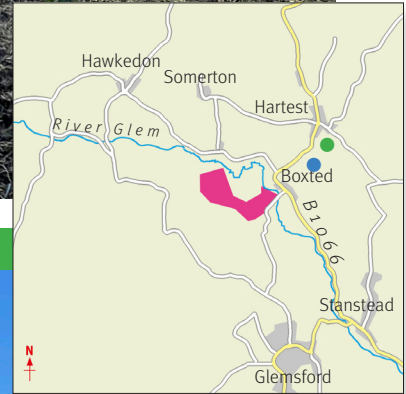
Street Farm-Hartest footpath in Boxted south of Rochester Wood



Street Farm-Hartest footpath adjacent to Rochester Wood



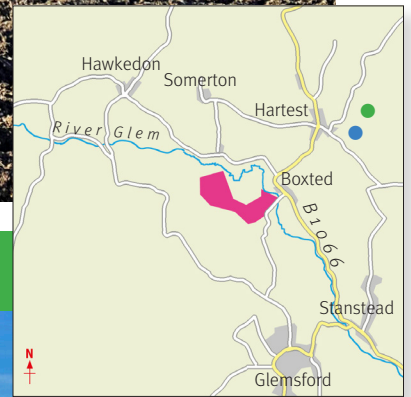
View of Townsend Barn, Elm Barn and some of the site behind from Boxted-Hartest footpath



Partial view from footpath of the site



Open view across the valley of the site and Moorhouse Farm from footpath



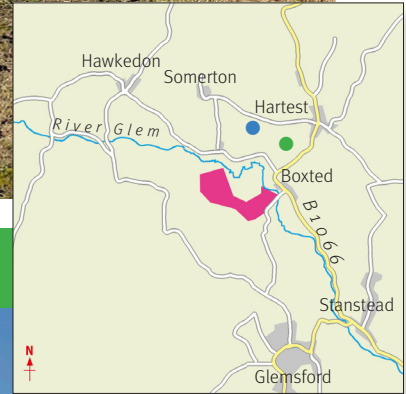
Partial view of the site from where the footpath joins Hartest Hill/ Shimpling Road



The site is clearly visible along the footpath from Somerton Road down to B1066 from the second field for about two thirds of the way along



582629,252266



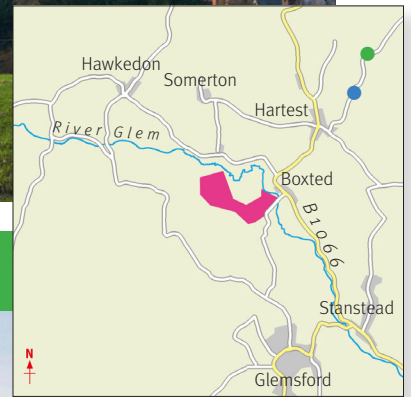
View of site from driveway towards Mill House, The Old Steam Mill and Millers Cottage



Private viewpoint

582644,251765

On Lawshall Road near Cooks Farm and Hartest Wood. Glorious view across valley with Hartest Church in bottom half of photo



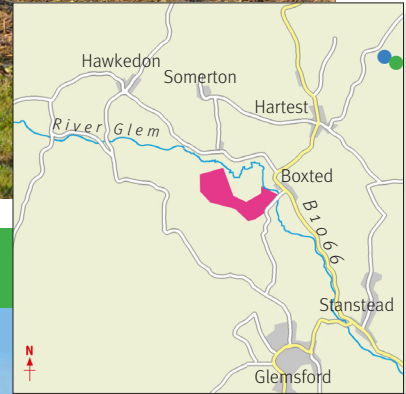
Site visible from Lawshall Road opposite entrance to Chadacre Estate between Cooks Farm and Kew Gardens Farm



About 50 yards up from the Chadacre shooting lodge underneath the telegraph poles five fields of the proposed site can be seen. Moorhouse Farm is also visible



584453,252988



View from Chadacre shooting lodge from which two solar fields can be seen

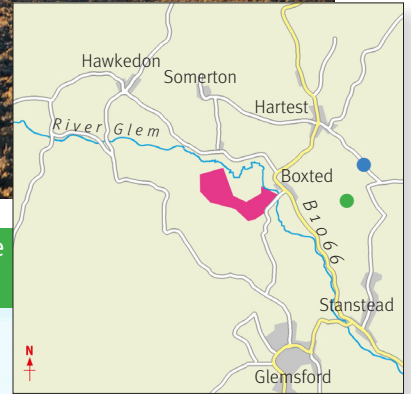
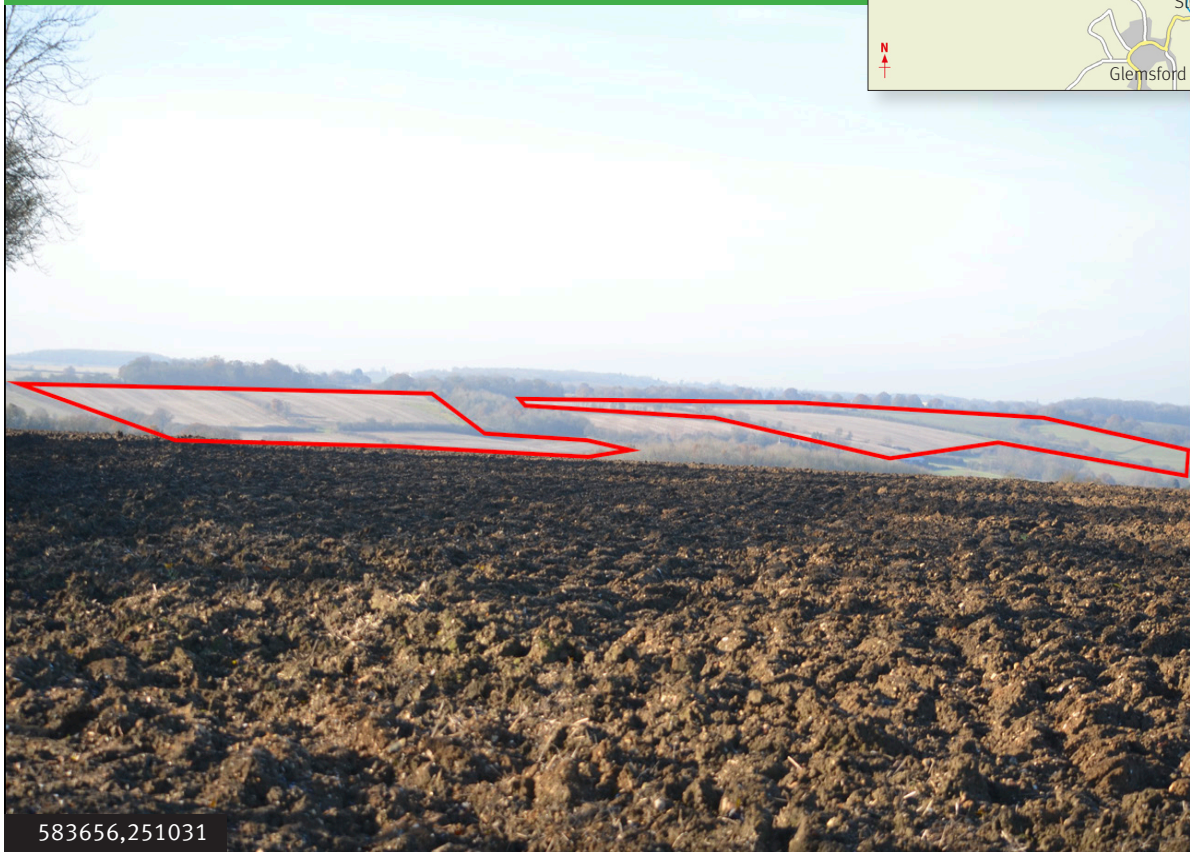


584505,252948

Shimpling Road near Cawstons Farm — panoramic view of the whole site across the fields



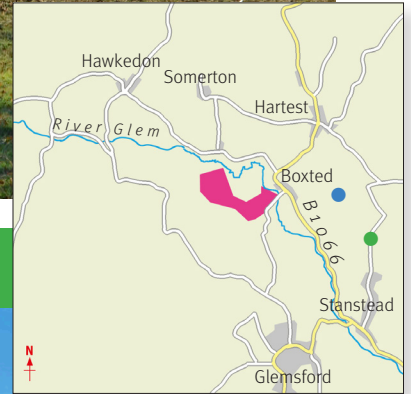
As the footpath turns down to Boxted there are some views through a line of deciduous trees



Big gap in the trees along the footpath of circa 15m where fields intersect and farm vehicles clearly pass



583457,250859



View from footpath in Upper Stanstead (from Upper Street towards Lower Stanstead) distant view of the site



584223,249653

Full view of the site and Moorhouse Farm from Millers Cottage



Private viewpoint

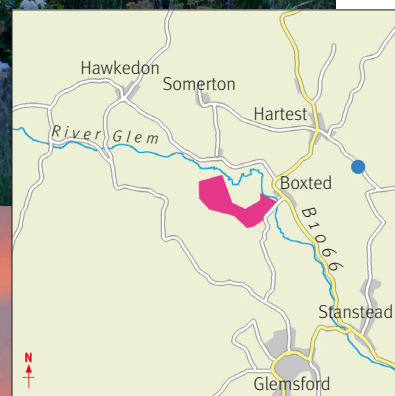
582555,252007

View from garden at Whistlers, Hartest Hill (Shimpling Road)



Private viewpoint

583881,252013

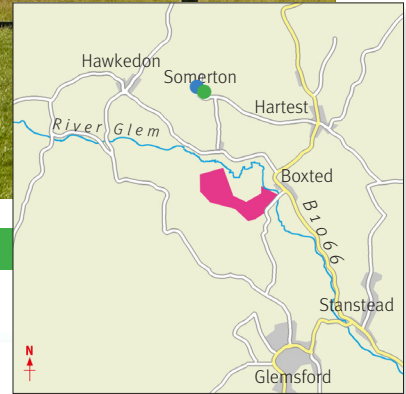


Private viewpoint

View from garden at Hartwood House, Somerton Road



Private viewpoint
581102,252881

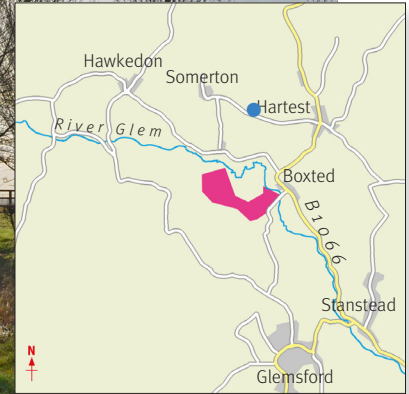
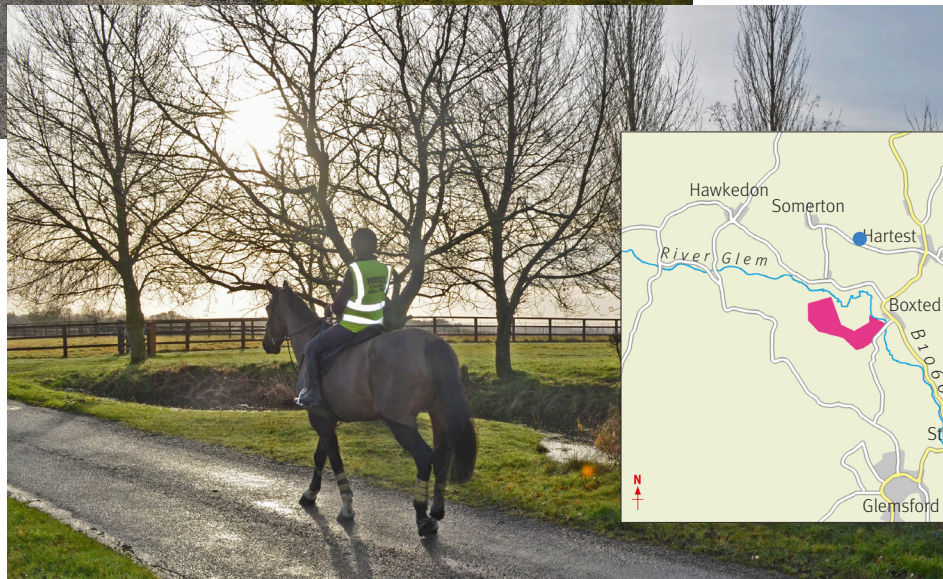
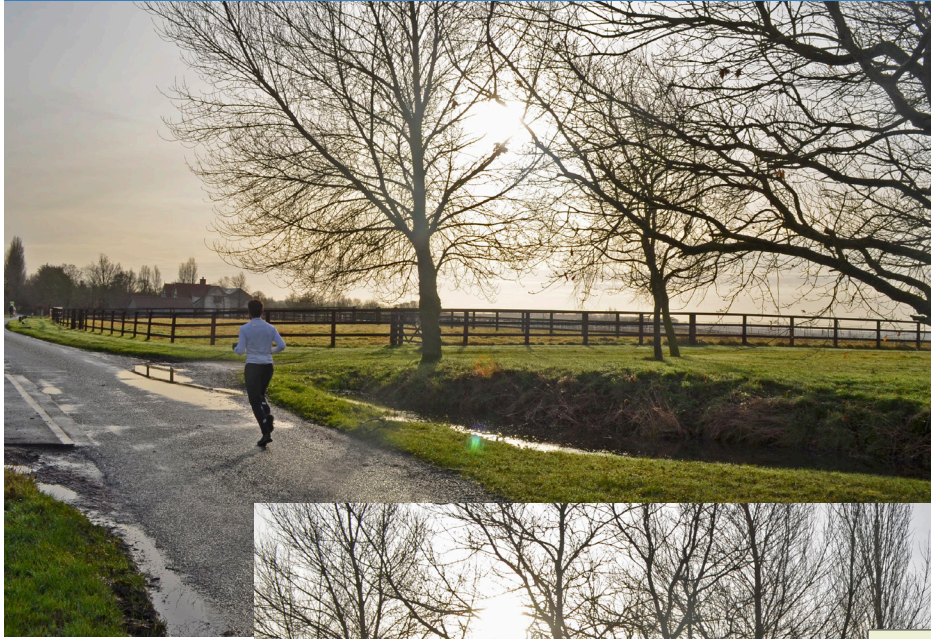


View across the valley from garden at Somerton Heights



Private viewpoint
581102,252881

Somerton Road, with its panoramic views across the valley to the site, is regularly enjoyed by runners and horse riders, as well as walkers. These photos were taken during a 20 minute window



582176,252558

