

HERITAGE NETWORK



**Land between
WEST STREET AND TAN YARD
St Neots, Cambridgeshire**

HN705 / ECB2871

Archaeological Evaluation Report



THE HERITAGE NETWORK LTD

Registered with the Institute of Field Archaeologists as an Archaeological Organisation

Archaeological Director: David Hillelson, BA MIFA

Land Between
WEST STREET AND TAN YARD
St. Neots, Cambs.

HN705
ECB 2871

Archaeological Evaluation

Prepared on behalf of Bewick Homes Ltd.

by

David Kaye, BA PIFA

Report no.448

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The cover photograph shows the present site facing northeast

Acknowledgements

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Summary

Site name and address:	Land between West St & Tan Yard, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire		
County:	Cambridgeshire	District:	Huntingdonshire
Village/town:	St. Neots	Parish:	St Neots
Planning reference:	H/02/02561/OUT	NGR:	TL 1823 6046
Client name and address:	Bewick Homes Ltd, 40 Mill St, Bedford, MK40 3HD		
Nature of work:	New Housing	Former land use:	Leisure and related buildings
Site status:	None	Reason for investigation:	Direction of local planning authority (PPG 16)
Position in planning process:	Predetermination	Project brief originator:	Local authority
Size of affected area:	c. 2363m ²	Size of area investigated:	c. 129m ²
Site Code:	HN705	Other reference:	ECB2871
Organisation:	Heritage Network	Site Director:	David Hillelson
Project type, methods etc.:	Evaluation	Archive recipient:	Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
Start of work	04/12/2007	Finish of work	07/12/2007
Related SMR Nos:	n/a	Periods represented:	Undetermined, Modern
Oasis UID	heritage1-27393	Significant finds:	No significant finds
Monument types:	Undetermined gully & post hole, modern planting holes		
Physical archive:	None		
Previous summaries/reports:	n/a		

Synopsis:

In order to determine the archaeological risk posed by a proposal to construct new housing on land between West Street and Tan Yard, St. Neots, the Heritage Network was commissioned by the developer to undertake a programme of archaeological evaluation in advance of development.

Five trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon. Trench 1, located on the western side of the site, revealed two shallow, possibly truncated, pits. Trenches 2, 3 and 4 were blank. Trench 5 revealed a post hole and gully. No dating evidence was recovered from either feature.

No archaeological evidence was recovered relating to the 10th century Benedictine Priory which stood c.100m to the south of the site, and no features or unstratified artefacts relating to any other period were noted.

1. Introduction

1.1 This report has been prepared on behalf of *Bewick Homes Ltd.*, as part of the archaeological evaluation of a new development site located on land between West Street and Tan Yard, St. Neots, Cambridgeshire. The determination of the planning application for the development (ref. H/02/02561/OUT) by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC), had been referred back to the applicants for further information on the archaeological potential of the site. This is in accordance with the provisions set out in Planning Policy Guidance Note No.16 (PPG16) on Archaeology and Planning.

1.2 The scope of the required investigation was outlined in a *Design Brief for Archaeological Evaluation*, prepared by the Cambridgeshire Archaeology, Planning and Countryside Advice (CAPCA), acting as adviser to the planning authority (ref. KG 14/12/2005). A full specification for the work was contained in the Heritage Network's approved *Project Design*, dated January 2006.

1.3 The study area is situated in the historic core of St. Neots, centred on NGR TL 1823 6046 (Figure 1). The site was formerly occupied by a roller rink and a garage prior to their demolition (Figure 2). The development proposes the construction of two new blocks of flats, with associated access, landscaping and car parking.

1.4 On the basis of the known archaeology in the vicinity of the present site, the CAPCA advised that archaeological evaluation of the development site should be undertaken before the development could proceed.

1.5 The aim of the evaluation has been to consider the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any remains that are liable to be threatened by the development, and to provide a local and regional, archaeological and historical context for them, in accordance with the current published regional research agenda (Glazebrook 1997, Brown and Glazebrook 2000), should they be discovered.

1.6 The present report is intended to provide the planning authority with sufficient data to allow it to consider the archaeological implications of the proposed development, and to determine what further mitigation measures, if any, may be required to allow the development to proceed.

2 Background

SITE TOPOGRAPHY AND GEOLOGY

2.1 The present site is located to the north of St. Neots town centre, on a small area of higher ground above the 15m contour, which was occupied by the priory in the medieval period. This area was presumably chosen as it lies above the flood plain of the river Great Ouse and was less likely to suffer regular inundation. The study area occupies an irregularly shaped plot, measuring approximately 0.229ha. It is relatively level at approximately 15.65mOD.

2.2 Locally the soils belong to the Efford 1 Association (571s), and consist of well drained fine loamy soils, often over gravel. These are associated with similar permeable soils variably affected by groundwater (SSEW, 1983).

2.3 The underlying drift geology consists of alluvial material over First / Second Terrace gravels. This was characterised in the trenches as dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) sandy gravel with occasional patches of grey boulder clay.

2.4 A geo-environmental investigation was commissioned following the demolition of the former buildings on the site. This comprised the excavation of nine test pits, excavated to depths of between 2.80m and 3.00m. Some of these were located in the vicinity of potentially contaminated areas, such as the garage fuel tanks (Figure 3).

2.5 The test pits revealed that the ground across the site was fairly uniform, consisting of a layer of Made Ground above the River Terrace deposits. This, in turn, overlay Glacial Till deposits. The underlying Oxford Clay was not encountered during the investigation.

2.6 The data from each test pit log is summarised below:

Test Pit 1 – located along the northern boundary of the area fronting West Street and excavated to a depth of 2.80m.

- 0.00m – 1.00m Made Ground: dark brown soil, with brick and concrete fragments
- 1.00m – 1.60m River Terrace deposits: loose to medium dense light greyish brown clayey sandy gravel / dandy gravelly clay
- 1.60m – 2.80m Glacial Till: firm brown mottled grey sandy gravelly clay, with occasional pockets of moist sand.

Test Pit 2 – located in the south-western corner of the area fronting West Street and excavated to a depth of 3.00m

- 0.00m – 0.45m Made Ground: dark brown soil, with brick and concrete fragments. The made ground extended to a depth of 1.00m on the southern side – interpreted as the remains of a possible soakaway.
- 0.45m – 2.30m River Terrace deposits: loose to medium dense orange brown slightly clayey sand and gravel.
- 2.30m – 3.00m Glacial Till: firm brown mottled grey sandy gravelly clay.

Test Pit 3 – located along the northern boundary of the area fronting Priory path and excavated to a depth of 2.80m.

- 0.00m – 0.60m Made Ground: dark brown sand with frequent rootlets and brick fragments.
- 0.60m – 0.90m River Terrace deposits: medium dense dark orange brown sandy fine to coarse flint gravel
- 0.90m – 1.20m River Terrace deposits: medium dense dark orange brown slightly clayey gravelly sand
- 1.20m – 2.80m Glacial Till: firm to stiff orange brown slightly sandy gravelly clay.

Test Pit 4 – located along the western boundary of the area fronting Priory Path and excavated to a depth of 3.00m

- 0.00m – 0.30m Possible Made Ground: rough grass over dark brown sandy topsoil.
- 0.30m – 3.00m River Terrace deposits: loose to medium dense orange brown gravelly sand. Chalk gravel was recorded between 1.30m & 1.50m. Below 1.80m cobble sized pockets of firm to stiff grey clay.

Test Pit 5 – located in the south-eastern corner of the area fronting Priory Path and excavated to a depth of 2.80m.

- 0.00m – 0.15m Made Ground: crushed brick and concrete
- 0.15m – 0.35m Topsoil: relict topsoil with frequent rootlets
- 0.35m – 0.90m River Terrace deposits: loose to medium dense dark brown sandy gravel
- 0.90m – 1.30m River Terrace deposits: loose to medium dense orange brown slightly clayey sandy gravel.
- 1.30m – 2.80m Glacial Till: firm to stiff greyish brown sandy gravelly clay, with some very sandy cobble sized pockets.

Test Pit 6 – located along the southern boundary of the area fronting West Street and excavated to a depth of 1.00m

- 0.00m – 0.30m Made Ground: dark brown and black ashy gravel of brick, coal and clinker
- 0.30m – 1.00m River Terrace deposits: loose to medium dense dark brown slightly clayey sandy gravel

Test Pit 6A – located north-east of TP6 and excavated to a depth of 3.00m

- 0.00m – 0.30m Made Ground: dark brown sand with brick and concrete fragments
- 0.30m – 1.20m River Terrace deposits: loose to medium dense dark brown clayey sandy flint gravel
- 1.20m – 3.00m Glacial Till: firm light greyish brown sandy gravelly clay, with some cobble sized very sandy/gravelly pockets.

Test Pit 7 – located to the north of TP2 and excavated to a depth of 3.00m

- 0.00m – 0.45m Made Ground: dark brown sand, with frequent flints and brick fragments
- 0.45m – 1.40m River Terrace deposits: loose to medium dense orange brown slightly clayey sand and gravel
- 1.40m – 3.00m Glacial Till: firm to stiff orange brown and grey sandy gravelly clay with occasional pockets of gravelly sand

Test Pit 8 – located along West Street frontage and excavated to a depth of 2.00m

- 0.00 – 0.50m Made Ground: dark brown and black sand and gravel, with brick and tile fragments
- 0.50m – 1.70m River Terrace deposits: loose to medium dense dark brown slightly clayey gravelly sand
- 1.70m – 3.00m Glacial Till: firm light grey and brown sandy gravelly clay.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.7 The town of St Neots appears to have grown up around a Benedictine priory, approximately 100m to the south of the present site, which was established in the late 10th century AD. Although no remains of priory buildings are currently visible above the ground, the area is designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 101). Excavations by C.F. Tebbutt in the 1950s and 1960s revealed building remains and medieval stone coffins, possibly benefactors of the priory (Tebbutt 1966). Priory Lane (now called Priory Path) and New Street may represent the lines of the western and eastern boundaries to the priory precinct.

2.8 Evaluation on a site at the southern end of New Street, approximately 175m to the south of the present site, identified a number of features containing medieval pottery (CHER CB14573). Subsequent excavation revealed medieval and post-medieval features, including pits, postholes and ditches. A large well was located, which had evidently been backfilled in the late medieval period. The evidence suggests that the town began to expand northwards at this period.

2.9 The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) also records evidence for prehistoric and Roman activity in the vicinity of the town. These include a Mesolithic flint working site (CHER 08405), a Neolithic settlement (CHER 08405a) and a Bronze Age round barrow (CHER 08405b) on the western bank of the River Ouse. A number of finds of Roman artefacts have been recorded in St Neots, including a coin of Trajan (CHER 000539) on Ware Road. Evidence for Roman occupation was recorded on Church Street in the 1960s and on Church Lane in 1999 (CHER CB15258). Two features of Roman date were identified during archaeological evaluation at Tan Yard, approximately 100m to the south-east (CHER 11935).

2.10 Apart from the Tan Yard evaluation archaeological investigations to the north of the medieval core of the town have proved relatively blank. Modern features, comprising a linear cut & a sub-circular posthole, were recorded during an evaluation at Tebbutts Road, approximately 150m to the southeast (Fell 1999) and investigations at 19 – 25 New Street, less than 100m southeast of the study area, revealed a sterile site (Crank & Grassam 2004).

2.11 The historic map evidence demonstrates that the study area remained largely undeveloped until the later 20th century. The Inclosure map of 1771 shows that the site was located in open land to the north of the town centre (Figure 4). By 1884, the town was spreading

northwards and several new roads had been constructed, including West Street and Wesleyan School Road (now called Priory Road) (Figure 5). The land to the rear of these streets was subdivided into fields, with a small plot to the north-west of the study area apparently being used as an orchard. A small farm was established fronting Priory Road.

2.12 Further development took place in the late 19th and early 20th century (Figure 6). The farm to the north increased in size. Archaeological evaluation on the site of the farm A small building was located in the north-western corner, adjacent to Priory Path. At this time West Street was called Tan Yard.

2.13 By 1970 the northern and eastern sides of the study area were occupied by the roller rink, the garage and other buildings (Figure 7). An access road to the roller rink had been established along the western boundary. The southern side remained undeveloped.

3 Fieldwork

METHODOLOGY

3.1 All fieldwork was carried out in accordance with the approved Project Design, current Health and Safety legislation, and the appropriate IFA and ALGAO guidance documents.

3.2 The trenches were located by triangulation from known points, using fibreglass tape measures.

3.3 Five trenches were opened using a JCB wheeled excavator fitted with a 1.5m wide toothless ditching bucket. These were located across the building footprints and the access road from Tan Yard (Figure 3). The presence of potential archaeological features were noted in Trench 1 on the western side of the site and in Trench 5 on the eastern side (Figure 4). Spoil from the machining was visually inspected and scanned with a metal detector for archaeological artefacts. Trenches were machined to the first significant archaeological horizon.

3.4 The trenches were cleaned by hand, and all potential archaeological features and deposits were sampled to ascertain their nature, depth, date, and quality of preservation.

3.5 All identified contexts were photographed and recorded using the appropriate pro-forma. Scaled plans and sections were drawn on drafting film at scales of 1:10 and 1:50.

RESULTS

Trench 1

3.6 Trench 1 was located on the western side of the site, parallel to the boundary (Figure 8). It measured 1.50m x 11.50m and was aligned approximately north-south.

3.7 The stratigraphy in this trench differed between the southern and northern ends. At the southern end it consisted of a layer of very dark, greyish brown (10YR 3/2) silty clay topsoil, 0.30m in depth above a subsoil (Figure 9). This extended northwards for approximately 5m. At the northern end of the trench it consisted of made ground, approximately 0.30m in depth, which had previously formed the car park of the roller rink. Beneath these deposits was a layer of very dark brown (7.5YR 2.5/3) friable loamy subsoil, 0.35m in depth. This overlay the natural geology of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) sandy gravel with occasional patches of sand and clay.

3.8 Two sub-circular features, approximately 0.45m in diameter and 0.08m in depth, were recorded at the southern end of the trench. Each contained a single very dark brown (10YR 2/2) silty clay fill (Figure 10; Plate 1). These features were both very shallow and no evidence for their original purpose was recovered. No dateable artefacts were present in their fills. Prior to the construction of the roller rink the land was undeveloped.

3.9 A modern machine-cut service trench, 0.45m wide, was noted running approximately east – west across the centre of the trench.

3.10 No further archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the spoil.

Length (m)	11.50	Width(m)	1.50	Maximum Depth (m):	0.85	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NE end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.66	Level at SW end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.86
		Base	14.90			Base	15.06
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
101	Cut	Circular cut with steep sides and irregular base.	0.53	0.40	0.08		
102	Fill	Loose, very dark brown (10YR 2/2), silty clay with frequent small flints. Fill of [101].	0.25+	0.40	0.08		
103	Cut	Sub-oval cut with steep, shallow sides and flat base.	0.45	0.40	0.07		
104	Fill	Loose, very dark brown (10YR 2/2), silty clay with frequent small flints. Fill of [103].	0.25+	0.40	0.07		
105	Layer	Loose, very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2), silty clay with occasional small flints <15mm. Topsoil.	5.00+	1.50+	0.30		
106	Layer	Made ground of tarmac, cinders & CBM. Probable car park for roller rink.	6.50+	1.50+	0.30		
107	Layer	Loose, friable, very dark brown (10YR 4/6) sandy silt. Flints <10mm, increasing in frequency lower in the fill.	11.50+	1.50+	0.35		
108	Layer	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) sandy gravel with occasional patches of sand and clay. Natural geology.	11.50+	1.50+	-		

Trench 2

3.11 Trench 2 was located on the northern side of the site, orientated approximately northwest-southeast, and parallel with the site boundary (Figure 8). It measured 21.60m in length and 1.50m in width.

3.12 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a layer of brick and hardcore, 0.20m in depth, below tarmac, which formerly constituted the surface of the roller rink's car park. Beneath this was a layer of very dark brown (7.5YR 2.5/3), friable, loamy subsoil, 0.40m in depth. This overlay the natural dark brown (7.5YR 3/4) sandy gravel (Figure 9).

3.13 No archaeological cut features, deposits, or artefacts were observed in this trench, and no artefacts were recovered from the spoil.

Length (m)	21.60	Width(m)	1.50	Maximum Depth (m):	0.80	Orientation	NW-SE
Level at NW end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.58	Level at SE end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.52
		Base	14.93			Base	15.04
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
201	Layer	Tarmac, brick, hardcore. Surface of former car park.	21.60+	1.50+	0.20		
202	Layer	Loose, friable, very dark brown (10YR 4/6) sandy silt. Flints <10mm, increasing in frequency lower in the fill.	21.60+	1.50+	0.40		
203	Layer	Dark brown (7.5YR 3/4) sandy gravel. Natural geology.	21.60+	1.50+	-		

Trench 3

3.14 Trench 3 was located in the southeast corner of the site (Figure 8). It was orientated approximately northeast-southwest, and measured 8.70m in length and 1.5m wide. Due to the presence of a large spoil heap it was located further from the boundary than proposed in the Project Design and had to be shortened. Trench 5 was increased in length to compensate.

3.15 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a layer of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) friable silty clay topsoil, 0.30m in depth. Beneath this was a layer of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) friable sandy silt subsoil, 0.3m in depth. This overlay the natural dark brown (10YR 4/6) sandy gravel, with occasional patches of sand and clay (Figure 9).

3.16 No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were observed in this trench and no artefacts were recovered from the spoil.

Length (m)	8.70	Width(m)	1.50	Maximum Depth (m):	0.70	Orientation	NE-SW
Level at NW end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.53	Level at SE end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.49
		Base	14.83			Base	14.85
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
301	Layer	Loose, very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2), silty clay with occasional small flints <15mm. Topsoil.	8.70+	1.50+	0.30		
302	Layer	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) friable sandy silt with frequent flint <30mm.	8.70+	1.50+	0.30		
303	Layer	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) sandy gravel with occasional patches of sand and clay. Natural geology.	8.70+	1.50+	-		

Trench 4

3.17 Trench 4 was located close to the southern site boundary and was orientated approximately east-west (Figure 8). It measured 15.10m in length and 1.5m wide. Due to the presence of stored construction equipment and materials, the trench had to be located further from the boundary than originally proposed in the Project Design.

3.18 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a layer of very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2) friable silty clay topsoil, 0.25m in depth. Beneath this was a layer of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4), friable sandy silt subsoil, 0.30m in depth. This overlay the natural dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) sandy gravel, with occasional patches of sand and clay (Figure 9).

3.19 No archaeological cut features, deposits or artefacts were observed in this trench and no artefacts were recovered from the spoil.

Length (m)	15.10	Width(m)	1.50	Maximum Depth (m):	0.75	Orientation	E-W
Level at W end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.71	Level at E end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.49
		Base	15.04			Base	14.74
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		

Length (m)	15.10	Width(m)	1.50	Maximum Depth (m):	0.75	Orientation	E-W
Level at W end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.71	Level at E end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.49
		Base	15.04			Base	14.74
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
401	Layer	Loose, very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2), silty clay with occasional small flints <15mm. Topsoil.	15.10+	1.50+	0.25		
402	Layer	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) friable sandy silt with frequent flint <30mm.	15.10+	1.50+	0.30		
403	Layer	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) sandy gravel with occasional patches of sand and clay. Natural geology.	15.10+	1.50+	-		

Trench 5

3.20 Trench 5 was located in the northeast corner of the site, across the existing access from West Street (Figure 8). It measured 14.80m in length and 1.5m wide.

3.21 The stratigraphy in the trench consisted of a layer of made ground, 0.40m in depth, which probably formed part of the hard standing for the former garage. Beneath this was a layer of dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4), friable sandy silt subsoil, 0.35m in depth. This overlay the natural yellowish brown (10YR 6/6) sandy gravel (Figure 9).

3.22 The trench contained one sub-circular, and one linear feature. The linear feature, [501], was located towards the northern end of the trench and aligned northwest – southeast. Its exposed area measured 1.50m in length, 0.44m in width and 0.19m in depth (Figure 10; Plate 3). The sub-circular feature, [503], was located to the south of [501] and measured approximately 0.38m in length, 0.35m in width and 0.15m in depth (Figure 10; Plate 3). Both features contained the same brown (10YR 4/3) firm gravelly silt fill, with frequent sub-angular flints, <30mm in diameter. These features probably represent the base of a post hole and a gully respectively.

3.23 The features were excavated in their entirety, but no dating evidence was recovered.

Length (m)	14.80	Width(m)	1.50	Maximum Depth (m):	0.95	Orientation	N-S
Level at N end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.56	Level at S end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.28
		Base	14.50			Base	14.44
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
501	Cut	Linear with U-shaped profile and slightly rounded base. Probable gully.	1.50+	0.44	0.19		
502	Fill	Firm, brown (10YR 4/3) gravelly silt with frequent sub-angular flit <30mm. Sole fill of [501].	0.50+	0.44	0.19		
503	Cut	Sub-circular with U-shaped profile and rounded base. Probable post hole.	0.38+	0.35	0.15		
504	Fill	Firm, brown (10YR 4/3) gravelly silt with frequent sub-angular flit <30mm. Sole fill of [503].	0.22+	0.35	0.15		
505	Layer	Loose, very dark greyish brown (10YR 3/2), silty clay with occasional small flints <15mm. Topsoil.	8.70+	1.50+	0.30		
506	Layer	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/4) friable sandy silt with frequent flint <30mm.	8.70+	1.50+	0.30		

Length (m)	14.80	Width(m)	1.50	Maximum Depth (m):	0.95	Orientation	N-S
Level at N end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.56	Level at S end of Trench (mOD)		Top	15.28
		Base	14.50			Base	14.44
Context	Type	Description	Dimensions (m)				
			Length	Width	Depth		
507	Layer	Dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) sandy gravel with occasional patches of sand and clay. Natural geology.	8.70 +	1.50+	-		

4 Discussion & Conclusion

4.1 The study area lies within a well documented archaeological landscape, which includes the site of the medieval Benedictine Priory, approximately 100m to the south. Evidence of Roman, medieval and post-medieval occupation has been recorded in close proximity to the present site.

4.2 The medieval Priory of St Neot was located on the eastern bank of the river Ouse, at a point where a number of important routes converged. Excavations to the south of the study area, in the Market Square and Priory Lane area have revealed the remains of a number of buildings and the site of the burial ground. No evidence for the northern limit has yet been discovered, though it is possible that this may be represented by the northern edge of New Lane Close, a parcel of meadow land lying to the north of the Cross Keys Closes, where excavations have encountered the remains of medieval buildings. It is possible that the area to the north of these buildings was utilised as monastery gardens. The study area lies in the centre of New Lane Close.

4.3 No evidence for medieval activity associated with the monastery was recovered in the course of the present fieldwork. This indicates that although the site appears to be located within the monastic precinct, any activity at this time was ephemeral, leaving little or no surviving physical evidence.

4.4 By the mid 18th century the site of the Priory was located in closes of meadow land to the north of the town. The area remained undeveloped until the mid 19th century, when a number of new roads were established running east and west from New Street. Cartographic evidence shows that the study area remained relatively open until the early 20th century.

4.5 Five trenches were excavated across the footprints of the proposed buildings in order to investigate the archaeological potential of the site. Limited evidence for archaeological activity was revealed, comprising two undated features in Trench 5, on the eastern side of the study area, and two undated cut features in Trench 1, on the western side.

4.6 The features in Trench 1 consisted of two undated shallow scoops, possibly representing the bases of pits. Those in Trench 5 consisted of the base of a post hole, [501], and a shallow gully, [503]. Although located close together, no relationship could be discerned between them. However, they contained the same, single fill which comprised a gravelly silt with frequent flint inclusions. No datable artefacts were recovered from any of the features.

Conclusion

4.7 The evidence from archaeological, documentary and cartographic sources suggests that the study area lies towards the northern end of a medieval monastic enclosure. The conventual buildings and the graveyard appear to be located at the southern end of the precinct.

4.8 The archaeological evaluation of the site has demonstrated the presence of four undated features. There was no evidence of structures or other archaeological features associated with settlement, and no unstratified artefactual evidence indicative of human occupation. The isolated nature of the features encountered would suggest that the site lay on the fringe of any potential settlement area.

4.9 On the basis of these findings, there is considered to be a low risk that the proposed development will encounter archaeological features and structures.

Confidence Rating

4.10 During the course of the fieldwork, the conditions were generally acceptable for the identification of potential features and deposits, and for their investigation.

4.11 There are no circumstances which would lead to a confidence rating for the work which was less than High.

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Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983 *Soil Map Sheet 4, Eastern England, Scale 1:250,000*

Tebbutt, C.F. 1966 St Neots Priory. *Proc. Cambs. Ant. Soc.*, **59**, 33-74

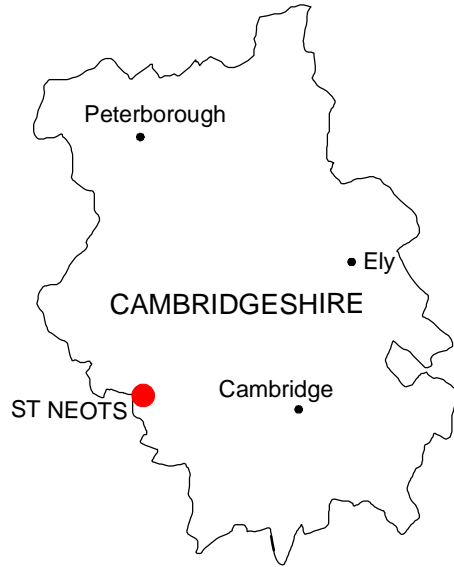
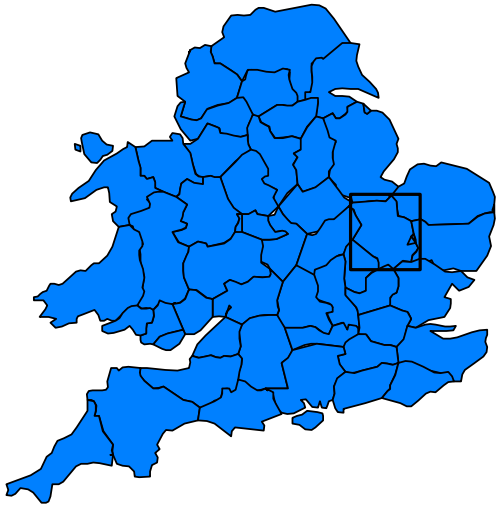
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Land between West St and Tan Yard,
St Neots, Cambridgeshire

HN705

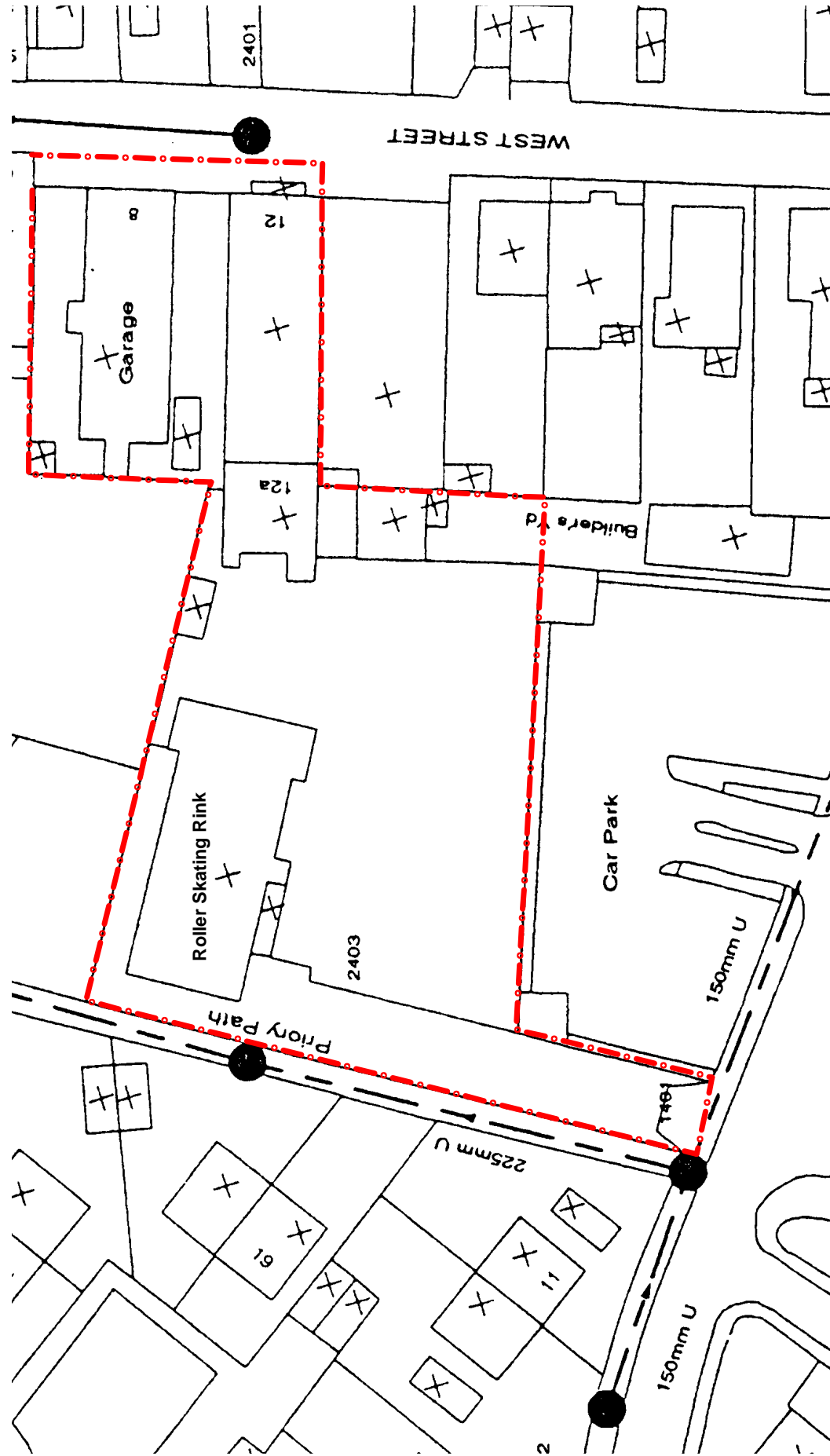


Site Location

Scale 1:1000

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Figure 1

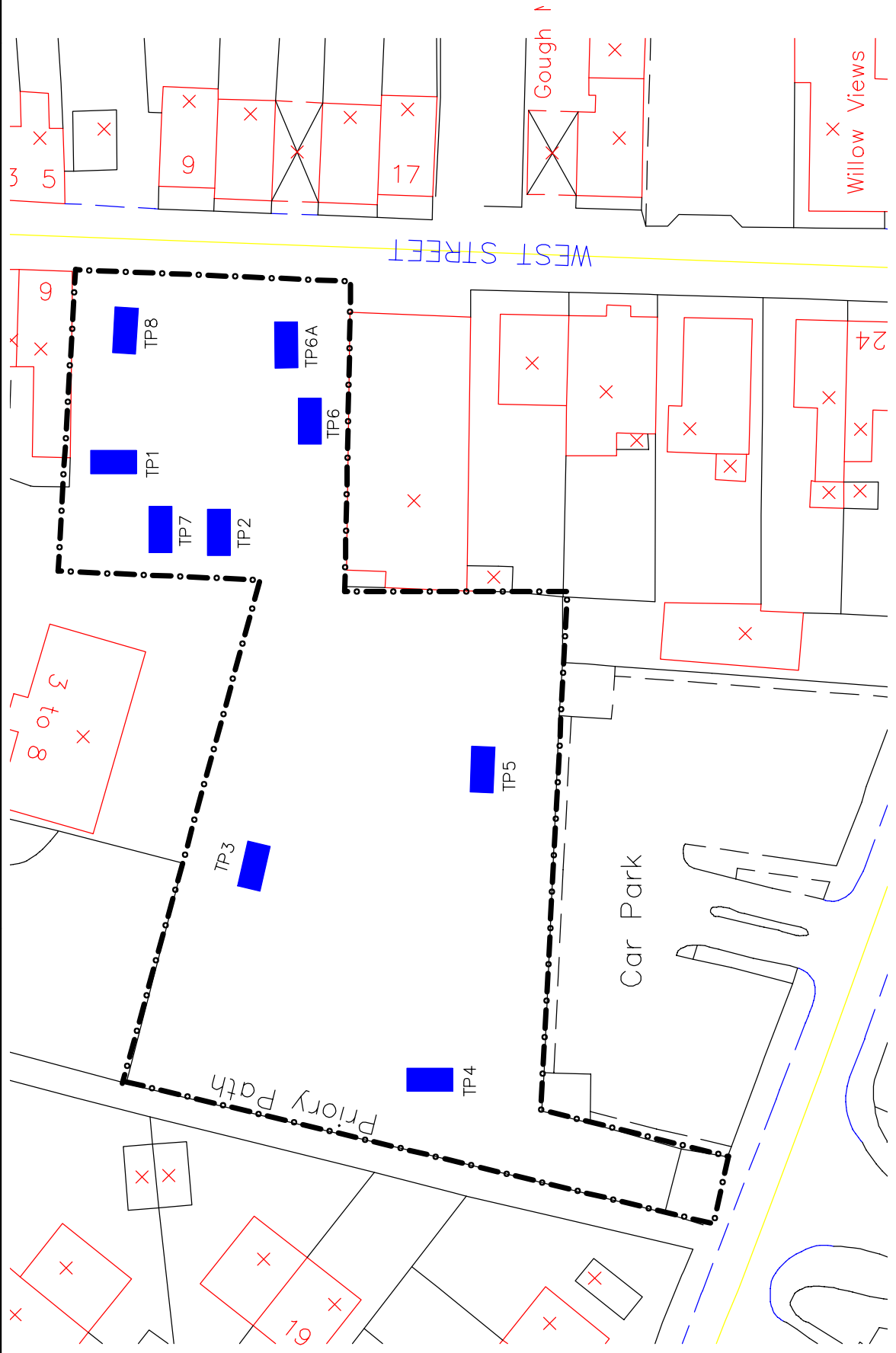


Site layout

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Land between West Street and Tan Yard, St Neots

HN705

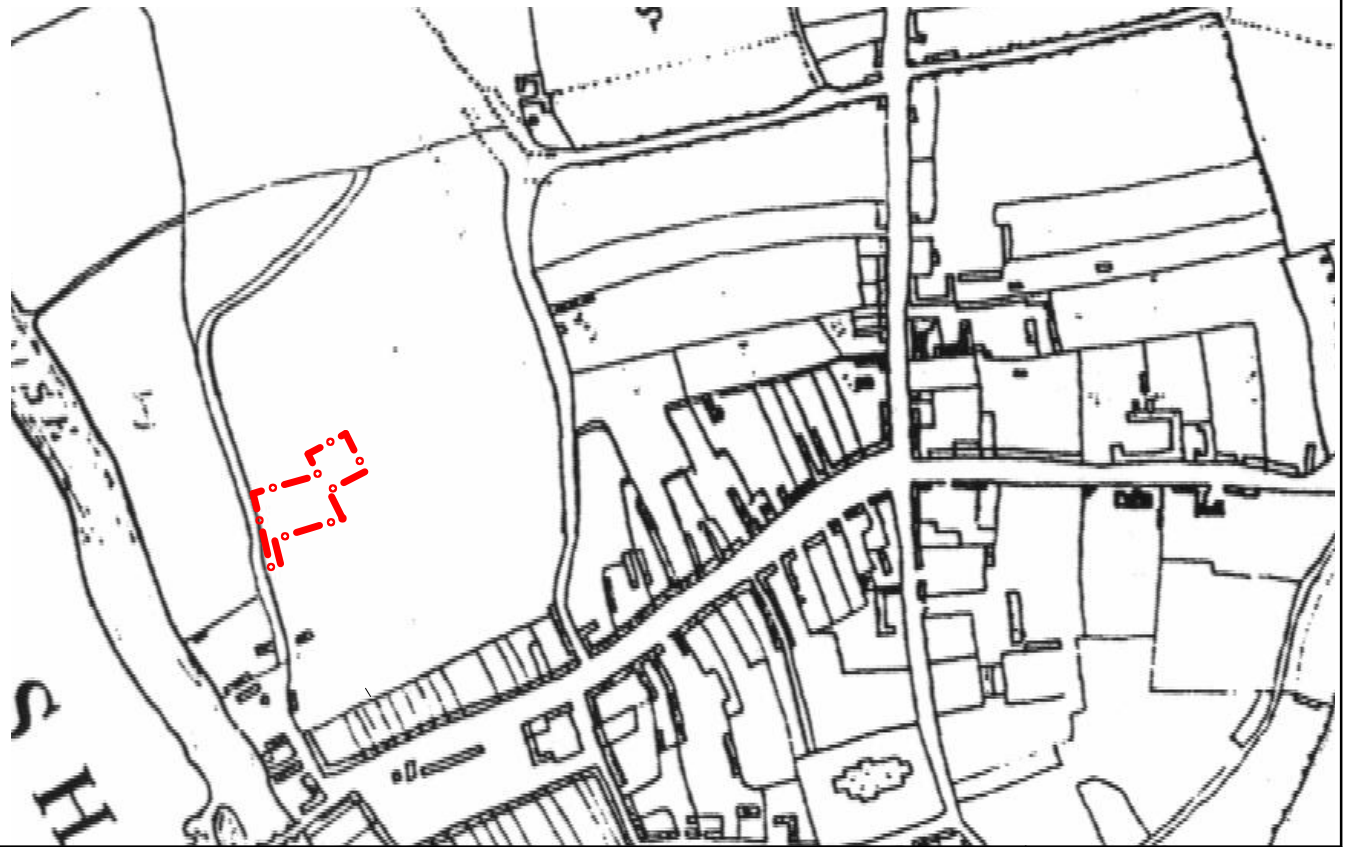


Test pit location

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Scale 1:500

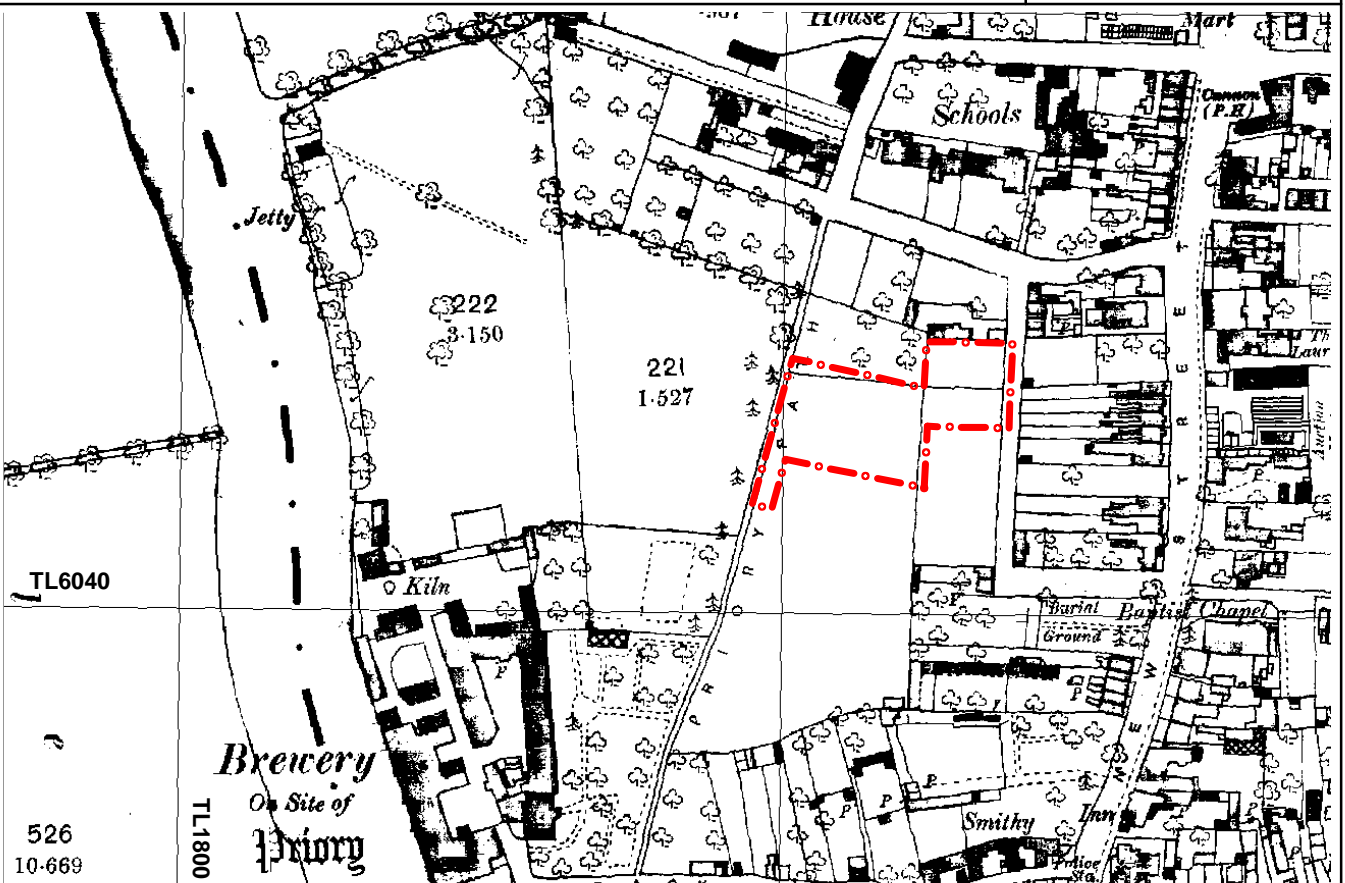
Figure 3



Inclosure map, 1771

Scale 1:5000

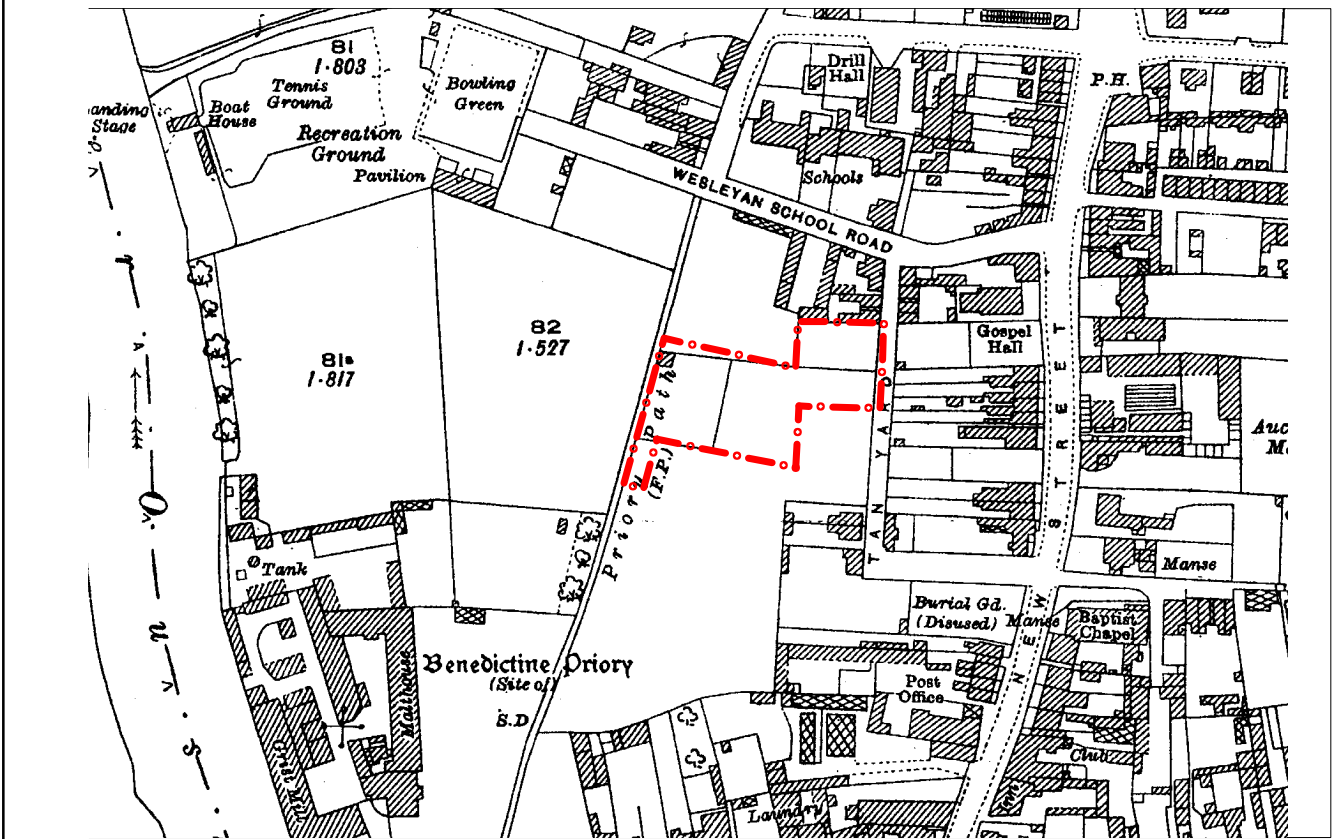
Figure 4



1st edition OS map, 1884

Scale 1:2500

Figure 5

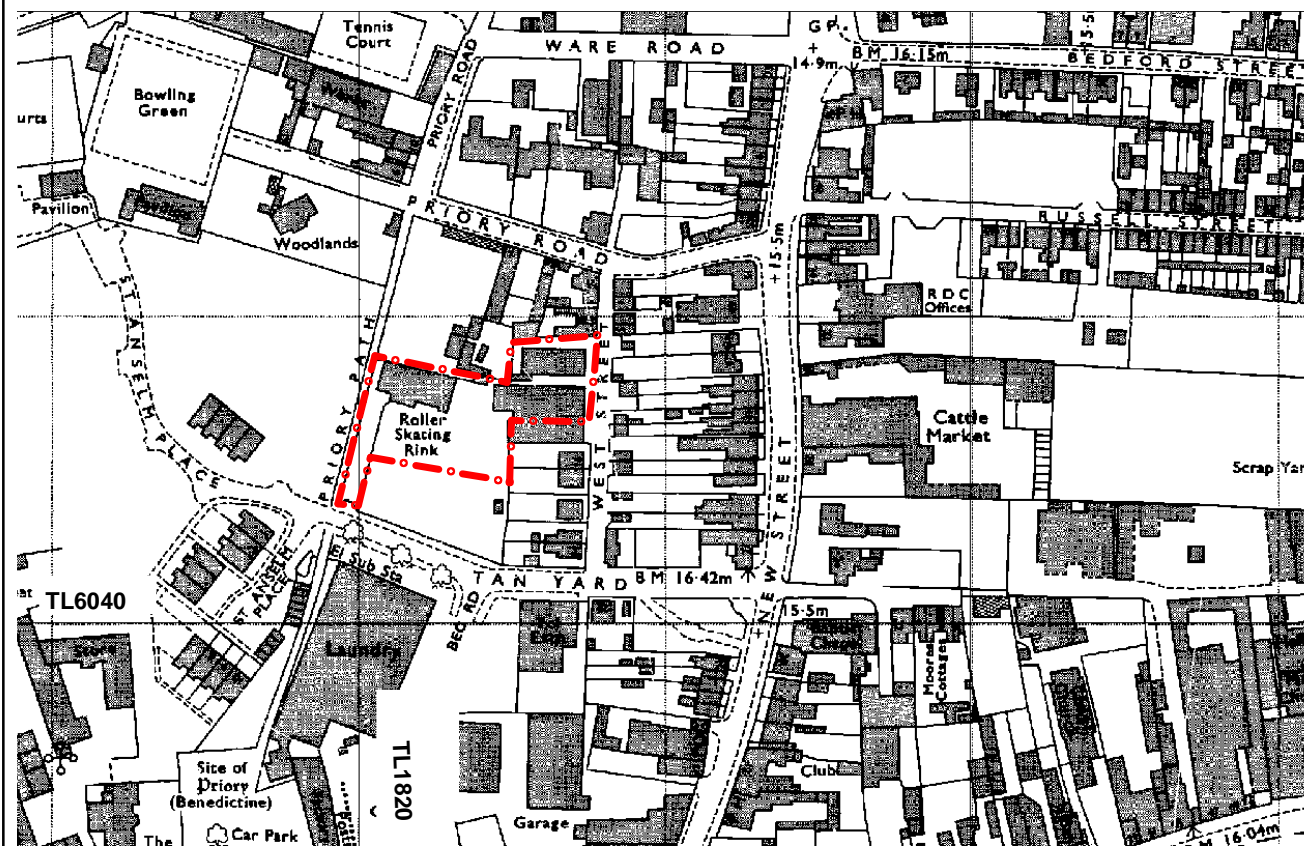


OS map, 1924

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office, licence no.AL100014861

Scale 1:2500

Figure 6

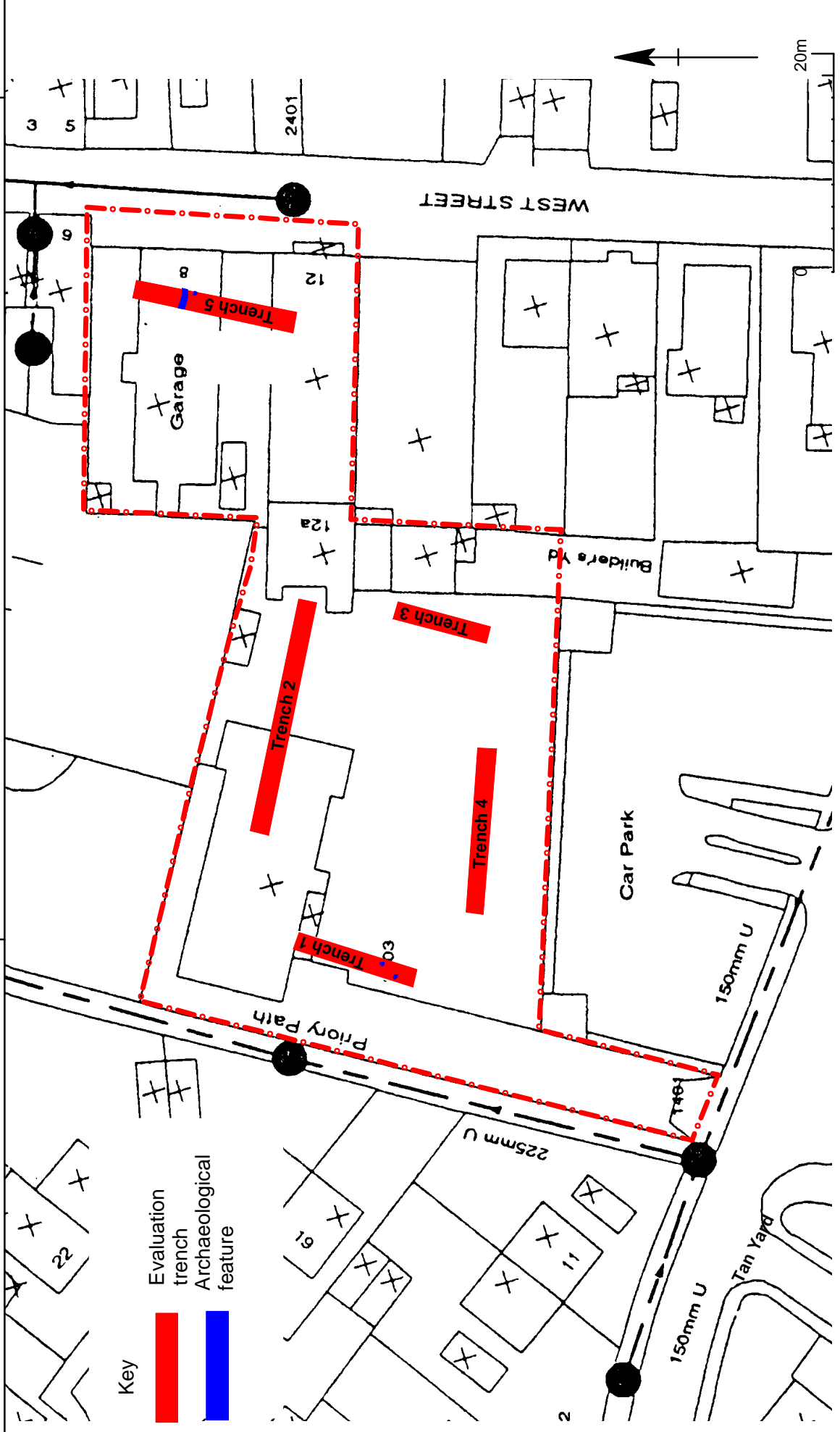


OS map, 1970

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Scale 1:2500

Figure 7

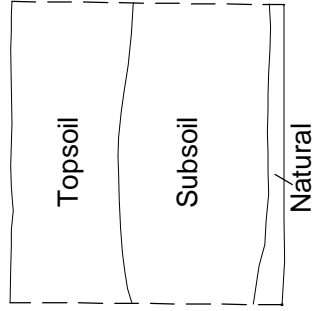


Trench layout and archaeological features

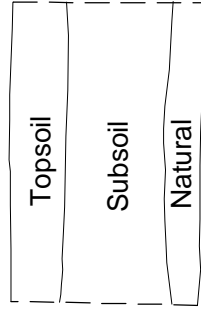
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Figure 8

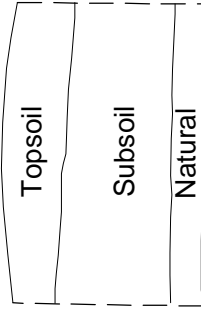
1m of north facing section of Trench 1



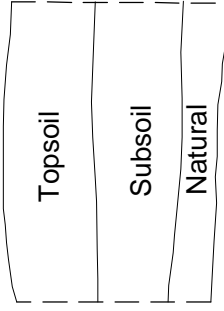
1m of north facing section of Trench 2



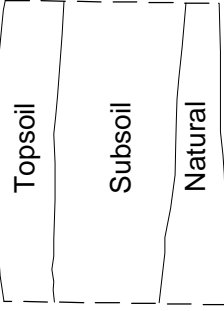
1m of east facing section of Trench 3



1m of south facing section of Trench 4



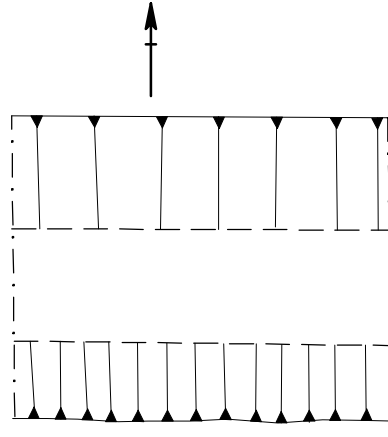
1m of north facing section of Trench 5



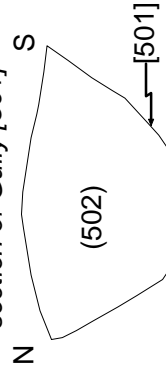
Trench sections

Scale 1:25
Figure 9

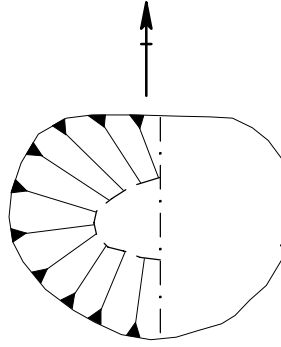
Plan of Gully section [501]



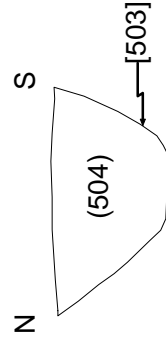
West facing section of Gully [501]



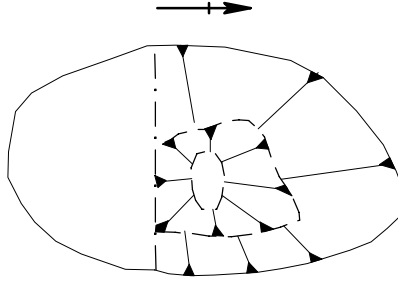
Plan of Post hole [503]



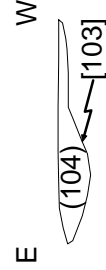
West facing section of Post hole [503]



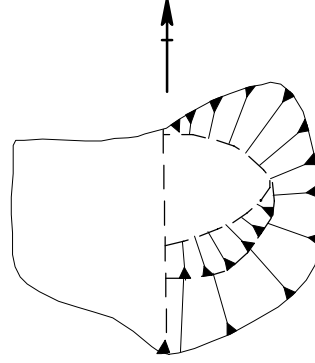
Plan of Pit [101]



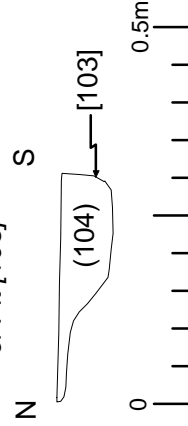
West facing section of Pit [101]



Plan of Pit [103]



North facing section of Pit [103]



Feature sections and plans

Scale 1:10
Figure 10

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Land Between West Street and Tan Yard, St Neots

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Plate 1: Trench 1, facing northeast



Plate 2: Trench 5, facing south

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Land Between West Street and Tan Yard, St Neots

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Plate 3: Gully [501], facing southeast



Plate 4: Post hole [503], facing northeast

Appendix

OASIS ID: heritage1-35890

PROJECT DETAILS

Project name Land between West St and Tan Yard, St Neots, Cambridgeshire
 Short description of the project Five trench evaluation. Two modern planting holes, a gully and post hole of
 Project dates Start: 04-12-2007 End: 07-12-2007
 Previous/future work No / No
 Any associated project None
 Type of project Field evaluation
 Site status Conservation Area
 Current Land use Community Service 2 - Leisure and recreational buildings
 Methods & techniques 'Sample Trenches'
 Development type Housing estate
 Prompt Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16
 Position in the planning After full determination (eg. As a condition)

PROJECT LOCATION

Country England
 Site location CAMBRIDGESHIRE HUNTINGDONSHIRE ST NEOTS Land between West St
 Postcode PE19
 Study area 2363.00 Square metres
 Site coordinates TL 1823 6046 Point
 Height OD Min: 14.44m Max: 15.86m

PROJECT CREATORS

Name of Organisation Heritage Network
 Project brief originator LPA (with/without advice from County/District Archaeologist)
 Project design originator Heritage Network
 Project director/manager David Hillelson
 Project supervisor Chris Turner

PROJECT ARCHIVES

Physical Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
 Physical Contents None
 Paper Archive recipient Cambridgeshire County Archaeological Store
 Paper Contents None
 Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Diary','Drawing','Photograph','Plan','Report','Section','Survey'

PROJECT BIBLIOGRAPHY 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
 Title Land between West St and Tan Yard, St Neots, Cambridgeshire
 Author(s)/Editor(s) Kaye, D
 Other bibliographic details Report No. 448
 Date 2008
 Issuer or publisher Heritage Network
 Place of issue or publication Letchworth, Hertfordshire
 Description A4 booklet, green cover, 17 pages, comb bound
 Entered by David Kaye (dk@heritagenetwork.co.uk)
 Entered on 20 December 2007