

Land adjacent to Wyngarth, Easter Compton, South Gloucestershire

Desk-Based Heritage Assessment Report

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CONTENTS

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY is	V
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS v	i
1 INTRODUCTION 2 BASELINE SURVEY 3 IMPACT STATEMENT	2 0 4 5
FIGURES	
Figure 1: Detail of the study area with the approximate boundary outlined in red. Approximate scale 1:5,0001	7
Figure 2: detail of the study area. Boundary of the study area outlined in red. Approximate scale 1:1,0001	8
Figure 3: An extract from the c. 1700 plan of <i>Comptun</i> from Jenner (n.d.), GA/D674a/P1, rectified and reproduced at an approximate scale of 1:2,500. The approximate boundary and location of the study area is outlined in red. Image reproduced by kind permission of Mr William Chester-Master and Gloucestershire Archives	9
Figure 4: An extract from the 1838 map of Almondsbury Parish, BRO 31965/STG/1a, rectified and reproduced at an approximate scale of 1:2,500. The approximate boundary and location of the study area is outlined in red	0
Figure 5: An extract from the 1881 1:2,500 scale OS map of Gloucestershire © Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group Limited 2012. The approximate boundary and location of the study area is outlined in red2	1
Figure 6: An extract from the 1903 1:2,500 scale OS map of Gloucestershire, sheet 67.8 (GA OS/2/25/67/8). Reproduced from the 1903 Ordnance Survey map with the kind permission of the Ordnance Survey	2
Figure 7: Location of listed and locally listed structures and gardens within a 500m radius of the study area. Based on information supplied by and reproduced by permission of South Gloucestershire Council. Approximate scale 1:2,500. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012. HER information © South Gloucestershire Council 2012.	.3
Figure 8: Location of core events within a 500m radius of the study area. Based on information supplied by and reproduced by permission of South Gloucestershire Council. Approximate scale 1:5,000. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012. HER information © South Gloucestershire Council 2012.	4

Figure 9:	Location of core sites and monuments within a 500m radius of the study area. Based on information supplied by and reproduced by permission of South Gloucestershire Council. Approximate scale 1:2,500. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012. HER information © South Gloucestershire Council 2012.	25
PLATES	\mathbf{S}	
Plate a: a	a general view of the study area, looking southwest from Main Road. No scale	2
Plate b: V	Wyngarth house, looking west from the study area, no scale	2
Plate c: v	view of the well, looking south. Scale 1m.	3
Plate d: v	view of the study area from the southern end, looking northeast. No scale	3
Plate e: a	a view of the driveway (Area 2), looking northeast toward Main Road. No scale	4

NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY

In line with current government guidelines and national legislation, the Historic Environment Records Officer of South Gloucestershire Council has asked for a desk-based heritage assessment of a c. 1,762 m² strip of land (the study area) located on the south side of Main road, Easter Compton, South Gloucestershire (centred NGR ST 571 825). The desk-based assessment was requested in advance of a proposed planning application for the construction of housing within the study area.

The results of this assessment are set out in the following report and summarised here. An inspection of the study area has shown that a large part of the land was formerly garden attached to an adjoining late Victorian house known as Wyngarth. The remainder of the land is an adjoining surfaced driveway. Around the remains of a former fishing lake to the rear of the study area were found two sherds of Roman pottery and a single sherd of medieval pottery. A possible bank was observed along part of the eastern boundary.

A review of the documentary evidence has established the study area was part of the parish and Manor of Almondsbury during the Middle Ages. The earliest detailed map to show the study area dates from c. 1700. At this time the main road curved around the west side of the study area (possibly along the course of the present driveway), which was partially subdivided into plots, one of which was occupied by a structure in the approximate location of Wyngarth house. It is surmised this settlement may be Medieval in origin.

Subsequent maps from 1838 and 1881 show the study area was part of an orchard attached to a beer house on the site of present Wyngarth. A map of 1903 indicates the beer house had been demolished and Wyngarth had been constructed in its place.

A review of the archaeological evidence has indicated there is little known about this part of South Gloucestershire in prehistory. Roman activity is represented by features and pottery scatters revealed during a pipeline survey, together with a pottery scatter believed to have been retrieved during the construction of an adjacent housing estate. There is also archaeological evidence for Medieval activity in the general area. There are no listed structures or scheduled ancient monuments within the study area or its immediate vicinity, though the locally listed 1869 Ebenezer Methodist church is located on Main Road opposite.

Evidence from historic aerial photographs has indicated that land to the immediate south of the study area had been subjected in the past to ridge and furrow cultivation. They also confirmed the presence of nearby Compton Farm, recorded in 1700, still extant in 1969, but completely demolished by 1999.

To sum up, there is documentary evidence for use of the study area for settlement and associated gardens/orchard from c. 1700 to the present. There is some suggestion this use of the study area may date to the later Middle Ages. There is evidence for Roman activity both in the general area and possibly within and adjoining the study area. There is no evidence for prehistoric activity. As none of this evidence has been tested in the field by archaeological evaluation; the presence or absence of archaeological features within the study area cannot be determined from the documentary evidence alone.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Bristol and West Archaeology Limited wish to acknowledge the assistance given by the following in the production of this report: Vince Nguyen of Land Promotions Group Ltd, David Evans, Historic Environment Record Officer, South Gloucestershire Council; Mr William Chester-Master of Wiggold Farm, Cirencester; the staff of the Bristol Record Office; the staff of the Bristol Central Library; the staff of the National Monuments Record, Swindon and the staff of Gloucestershire Archives.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Project background

1.1.1 South Gloucestershire Council has requested a Desk-Based Heritage Assessment of c. 1,762 m² of land on the south side of Main Road, Easter Compton, South Gloucestershire (centred NGR ST 571 825). This work was requested prior to the submission of a planning application on the study area, in order to assess the heritage potential of the study area and the likely impact of any proposed development on identified and potential heritage assets. The project was commissioned by Land Promotions Group Ltd.

1.2 Site Location and Topography and Land Use (see Figure 1)

- 1.2.1 The site is located on the south side of Main Road, Easter Compton, adjacent to and formerly part of the property known as Wyngarth. It is located at approximately the point where the lower slopes of Blackhorse Hill to the west meet the north Avon levels of the Severn Estuary. Although generally flat there is a rise of approximately 2m from c. 7.8m aOD along the road frontage to c. 9m aOD near the extreme southwest boundary.
- 1.2.2 The majority of the land is currently an abandoned and partially overgrown garden, including the remnant of a former fishing lake with an island. The remainder of the land includes a driveway that gives access to the rest of the study area and an adjoining property.

1.1 Geology

1.1.1 The underlying bedrock of the study area is comprised of mudstones, siltstones and and sandstones of the Mercian Mudstone Group, which dates from the early Triassic Era (BGS 2012a, b). No superficial deposits (drift) have been recorded for this area (BGS, 2012a).

1.3 Methodology

- 1.3.1 In compiling this desk-based assessment the standards and guidelines of the IfA, NPPF, English Heritage and South Gloucestershire Council were followed as appropriate (South Gloucestershire Council 2007; DCLG et al. 2010; IfA 2011; DCLG 2012).
- 1.3.2 Searches were made of all indices of information held on the South Gloucestershire Council Sites and Monuments Record Database. Indices and collections were also consulted in the Bristol Record Office, Bristol Central Library, Gloucestershire Archives and the NMR Swindon. The SMR record number for this report is SGSMR 20174.
- 1.3.3 The author carried out the survey in September and October 2012. An HER trawl of the study area was requested on 24 September and received on 25 September 2012. The study area was visited on 27 January 2012, during which digital still photographs were taken and field notes made. Aerial photographs at the NMR Centre, Swindon, were viewed on 4 October 2012.
- 1.3.4 This document was compiled using MS Word 10, figures were produced using QGIS 1.80, and photographs were taken with a Fuji Finepix HS10 digital SLR camera.

2 **BASELINE SURVEY**

2.1 Site Inspection (see Figure 1, Figure 2, and Plates)

2.1.1 The author and Bruce Williams of Bristol and West Archaeology Limited undertook a brief walkover and photographic survey on 28 September 2012. The study area lies on the south side of the main road through, Easter Compton, the B4055 Blackhorse Hill, just to the east of Gable Close. Formerly part of lands attached to Wyngarth house, the study area forms a rectangular strip that runs south from the road, surrounding the house with the exception of the frontage, but with the bulk of the land to the east of the Plate a: a general view of the study area, house.



looking southwest from Main Road. No scale

- 2.1.2 The study area is approximately 90m long northeast to southwest by up to 31m wide at its maximum extent, and encompasses approximately 1,762 m². In plan it is an irregular polygon, with an eastward extension to the north and a westward extension to the south.
- 2.1.3 For ease of the study area has been divided in two: Area 1 forms the bulk to the east and south of Wyngarth, while Area 2 represents the driveway to the west of the house.

2.2 Wyngarth House and adjoining structures

2.2.1 It is not possible to describe the study area without reference to the structures it partially surrounds. The main structure of note is Wyngarth House, a two-storey gable ended structure aligned northwest to southeast. frontage (northeast face) is largely obscured from the road by a tall tree. but is a typical late Victorian 'villa' frontage, with ground floor bays either side of a central front door. Bays, upstairs windows, quoins and doorway are all done in Bath stone, while the remainder is faced with squared blocks Plate b: Wyngarth house, looking west from and slabs of sandstone laid in regular the study area, no scale.



courses. The remaining walls of the house are faced with grey render. To the rear of the house is a narrow projecting wing that seems slightly out of keeping with the remainder of the house. Bruce Williams of Bristol and West Archaeology Limited has suggested this may represent parts of a former structure at this location, now incorporated into the present house. This could not be confirmed at the time of writing.

2.2.2 Set slightly apart at the rear of the house and on a parallel alignment to the house are two adjoining gable ended structures. Both are single storey, though the northern structure appears to have had a loft conversion, with a southwest facing dormer window in the roof. These structures together form a single dwelling. They are externally rendered and painted – in appearance they are late 20th century in date. It is noted there were similar structures evidenced here on aerial photographs from 1946 onwards (see below), while the historic map evidence also suggest there have been structures at this location since at least 1838 (see below).

2.3 Area 1

- 2.3.1 This is the largest Area, and comprises a strip of garden that runs northeast to southwest from Main Road. In shape the garden is an irregular rectangle. The northern boundary consists of a mortared sandstone wall topped with 'cocks and hens, which may be contemporary with the house. The eastern boundary is in two parts: the northern is a concrete block retaining wall, while the southern consists of a mesh fence and garden hedge. The southern boundary adjoins a pasture field, it consists of a barbed wire fence and rough hedge of hazel and bramble. The western boundary adjoining Compton View is in standard wooden closeboard fence panels. There is a wooden gateway giving access from the drive (Area 2). The boundary adjoining Wyngarth house and garden consists of a low wooden rail fence.
- 2.3.2 Like most of the study area, Area 1 is generally flat, rising slightly to the southwest. The northern third of the study area consists of a lawn with the stumps of several recently felled trees. There is a distinct rise towards the eastern boundary, suggesting the line of a former bank has been followed. The central third is more overgrown, with shrubs and tussock grass. circular well is located close to the south east boundary with Wyngarth. The well is set in a low rectangular plinth of concrete, but is lined with small sandstone blocks and slabs laid in uneven but regular courses. The depth



Plate c: view of the well, looking south. Scale 1m.

of the well was not ascertained, but the surface of the water was less than 1m below ground level. In appearance the well probably pre-dates Wyngarth and may relate to the beer house recorded on the site of the house in 1838.

- 2.3.3 Also within this part of Area 1 is a small plastic lined pond and a static propane gas tank that presumably supplied Wyngarth.
- 2.3.4 The southern third of the study area is rough ground, with tussocks and an uneven surface. The remains of a circular pond with a central island (as observed on Google Earth imagery) were noted. The pond still holds water. During the walkover three sherds of pottery were collected from the surface of the disturbed soil. Two are almost certainly Roman (Severn Valley ware and an unidentified grey ware), while



Plate d: view of the study area from the southern end, looking northeast. No scale.

the third is more likely to be late Medieval. A few clay tobacco pipe stems were also observed, but these were not collected.

2.4 Area 2

2.4.1 Area 2 comprises the driveway access to the study area from Main Road. It also gives access to Compton View. This driveway is located immediately west of Wyngarth. It is straight, aligned approximately northeast to southwest, and surfaced with tarmac. At least one service access hatch was observed. Along the west side of the drive is a partially overgrown drainage ditch, which was dry at the time of inspection.



Plate e: a view of the driveway (Area 2), looking northeast toward Main Road. No scale

2.5 Observations outwith the Study Area

2.5.1 From the rear (south western) boundary of the study area it was noted there is a clear view across a single field to the medieval parish church of All Saints, Compton Greenfield, c. 250m to the south. In the same field, less than 50m to the west of the study area, is a raised curvi-linear platform. This is interpreted as earthworks relating to the former Compton Farm. Possibly medieval in origin, the farm was extant c. 1700 – 1980, partially demolished by 1989 and completely demolished by 1999 (see below).

2.6 A History of Almondsbury Parish and Easter Compton

- 2.6.1 Historically the study area was located within the former medieval parish of Almondsbury. This large parish was divided into tithings. The parish was unusual in that different tithings were placed in different hundreds, whereas it was normal for the whole parish to have been within a single hundred. This unusual division may represent the presence of several historic manors from outwith the parish, holding land within the parish. Easter Compton is located near the south-eastern edge of the parish, so while the parish church is located in the centre of Almondsbury village some 3.5km to the northeast, in practice the nearest church is All Saints parish church, Compton Greenfield, some 250m southwest from the centre of the village. In 1779 Easter Compton was a small hamlet in the tithing of Over, which lay in the Hundred of Langley and Swineshead (Rudder 1977, 223-4).
- 2.6.2 The earliest historical reference to Compton occurs in an 11th century manuscript recording an Anglo-Saxon charter dated to AD 990. Archbishop Oswald granted to Æthelmær 1 hide at Compton and 1 at Marsh, in return for 2 pounds of silver and livestock, with a postscript granting the *worthig* at *Brynes hamme* (Brimsham, near Yate) which Æthelm owned (Electronic Sawyer 2012). It has been suggested that Compton was an endowment to the monastery at Westbury, and that a pre-Conquest chapel may have been founded in Compton to serve the local inhabitants (Tull 1938, 29).
- 2.6.3 At the time of Domesday (1086) there were at least three recorded manors holding land within the parish, Berkeley, Gaunts Earthcott and Compton. Berkeley was a large royal estate, with many outliers, including two hides of land in Almondsbury (Moore 1982, [I]:15). Gaunts Earthcott was land of the Bishop of Coutance in Langley hundred, held by one Robert (Moore 1982, 6:8). The manor of Henbury was held by St. Mary's of Worcester, they had 3½ hides of land in Compton held by Gilbert, son of Thorold (Moore 1982, 3:1). The study area may have lain within the land held at Compton.
- 2.6.4 As a result of these divisions and sub-divisions, the manorial history of the parish is complex with substantial conflicting evidence. At some point in the history of the parish prior to 1700, a large proportion of the lands, including part of Compton, became part of

- the manor of Almondsbury (see Jenner n.d.). Almondsbury manor is first mentioned in 1148 when Robert Fitz-Harding, lord of Berkeley, gifted it to the abbey of St Augustine, Bristol (Rudder 1977, 222). At the Dissolution the manor was sold into private hands, it was acquired by the Chester family during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I and remained with them until 1763, when the last Thomas Chester left his lands and title to William Bromley, the husband of his niece, who then assumed the Chester family name (Rudder 1977, 223).
- 2.6.5 The name *Almondsbury* is thought to derive from an Old English personal name together with the name element for a fortified place (Smith 1964, 105). Compton probably derives from the elements *cumb*, meaning 'valley' and tun, meaning 'settlement' (Smith 1964, 106). The suffix *Greenfield* is probably a corruption of Grenville, as the Grenvilles were lords of Compton between 1207 and 1316 (Tull 1938, 31-33; Smith 1964, 106-7). The prefix *Easter*, denotes the more easterly settlement of the two; it was first recorded in 1305 (Smith 1964, 106).
- 2.6.6 Easter Compton was therefore a settlement in existence by the early 14th century and probably founded in the 13th century if not before. The earliest documented depiction of it is on a plan of c. 1700 (Jenner, n.d). Here it is shown as a small hamlet, partially nucleated around a crossroads (no longer extant) and the remainder extending westward along the south side of the present main road (ibid.). The surrounding fields had all been enclosed by the date of this survey (ibid.). There are no detailed 18th century maps that show Easter Compton and the next available map dates from 1835 when the Sturge family undertook a survey of the lower Severn levels and associated estates (Sturge & Sturge 1835). At that date the settlement was still relatively small, though less nucleated and more linear in form. The present road through Easter Compton follows the line of the turnpike road that was laid out c. 1750-1760, to the New Passage ferry across the Severn (Seyer 1821, 139).

2.7 A History of the Study Area

- 2.7.1 Nothing is known of the history of the study area before the 18th century, although it is possible to infer some things from the later evidence. The earliest detailed cartographic evidence comes from a c. 1700 survey of the manor of Almondsbury by Anselm Jenner (Jenner n.d.). This survey book includes plans of the lands and lists the tenants of the manor and their holdings. At the time of the survey Thomas Chester Esq. was lord of the manor (ibid.).
- 2.7.2 The study area is shown on the plan of *Cumpton* (Easter Compton, see **Figure 3**). While one would expect a plan of this early date to be representative rather than accurate, the reverse is in this case true. Jenner appears to have been an extremely accurate surveyor and gave the latitude and longitude co-ordinates for each plot of land he recorded. Minor discrepancies between his plan and later maps and plans could easily be the result of layout changes in the village rather than errors on his part.
- 2.7.3 At the date of Jenner's survey the village of Easter Compton was much smaller. The main road through the village did not follow its present route; it was winding in nature, with a detour to take in what was later known as Compton Farm (SGSMR 5347). This road petered out at the northwest end of the village. The study area thus appears to have been located on the south and east sides of the road, in the angle created where the road turned south to Compton Farm. The study area thus appears to take in parts of at least four small plots of land, all labelled (6), including one rectangular building adjoining the corner of the road. In the accompanying table plot 6 is called *Three Acres*, listed under Hester Hollister, and measures two acres, one rood and 36 poles. The exact location of the structure shown in relation to the study area is open to some question. The best overall fit of Jenner's map suggests this structure stood where the present driveway passes west of Wyngarth (see **Figure 3**). A more localised fit would suggest the driveway represents the former course of the road and the structure drawn c. 1700 stood

- on the site of Wyngarth itself. The age and use of this structure are not given, but it was conceivably a late medieval long house, or a later building in the same tradition.
- 2.7.4 Subsequently there is a long gap in the cartographic history of the study area, until a sequence of maps by the Sturge family of the area, commencing in 1825 and culminating in the Almondsbury tithe map of 1838 (EP/A/32/2b). All these maps show the study area in roughly the same amount of detail, with no recorded changes between them. The 1838 plan of Almondsbury parish (BRO 31965/STG/1a, see **Figure 4**) gives slightly better detail than the tithe map (BRO EP/A/32/2b), as the lands of the two main landholders were highlighted in colour. Other consulted maps in this sequence were: BRO 31965/STG/1b, 31965/19, EP/A/32/13, 37959/36 and GA D272/9/1. An earlier plan of the area dated 1809 (BRO 31965/4 is unfit for production).
- 2.7.5 The most noticeable feature on all those plans that showed the village was the apparent straightening of the road. According to Seyer the road was apparently turnpiked c. 1750-1760, when it became the main link road between Bristol and the New Passage ferry crossing of the River Severn (Seyer 1821, 139). This would provide the likely context for the straightening of the road. No trace of the former course of the road through the village is visible on the early 19th century maps listed above.
- 2.7.6 At this date the study area occupied parts of two plots of land, labelled 1051 and 1052 (see **Figure 4**). In the tithe apportionment (EP/A/32/2b) these are listed as owned and occupied by John Taylor. Plot 1051 was an orchard while plot 1052 was a beer house and garden, i.e. a public house. The structure shown falls largely outwith the study area, on the approximate location of Wyngarth house. It is possible, though not certain, that this was the structure shown on Jenner's map c. 140 years earlier. The boundary between the two plots ran through the study area. This boundary appears to be the only subdivision shown on Jenner's plan to have survived.
- 2.7.7 In 1881 the first detailed Ordnance Survey mapping of the study area was published (OS 1881; see **Figure 5**). By this date the boundaries between Tithe plots 1051 and 1052 had been removed. The former structure shown on the Sturge map of 1838 appears to be shown. No use is given for this structure, suggesting it was no longer a public house, while the attached grounds were marked as an orchard.
- 2.7.8 Beyond the study area the village had expanded, with housing on the opposite side of the road. A Methodist chapel opposite the study area had also been added in 1869.
- 2.7.9 The OS 1903 map (see **Figure 6**) is the first to show the present Wyngarth House, on the site of the structures evidenced on the 1838 and 1881 maps. To the rear of Wyngarth House, but separate from it, there was a row of three adjoining outbuildings. To the south of the house and cutting across part of the study area from northwest to southeast was another row of outbuildings. These defined the southern limits of a garden area laid out to the east of the house and extracted from the orchard evidenced on the 1881 map. Much of the remainder of the study area appears to have still been part of an orchard.
- 2.7.10 Very little change to the study area was observed on the subsequent OS map of 1920 (Gloucestershire 67.8, not illustrated). The northwest-southeast aligned row of outbuildings appears to have been extended slightly further to the northwest, while one internal garden boundary appears to have been moved.
- 2.7.11 Between 1946 and 1963 the area was overflown by RAF air photoreconnaissance teams collecting images for use by the OS. These images are available for public consultation at the NMR, Swindon. The earliest clear image dates from December 1946 (RAF/CPE/UK/1869/RP/3001). This photograph shows no material change in the study area and little discernible change in the surrounds since the OS map of 1920. By 1953, land to the rear of the house and outbuildings appears to have been extracted from the surrounding orchard as a garden. There appear to have been no major changes to the study area and its immediate surrounds between 1953 and 1963.

- 2.7.12 Aerial photographs made by the OS of the study area from 1969 show that farmland immediately north and west of the study area had been built on for housing, forming the present Prospect Close and Gable Close. By October 1980 the construction of this estate had been completed. Adjoining Compton Farm (SGSMR 5347) had been largely demolished, with only a few buildings left standing. By this date the orchard had been felled and the land subdivided. The eastern half of the orchard had been built over, giving the present detached houses of Ashcroft, Applewood and The Birches. Within the study area the northwest to southeast range of outbuildings had been demolished and replaced by a small shed. The latest available aerial photography, from 1989, shows no apparent change since 1980 to the study area. Beyond it, Compton Farm (SGSMR 5347) had been almost completely removed, though some buildings still remained standing.
- 2.7.13 Evidence from Google Earth was also consulted. The earliest available imagery dates from 1999. This shows that since 1989, land to the rear of Wyngarth had been used for the construction of a detached house and garden, the present Compton View. A circular pond around a central island had been constructed in the rear third of the study area, which by this date had taken on its present shape. Images from 2005 to the latest available (2008) show no major changes.

2.8 Previous Archaeological Evidence

- 2.8.1 A 1km radius trawl of the English Heritage National Monuments Record has revealed eight records within the trawl radius, none of which are located within the study area or relate directly to it.
- 2.8.2 A 1 km trawl of the National Heritage List for England, confirmed there are no scheduled ancient monuments within the trawl area. There are no World Heritage sites, registered battlefields or registered parks and gardens within the trawl radius. There are no listed buildings within the study area. Nine listed buildings were retrieved within the trawl radius, two are Grade II* and the remainder Grade II. The Grade II* buildings are the Bishop's Farmhouse, Compton Greenfield and the Church of All Saints, Compton Greenfield. The Grade II buildings are: All Saints' Lychgate, Compton Greenfield, The Fox public house, Easter Compton, Church Farmhouse, Compton Greenfield, Washingpool Farmhouse, Easter Compton, The Rectory, Compton Greenfield, Manor Farmhouse, Compton Greenfield, and St Swithin's Farmhouse, Cribbs Causeway.
- 2.8.3 Of the recorded National Heritage Assets, The Fox is closest to the study area (c. 85m). Views between the study area and The Fox are already interrupted by late 20th century housing between them. Houses no taller than the surrounding present structures are unlikely to have a detrimental impact on the setting of The Fox.
- 2.8.4 All Saints Church is clearly visible from the rear of the study area. It is located 230m to the south. Views to, from and across the study area from the church may be interrupted by the construction of housing within the study area, but the narrow frontage of the latter suggest the impact is likely to be negligible, so long as building heights do not exceed the roofline of surrounding structures.
- 2.8.5 A 500m trawl of the South Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record has revealed 53 records. These are broken down into their relevant groups and explained in the following paragraphs.
- 2.8.6 The four listed buildings within the trawl area have already been described above (see **Figure 7**). In addition, there are two locally listed buildings and a local historic garden within the trawl radius. The buildings are the c. 1890 Easter Compton village hall (SGSMR 17741), located on the east side of The Fox, c. 125m from the study area, and the 1869 Ebenezer Methodist church on the north side of Main Road, opposite the study area (c. 21m distant). The garden is the c. 1920 churchyard of All Saints, Compton Greenfield.

- 2.8.7 The remainder of the sites and monuments trawl can be divided into those records that represent events (e.g. archaeological investigations) and those that represent sites and monuments. There are two key events represented in the trawl, archaeological investigations in advance of a potential churchyard extension at All Saints, Compton Greenfield, and archaeological investigations along the route of a flood alleviation scheme through Almondsbury parish (see **Figure 8**).
- 2.8.8 The investigations at All Saints churchyard took place in 2004 and 2005 (SGSMR 17856 and 17906). They involved a desk-based assessment by the author (Etheridge 2004), a geophysical survey by Geoquest Associates (Etheridge 2004, appendix 3), and a programme of trial excavation (Young 2005). These revealed earthworks and ditches, including a filled in ditch that was once the parish boundary between Almondsbury and Compton Greenfield, that may relate to possible Medieval settlement in the vicinity (Etheridge 2004, 25; SGSMR 18287).
- 2.8.9 During a watching brief and trial trenching exercise along the route of the flood alleviation scheme, features and deposits associated with Roman and Medieval pottery were observed (Place 2007 and SGSMR 18213). Five archaeological trenches were excavated (ibid. and SGSMR 18214-18217, 18219). Trench 1 yielded evidence for a Roman ditch (Place 2007, 11), in Trench 2 both Roman and Medieval pottery was found in the topsoil (ibid.), Trench 3 yielded modern deposits (ibid.), probably related to the site of Compton Farm (SGSMR 5347), Trenches 4 and 5 did not expose anything of archaeological significance (Place 2007, 11). During the watching brief a Roman cow burial was found (ibid. and SGSMR 18221). Between Trenches 4 and 5 a later Medieval ditch was recorded, together with residual sherds of Roman pottery (Place 2007, 11-12; SGSMR 18222).
- 2.8.10 Some of the monuments illustrated on Figure 9 have already been referred to above. The following is a selection of those records that may have a bearing on the study area. Part of the study area falls within record SGSMR 5348, indicated as a farm site. This relates to the structures indicated at this location on the OS map of 1881 and earlier maps and plans (see above). It is noted in the record that in 1767 the building was described as *A house of 4 bays, barn of 3 bays. Stone building covered with thatch in good repair* (SGSMR 5348). The original source for this record was not located during this survey.
- 2.8.11 Land to the west and land to the south of the study area are part of SGSMR 1535, which records the finding of Roman pottery in a field adjacent to 'Wyngart' (sic.) and its deposition with the Bristol museums service in 1965. The exact location of the find is not clear, hence the two polygons, but the most likely context is the construction of Prospect and Gable closes (ibid.), sometime between 1963 and 1969 (see above).
- 2.8.12 SGSMR 5347 records the location of the former Compton Farm, completely demolished by 1999 (see Google Earth), but extant on the Jenner (n.d.) map of c. 1700 and still standing in 1989 (see above). Record 17859 projects the course of a postulated medieval road between Compton Greenfield and Compton Farm. Only the northern end of the road is confirmed by Jenner. A lush mark between Compton Farm and Church Farm, on an October 1980 aerial photograph (OS 80156/V/709), may represent the course of this road
- 2.8.13 SGSMR 1086, in the area of Church Farm and All Saints Church, Compton Greenfield is identified as the possible location of Medieval settlement. Record 6366 notes the presence of ridge and furrow cultivation marks, while record 1085 notes another possible area of Medieval settlement. Record 5350, on the south side of Main Road, indicates the location of a farm recorded in the 18th century, possibly dating back to the Middle Ages, but now replaced by a 20th century house. Record 5353 represents the site of a Medieval farmstead still extant at the time of the 1838 Tithe Survey.
- 2.8.14 To sum up the results of the HER trawl, there is good general background evidence for Medieval settlement and activity in Easter Compton, with the possibility that former

8

structures on the site of Wyngarth may represent Medieval settlement at this location. There is also good background evidence for Roman activity in the area, with Roman pottery finds retrieved from an adjacent field, probably in the area of Gable Close and Prospect Close.

2.9 The Aerial Photographic Evidence

- 2.9.1 Historic vertical aerial photographs of the study area were viewed in the NMR Centre, Swindon. All available prints (43, see **Appendix 1**) were studied for evidence of archaeological or other heritage asset potential within or impinging upon the study area. Notes were made and photocopies of selected prints taken. The earliest available prints dated from January 1946 while the latest prints dated from June 1989.
- 2.9.2 Details of the development history of the study area extracted from the aerial photographs have been outlined above. As expected no potential heritage assets were visible within the bounds of the study area in the form of crop marks or earthworks. The primary exercise was therefore to establish whether there was evidence in adjoining fields for heritage assets that could impinge on the study area. Evidence was observed for ridge and furrow cultivation in land adjoining the southern edge of the study area, but this was not thought to be significant.
- 2.9.3 Evidence of crop marks and earthworks located immediately west of the southern edge of the study area, observed on Google Earth imagery and also during the site visit, probably relate to the now demolished Compton Farm.

3 IMPACT STATEMENT

3.1 Preamble

- 3.1.1 In-line with current planning policy guidelines a statement outlining the known and potential heritage assets of the study area, together with an assessment of the likely impact upon them of the proposed development, is now a standard component of an archaeological desk-based assessment undertaken in England.
- 3.1.2 In the absence of specific detailed guidelines, an assessment criteria and impact assessment methodology devised by the author for the Heritage Chapter of Environmental Impact Assessments has been adapted for use in desk-based assessments.

3.2 Significance Criteria

3.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework stresses the importance of retaining the heritage asset, rather than retaining a documentary record of it (DCLG 2012, 30-32). In the following scheme therefore, preservation by record of any part of the resource is viewed as an adverse impact where preservation *in situ* cannot be achieved.

3.2.2 Table of Significance Criteria.

Significance Criteria	Description of Criteria
Substantial beneficial	The archaeological and cultural heritage resource is retained with:
	a) enhanced protection and monitoring,
	b) the removal of identified threats,
	c) the non-intrusive recording of the resource against unspecified future
	threat,
	d) improved accessibility of sites and information to the general public
Moderate beneficial	The archaeological and cultural heritage resource is retained, with 2-3 of the following:
	a) enhanced protection and monitoring,
	b) the removal of identified threats,
	c) the non-intrusive recording of the resource against unspecified future
	threat,
	d) improved accessibility of sites and information to the general public
Minor beneficial	The archaeological and cultural heritage resource is retained, with 1 of the following:
	a) enhanced protection and monitoring,
	b) the removal of identified threats,
	c) the non-intrusive recording of the resource against unspecified future threat,
	d) improved accessibility of sites and information to the general public
Negligible	The archaeological and cultural heritage resource is retained
Minor adverse	The majority of the archaeological and cultural heritage resource is retained, only peripheral elements cannot be preserved.
Moderate adverse	Some core elements of the archaeological and cultural heritage resource
	cannot be retained, but a substantial proportion remain.
Substantial adverse	All or a significant majority of the core archaeological and cultural heritage resource cannot be retained.

10

3.3 Impact Assessment

- 3.3.1 The presence or absence of significant buried archaeological remains has yet to be determined with certainty across the study area. For the purposes of this chapter it has therefore been assumed that archaeological remains may be present in those areas of the application site affected by the proposed development.
- 3.3.2 Table of Construction Zones Impact Assessment

Zone	Predicted Impact
Areas within the application site where no construction is proposed	Negligible
Areas where building construction is proposed	Substantial adverse, where buried archaeological remains are present
Construction zone operating areas	Moderate adverse to substantial adverse, where buried archaeological remains are present
Other ground surface and below ground surface modifying operations e.g. landscaping, drainage, roads	Moderate adverse to substantial adverse, where buried archaeological remains are present
Broader study area	Negligible impact to heritage assets resulting from the risks generated by passing construction traffic. Minor adverse impact on views from, to and across the study area

3.3.3 Table of Operational Phase Impact Assessment

3.3.4 The long-term impact on the archaeological and cultural resource is partly defined by the short-term impact. If a resource has been destroyed or modified during the construction phase then it is no longer available in its original form at a later date, i.e. the resource is finite.

Zone	Predicted Impact
Areas within the application site where no construction or modification is proposed, except below.	Negligible on the heritage resource through local population increase.
Areas where alterations have been made to the present storm water drainage patterns.	Negligible to substantial adverse on the buried archaeological resource, dependant on the present ground water conditions and the predicted impact of any proposed alterations to storm water drainage.
Broader study area	Negligible impact on the heritage resource Minor adverse impact on views from, to and across the study area.

3.3.5 Table of Specific Areas Impact Assessment

Area or Structure	Proposed Development	Significance Assessment	Overall Impact Assessment
Area 1	Construction of new housing within the study area.	Built heritage None identified.	Not applicable
		Archaeology Moderate to low archaeological potential.	Substantial adverse in areas of below ground operations, if archaeological remains are present.
Area 2.	Present access route. Without further information it is assumed this route will be used for construction traffic and services	Built Heritage None identified. Archaeology Documentary evidence this area was formerly a road c. 1700. Documentary evidence suggests this area may have been part of a farm, with buildings, c. 1700	Not applicable Substantial adverse in areas of below ground operations, if archaeological remains are present.
Ebenezer Methodist Church	On route of construction traffic, opposite study area.	Built Heritage Locally listed building, constructed 1869.	Negligible to minor adverse risk from construction traffic. NB This church is still in use and it would be advisable to avoid construction operations during published service times and show due courtesy and respect during other events and services e.g. funerals.
		Archaeology The churchyard has been used as a cemetery.	Negligible to minor adverse risk from construction traffic.
The Fox, public house	On route of construction traffic. Within potential zone of visual impact.	Built Heritage Grade II Listed building	Negligible impact from construction traffic. Negligible impact to views of The Fox, dependant on the size and scale of development.
		Archaeology Documentary evidence for the site of an earlier farmstead c. 1700	Negligible.

Area or Structure	Proposed Development	Significance Assessment	Overall Impact Assessment
All Saints Church, Compton Greenfield	Within potential zone of visual impact.	Built Heritage Grade II* Listed Building	Negligible to minor adverse impact to views of the church, from or across the study area. Negligible to views from the church. Dependant on the size and scale of development.
		Archaeology Modern cemetery extant and medieval cemetery postulated. Potential for buried remains of an earlier medieval or Early Medieval church.	Negligible impact to the buried archaeological resource.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1.1 A desk-based heritage assessment has been undertaken of c. 1,762 m² of land located on the south side of Main Road, Easter Compton, South Gloucestershire (centred NGR ST 571 825) at about 8m aOD. The study area consists of former garden attached to adjoining Wyngarth, a late Victorian villa, and associated surfaced driveway. This desk-based assessment has been undertaken at the request of the office of the South Gloucestershire Council Department of Environment and Community Services, as a preliminary to a proposed housing development.
- 4.1.2 This study has found there are no scheduled ancient monuments and nine listed structures within a 1km radius of the study area. While Grade II The Fox public house is nearest, the proposals are unlikely to have a significant impact on its setting. The proposals may have an impact on views from and across the study area to the Medieval parish church of All Saints, Compton Greenfield, c. 250m to the south. The locally listed 1869 Ebenezer Methodist Church stands opposite the study area on Main Road. It is not thought the current proposals will have a significant impact on this heritage asset.
- 4.1.3 A map regression exercise has established the following. The study area is first shown on a map of c. 1700. At this time the main road bent southwards around the south side of the study area, possibly along the route of the present driveway, towards a now completely demolished settlement known as Compton Farm. There was a structure at the approximate location of Wyngarth. A similar structure shown on the tithe map of 1838 is recorded as a beer house. These structures were still standing in 1881. The remainder of the study area appears to have been small garden plots c. 1700. By 1838 these had been amalgamated to form an orchard associated with the beer house.
- 4.1.4 By 1903 the former beer house had been demolished and Wyngarth had been constructed on the site. The study area largely remained part of the adjoining orchard until this was divided for housing between 1969 and 1980. The remaining strip has formed the garden of Wyngarth since that time. Between 1989 and 1999 a fishing pond was added to the rear third of the study area.
- 4.1.5 A walkover survey found one possible bank along part of the eastern edge of the study area. Recent disturbance around the pond had brought to the surface two sherds of Roman pottery and one small sherd of Medieval pottery.
- 4.1.6 A review of the archaeological evidence has found there is only one known heritage asset within the study area, the site of the above mentioned beer house. Immediately adjacent to the study area a scatter of Roman pottery sherds was uncovered and handed in to the Bristol City Museum in 1965. It is thought this took place during the construction of housing on Glebe and Prospect Closes.
- 4.1.7 A review of the air photo evidence has also identified possible evidence for Medieval and Post-Medieval cultivation in the adjoining field to the south. It has also confirmed the location of former Compton Farm, located less than 50m west of the southern edge of the study area.
- 4.1.8 Based on the results of this study the overall archaeological potential of the study area is therefore likely to be moderate. However the presence or absence of archaeological remains cannot be established from documentary evidence alone and has not been tested within the study area by intrusive archaeological fieldwork.

5 REFERENCES

5.1 Abbreviations

aOD Above Ordnance Datum
BCL Bristol Central Library
BGS British Geological Survey
BRO Bristol Record Office

DCLG Department for Communities and Local Government

DCMS Department for Culture, Media and Sport

EH English Heritage

GA Gloucestershire Archives

Ibid. See previous reference

IfA Institute for Archaeologists

n.d. No date

NMR National Monuments Record

NMRC National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon

OS Ordnance Survey

Sic. 'Thus', indicates an original misspelling in a quoted text

SGSMR South Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments

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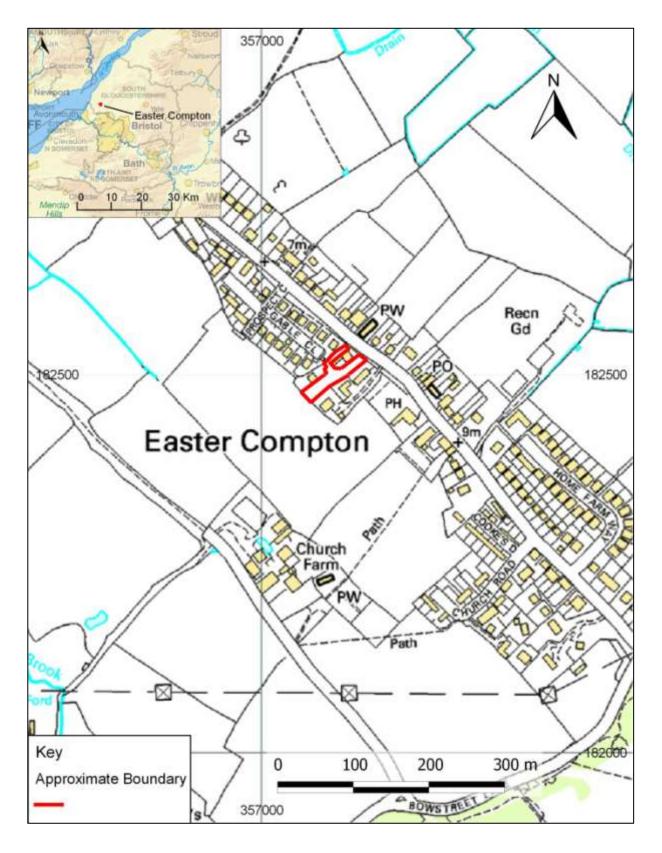


Figure 1: Detail of the study area with the approximate boundary outlined in red. Approximate scale 1:5,000.

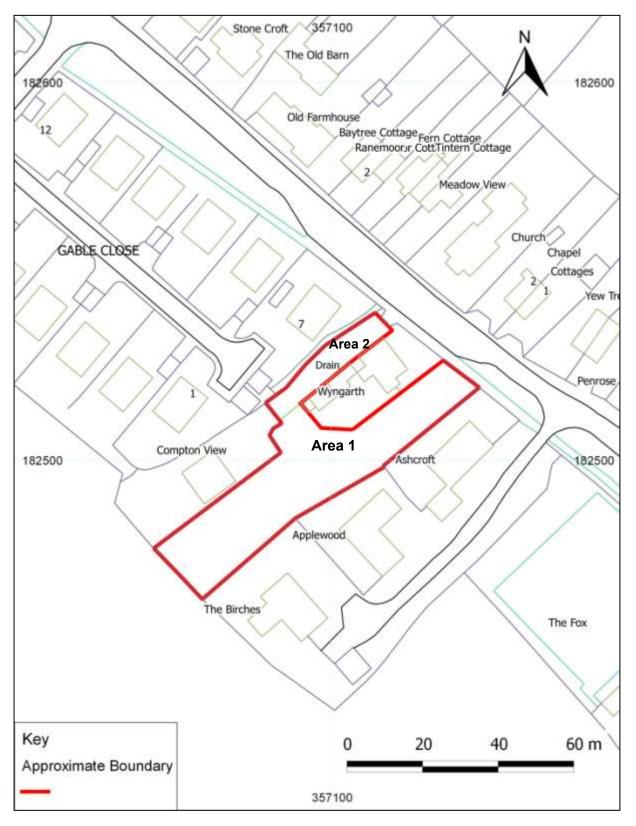


Figure 2: detail of the study area. Boundary of the study area outlined in red. Approximate scale 1:1,000.

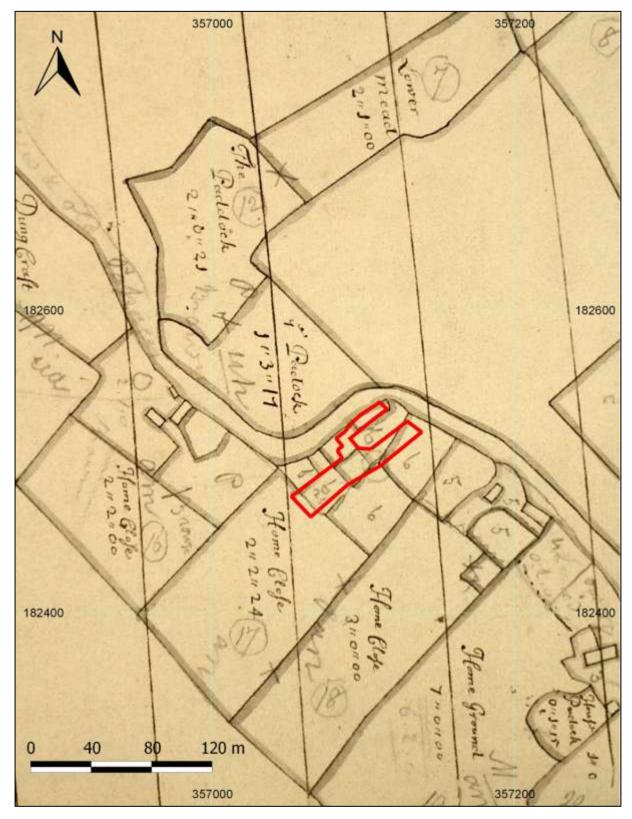


Figure 3: An extract from the c. 1700 plan of *Comptun* from Jenner (n.d.), GA/D674a/P1, rectified and reproduced at an approximate scale of 1:2,500. The approximate boundary and location of the study area is outlined in red. Image reproduced by kind permission of Mr William Chester-Master and Gloucestershire Archives.

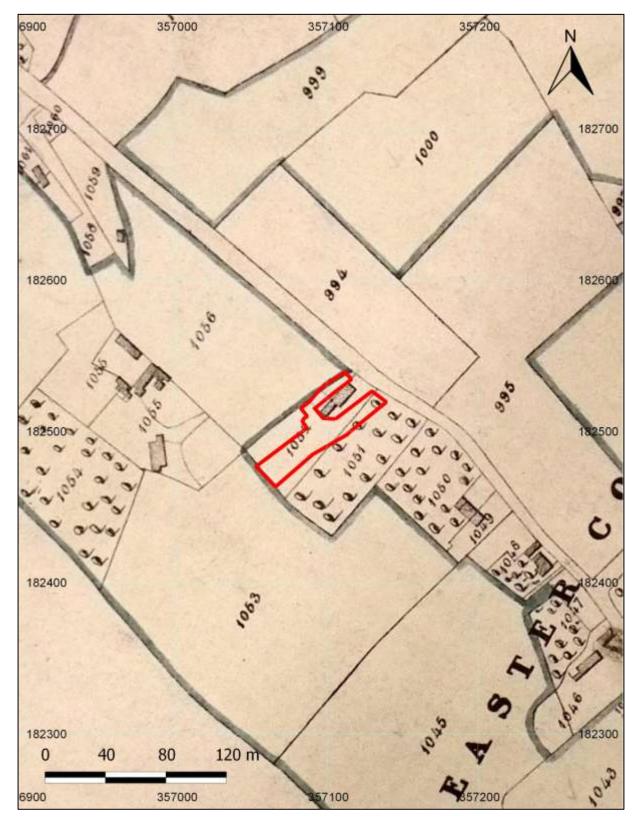


Figure 4: An extract from the 1838 map of Almondsbury Parish, BRO 31965/STG/1a, rectified and reproduced at an approximate scale of 1:2,500. The approximate boundary and location of the study area is outlined in red.

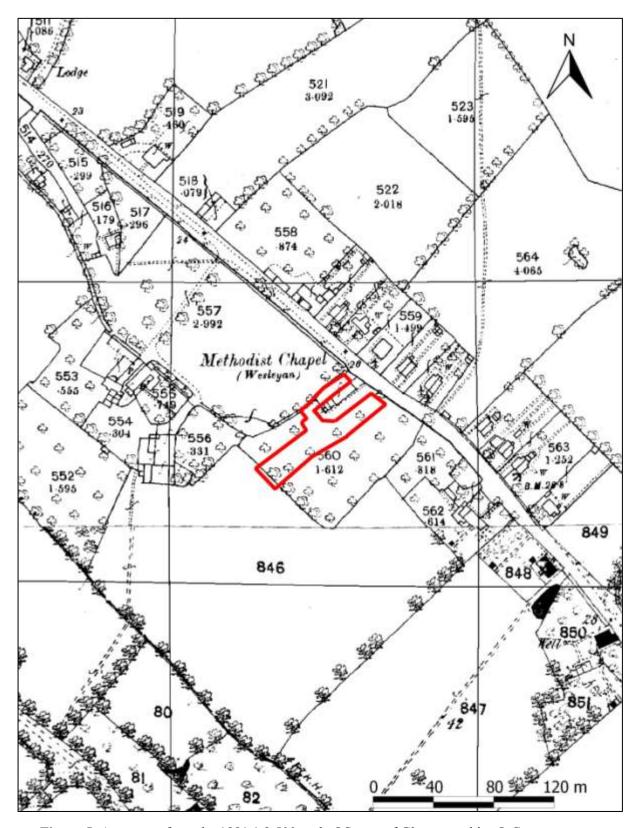


Figure 5: An extract from the 1881 1:2,500 scale OS map of Gloucestershire © Crown copyright and Landmark Information Group Limited 2012. The approximate boundary and location of the study area is outlined in red.

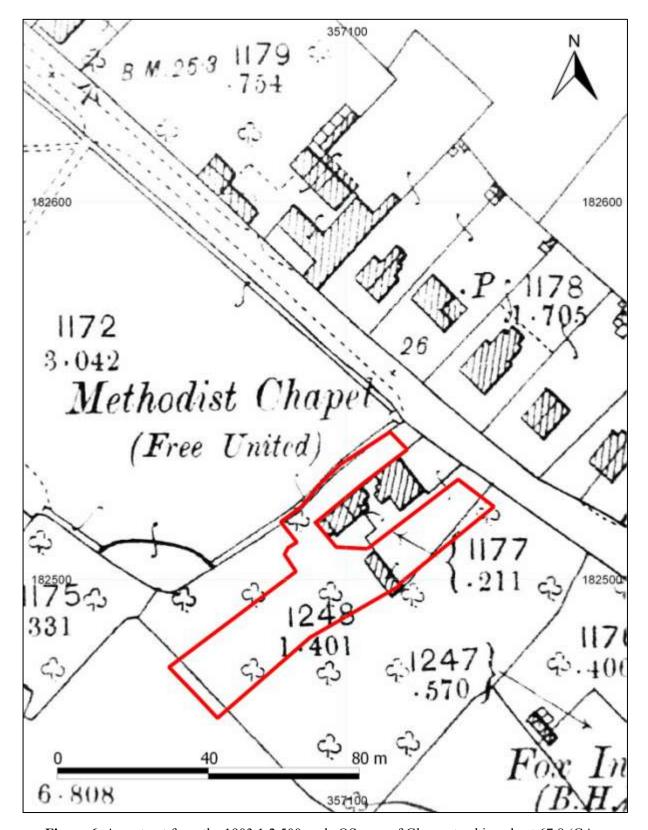


Figure 6: An extract from the 1903 1:2,500 scale OS map of Gloucestershire, sheet 67.8 (GA OS/2/25/67/8). Reproduced from the 1903 Ordnance Survey map with the kind permission of the Ordnance Survey.

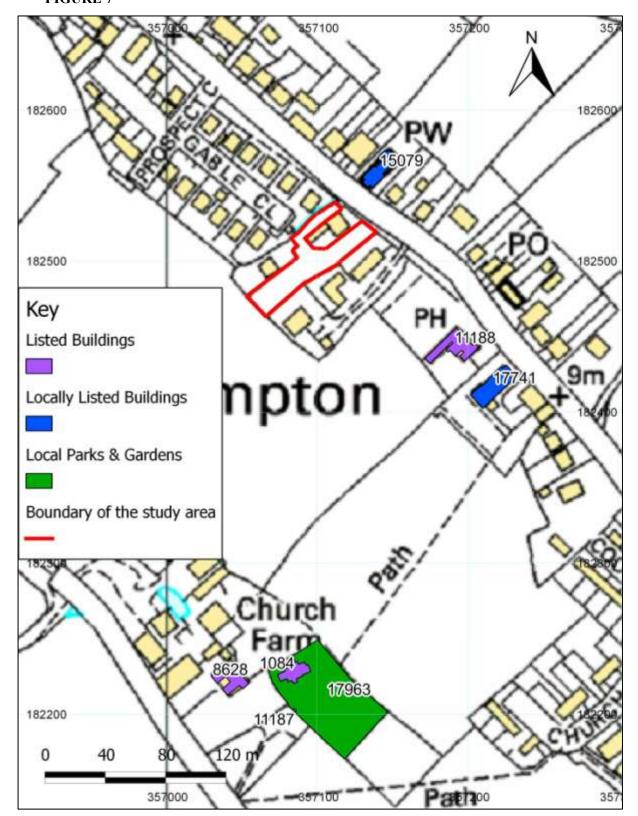


Figure 7: Location of listed and locally listed structures and gardens within a 500m radius of the study area. Based on information supplied by and reproduced by permission of South Gloucestershire Council. Approximate scale 1:2,500. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012. HER information © South Gloucestershire Council 2012.

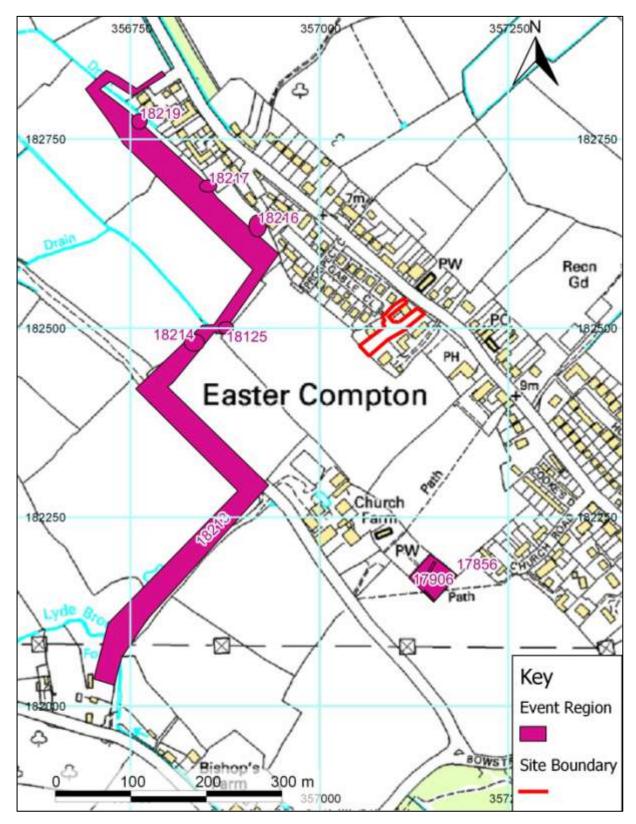


Figure 8: Location of core events within a 500m radius of the study area. Based on information supplied by and reproduced by permission of South Gloucestershire Council. Approximate scale 1:5,000. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012. HER information © South Gloucestershire Council 2012.

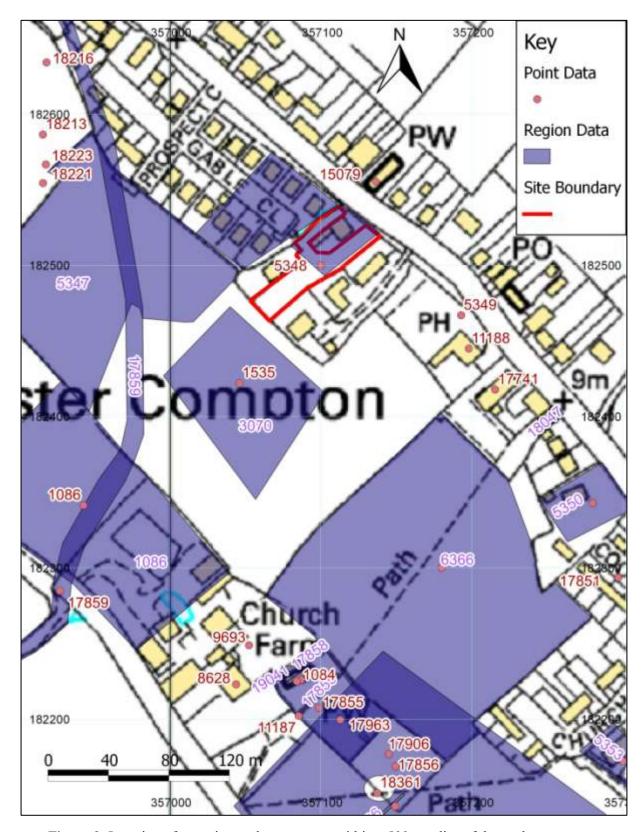


Figure 9: Location of core sites and monuments within a 500m radius of the study area. Based on information supplied by and reproduced by permission of South Gloucestershire Council. Approximate scale 1:2,500. Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2012. HER information © South Gloucestershire Council 2012.

APPENDIX 1: Aerial photographs consulted in the National Monuments Record Centre, Swindon



Sortie number	Library number	Camera positio n	Frame number	Held	Centre point	Run	Date	Sortie quality	Scale 1:	Focal length (in inches)	Film details (in inches)	Film held by
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/19	175	V	5049	Р	ST 574 833	2	13 JAN 1946	AC	10300	12	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/19	175	V	5120	Р	ST 579 824	3	13 JAN 1946	AC	10300	12	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/19	175	V	5121	Р	ST 571 824	3	13 JAN 1946	AC	10300	12	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/3G/TUD/UK/19	175	V	5122	Р	ST 563 825	3	13 JAN 1946	AC	10300	12	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/UK/1885	525	RP	3102	Р	ST 567 827	6	10 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/UK/1885	525	RP	3103	Р	ST 574 829	6	10 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/UK/1885	525	RS	4110	Р	ST 562 824	14	10 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/UK/1885	525	RS	4111	Р	ST 569 825	14	10 DEC 1946	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/UK/1885	525	RS	4112	Р	ST 576	14	10 DEC	AB	9800	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR

					827		1946					
RAF/CPE/UK/1869	526	RP	3001	Р	ST 572 824	1	04 DEC 1946	AB	9840	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/CPE/UK/1869	526	RP	3002	Р	ST 565 824	1	04 DEC 1946	AB	9840	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/58/1126	1454	F22	11	Р	ST 580 829	8	12 MAY 1953	Α	10000	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/58/1126	1454	F22	12	Р	ST 574 828	8	12 MAY 1953	Α	10000	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/58/1126	1454	F22	13	Р	ST 568 828	8	12 MAY 1953	Α	10000	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/58/1126	1454	F22	14	Р	ST 562 828	8	12 MAY 1953	Α	10000	20	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/58/1704	1629	F22	127	Р	ST 573 820	6	01 APR 1955	Α	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/58/1704	1629	F22	128	Р	ST 571 820	6	01 APR 1955	Α	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/58/1704	1629	F22	164	Р	ST 567 825	4	01 APR 1955	Α	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/58/1704	1629	F22	165	Р	ST 569 826	4	01 APR 1955	Α	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/58/1704	1629	F22	166	Р	ST 572 827	4	01 APR 1955	Α	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/58/1704	1629	F22	167	Р	ST 575 827	4	01 APR 1955	Α	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	NMR
RAF/543/2332	2166	1F21	27	Р	ST 567 820	37	26 JUL 1963	AB	10100	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/543/2332	2166	1F21	28	Р	ST 574 820	37	26 JUL 1963	AB	10100	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/543/2332	2166	1F21	29	Р	ST 580 820	37	26 JUL 1963	AB	10100	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/541/T/57	2581	RP	3011	Р	ST 571 818	1	14 OCT 1950	Α	11666	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/541/T/57	2581	RP	3012	Р	ST 580 819	1	14 OCT 1950	Α	11666	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/540/1530	2842	F21	46	Р	ST 576 826	1	11 FEB 1955	AB	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/540/1530	2842	F21	47	Р	ST 573 825	1	11 FEB 1955	AB	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/540/1530	2842	F21	48	Р	ST 570 825	1	11 FEB 1955	AB	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD

RAF/540/1530	2842	F21	49	P	ST 568 825	1	11 FEB 1955	AB	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/540/1530	2842	F21	96	Р	ST 570 821	2	11 FEB 1955	AB	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
RAF/540/1530	2842	F21	97	Р	ST 573 821	2	11 FEB 1955	AB	5000	36	Black and White 8.25 x 7.5	MOD
OS/69310	11683	V	80	Р	ST 569 833	5	30 JUN 1969	А	7000	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/69310	11683	V	81	Р	ST 575 833	5	30 JUN 1969	Α	7000	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/69310	11683	V	110	Р	ST 576 822	6	30 JUN 1969	А	7000	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/69310	11683	V	111	Р	ST 569 822	6	30 JUN 1969	А	7000	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/69310	11683	V	112	Р	ST 563 822	6	30 JUN 1969	А	7000	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/80156	12471	V	708	Р	ST 567 825	12	12 OCT 1980	А	5300	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/80156	12471	V	709	Р	ST 572 825	12	12 OCT 1980	А	5300	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/80156	12471	V	710	Р	ST 577 825	12	12 OCT 1980	А	5300	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/89300	13557	V	87	N	ST 577 816	3	18 JUN 1989	А	8100	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/89300	13557	V	88	N	ST 569 817	3	18 JUN 1989	А	8100	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/89300	13557	V	102	Р	ST 564 830	4	18 JUN 1989	Α	8100	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/89300	13557	V	103	Р	ST 571 830	4	18 JUN 1989	Α	8100	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/89300	13557	V	104	Р	ST 578 830	4	18 JUN 1989	Α	8100	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/99100	22929	V	223	N	ST 575 825	6	30 APR 1999	А	6700	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/99100	22929	V	224	N	ST 570 825	6	30 APR 1999	Α	6700	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
OS/99100	22929	V	225	N	ST 565 825	6	30 APR 1999	Α	6700	12	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
ADA/083	26121	V	133	N	ST 576 828	5	25 APR 1982	Α	10000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR
ADA/083	26121	V	134	N	ST 566	5	25 APR	Α	10000	6	Black and White 9 x 9	NMR

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					829		1982						
									Total sor	ties		13	
									Total ima	iges		50	