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**LAND OFF EATON FORD GREEN, ST NEOTS,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

CHER NO.ECB3650

Authors: Tom Janes (Fieldwork & Report) Megan Stoakley (Desk-based assessment)	
NGR: TL 1768 6014	Report No: 3948
District: Huntingdonshire	Site Code: AS1446
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: P4391
Signed:	Date: November 2011

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**OASIS SUMMARY SHEET**

<b>Project details</b>			
Project name		<i>Eaton Ford Green, St Neots, Cambridgeshire</i>	
<p><i>In November 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at land off Eaton Ford Green, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1768 6014). The evaluation was conducted in advance of a proposed development comprising 13 residential properties. It was undertaken in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the development (Ref. 11/00135/FUL).</i></p> <p><i>The site is located in an area of archaeological potential at Eaton Ford Green. Archaeological remains of prehistoric and later date are well-known from this part of the Ouse Valley, with numerous prehistoric funerary monuments and elements of a 'ritual' landscape. Early prehistoric features and Romano-British ditches were recorded during flood alleviation works to the south of the site (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record MCB18417-8). Medieval activity associated with Eaton Ford Green may also extend into this area.</i></p> <p><i>The site had moderate potential for archaeological remains. In the event no archaeological finds or features were present.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		<i>2<sup>nd</sup> November 2011</i>	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		<i>N</i>	Future work <i>N</i>
P. number		<i>4391</i>	Site code <i>AS 1446</i>
Type of project		<i>Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Site status		<i>-</i>	
Current land use		<i>Garden and waste ground</i>	
Planned development		<i>Residential development (13 houses)</i>	
Main features (+dates)		<i>-</i>	
Significant finds (+dates)		<i>-</i>	
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish		<i>Cambridgeshire</i>	<i>Huntingdon</i>   <i>St Neots</i>
HER/ SMR for area		<i>Cambridgeshire HER (CHER)</i>	
Post code (if known)		<i>PE19 7SG</i>	
Area of site		<i>0.18 ha</i>	
NGR		<i>TL 1768 6014</i>	
Height AOD (max/ min)		<i>Approximately c.16m</i>	
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by		<i>CCC HET (Dan McConnell)</i>	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		<i>Tom Janes</i>	
Funded by		<i>AWJ Usher &amp; Sons Ltd</i>	
Full title		<i>Land Off Eaton Ford Green, St Neots, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation</i>	
Authors		<i>Janes T., &amp; Stoakley, M.</i>	
Report no.		<i>3948</i>	
Date (of report)		<i>November 2011</i>	

## LAND OFF EATON FORD GREEN, ST NEOTS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

### SUMMARY

*In November 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at land off Eaton Ford Green, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1768 6014). The evaluation was conducted in advance of a proposed development comprising 13 residential properties. It was undertaken in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the development (Ref. 11/00135/FUL).*

*The site is located in an area of archaeological potential at Eaton Ford Green. Archaeological remains of prehistoric and later date are well-known from this part of the Ouse Valley, with numerous prehistoric funerary monuments and elements of a 'ritual' landscape. Early prehistoric features and Romano-British ditches were recorded during flood alleviation works to the south of the site (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record MCB18417-8). Medieval activity associated with Eaton Ford Green may also extend into this area.*

*The site had moderate potential for archaeological remains. In the event no archaeological finds or features were present.*

### 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2011, Archaeological Solutions Ltd (AS) conducted an archaeological trial trench evaluation at land off Eaton Ford Green, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1768 6014, Figs 1-2). The evaluation was conducted in advance of a proposed development comprising 13 residential properties. It was required in compliance with a condition attached to planning approval for the development (Ref. 11/00135/FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridge County Council (CCC HET Dan McConnell, dated 19/04/2011), and a specification compiled by AS (dated 20/04/2011), and approved by CCC HET. It was conducted according to the *IfA Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Excavation* (also revised 2008). It also adhered to the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The evaluation aimed to determine the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains likely to be threatened by the development.

## Planning policy context

1.4 PPS5 states that those parts of the historic environment that have significance because of their historic, archaeological, architectural or artistic interest are heritage assets. The Planning Policy Statement aims to deliver sustainable development by ensuring that policies and decisions that concern the historic environment recognise that heritage assets are a non-renewable resource, take account of the wider social, cultural, economic and environmental benefits of heritage conservation, and recognise that intelligently managed change may sometimes be necessary if heritage assets are to be maintained for the long term. It aims to conserve England's heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. It states that opportunities to capture evidence from the historic environment and to contribute to our knowledge and understanding of our past, and to make this publicly available, should be taken, particularly where a heritage asset is to be lost.

## 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE (Figs. 1-2)

2.1 Eaton Ford is a small residential suburb located c.2km south-east of the town of St Neots. It is c.1km north of Eaton Socon and c.1.5km north-west of Eynesbury. Staploe is c.4km to the west, Hail Weston c.2.75km to the north and Little Barford c.4.25km to the south-east. The River Great Ouse is located c.1km directly east.

2.2 The site is located in the eastern part of Eaton Ford, located c.15m west of a roundabout where the roads B1408 and the B1428 merge. It is situated in a predominantly residential area directly west of St Neot's Bridge with Eaton Ford Green to the south and is accessed from Mill Hill Road to the west. The Hanover housing estate is located c.2m to the north. The site comprises a sub-rectangular area of grassland with hedges/trees and a single rectangular building c.560m<sup>2</sup> on level ground c.16m AOD.

## 3 METHODOLOGY

Information was sought from a variety of available sources in order to meet the objectives of the assessment.

### 3.1 Archaeological databases

3.1.1 The standard collation of all known archaeological sites and spot-finds within the county of Cambridgeshire comes from the Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER). Significant entries within an approximate 500m radius of the site are listed in Appendix 1 and plotted in Fig. 3a. Where relevant, these sites and finds have been discussed in Section 4.2.

## **3.2 Historical and cartographic sources**

3.2.1 The principal sources for this type of evidence were the HER from Cambridgeshire County Council (CCC), as well as AS's own in-house library. Relevant documents are listed in Appendix 2 and reproduced in Fig.3.

## **3.3 Secondary sources**

3.3.1 The principal sources of secondary material were from the Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER) held at Cambridgeshire County Council offices (CCC) as well as AS's own in-house library. Unpublished sources regarding the assessment area, such as previous field evaluation reports and desk-based assessments, have also been consulted. All sources are listed in the bibliography.

## **3.4 Geological/geotechnical information**

3.4.1 A description of the superficial and solid geology of the local and surrounding area was compiled in order to assess the likely presence and potential condition of any archaeological remains on the site. This information was drawn from appropriate maps published by the Geological Survey of Great Britain (BGS 1978) and the Soil Survey of England and Wales (SSEW 1983).

# **4 THE EVIDENCE**

## **4.1 Topography, Geology and Soils**

4.1.1 The site comprises grassland with trees/hedges and a large rectangular building orientated north-south. It comprises an area of c.560m<sup>2</sup> and lies on chalky tills at c.16m AOD. The underlying geology comprises Lowestoft Till, defined as bluish-grey sandy silty clay derived largely from Jurassic clays with inclusions of mainly chalk and Flint (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983, sheet 52).

## **4.2 Archaeological and Historical Background (Fig.3 & 3a)**

### *Prehistoric - Romano-British*

4.2.1 Archaeological remains of prehistoric and later date are well-known from this part of the Ouse Valley, with numerous prehistoric funerary monuments and elements of a 'ritual' landscape. Early prehistoric features and Romano-British ditches were recorded during flood alleviation works to the south of the site (Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record MCB18417-8). Medieval activity associated with Eaton Ford Green may also extend into this area.

4.2.2 A possible Neolithic feature (MCB18417) was excavated during trial trench investigations c.138m to the south-west of the site (Fairbairn 2009). An

early Neolithic flint implement was retrieved from a small gully, although this may have been residual. Part of a Bronze Age torc (HER 00670) was discovered c.140m to the north-west of the site.

4.2.3 A Roman coin (HER 05957) from the reign of Constantinius was discovered at Duloe Hill, c.135m north-west from the site. Romano-British ditches (MCB18418) containing a large quantity of pottery and animal bone were discovered during trial trench investigations c.158m to the south-west of the site (Fairbairn 2009).

#### *Late Saxon - Medieval*

4.2.4 Numerous late Saxon archaeological remains are known within the vicinity of the site, notably towards the north-east. St Neots Benedictine Priory (HER 00548, SAM 1006882), located c.250m to the north-east, was founded in 972 – 975 AD and archaeological investigations conducted in 1985-6 and 1989 uncovered human remains as well as structural remnants and pottery (Horton and Wait 1990). A late Saxon graveyard was discovered at St Neots Priory (HER 00548a) as well as a Saxon sceatta and pottery (HER 00548b) c.10m west of the Priory. The site of the late Saxon gatehouse (HER 00548c) is located to the south of the Priory. Remnants of burnt building material and St Neots ware pottery were discovered at the later medieval burial site (HER 11509), suggesting possible Saxon activity at the site.

4.2.5 Medieval archaeological remains are also numerous within the environs of the site, almost all associated with St Neots Priory to the north-east. These remains include the medieval burial ground (HER 11509, CB15309), the Priory Watermill (HER 00546) located on the riverside as well as medieval trackway (HER 00552), both located directly south of St Neots Priory at c.6m – c.14m distant. St Neots Bridge (HER 00545) is situated c.120m east of the site. Dating to the 11<sup>th</sup> century and originally constructed from timber, it was replaced with a three-arch stone bridge in the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

4.2.4 A possible medieval headland (HER 11900) was discovered during an aerial photography assessment at Duloe Hill, located c.140m north-west of the site. An archaeological trial trench evaluation conducted by HAT (now AS Ltd) retrieved a small quantity of pottery and other debris (Murray 1995). Medieval ridge and furrow (HER 18774) were identified from aerial photography and located c.220m south of the site.

#### *Post-Medieval and Modern*

4.2.6 There are a large number of Listed Buildings within the vicinity of the site. The oldest building is late 15<sup>th</sup> century, Ford House (HER 00515, LB 1128743) located directly south at c.80m distant. The Old Falcon Inn (DCB 2429) is located c.100m to the south-east and dates from the late 15<sup>th</sup> century. Buildings of 16<sup>th</sup> century origin include the Bridge Hotel (DCB 2428, LB 1129897) located c.74m east of the site. Post-medieval archaeological remains comprise pottery and leather shoe soles retrieved from excavations at St Neots Priory in the 1950s (HER 00553) (Tebbutt 1956).

4.2.7 Listed Buildings of 17<sup>th</sup> century origin include numerous cottages and houses on St Neots Road: No. 99 (DCB 2416), Nos. 138 & 138A (DCB 3400), No. 156 (DCB 3401), Nos. 160 & 162 (DCB 3599) and Nos. 166 & 168 (DCB 4321). Two cottages at Nos. 1 & 2 Eaton Ford Green (DCBs 2160 & 4373) are located c.40m to the south-east and No. 8 Market Square is located c.62m to the east. Seventeenth century archaeological remains comprise leather shoes and nails from the site of the medieval bridge (HER 00547) c.250m east of the site.

4.2.8 Eighteenth century Listed Buildings include the Priory Malting Kiln (HER 00549, SAM 1006821) and the associated Malthouse (DCB3396), located c.250m to the north-east. These buildings formed part of the Priory Brewery in c.1780, although much of the building was demolished for the construction of a Community Centre in the 1970s. Other 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings include Nos. 7 and 11 Market Square (DCBs 2422 & 2423) located c.62m to the east. The Priory (DCB 4152), located c.220m east of the site, comprises a two-storey townhouse with a garden plaque marking the site of the original gatehouse.

## 5 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)

5.1 Four trenches were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2, DP 1). The trench locations were approved by CCC HET and were located to cover the footprints of the proposed development plots.

5.2 Topsoil and subsoil were mechanically excavated under close archaeological supervision. Exposed surfaces were cleaned by hand and examined for archaeological features. Deposits were recorded using *pro forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale, and photographed as appropriate. Excavated spoil was searched for finds and the trenches were scanned by a metal detector.

## 6 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS (Fig.2)

### Trench 1 (DP 2 & 3)

<i>Sample section: S end, W facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 15.82m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	L1000	Topsoil. Mid-brown, compact sandy silt. Occasional flint stones and CBM fragments
0.10 – 0.60m	L1003	Made Ground. Light grey-brown loose silty sand with frequent CBM rubble, iron objects (wire, pipes, bars etc), occasional plastic piping
0.60 – 0.66m	L1004	Silting. Black, loose, humic silt with frequent clinker, and fe flakes and fragments
0.66 – 0.82m	L1005	Waterborne gravels. Yellow-brown loose pea gravel
0.82 – 1.04m	L1006	Waterlain silts. Grey loose silt with occasional pea gravel
1.04m +	L1002	Natural Geology. Orange-brown, compact, sandy gravelly clay



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

This trench was located on the site of an infilled pond associated with a weir that once existed in this location and served as a flood defence to control water draining from the higher farmland to the north-west (landowner, *pers. comm.*). The former bed of the infilled pond was characterised by three layers of waterlain deposits (L1006, L1005 and L1004). The two basal layers were naturally-deposited riverine silts and gravels. The uppermost (L1004) was a mixture of humic material and debris from nearby (unknown) domestic and/or industrial activity, likely to have accumulated as refuse was disposed of into the watercourse. When the weir was abandoned and dismantled, the pond was filled with a mixture of rubble and refuse (L1003). Some of this may derive from the demolition of Weir Head Cottages – a row of houses that once stood beside the weir (landowner, *pers. comm.*).

## Trench 2

<i>Sample section: SE end, SW facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 15.80m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr. 1
0.18 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. Dark brown compact sandy silt with moderate flint stones, CBM fragments and gravel.
0.40 – 0.60m	L1007	Buried Soil. Dark brown-grey compact sandy silt with moderate CBM and chalk fragments
0.60m +	L1002	Natural Geology. As Tr. 1

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

Buried Soil (L1007) was present below Subsoil L1001. It represented the original surface of the garden/lawn before recent (early 2001, landowner *pers. comm.*) landscaping associated with the refurbishment of the existing property immediately south of the site.

## Trench 3 (DP 4)

<i>Sample section: N end, E facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 15.80m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.12m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr. 1
0.12 – 0.20m	L1008	Gravel Layer. Yellow-orange compact gravel
0.20 – 0.48m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr. 2
0.80m +	L1002	Natural Geology. As. Tr. 1

*Description:* No archaeological features or finds were present. A layer of gravel (L1008) was present below Topsoil L1000. It may represent a bedding/drainage layer beneath the lawn, or a garden feature buried by the recent landscaping of the site.

## Trench 4

<i>Sample section: NE end, SE facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 15.79m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1000	Topsoil. As Tr. 1
0.16 – 0.40m	L1001	Subsoil. As Tr. 2
0.40m +	L1002	Natural Geology. As Tr.1

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

## 7 CONFIDENCE RATING

7.1 It is not felt that any factors inhibited the recognition of archaeological features or finds.

## 8 DEPOSIT MODEL

8.1 Topsoil L1000 was a mid-brown, compact sandy silt with occasional flint stones and CBM fragments. It was uniform across site, and varied only in its thickness.

8.2 Subsoil L1001 was a dark brown compact sandy silt with moderate flint stones, CBM fragments and gravel. It was present, and uniform throughout all trenches within the existing garden (Tr. 2 – 4).

8.3 The Natural Geology, L1002, was an orange-brown compact sandy gravelly clay, with a greater frequency of gravel inclusions in Trench 4 along the eastern edge of the site.

## 9 DISCUSSION

9.1 The site had moderate potential for archaeological remains, in particular Saxon and medieval activity. In the event no archaeological finds or features were present. The only deposits of any note were those associated with the weir/pond present in Trench 1. No finds were present in these layers.

## 10 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited at the County Archaeology Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

## 11 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeological Solutions would like to thank Mike Usher of AWJ Usher & Sons Ltd for commissioning and funding the project, and for his assistance. AS is also grateful to GamPlan Associates, in particular Mr Simon Richardson.

AS would also like to acknowledge the assistance and advice of Mr Dan McConnell of Cambridgeshire County Council, and the staff at the Cambridge HER and the Cambridge Record Office.

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### Web resources:

[www.ads.ahds.ac.uk](http://www.ads.ahds.ac.uk)

[www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk](http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk)

[www.heritage-gateway.org.uk](http://www.heritage-gateway.org.uk)

## APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA

The following sites are those that lie within a 500m radius of the site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER).

SMR	NGR SP	Description
<b>Neolithic</b>		
MCB18417	TL 1776 5986	Possible Neolithic feature, Eaton Ford. Trial trenching in advance of the construction of the St Neots Flood Alleviation Scheme revealed high levels of alluvial deposits associated with the flood plain and a gravel terrace or headland. Cutting into the alluvial deposits, a small gully excavated in which an early Neolithic artefact knife blade was found. This may or may not have been residual.
<b>Bronze Age</b>		
HER 00670	TL 1760 6040	Bronze torc find, Eaton Ford. Part of a bronze torc made of square sectioned wire with a simple terminal was found on the surface of the field. The torc, from Eaton Ford, is of twisted single-strand bronze with square section, plain square terminal, incomplete. Now in the Longsands Museum, St Neots.
<b>Roman</b>		
HER 05957	TL 1710 6026	Roman coin. Duloe Hill, St. Neots. Roman coin, Constantinius from near Duloe Hill.
MCB18418	TL 1779 5987	Romano British ditches, Eaton Ford. Trial trenching in advance of the construction of the St Neots Flood Alleviation Scheme revealed high levels of alluvial deposits associated with the flood plain. Cutting into the alluvial deposits were a number of ditches, containing sherds of Romano British pottery and fragments of animal bone.
<b>Medieval</b>		
HER 00548b	TL 1810 6030	Saxon sceatta and pottery finds, St Neots Priory. R1, found at St Neots Priory; neck of black shelly ware jug with smooth, soapy, light brown surface, strap handle appa plain. No rouletting on neck of vessel. Finds of AS pottery and a sceatta of C7 - C8 in a ditch under monastic foundations.
CB15396	TL 1823 6031	Structural remains and burials, St Neots Priory. A watching brief was carried out in 1989. Human remains recovered consisted of three complete males, one female; in addition, there were fragmentary remains of three males, one female and a child. One piece of St Neots shell-tempered ware was found in association with one of the burials. A surface consisting of grey brown silt with small pebbles up to 4cm across - probably a floor make-up level was seen, also a possible wall trench. A floor, consisting of small red

SMR	NGR SP	Description
		tiles approximately 10cm by 10cm and 1.5cm thick with traces of a brown monochrome glaze was found. It was not possible to determine the site of Priory buildings as a result of this watching brief as had been hoped. The floors and wall trench should all belong to the Priory, but must represent a new building.
HER 11509	TL 182 602	Medieval burial ground, St Neots Priory. An archaeological assessment was undertaken to North of the Market Square, St Neots, in advance of proposed development. A part of the St Neots Priory burial ground was revealed, lying below a 1.0 m layer of ground make-up dated to the 17th to the 18th century. Forty whole or partial skeletons were excavated, their location suggesting that burial intensity increased towards the North, nearer to the site of the priory buildings. One individual was buried with a series of iron half hoops lying below the body, while another burial was accompanied by a base metal vessel, possibly a priest's chalice. The South end of the area revealed the outline of a large pit. This feature contained one sherd of St Neots type ware and much burnt building material, suggesting possible Saxon structures in the immediate vicinity.
HER 00548	TL 1818 6031	St Neots Benedictine Priory, traditionally said to have been founded AD 972 - 975; destroyed 1010; refounded 1082 and dissolved in 1539 when annual income was over £200. Excavation and investigations by CF Tebbutt showed site of priory. Rescue work was carried out in 1985 - 1986 during construction work. No detailed records were kept. However, two burials were discovered, one male, one female, both in stone coffins with decorated lids. It has been suggested these were benefactors of the Priory buried in the cloister. The interpretation is probably correct, though it now seems more likely that they were buried in a building to the E of the transept/chapter house. A watching brief was carried out in 1989. Human remains recovered consisted of three complete males, one female; in addition there were fragmentary remains of three males, one female and a child. Full skeletal analysis of the bones is included in the report. One piece of St Neots shell-tempered ware was found in association with one of the burials. A surf consisting of grey brown silt with small pebbles up to 4cm across, probably a floor make-up level was seen, also a possible wall trench. A floor, consisting of small red tiles approximately 10cm by 10cm and 1,5cm thick with traces of a brown monochrome glaze was found. It was not possible to determine the siting of Priory buildings

SMR	NGR SP	Description
		<p>as a result of this watching brief as had been hoped. The floors and wall trench should all belong to the Priory, but must represent a new building. No extant remains, site now being mostly covered by modern building. Nothing remains above ground, part excavated 1958. Site now under car parks, back gardens, derelict buildings and storehouses. Threatened by ring road. Road has now cut through site N - S from Priory Lane. Only remaining part of scheduled area is small part of garden in Priory House that is as yet not built over or under roads &amp; car parks. Fourteen survey transects were placed across the site during a ground penetrating radar survey. Responses identified buried walls were noted in all locations but none could be precisely related to excavated features. Scheduled Monument 1006882.</p>
HER 00548a	TL 1810 6030	St Neots Priory graveyard (late Saxon). Numerous finds of burials have been made under properties on N side of Market Square (presumably priory graveyard).
HER 00548c	TL 1812 6027	St Neots Priory gatehouse (Site of). Site of priory gatehouse, near to present day Bridge Hotel. Pulled down 1814.
HER 00545	TL 180 602	<p>St Neots Bridge. William de Ferrers, Earl of Derby, thrown out of his chariot and over the parapet of St Neots bridge, died directly afterwards; Bridge in a very ruinous state, toll for two years granted. Inquisition held before the Bishop of Lincoln and other commissioners to enquire touching the state of the bridge. It was apparently made almost entirely of timber. An estimate given for rebuilding it, still largely of timber. It was however, probably this period that the present stone bridge was built. A stone bridge of three arches, spanning the River Ouse partly in the parish of St Neots, Hunts and partly in the parish of Eaton Socon, Beds. The central arch is the largest and that on the St Neots side is the smallest and probably of a later date than the others. The roadway was widened some years ago by throwing out cantilevers just below the road level; and further alterations to the approach on the Beds. Sides were made last year. The bridge crosses the Ouse at the W end of town, from the W end of Market Square and connects the town with the adjoining county of Bedfordshire. It is in three spans with semi-circular arches, but is continued westward in a series of eight smaller semi-circular arches and a causeway, over the low-lying ground on the Bedfordshire side. It was built of Ketton and Barnack ashlar, stone rubble, brick and modern material. According to Lela, the bridge was of timber in 1538, but</p>

SMR	NGR SP	Description
		<p>this may only refer to the main span and not to the piers. The lower stones of the second arch from the E and the whole of the third arch are possibly of C14, but the upper part of the former was rebuilt probably in the latter part of the C16. An inquisition of 1588, relating mainly to the causeway, may indicate the approximate date of this rebuilding. The easternmost arch and the first four arches on the Beds. Banks were built probably in C17. The four arches still further W were built in 1647 and the causeway is old but so much refaced as to make it impossible to positively date it.</p> <p>The bridge has been repaired at various times and modern work includes a considerable rebuilding of the large pier on the Beds bank between the third and fourth arches from the E, the widening of the whole structure on the side by corbelling out a parapet - wall on the cantilevers above the arches, and the widening of the S side of the arches of the river itself in a similar manner. The piers between the arches have pointed cutwaters on both sides except those to the three western-most arches, which, on the N side, have flat pedestal buttresses with moulded caps and bases; on the middle one of these buttresses is a panel carved with the date 1647 and the letters ANNO in the spandrels. On the N side of the eastern-most pier is a stone inscribed Edward Ashcroft. The first pier on the Bedfordshire side of the river is very large and the pier between the work of 1647 and the arch on the E side is some 30 feet in height and without cutwaters. The first arch from the E is narrow and was probably rebuilt in the C17. It has plain voussoirs and a flat soffit. The second arch over the river is of two chamfered ribs with coursed rubble filling between them; a break in the masonry about one up the height of the arch indicates the junction of the later with the original work, and the soffit of the upper part is divided into panels by cross ribs. The upper orders of the second and third arches have been cut into by the modern cantilevers causing the widening above and the E haunch of the third arch has been partly rebuilt. The next four spans have plain circular arches of ashlar; about one and a half feet above the arches the walling for about one and a half feet is of C17 brickwork, above which it is modern brick. On the S side above the arch volts is a moulded string which however has been in places, destroyed by modern work; between the buttresses practically the whole of this side of these arches has been covered with modern stucco.</p>

SMR	NGR SP	Description
HER 00552	TL 1815 6022	Medieval roadway, Market Square, St. Neots. Cobbled Medieval roadway. Old St Neots Road, High St; found on cutting a trench parallel to W side of Market Square. Embedded in its cobbled surface was a late C16 shoe sole and a C17 horseshoe.
HER 00553	TL 1817 6029	Ditch & finds from St. Neots Priory 1950's excavation. An extract taken from Excavations at St Neots by CF Tebbutt, see piece in inverted commas. The trench was continued up Priory Lane as far as Messrs Jordan and Addington's mill gateway, and nothing of interest was found in this section. Being in the centre of the road it probably followed the line of the old road and passed through the Priory gateway, thus missing the foundations of the gatehouse. From the line above described at the bus shelter near Barclay's Bank, a short length of trench was dug S across the present main road to about half -way across the W side of the Square. This uncovered a section at right angles across the old road, which was found at this point to be 4ft below the present surface. Embedded in its cobbled surface was a late C16 shoe sole and a C17 horse-shoe. "Twenty ft S of this road and running parallel to it, was a large ditch 12ft wide and at least 5ft deep running towards the river. It contained the usual pottery of C16 and C17 and shoes of the C15 and C16 - one with a bronze buckle in the shape of a figure eight. Finds of equal interest were sea mussel and oyster shells, proving river navigation to the coast".
HER 00546	TL 1810 6026	Priory watermill, St. Neots. Built on the riverside, near the gatehouse, immediately N of the old horse-watering place, now a public access to the river adjoining the 'Bridge Hotel'.
HER 11900	TL 1703 6022	Possible headland, Duloe Hill, Eaton Ford. An AP assessment revealed a possible headland (earthwork) on the site. In advance of residential development HAT undertook an evaluation at Duloe Hill in April 1995. Nine trial trenches (18-30m long) were excavated, yet no archaeological material appeared. An aerial photographic assessment identified embanked features, interpreted as headlands, but no trace of such structures was found during the excavation. A small number of finds were recovered, comprising pottery and other debris, likely to be derived from manuring.
MCB18774	TL 1763 5970	Ridge and furrow, St Neots. Levelled ridge and furrow mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.
<b>Post-medieval</b>		
HER 00515	TL 1765 5998	Ford House, 140 St Neots Road, Eaton Socon. Mid - late C15 altered. Large hall and cross wing house with solar wing at N end. 2 storeys. 1 window wings;



SMR	NGR SP	Description
		centre with 3 window bays (blind end bays). Old tile roofs with original truss in N wing with braces to collar purlin and post. Close studding; colour-washed brick nogging and plaster; central block refaced in brick and hall roof raised, stair turret and brick chimney s added C17. N wing with original stone chimney with moulded plinth. Both gables originally jettied but have been underbuilt. Gable of S wing with central window (originally oriel) flanked by 2 smaller windows; existing windows all earlier C19 3-light sash windows with wood mullions. Modern porch. Lead rainwater head. Modern rear extension to S wing. Interior with good hall panelling imported recently from Netherstead Priory. Listed Building 1128743.
HER 00547	TL 1814 6022	Medieval Bridge (site of) and associated finds, St. Neots. C16 - C17 leather shoes, wood and nails, probably the remains of the original bridge over the River Ouse.
HER 00549	TL 1811 6039	Priory Malting Kiln, St. Neots. Scheduled Monument 1006821. Listed Building 1330606. The Malting (kiln), scheduled. C18 barns, formerly of L-shaped plan with flash kiln in N wing; central part of E wing was destroyed for erection of Community Centre. Built of red brick with tiled roof s. There is the conical oven of a gault brick with the interior arrangement preserved. The old malt house is as described but the name is not in general use and the building is used as a store. C18 or early C19 brick malting kiln, c 25 ft diameter, c 55 ft high. Short cylindrical base with buttresses. Top louvre modern material. Kiln is structurally independent, so practicable to propose scheduling of circular kiln alone. Immediate surroundings of kiln radically changed; mill at SW and buildings to S and W have gone. S end of malt house truncated fuller description see source). Former drying kiln for maltings. Part of the Priory Brewery c. 1780, 1920s Jordan and Addingtons, closed c. 1970. Converted for use as a sports centre.
DCB 2160	TL 1762 6002	No 2 Eaton Ford Green. Earlier C17 timber framed cottage with wind braces. Linear plan with 3 ground floor rooms and internal chimney. 1 storey and dormers. 3 windows. Colour-washed brick and plaster. Old tile roof. 4 hipped dormer windows with Yorkshire sashes and similar ground floor windows. Solid framed doorway with cut, bracketted hood. Internally: ceiling beams with ovolo mouldings with drawn-down stops; chamfered lintel in kitchen with bar-and-draw stop. Nos. 1 and 2 form a group. Listed Building II 1127964
DCB 2416	TL 1761 5999	No 99 St Neots Road. C17 refronted C18. 2 storeys.

SMR	NGR SP	Description
		Red brick facade. Old tile roof. C19 wooden porch and flanking splayed bay windows. 2 flush framed sash windows and central dummy at 1st floor level. Listed Building II 1128742.
DCB 3598	TL 1765 5997	140 Ford House. Listed Building II* 1128743. Mid-late C15 altered. Large hall and crosswing house with solar wing at north end. 2 storeys. 1 window wings; centre with 3 window bays (blind end bays). Old tile roofs with original truss in north wing with braces to collar purlin and post, south wing with original common rafters but replaced trusses. Box framed with close studding; colour-washed brick nogging and plaster; central block refaced in brick and hall roof raised, stair turret and brick chimneys added C17. North wing with original stone chimney with moulded plinth. Both gables originally jettied but have been under built. Gable of south wing with central window (originally oriel) flanked by 2 smaller windows; existing windows all earlier C19 3-light sash windows with wood mullions. Modern porch. Lead rain water head. Modern rear extension to south wing, Interior with good hall panelling imported recently from Netherstead Priory. Nos. 138, 138A, 140 and Garden wall to north east of No 140 form a group.
DCB 3599	TL 1781 6010	160 and 162 St Neots Road. Listed Building II 1128744. Later C17 or earlier C18. Formerly 2 cottages, now one residence. No 160, linear plan with 3 ground floor rooms and internal chimney (RCHM type J). 2 storeys and flat topped dormers. 3 windows. Tiled roof. Timber framed with whitened plaster and brick. Casement windows, most with glazing bars and shutters. Coved wood and plaster cornice. Modern doorway on return. Included for group value. Nos. 156, 160 162, 166 and 168 form a group.
DCB 3890	TL 1813 6025	No 3 Market Square. Listed Building II 1129889. Earlier C19. 3 storeys. 3 window and 4 window return. Slated gable roof. Gault brick. Stucco plinth and band at 1st floor level. Segmental arched, recessed sash windows with stucco block voussoirs; 3 light ground floor window with stucco surround. Round-arched doorway with stucco surround; keystone block, fanlight and panelled door. Nos. 3 to 15 (odd) form a group.
DCB 2422	TL 1815 6025	No 7 Market Square. Listed Building II 1129890. C18. 3 storeys. 3 windows. Painted brick. Moulded wood cornice below parapet. Gauged flat brick arches to recessed sash windows, 2nd floor with glazing bars. Modern shop-front. Included for group value. Nos. 3 to 15 (odd) form a group
DCB 4149	TL 1815 6025	No. 9 Market Square. Listed Building II 1129891. Early C19. 3 storeys. 2 windows. Slated roof. Painted

SMR	NGR SP	Description
		brick. Gauged flat brick arches to recessed sash windows with glazing bars. Ground floor altered as entrance to arcade. Nos. 3 to 15 (odd) form a group.
DCB 2423	TL 1816 6025	No. 11 Market Square. Listed Building II 1129892. C18. 3 storeys. 2 windows. Plastered frontage. Modern tiled roof. Wooden modillion eaves cornice removed. Recessed architraved sash windows with glazing bars. Mid C19 wooden shopfront altered. Nos. 3 to 15 (odd) form a group.
DCB 2428	TL 1811 6024	Bridge Hotel. Listed Building II 1129897. Late C16 or early C17 nucleus with later additions, mostly mid C19. 2 storeys. Pebble dash 1st floor, painted ground floor brick. Tiled gabled roofs. C19 transom and mullion windows. Doorways with bracketted hoods. 1st floor oriel window. Modern wrought iron sign. Reset in upper part of south wall; pargetted panel with internal timber framing behind panel and plaster panel painted with roses and strapwork. Stone gate piers.
DCB 2429	TL 1815 6020	Old Falcon Inn. Listed Building II 1129898. South end late C15; back west wing and extension to north added late C17; later heightening of west wing and early C19 refronting. C15 and C17 work timber-framed and plastered. Early C19 frontage, 3 storeys and 4 windows. Painted brick. Modern tile roof. Stone bands between storeys. Fluted band and small moulded cornice at eaves. Flat stone arches to windows with key blocks and glazing bars; 2 northernmost windows of 3 lights; 3rd window on the 1st floor is a small curved oriel with enriched cornice and corbelled bracket. Central carriageway on ground floor, with bay window on left and door case with reeded surround and cornice. Nos. 6, 8 and the Old Falcon Inn form a group.
DCB 2430	TL 1817 6018	18 Market Square. Listed Building II 1129899. C19 earlier. 3 storeys. 5 windows. Tiled roof. Gault brick. Wooden eaves cornice. Square-headed flat stone arches with key blocks to recessed sash windows with glazing bars. Square-headed architraved doorway with moulded brackets carrying hood with fluted band below; patterned fanlight and panelled door. Carriageway at west end. Nos. 16 to 46 (even) form a group.
DCB 4152	TL 1811 6029	The Priory. Listed Building II 1129908. C18 mid. 2 storeys, cellars and dormers. Double fronted with 3 windows. Tiled roof. Gault brick with stone plinth. Architraved sash windows with exposed boxing and glazing bars; gauged segmental brick arches to ground floor windows. Good door case with fluted Doric pilasters carrying entablature and pediment; patterned

SMR	NGR SP	Description
		half glazed panelled door. 1 storey extension on south side with early C19 door case with reeded surround and projecting hood. Stone steps to doorways and cobbled forecourt. Cast iron guttering with lion-head brackets. Plaque in garden wall marks site of Priory gatehouse.
DCB 4194	TL 1815 6021	Burnside. No. 8 Market Square. Listed Building II 1162069. C17 or early C18 timber framed house refronted earlier C19. 2 storeys. Double fronted with 3 windows. Gault brick. Tile roof. Projecting plinth. Brick pilasters at either end with moulded capping carrying entablature below parapet. 1st floor band. Segmental arched recessed sash windows with painted heads. Wooden door case with round-arched radial fanlight, reeded pilasters carrying cornice-hood, and panelled door. Good rear elevation to river in Gothic style. Nos. 6, 8 and the Old Falcon Inn form a group.
DCB 4195	TL 1816 6017	No. 16 Market Square. Listed Building II 1162076. Early C19. 3 storeys. 4 windows. Gault brick, pilaster at either end of front surmounted by panelled stone pedestals and one surviving ball finial. Brick band below narrow stone cornice. Gauged flat brick arches to recessed sash windows with glazing bars. 2 doorways with wide stucco pilasters, deep frieze, heavy cornice and panelled door. Nos. 16 to 46 (even) form a group.
DCB 2699	TL 1765 6000	Garden Wall to North East of No 140. C18. Red brick with toothed course and coping. Modern entrance gateway. Listed Building II 1162295. Nos. 138, 138A, 140 and Garden wall to north east of No 140 form a group.
DCB 4321	TL 1783 6011	Nos. 166 & 168 St Neots Road. Listed Building II 1309690. Later C17 or earlier C18 timber-framed cottage; altered. Linear plan with 3 ground floor rooms and internal chimney (RCHM type J). 2 storeys. 3 windows. Tiled roof. Roughcast front. Solid framed casement windows and doorways. Nos. 156, 160 162, 166 and 168 form a group.
DCB 4035	TL 1812 6034	The Priory Club and the Priory House. Listed Building II 1309731. C19 early, 2 storeys and dormers with lower rear extension. Tiled roof. Multi-coloured stock brick. Parapet. Gauged segmental brick arches to recessed sash windows with glazing bars. Round-arched doorway with fanlight and panelled door.
DCB 3396	TL 1811 6038	Malthouse behind the Priory Club. Listed Building II 1330606. C18 barns, formerly of L shaped plan with flash kiln in north wing; the central part of the east wing has been destroyed for the erection of a Community Centre. Tiled roofs. Red brick with corbelled, dentil

SMR	NGR SP	Description
		eaves cornice. Conical oven of gault brick kiln with interior arrangement preserved. Small wooden casement windows beneath eaves of barns. Scheduled AM.
DCB 3400	TL 1763 5995	Nos. 138 and 138A St Neots Road (Avenue Farm). C17 later or C18 earlier. Listed Building II 1330627. L shaped plan comprising farm house (No 138A) and service wing (No 138) along road. 2 storeys and gabled dormers. Farm house with 1 window. Old tiled roofs. Timber framed, plastered with brick ground floor. Service wing with brick nogging. Flush framed sash windows with glazing bars. Splayed bay ground floor window with moulded cornice. Doorway altered. Service wing windows and doorways with solid frames. Nos. 138, 138A, 140 and Garden wall to north east of No 140 form a group.
DCB 3401	TL 1777 6009	No 156 St Neots Road. Listed Building II 1330628. C17 later, timber-framed cottage with windbraces. Linear plan with 3 ground floor rooms and internal chimney (RCHM type J). 2 storeys and 1 storey annexe at west end. Colour-washed brick ground floor and plastered 1st floor. Old tile roof. 3 Yorkshire sash windows with glazing bars. Solid framed doorway. Chamfered beams internally. Nos. 156, 160 162, 166 and 168 form a group.
DCB 3803	TL 1814 6025	No 6 Market Square. Listed Building II 1330637. C19 early. 2 storeys. 2 windows with 3 window return and 1 window splayed corner treatment. Slated roof with projecting eaves. Painted brick. Plain 1st floor band. Gauged segmental brick arches to recessed sash windows with glazing bars. Modern ground floor shopfront. Nos. 6, 8 and the Old Falcon Inn form a group.
DCB 4373	TL 1761 6001	No 1 Eaton Socon 1590. C17 later or C18 earlier. 1 storey cottage with box dormers and 2 storey addition at west end. 3 windows and 1 window return. Red brick with plain band. Main frontage with modern cement rendering. Tiled roof. Some flush framed casement windows. Modern porch and altered doorway. Nos. 1 and 2 form a group. Listed Building II 1331025.
<b>Modern</b>		
DCB 3406		Barclay's Bank. No 5 Market Square. Listed Building II 1330636. Circa 1901 in Neo-Georgian style. 2 storeys and basements. 4 windows. Red brick with stone dressings. Cornice with parapet above, Architraved windows, ground floor with continuous stone sill band. Stone architraved door case with enriched frieze and console-bracketed cornice. Nos. 3 to 15 (odd) form a

SMR	NGR SP	Description
		group.
<b>Undated</b>		
CB 15260	TL 1787 6018	Undated ditches, Crosshall Road, Eaton Ford. Evaluation trenching revealed three ditches cutting the alluvial deposits. No artefacts were recorded, but given the stratigraphic position they are likely to be post-medieval or later. Two other features were observed, suggested to be quarry trenches associated with gravel extraction. No structural remains were associated with the earthwork platform lying in the centre of the field. Ditches and banks forming feature(s) mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



1  
*General view, looking north-east*



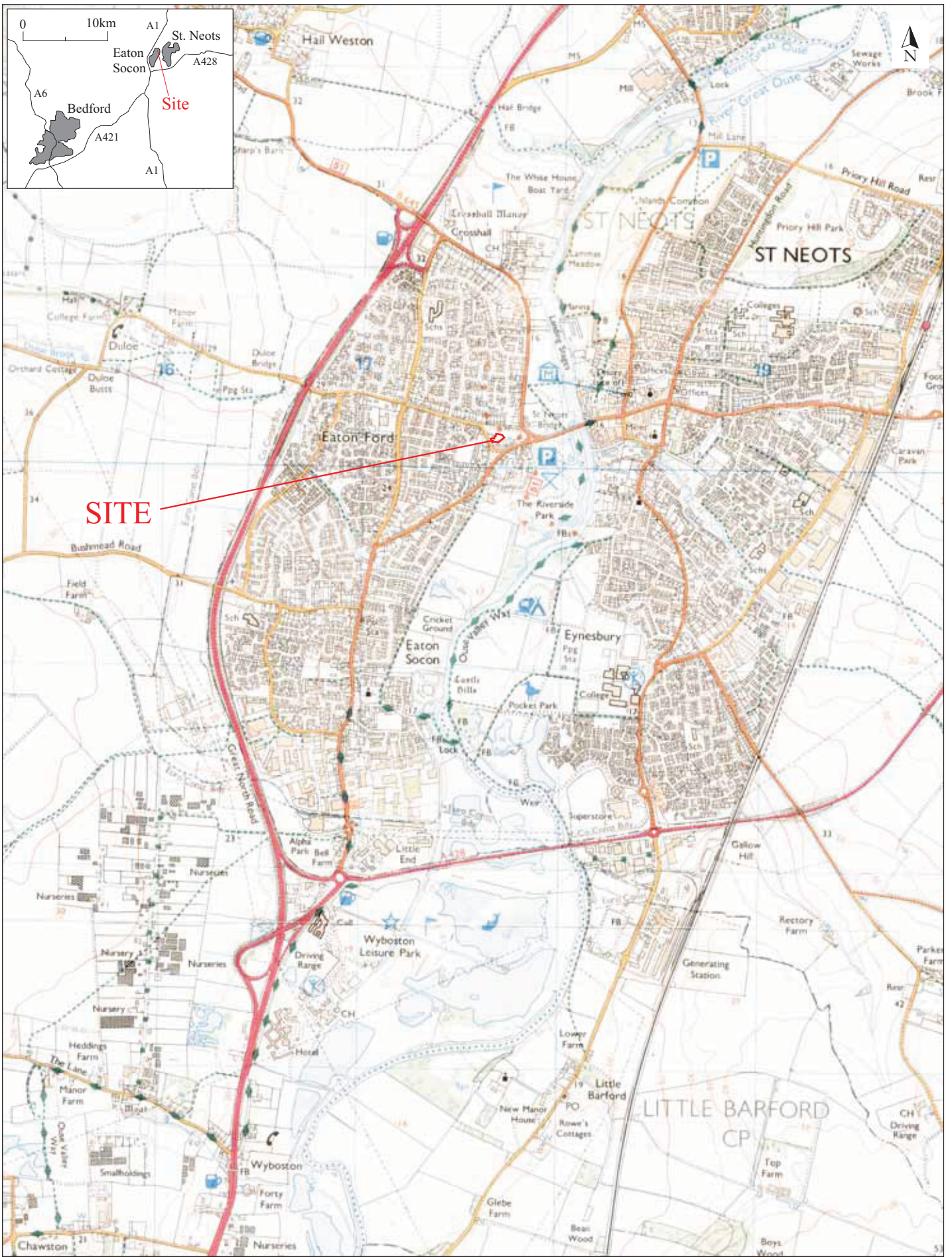
2  
*Area of Trench 1 with infilled weir/pond. Looking north-west*



3  
*Trench 1. Made ground and pea gravel. Looking east*



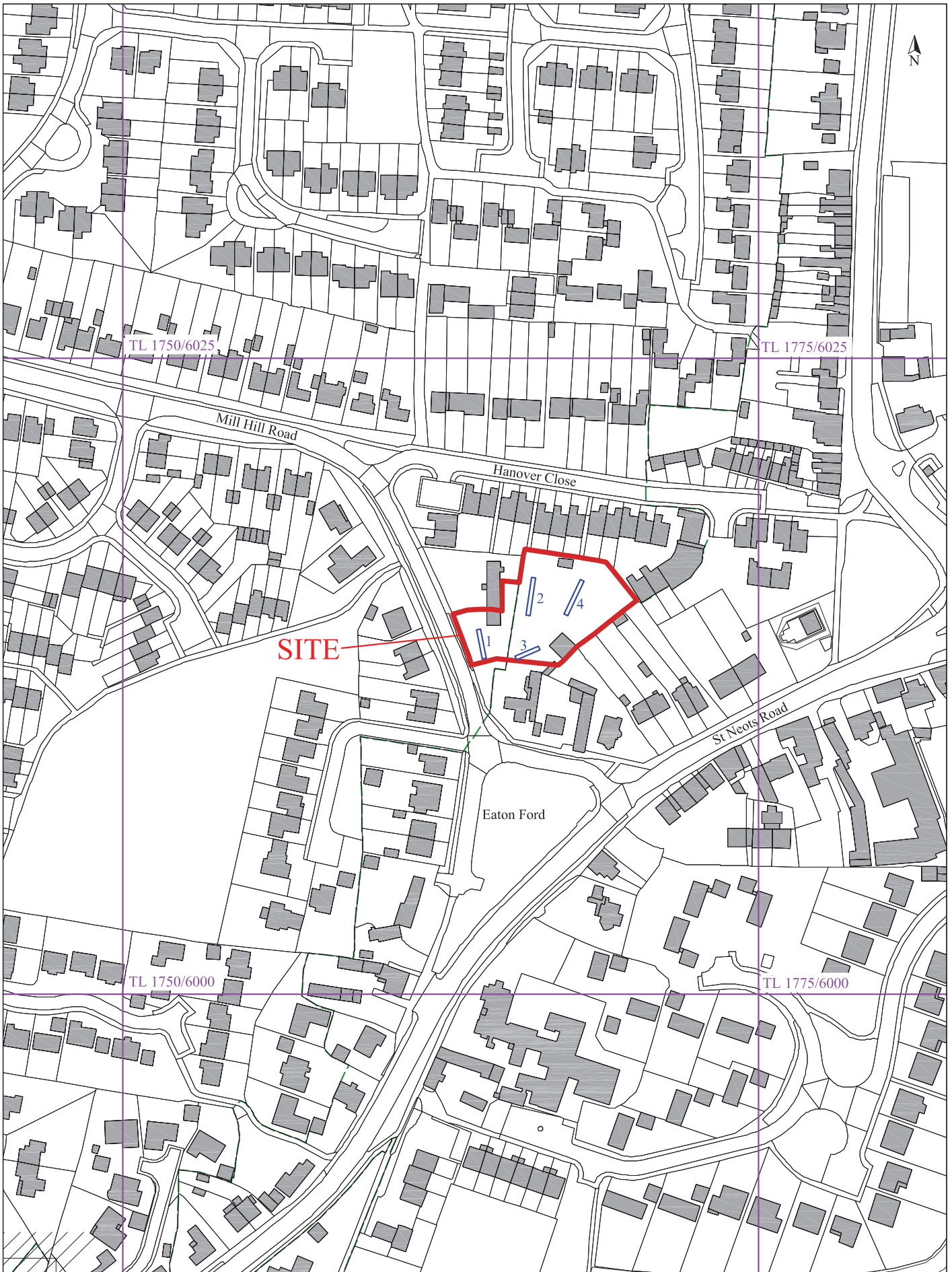
4  
*Trench 3. L1008 gravel layer. Looking west*



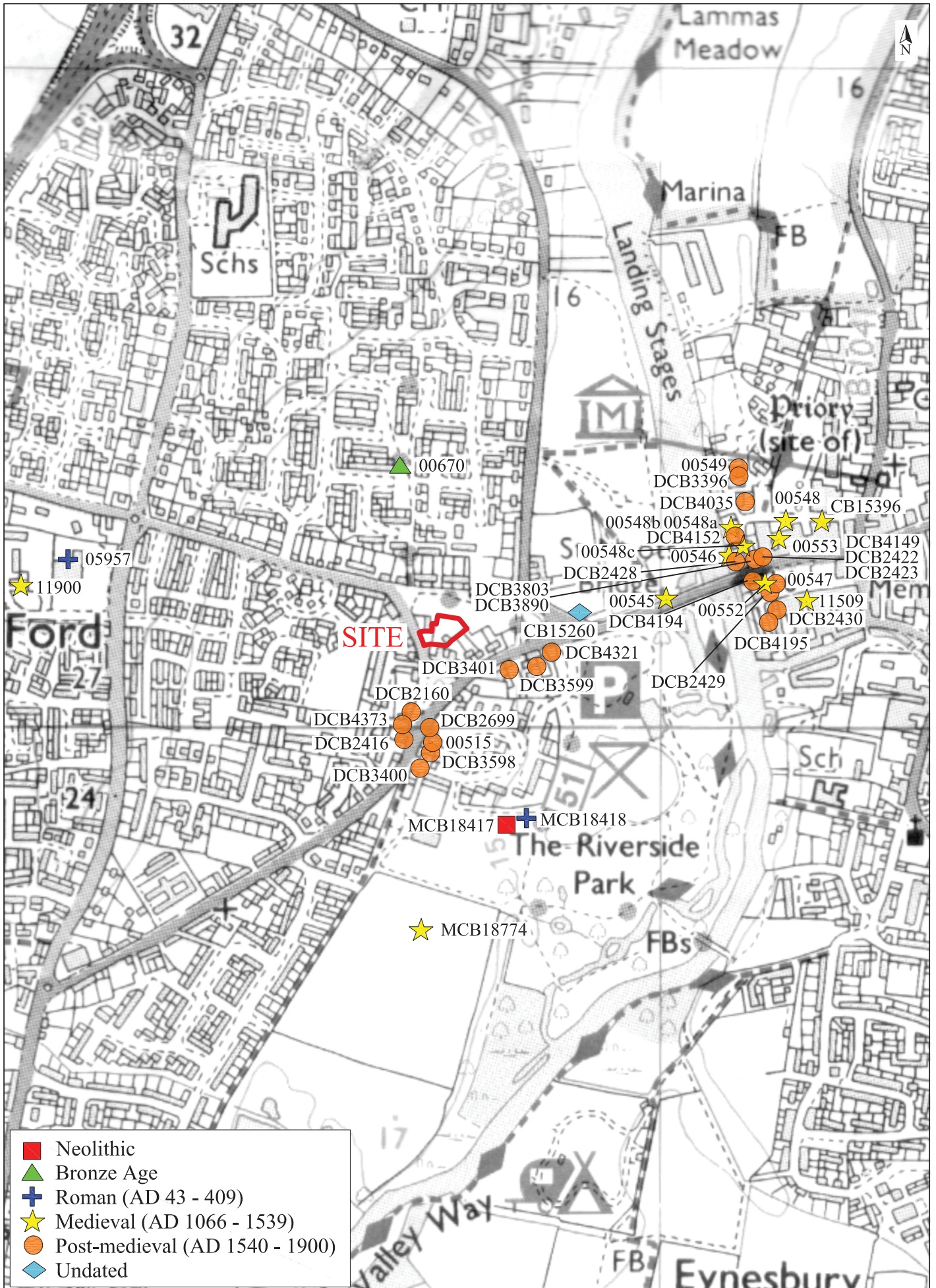
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4





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**Fig. 2 Trench location plan**  
Scale 1:250 at A4



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**Fig. 3 HER Data**  
 Scale 1:7,500 at A4