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**LAND AT WHEATSHEAF PUBLIC HOUSE,  
125 GREAT NORTH ROAD, EATON SOCON,  
CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

CHER NO. ECB3718

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NGR: TL 1692 5877	Report No: 4016
District: Cambridge	Site Code: AS1469
Approved: C Halpin	Project No: 4726
Signed:	Date: February 2012

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## **CONTENTS**

### **OASIS SUMMARY SUMMARY**

- 1 INTRODUCTION**
- 2 DESCRIPTION OF THE SITE**
- 3 3.1 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY & SOILS**
- 3.2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**
- 4 METHODOLOGY**
- 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS**
- 6 CONFIDENCE RATING**
- 7 DEPOSIT MODEL**
- 8 DISCUSSION**
- 9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

## **APPENDICES**

- APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)**
- APPENDIX 2 APPENDIX 2 LISTED BUILDINGS**
- APPENDIX 3 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS**
- APPENDIX 4 SPECIALIST REPORTS**

<b>OASIS SUMMARY SHEET</b>			
Project name	<i>Land At Wheatsheaf Public House, 125 Great North Road, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation.</i>		
<p><i>In February 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the Wheatsheaf Public House, 125 Great North Road, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1692 5877). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising three houses, a bungalow, landscaping and ancillary works (Planning Ref No. 1101645FUL).</i></p> <p><i>The site lies in an area of archaeological potential on the western side of the historic route of the Great North Road, within the historic core of the settlement of Eaton Socon. It comprises the former Wheatsheaf PH, car park and garden. The site lies on deposits of Till, above the terrace of the river Great Ouse to the east, at a height of c.18m AOD.</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed three medieval features (Pit F1037 Tr.1, Pit F1015 Tr.2 and Pit F1010 Tr.3) and a residual medieval sherd (from Pit F1045 Tr.1) were recorded. The medieval features were all pits, and occurred within each trench. The number of pottery sherds found were small (2, 2 and 8 sherds) and associated finds comprise small quantities of CBM and sparse oyster shell. The majority of the archaeological remains are post-medieval and modern, and likely relate to the former public house. The small number of medieval pits relate to the medieval settlement of Eaton Socon.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)	n/a		
Previous work (Y/N/?)	N	Future work (Y/N/?)	TBC
P. number	4726	Site code	AS1469
Type of project	Archaeological Evaluation		
Site status	St. Neots Conservation Area		
Current land use	Hard standing and gravel, formerly occupied by a public house		
Planned development	3 houses, a bungalow, landscaping and ancillary works		
Main features (+dates)	3 medieval pits		
Significant finds (+dates)	Medieval pottery		
<b>Project location</b>			
County/ District/ Parish	Cambridgeshire	Cambridge	St Neots
HER for area	Cambridge Historic Environment Record (CHER)		
Post code (if known)	-		
Area of site	c.1480m <sup>2</sup>		
NGR	TL 1692 5877		
Height AOD (min/max)	c.18m AOD		
<b>Project creators</b>			
Brief issued by	Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team		
Project supervisor/s (PO)	Archaeological Solutions Ltd		
Funded by	Whitebarn Properties Ltd		
Full title	Land At Wheatsheaf Public House, 125 Great North Road, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation		
Authors	Zbigniew Pozorski & Megan Stoakley		
Report no.	4016		
Date (of report)	February 2012		

**LAND AT WHEATSHEAF PUBLIC HOUSE,  
125 GREAT NORTH ROAD, EATON SOCON, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION**

**SUMMARY**

*In February 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the Wheatsheaf Public House, 125 Great North Road, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1692 5877). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising three houses, a bungalow, landscaping and ancillary works (Planning Ref No. 1101645FUL).*

*The site lies in an area of archaeological potential on the western side of the historic route of the Great North Road, within the historic core of the settlement of Eaton Socon. It comprises the former Wheatsheaf PH, car park and garden. The site lies on deposits of Till, above the terrace of the river Great Ouse to the east, at a height of c.18m AOD.*

*The Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record records the 14<sup>th</sup> century parish church of St Mary to the north east (HER MCB486), and the immediate area also contains a number of late medieval and early post-medieval buildings associated with the village core. The Great North Road follows the course of an earlier Roman route, and the site also has a potential for roadside settlement of this period, whilst earlier activity in the prehistoric period is well-known from the valley of the Great Ouse. Elements of the existing buildings on the site are 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier.*

*The evaluation revealed three medieval features (Pit F1037 Tr.1, Pit F1015 Tr.2 and Pit F1010 Tr.3) and a residual medieval sherd (from Pit F1045 Tr.1) were recorded. The medieval features were all pits, and occurred within each trench. The number of pottery sherds found were small (2, 2 and 8 sherds) and associated finds comprise small quantities of CBM and sparse oyster shell. The majority of the archaeological remains are post-medieval and modern, and likely relate to the former public house. The small number of medieval pits relate to the medieval settlement of Eaton Socon.*

**1 INTRODUCTION**

1.1 In February 2012 Archaeological Solutions Limited (AS) carried out an archaeological trial trench evaluation on land at the Wheatsheaf Public House, 125 Great North Road, Eaton Socon, Cambridgeshire (NGR TL 1692 5877; Figs.1 - 2). The evaluation was undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval for the redevelopment of the site comprising three houses, a bungalow, landscaping and ancillary works (Planning Ref No. 1101645FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was carried out in accordance with a brief prepared by Dan McConnell of the Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (CCC HET) (dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2012), and a specification prepared by AS (dated 30<sup>th</sup> January 2012), and approved by CCC HET. The project adhered to appropriate sections of Gurney (2003) 'Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England', *East Anglian Archaeology Occasional Paper 14*, and the Institute for Archaeologists' *Code of Conduct and Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008).

1.3 The aim of the archaeological evaluation was to determine, as far as was possible, the location, extent, date, character, condition, significance and quality of any surviving archaeological remains liable to be threatened by the proposed development. In addition it was hoped to clarify the nature and extent of existing disturbance and intrusions and hence assess the degree of survival of buried deposits and surviving structures of archaeological significance.

### *Planning policy context*

1.4 Planning Policy Statement 5 (PPS5; 2010) 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**

2.1 The site is situated in Eaton Socon, a small village located c.25km directly west of Cambridge. Eaton Socon is located on the south-eastern outskirts of the historic town of St Neots. Staploe is c.3km to the north-west, Wyboston c.2km to the south, Eynesbury c.1.5km to the east and Eaton Ford c.1.5km to the north. The River Ouse is situated c.400m to the east.

2.2 The site is located in the central section of Eaton Socon along the Great North Road. The A1 road runs north-south c.500m to the west of the site whilst the Ouse Valley Way is parallel to the A1 c.500m to the east of the site. The site is an irregular plot of land (c.1480m<sup>2</sup>) and comprises an area of hard-standing and tarmac mixed with patches of gravel and with an area of grass. The Wheatsheaf public house formerly comprised a rectangular building in the north-eastern corner of the site, and was demolished at some point after it was put up for sale by the Charles Wells brewery in December 2010.

### **3 THE EVIDENCE**

#### **3.1 Topography, Geology and Soils**

3.1.1 The site is located at the base of a river valley at a height of c.18m. The river Ouse is situated c.400m to the east of the site and the valley rises to c.35m AOD to the west of the village.

3.1.2 The solid geology comprises River terrace deposits and marine gravels consisting of sand and gravel with subordinate silt and clays. These deposits are commonly shelly due to a marine origin. The soils of the surrounding area belong to the Efford 1 association, described as well-drained, fine, loamy soil associated with similar permeable soils affected by groundwater (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

#### **3.2 Archaeological and Historical Background Fig.3**

##### *Neolithic - Iron Age*

3.2.1 A hearth (HER 00369) was discovered at Little End c.450m to the south of the site and a flint scatter comprising three scrapers and a blade (HER 01919) was discovered c.250m to the north of the site. A barbed and tanged arrowhead (HER 00372) discovered c.525m to the south-east of the site.

3.2.2 A large middle Iron Age settlement enclosure was located on Bushmead Road c.650m to the north-west of the site (MCB 16945). A substantial ditch was excavated and may have formed part of an earlier and larger occupation site to the north. Numerous smaller ditches, gullies and a post hole with a large quantity of middle Iron Age pottery and faunal remains were recorded. A sub-rectangular enclosure is present to the north-east and isolated pits were discovered towards the south-east.

##### *Roman-British*

3.2.1 A settlement site (HER 16504) was located c.600m to the south of the site. Archaeological features including linear ditches forming field systems, enclosures and a drove-way were recorded. Numerous quarry pits, ring gullies and a small rectangular enclosure were also discovered. A Roman settlement site at Alpha Park (HER 16505) located c.650m to the south-west of the site revealed ditches and pits and enclosures of 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century date. Two Roman pottery scatters (HERs 11777 & 11778) discovered c.600m to the south of the site.

##### *Medieval*

3.2.4 Archaeological remains of Saxon date comprise a series of pits (HER 18207) discovered during an archaeological evaluation at Alpha Park c.700m to the south of the site. The pits are possibly indicative of a sunken featured building. Twenty Saxon features (HER 19113) were recorded during excavations at Eynesbury located c.900m to the south-east of the site, including two sunken-



featured buildings and pits, post-holes and gullies. Excavations to the north of the medieval hillfort The Hillings (HER 00374) c.420m to the north-east of the site revealed at least 40 Saxon burials and two substantial buildings (HER 00374a), possibly representing a Saxon settlement site of 9th century date (Addyman 1965). An archaeological evaluation carried out at River Mill c.400m to the east of the site revealed ditches containing St Neot's pottery of Saxo-Norman date (CB 15259).

3.2.5 There are two principal monuments within the environs of the site. The Hillings on Castle Hills (HER 00374, SAM 10009629) located c.420m to the north-east of the site is a large, defensive earthwork castle and ring ditch which overlies part of the late Saxon vill and deserted medieval village. A Norman castle was constructed in c.1180. Clay foundations and building material were discovered in the south ward. The complex is surrounded by two fosses encircled by an incomplete moat. St Mary's Church (HER 00371, LB 1127971), located c.250m to the north-east of the site, and dates from the 14<sup>th</sup> century.

3.2.6 Other medieval archaeological remains comprise an iron horse decoration (MCB 17754) discovered c.300m to the north of the site and an iron crucible (HER 09782) discovered c.250m to the north of the site. Ridge and furrow (HER 18772) is located c.240m to the east of the site.

### *Cartographic Sources*

3.2.7 The 1799 Inclosure map depicts Eaton Socon as a ribbon development along the Great North Road with the village green and St. Mary's Church at its centre (Fig.4). On the western side of the village green and the road are several east-west aligned plots of land, possibly the remnants of medieval land divisions. The site comprises the eastern end of one such plot (No.117), and is labelled as belonging to the Duke of Bedford. In the north-eastern corner of the plot, fronting the Great North Road is an L-shaped building with possibly a pond to the rear.

3.2.8 The Ordnance Survey maps of 1892, 1927 and 1950 depict the development of the site and in Eaton Socon as relatively unchanged (Figs, 5 – 7). The footprint of the L-shaped building recorded in 1799 has been reduced by 1892 to comprise a rectangular building. It corresponds with eastern end of the building the formed the modern Wheatsheaf Public House. None of the OS maps depict a pond to the rear of the site, but all three record two outbuildings to the rear of the building that fronts the Great North Road.

## **4 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)**

4.1 Three linear trial trenches were excavated using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). The trenches were up to 15m long, and they were all 1.60m wide.

4.2 The overburden was removed under close archaeological supervision using a wheeled mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a 1.60m toothless ditching bucket. Thereafter, all further investigation was undertaken by hand. Exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds.

Deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed. Excavated spoil was checked for finds and the trenches were scanned by metal detector.

## 5 DESCRIPTION OF RESULTS

### Trench 1 (Figs. 2 & 8)

#### Sample sections:

<i>Sample Section 1A</i>		
<i>North end, east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 18.20m AOD</i>		
0.00 - 0.25m	L1039	Gravel and CBM.
0.25 - 0.53m	L1040	Mid – dark grey, loose, silty sand with frequent CBM and stones
0.53 - 0.73m	L1041	Dark brownish yellow, compact, sand.
0.73 – 0.80m	L1042	Mid brownish grey, friable, sandy silty with frequent gravel and occasional CBM
0.80m+	L1004	Natural clay. Light yellow, compact clay.

<i>Sample Section 1B</i>		
<i>South end, east facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 18.16m AOD</i>		
0.00 - 0.10m	L1031	Yard surface. Light yellow, compact, sandy gravel
0.10 - 0.14m	L1043	Compact red gravel
0.14 - 0.20m	L1044	Compact gravel
0.20 – 0.25m	L1032	Old tarmac. Compact, dark bluish grey
0.25 – 0.65m	L1033	Dark grey, compact, clayey silt with moderate CBM and gravel
0.65m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above

*Description: Trench 1 contained a modern animal burial (F1029) a post hole (F1019) and five pits (F1021, F1037, F1045, F1047 & F1049).*

Modern Animal Burial Pit F1029 was elongated in plan (0.72m x0.37m+ x0.16m). It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1030, was a mid yellow brown, loose, sandy silt.

Pit F1037 was oval in plan (1.63m x0.55m x0.39m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1038, was a mid grey brown, firm, clay silt. It contained medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (9g), and animal bone (4g).

Pit F1049 was circular in plan (1.20m+ x1m+ x1.20m+). It had steep sides and its base was not reached due to the depth of the feature. Its fill, L1050, was a dark grey, compact, sandy silt. It contained CBM (312g) animal bone (987g). Pit F1049 cut Pit F1047.



Pit F1047 was circular in plan (1m+ x0.90m+ x0.39m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1048, was a light brown, friable, silty sand. It contained 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (43g), CBM (1045g), animal bone (30g), and a clay pipe stem fragment (1g). Pit F1047 was cut by Pit F1049.

Pit F1045 was irregular in plan (1.30m+ x1.30m x0.28m). It had irregular sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1046, was a dark grey, compact, sandy silt with occasional gravel. It contained a sherd of residual medieval (13<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (1g), CBM (1188g), animal bone (78g), glass (23g), an iron fragment (8g) and plaster (12g).

Pit F1021 was roughly circular in plan (0.70m x0.74m x0.07m). It had shallow sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1022, was an orange brown, moderately compact, silty clay. It contained animal bone (22g), slag (38g), and glass (1g).

Post Hole F1019 was circular in plan (0.30m+ x0.20m+ x0.27m). It had steep sides and an irregular base. Its fill, L1020, was a dark blackish brown, moderately compact, silty clay with occasional chalk. It contained CBM (85g) and iron fragments (57g).

## Trench 2 (Figs.2 & 9)

### Sample sections:

<i>Sample Section 2A</i>		
<i>West end, north facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 17.87m AOD</i>		
0.00 - 0.23m	L1031	Yard surface. As above.
0.23 - 0.31m	L1032	Old tarmac. As above.
0.31 - 0.57m	L1033	Clayey silt. As above
0.57 – 0.88m	L1034	Mid yellowish brown, friable, sandy silt with modern CBM
0.88m+	L1004	Natural clay. Light yellow, compact clay.

<i>Sample Section 2B</i>		
<i>East end, north facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 18.10m AOD</i>		
0.00 - 0.08m	L1035	Modern tarmac. Dark bluish grey
0.08 - 0.29m	L1036	Gravel. Base layer for tarmac.
0.29 - 0.70m	L1033	Clayey silt. As above.
0.70 – 0.92m	L1027	Fill of F1023
0.92 – 1.04m	L1026	Fill of F1023
1.04m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above

*Description: Trench 2 contained three pits (F1015, F1017 & F1023). Pit F1023 was a very large modern pit.*

Pit F1023 occupied much of Trench 2 (10m+ x1.60m+ x0.60m+). A test pit was excavated but the feature was not bottomed. From the surface it was evident that the pit contained several fills: L1024 was a mid - dark grey, loose, sandy silt.

L1025 was a dark grey, fairly compact, sandy silt with frequent gravel. L1026 was a light – mid grey, loose, silty sand with frequent CBM. L1027 was a yellow, loose, sand. L1028 was a light - mid grey, loose, sand with frequent CBM (brick and tile). Pit F1023 cut Pit F1017, and contained late 18<sup>th</sup> – early 20<sup>th</sup> century pottery (15g), CBM (12534g), slate (735g), and a clay pipe stem fragment (4g).

Pit F1017 was oval in plan (1.23m+ x1.05m+ x0.29m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L1018, was a dark grey, compact, sandy silt. It contained CBM (159g), and animal bone (8g). Pit F1017 was cut by Pit F1015 and Pit F1023.

Pit F1015 was elongated in plan (1.02m+ x0.90m+ x0.50m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1016, was a dark grey, compact, sandy silt. It contained medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (83g) and CBM (715g). Pit F1015 cut Pit F1017.

### Trench 3 (Figs.2 & 10)

#### Sample sections:

<i>Sample Section 3A</i>		
<i>North end, west facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 18.07m AOD</i>		
0.00 - 0.29m	L1000	Topsoil. Dark grey, soft, sandy silt
0.29 - 0.63m	L1001	Made ground. Mid greyish brown, friable, silty sand with frequent gravel and occasional CBM
0.63 - 0.71m	L1002	Light – mid yellow, loose, sand with moderate chalk chunks (?mortar)
0.71 – 0.84m	L1003	Light brown, compact, clay with CBM and stones. 19 <sup>th</sup> C pottery
0.84m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above

<i>Sample Section 3B</i>		
<i>South end, west facing</i>		
<i>0.00 = 17.87m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.30m	L1000	Topsoil. As above
0.30 – 0.50m	L1001	Silty sand. As above
0.50m+	L1004	Natural clay. As above

*Description: Trench 3 contained two pits (F1005 & F1010), a ditch terminus or pit (F1007) and a service trench (F1012).*

F1007 was ditch terminus or pit (1.60m x1.30m+ x0.65m), orientated east / west. It had steep sides and an irregular concave base. It contained two fills. The basal fill, L1009, was an orange brown, moderately compact, sandy clay with moderate angular flint. It contained 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (65g), CBM (176g), animal bone (48g), coal (29g), a clay pipe stem fragment (3g) and mussel shell (1g). The upper fill, L1008, was a mid grey brown, moderately compact, sandy silty clay with frequent CBM and occasional angular flint. It contained 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> century pottery (212g), CBM (721g), animal bone (173g), glass (9g), an iron fragment (49g) and oyster shell (24g).

Pit F1005 was elongated in plan (2.40m+ x0.31m x0.71m). It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1006, was a mid grey brown, compact, sandy clay with frequent CBM and moderate rounded stones. It contained post-medieval (late 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> century pottery (16g), CBM (8063g), animal bone (297g), slag (729g), and an iron fragment (6g).

Pit F1010 was circular in plan (1.57m+ x0.68m x0.48m). It had gently sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1011, was a mid yellow brown, compact, silty sand with moderate flecks of CBM and small rounded pebbles. It contained medieval (11<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>/13<sup>th</sup> century) pottery (31g), CBM (6g), and oyster shell (2g).

F1012 was a modern service trench ditch (1.40m+ x0.45m+ x0.23m), orientated NW / SE. It had steep sides and a concave base. It contained two fills. The basal fill, L1014, was a mid grey brown, loose, sandy silt with occasional small pebbles. The upper fill, L1013, was a light yellow brown, firm, sandy silty clay. It contained a plastic service pipe.

## 6 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

## 7 DEPOSIT MODEL

7.1 The stratigraphy comprises made ground deposits (Trench 1 0.65-0.74m deep; Trench 2 0.88m – 1.04m deep; and Trench 3 0.50m – 0.84m deep) overlying a light yellow, compact, natural clay (L1004).

## 8 DISCUSSION

8.1 The excavated features are tabulated:

Trench	Context	Description	Spot date
1	F1019	Post Hole	Post medieval/modern
	F1021	Pit	Post medieval/modern
	F1029	Animal burial	Modern
	F1037	Pit	Medieval (11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1045	Pit	Post-medieval/modern
	F1047	Pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1049	Pit	Post-medieval/modern
2	F1015	Pit	Medieval (11 <sup>th</sup> – 13 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1017	Pit	Post-medieval/modern
	F1023	Pit	Modern
3	F1005	Pit	Late 17 <sup>th</sup> – 18 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1007	Ditch or pit	18 <sup>th</sup> – 19 <sup>th</sup> C
	F1010	Pit	Medieval (11 <sup>th</sup> – 12 <sup>th</sup> /13 <sup>th</sup> C)
	F1012	Service trench	Modern

8.2 Features were recorded in all three trenches. The majority of features were post-medieval or modern and likely associated with the former public house.

8.3 Three medieval features (Pit F1037 Tr.1, Pit F1015 Tr.2 and Pit F1010 Tr.3) and a residual medieval sherd (from Pit F1045 Tr.1) were recorded. The medieval features were all pits, and occurred within each trench. The number of pottery sherds found were small (1, 2 and 8 sherds) and associated finds comprise small quantities of CBM and sparse oyster shell.

8.4 The site lies within the historic core of the settlement of Eaton Socon. The 14<sup>th</sup> century parish church of St Mary is located to the north east (HER MCB486), and the immediate area also contains late medieval and early post-medieval buildings associated with the village core. The majority of the archaeological remains are post-medieval and modern, and likely relate to the former public house. The small number of medieval pits relate to the medieval settlement of Eaton Socon.

## **9 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE**

9.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with the finds from the site, at Cambridgeshire County Store. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency. In addition to the overall site summary, it will be necessary to produce a summary of the artefactual and ecofactual data.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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## WEB RESOURCES

[www.british-history.ac.uk](http://www.british-history.ac.uk)

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

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/>

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

[www.maps.google.co.uk](http://www.maps.google.co.uk)

## APPENDIX 1 SITES AND MONUMENTS 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 Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

SMR	NGR SP	Description
<b>Neolithic</b>		
HER 00369	TL 1683 5834	Neolithic hearth, Little End, Eaton Socon. Neolithic B hearth at Little End Cottages, Little End, Eaton Socon. A hole was found dug into gravel below the greenhouse, filled by large fire blackened stones and black soil and wood ash. The hole had been cut into by a ditch running E to W under the N wall of the greenhouse, or alternatively the hearth had must have been made on a ledge cut out of the bank of an existing ditch. This could not be determined without undermining the greenhouse wall. The floor of the hearth was about 2ft 6in by 3ft and irregular, covered with crack and burnt stones, also potsherds and flint flakes. The 3 sherds of Neo B pottery were: a) part of rim and shoulder of coarsely gritted urn, red ware with rouletted ornament, diagonal lines and chevrons. b) very small sherd, similar ware. c) very small red sherd, plain. The find was made in January 1948 in the garden of Mr. H Wright.
HER 01919	TL 17 59	Flint blade, St. Neots. Part of delicately flaked blade of grey flint; length 4,1cm, width 1,8cm. Double edged scraper of grey flint; length 5,5cm, width 3,2cm. Thumb-scraper of black flint; length 2,8cm. Small thumbnail scraper of grey flint; length 2,1cm. Burin of black flint; length 4,8cm, width 2,8cm. Unpatinated. Donated by CF Tebbutt
<b>Bronze Age</b>		
HER 00372	TL 173 584	Flint arrowhead, Eaton Socon Lock. Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead found in this field in 1957.
<b>Iron Age</b>		
HER 16945	TL 1641 5931	Middle Iron Age settlement enclosure, Bushmead Road, Eaton Socon. An evaluation revealed a substantial Middle Iron Age ditch which may form part of an Iron Age enclosure settlement previously found to the N of the site. A number of undated ditches, gullies and a single posthole were also recorded, which may be of contemporary date. Small assemblages of Middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone were recovered. A second phase of area excavation revealed the partial remains of a middle Iron Age sub-rectangular enclosure, which had an entrance on its NE side. The enclosure ditch fills contained substantial deposits of middle Iron Age pottery and animal bone. A pit was identified just inside the entrance of the enclosure, which contained more pottery, fragments of a fired clay loomweight and a small hammerstone or processor. A NE-SW ditch abutted the enclosure on its NW corner, again containing substantial assemblages of pottery and animal bone. A group of isolated features were recorded 60m to the SE of the enclosure. The enclosure represents the remains of a small settlement, probably on the periphery of a larger settlement already recorded to the N. Environmental evidence suggests that the inhabitants of the enclosure practised mixed farming, in an open landscape.
<b>Roman</b>		



HER 11777	TL 1705 5820	Roman pottery scatter, St. Neots. Roman pottery scatter found. Bedfordshire CC SMR note presence of cropmark 3239.
HER 11778	TL 169 582	Cropmarks North of 'The Bell' Public House, St. Neots. Field to North of 'The Bell' public house, containing cropmarks of road and field boundaries shown on RAF APs. Roman coin found in association with gravel surface of road by T Morgan. Roman pottery scatter and Roman coins found close to road (B1428) in same field.
HER 16504	TL 1680 5821	Roman rural site, Priors Gate. Geophysical survey was carried out to investigate a possible Roman settlement enclosure. Although the survey recorded a high level of magnetic disturbance, a double ditched feature and other anomalies of archaeological interest were evident. The resistivity survey also clearly recorded the position of the double ditched feature, and high resistance readings were recorded over much of the interior. No building plans were apparent in the resistivity results, and the high resistance readings are thought to have a non-archaeological origin. An evaluation was carried out revealing a concentration of Romano-British activity dating from the 2nd - 4th centuries AD located to the N of the concreted road which crossed the site. The remains took the form of linear ditches, a number of pits and several midden spreads. Little diagnostic evidence for structures was found, but it is suggested that an agricultural settlement is located in close proximity to the trial trenches. Excavations were carried out revealing the remains of a Romano-British rural site. The evidence comprised a large number of ditches, forming field systems, enclosures and a drove-way. Other features included a large number of quarry pits, as well as two ring gullies and a small rectangular enclosure, thought to represent animal windbreaks or enclosures. Two irregular pits were also excavated, thought to be a shallow watering holes and tanning/dying pit. Two possible grave cuts were also identified. Little material culture was retrieved from the features, although refuse pits and a possible hearth were present. Settlement activity was undoubtedly in the vicinity, and the density of pottery and animal bones suggests that structures may have been located to the south of the excavation area.
HER 16505	TL 1684 5805	Roman features, Alpha Park, Eaton Socon. Following on from previous fieldwork, a further 19 trenches were excavated on the site of the proposed development of retail premises with associated landscaping and roads. A few archaeological features were identified, mostly ditches and pits, thought to be related to Romano-British field systems related to the settlement identified during the previous excavation. Two pits do not fit this interpretation. One probably represents a Saxon Sunken Featured Building, whilst the other could be Neolithic in date. A programme of archaeological strip, map and record was undertaken in 2006 in advance of development. A series of Roman ditched field systems and enclosures were identified, dating from the mid-late 2nd century to later 3rd/4th centuries, and representing a continuation of activity recorded at Prior's Gate to the N of the site. At least two phases of ditch cutting could be distinguished, and a lack of ditches in the south of the investigation area probably represents the southern boundary of intensive enclosure. A cluster of nine pits were recorded in the east of the site, interpreted as probable gravel/s and extraction pits. Two fragments of Roman tile were also recovered, suggesting

		possible structures in the vicinity. An early Roman ditch yielded a number of snail shells, which consistent with an open environment, probably grazed grassland.
<b>Medieval</b>		
HER 19113	TL 1796 5847	Saxon features at Eynesbury. Twenty Saxon features were recorded following an excavation by Wessex Archaeology. The features include seven sunken-featured buildings (SFB's) or grubenhausen, eight pits, three post-holes and two gullies. One of the SFB's was in fact two overlapping buildings, however their stratigraphic relationship could not be determined. A variety of small finds were recovered from across the seven SFB's and included Saxon sherds and vessels, copper alloy pins and tweezers, bone and worked bone including decorated combs, ceramic building material, worked flint and antler, iron shears and blades and a 1st-2nd century Romano-British vessel. The eight pits excavated range in size and contained various small finds including sherds, slag, animal bone, worked flint, a lava quern-stone and a fired loomweight. One pit also contained a smithing furnace and another infilled well. The gullies were dated by suspected Saxon pottery and also contained animal bone. The evidence from the site suggests that this was more than a transient settlement due to the number of structures, the presence of metalworking, and the attempt at demarcation of activities in the south west of the site. The proximity of the settlement to the river also suggests that flooding was not an issue.
HER 18207	TL 1670 5813	Saxon settlement features, Alpha Park, Eaton Socon. Evaluation revealed a pit, interpreted as a Saxon sunken featured building. A further programme of strip, map and record was undertaken in advance of development, revealing a large pit with associated postholes, representing a further sunken feature building. The occurrence of this and another possible SFB at the west of the site suggests that significant Saxon settlement activity is likely to exist to the north and/or west of Alpha Park.
HER 15259	TL 1735 5863	Early Medieval ditches, River Mill, Eaton Socon. Archaeological evaluation was carried out prior to the redevelopment of the site. Trench 1 contained a number of ditches or gullies, three of which contained St. Neots pottery (Saxo-Norman). These are suggested to represent drainage ditches or property boundaries. It is unlikely that the low-lying area was occupied but may have been used for agricultural purposes or riverfront activities in the Saxo-Norman period.
HER 00371	TL 1704 5887	Saint Mary's Church, Eaton Socon, St. Neots. Listed Building 1127971. The church was gutted by fire in 1930 and restored and partially rebuilt by Sir Albert Richardson. The S arcade of five bays remained, with early C14 (re-used) arches, but otherwise perpendicular, and the S clerestory, and of course the W tower. It is a high tower with set-back buttresses and pairs of transomed two-light bell-openings. The sedilia consist simply of a seat with as its back wall the window above having its jambs and sill taken lower down. Font: Square, and of Purbeck marble, painted white, C12. The decoration is intersecting arches. Communion rail: c.1640, curving forward. Balusters, and between them sharp pendants. Stained Glass: In the S chapel, E window, four Flemish(?) roundals. Plate: Cup and Paten, inscribed 1609; Plate dated 1609; Paten 1635; C17 Cup and Paten. Brasses: To a Civilian and his wife, c.1450. Also

		<p>scrolls. The figures are in 19in. long. Monumental brasses in parish church of St Mary's, c1450 Woman in civil dress (small worn), c.1570 2 sons 1 shield (mutilated). The church boundary wall has been added to the risk register at category 2, as it has severe cracking along the wall, with falling masonry and invasive vegetation. A large section of the wall is leaning precariously due to the proximity of an adjacent tree and its root system.</p>
HER 00374	TL 1733 5890	<p>The Hillings, Castle Hills. Scheduled Monument 1009629. 'The Hillings': A large horse-shoe ditch enclosing on the river side two sub-rectangular wards. Excavated 1949 -1950. The earthworks of the two wards constituted a Norman earthwork castle, datable by pottery to the C12. Some clay wall foundations and building traces were found in the S ward. Within the S ward was a mound which was also excavated and found to be later than the other earthworks, as its material had come from the N and W sides of the ward and it had been raised on a surface already turfed over (probably a windmill mound). 'Castle Hills' was excavated in 1962 (see plan). The hearth of an AS building was overlain by the bank of the outer castle ditch. This, taken in conjunction with pottery found, indicates that the building went out of use in C12. Therefore the outer bank and ditch must have been Norman as well as the other earthworks. A ring-work castle with rectangular northern bailey, and lesser outer bailey on the W, protected on the E by the Ouse. Well defined earthwork under grass. There are many rabbits. The earthwork is situated between the church and the River Ouse and consists of three baileys with the inner bailey on the S side containing a small motte. The whole complex is surrounded by a fosse; the two inner baileys are surrounded by and separated by a second fosse or moat which is not continuous. The ditches and banks are massive on the N or earthwork side and lower on the river side. The whole of the scheduled area lies in the grounds of Castle Hills House and has been recently landscaped, and is for the greater part under much grass with the exception of the bailey banks, which are under rough grass with some mature trees, mostly hawthorn.</p> <p>There has been extensive recent replanting both on the outer moat bank and also on the inner banks. Most of the trees appear to be of smaller ornamental varieties including laurel, cherry etc., however there are also a considerable number of beech, poplar etc. The outer moat runs from the middle of the N side to three quarters of the way round the S side. It is flat bottomed and approximately 3 - 4m wide through most of its length. The ground has been dug for vegetables on the NE corner of the site and the bank slightly cut into by the patio and house extension W of this. A rose bed has been planted on the bank where the moat runs out. The N most bailey is rectangular and measures approximately 55m x20m the banks to the NW are approximately 3m high on the interior face.</p> <p>The S bailey appears almost circular measuring 30m across with the interior banks to the NW approximately 2m in height. Evidence of extensive mole activity on the motte. Two flower beds to the S of the motte that to the SE planted with roses, to the SW planted with trees. Building material noted in the soil. The inner moat is wet, to the S and W crossed by a berm and dry to N and between the inner bailey. Banks are maximum 12m approximately to ditch bottom. Castle Hills</p>

		is a Norman ringwork castle overlying part of a late Saxon vill and medieval village which was deserted, at least in part, to make way for the stronghold. The ringwork was used subsequently as the site of a windmill. The monument is situated on gravel terrace on the W bank of the River Great Ouse. Geoffrey de Mandeville is accredited with the construction of the ringwork during his war with Stephen in the 1140s. The site contains evidence for continuous occupation between the late Saxon and Norman periods. The evidence includes structural remains within the castle site, waterlogged remains in the ditch fills, buried soils beneath the rampart banks and post mill mound and possibly buried waterfront structures on the river foreshore. The windmill mound was constructed some time after the abandonment of the ringwork, being the site of a post mill.
HER 17754	TL 1700 5900	Medieval horse decoration, St Neots. A copper-alloy medieval horse decoration with cut holes and stars motif. The suspension point has been broken off. See index card for sketch.
HER 09782	TL 17 59	Medieval crucible, Eaton Socon. Find from Eaton Socon, now in Longsands Museum, St Neots:- iron crucible, gravy-boat shaped, "probably for melting lead to repair church windows"
HER 18772	TL 1715 5873	Ridge and furrow, St Neots. Earthwork ridge and furrow mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.
HER 00374A	TL 1733 5890	Saxon settlement, The Hillings, St. Neots. The Hillings - excavations in 1949 - 1950, and 1962. In the northern ward were found at least 40 AS burials (associated with St Neots pottery) and there had probably been settlement there and a church (stone and mortar debris was found overlying the burials) defined by the horseshoe ditch which appears earlier than the other earthworks. Excavation in 1962 found traces of two substantial domestic buildings associated with St Neots pottery, showing that was a Saxon settlement there from probably the C9. Pottery finds indicate that the building went out of use in the C12. Made indicate that the settlement spread at least 200ft W of the excavated area and also to the S. Eaton Socon had been head manor of Beds thegn Ulmar under Confessor, so settlement could be connected with him and his residence could be adjacent to church in N bailey. Material from CF Tebbutt's excavation of the AS house at Castle Hill Close, Eaton Socon, on display in Longsands Museum, St Neots, includes: sherds, samples of clay daub and worked antler. "The house had been destroyed at the time of the construction of the Castle, during the reign of King Stephen".
<b>Post-medieval</b>		
HER 18057	TL 1698 5922	Milestone, Great North Road, Eaton Socon. Extant milestone in pavement against wall of Milestone Cottage. Legend reads 55 / Miles/from/LONDON /Eaton.
CB 15261	TL 1695 5818	Post-medieval and undated features, St Prior's Gate, St Neots. An evaluation revealed a few undated features (postholes and a pit) on the Eastern Side. Roman pottery and oyster shell were recovered from the topsoil. On the western side a tree throw, three shallow undated pits, a 19th C dump of bricks in a pit and a row of four agricultural beds were found.
MCB16097	TL 170 587	Trade token, Eaton Socon. Post-medieval trade token from garden of 14 School Lane, Eaton Socon. Copper alloy, with date 1667.
<b>Undated</b>		
HER 19336	TL 1684 5937	Undated gully, Eaton Socon. A gully was recorded during trial trench evaluation on land to the rear of 10, 12 & 14 Bushmead Road, Eaton

		Socon. No datable material was recovered from the trench.
HER 18769	TL 1685 5818	Possible enclosure, St Neots. Ditches forming possible square enclosure mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.

## APPENDIX 2 LISTED BUILDINGS

LB ID	DesigUID	NGR SP	Description
<b>Medieval</b>			
53232 (HER 00371)	DCB3836	TL 1704 5886	Parish Church of St Mary. Early C14, restored and partly rebuilt circa 1930-2 by Sir Albert Richardson. 6 bay nave, aisles and 2 bay chancel. Flint rubble walls with ashlar dressings. Tiled roof. Buttressed tower with pairs of transomed 2-light bell openings.
<b>17<sup>th</sup> Century</b>			
53296	DCB2435	TL 1708 5892	The White House. C17 late or C18 early 2 storey cottage with dormer; symmetrical 3 storey, 3 window earlier C19 wing added on west side. Cottage with modern tile roof and red brick central ridge stack. Whitewashed brick and pebble-dash facing to timber frame. Stucco wing with slated roof with projecting eaves. Cottage with ground floor Yorkshire sash window. Wing with recessed sash windows with glazing bars; modern doorway. Cast iron railings and gate to churchyard curtilage with urn finials. Nos. 5, 7 and the White House form a group.
53218	DCB3291	TL 1694 5899	The Old Sun Inn. C17 altered. Colour-washed plaster, old tile roof, 2 gabled back wings. 2 storeys three 1st floor casement windows, 2 ground floor C19 splayed bay windows with slate roofs. Architraved doorways with carved bracketted hoods. Roof of collared-rafter construction.
53227	DCB3826	TL 1699 5875	No 164 Great North Road, Falcon Cottage. C17, altered late C18. Timber framed. Plaster. Old tile roof. 1 storey and attics. 3 box dormers. 2 sash windows with glazing bars. Modern tiled porch. Included for group value. Nos. 162, 164, 168B and No 168 form a group. Also form a group with Nos 2 to 8 (even) Ackerman Street.
53213	DCB4084	TL 1689 5851	The Old Plough Inn. C17 inn, altered. Linear plan with 3 ground floor rooms and internal chimney (RCHM type J). 2 storeys and dormers. Timber framed with colour-washed brick nogging. Modern applied ½ timberwork added. Old tile roof with gabled dormer. Original ground floor casement windows altered. Modern central doorway with arched head. Nos. 99, 101 and the White Horse Hotel form a group.
53216	DCB3829	TL 1687 5863	No. 111 Great North Rd. C17. Timber framed with plastered front and brick return. Tiled roof. 2 storeys. 2 gables with brick coping, two 1st floor panels. Door of 6 flush panels with wood surround, consoles and cornice hood. Flanking 2 storeys splayed bays with cornices and sash windows with glazing bars. Early C19 rear extension.
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Century</b>			
53215	DCB3833	TL 1688	White Horse Hotel. Early C18 frontage with probably older core, and later gabled north wing. Great North Road frontage, 2



		5856	storeys; red brick with old tiled roof behind panelled parapet with plain band below; 4 flush sash windows with rendered flat arches with keyblocks; 2 semi-octagonal window bays, and splayed window bay in gable wall of north wing; 2 northern window bays of 2 storeys with hipped tiled roofs; southern 1 storey window bay with flat modern cornice; 2 doorways with cut bracketted doorhoods North elevation of north wing 2 storeys and attics, formerly with hipped dormers now 3 modern casements in attic storey flush with wall below. 5 flush framed sash windows. Central doorway has fanlight with pointed arched glazing bars, flush panel door, surround with carved consoles and open pediments. Nos. 99, 101 and the White Horse Hotel form a group.
53222	DCB4087	TL 1691 5850	No. 90 Great North Rd. C18 altered. 2 double fronted cottages with 2 windows each. 1 storey and gabled dormers. Timber framed with plastered facade. Pantile roof. Gault brick chimney stacks. Yorkshire casement windows, mostly altered. Square-headed oak framed doorways.
53226	DCB4088	TL 1699 5874	No 162 Great North Rd. Trotwood Cottage. Later C18. 2 windows. 2 storeys. Tiled roof. Brown brick. Dentil brick eaves cornice. Segmental brick arches to Yorkshire sash windows and recessed doorway. Included for group value. Nos. 162, 164, 168B and No 168 form a group. Also form a group with Nos. 2 to 8 (even) Ackerman Street.
53176	DCB4090	TL 1709 5867	No. 36 Ackerman Street. C18 cottages. 2 storeys. 3 windows. Pantile roof, with multi-coloured stock brick ridge stack. Timber framed with roughcast plaster. Bracketted wooden fillet at 1st floor level. Architraved Yorkshire sash windows. Entrance with fielded and panelled door. Nos. 32, 36 & 38 form a group.
53225	DCB3926	TL 1691 5865	134 Great North Road. C18 - early C19 cottage. Linear plan with 2 ground floor rooms and internal chimney (RCHM type I). Timber framed with brick plinth and plastered alcove. 1 storey and attic. 1 window and 2 window return. Thatch roof. Yorkshire sash windows with glazing bars and dormer on return. Oak framed doorway with boarded door on return.
53295	DCB2688	TL 1698 5897	No 5 Peppercorn Lane. C18. Whitewashed brick. Old tile roof. 2 storeys. 2 sash windows and 1 centre, 1st floor window blank. Ground floor with flanking splayed bay window. Cut bracketted doorhood. Nos. 5, 7 and the White House form a group.
53223	DCB3287	TL 1691 5856	No 108 Great North Road. C18 mid, altered. storeys. 2 windows. Red brick. Modern tile roof. Gauged flat brick arches to recessed sash windows and C19 sashes; 1st floor with blind central window. Ground floor with splayed bay windows. Original doorway blocked and transferred to modern rear extension.
53230	DCB3520	TL 1696 5904	Wagon and Horses Public House. 184 Great North Road. C18. 2 storeys and dormers. Irregular range with 5 windows. Old tile roof. Painted brick with dentil cornice. Sash and casement windows with glazing bars. Ground floor with hipped, tiled splayed bay window. Entrance on return.
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Century</b>			
53217	DCB3834	TL 1693 5889	153 Great North Rd. C19 earlier. 2 storeys. Double fronted with 3 window bays, including 2 flanking splayed bay windows with 3 windows each. Hipped, slated roof and bays with projecting



			eaves. Gault brick. Gauged segmental brick arches to recessed sash windows. Wooden, modified Doric prostyle portico. Round-arched doorway with patterned fanlight and panelled door. Included for portico and doorway.
53229	DCB2161	TL 1699 5878	168b Great North Rd. Ladygrove. Early C19. Plaster. Welsh slate roof. 2 storeys. 2 windows. Slim wood pilasters on quoins. Sash windows with rendered flat arches, most with glazing bars. Modern doorway. Nos. 162, 164, 168B and No 168 form a group. Also form a group with Nos. 2 to 8 (even) Ackerman Street.
53175	DCB2170	TL 1698 5872	Nos. 2-8 Ackerman Street. C19 earlier-mid. Row of 1 storey cottages with box dormers. 1 window each. Pantile roof. Gault brick. Segmental arched openings. Yorkshire casement windows. Framed doorways. Included for group value. Forms a group with Nos 162, 164, 168B and 168 Great North Road.
53231	DCB2662	TL 1699 5912	No. 206 Great North Road. C19 early. Double fronted villa with 3 windows, now 2 separate residences. 3 storeys. Gault brick. Stucco cornice and blocking course. Stucco 1st floor sill band. Gauged flat brick arches to recessed sash windows with glazing bars. Central bay windows altered. Ground floor windows in arched recesses. Altered round-arched doorways.
53326	DCB2700	TL 1735 5877	Eaton Mills, School Lane. Circa 1847. 3 storeys. Symmetrical facade with formerly 7 window bays, some now blocked. Tile roof with bracketted eaves course and gable. Gault brick. Segmental arched central pivoted windows with glazing bars. Weather-boarded, central hoist loft with gabled front projecting from roof. Central entrance with segmental relieving arch and boarded doors. Stone plaque at 2 <sup>nd</sup> floor level inscribed "T G C 1847".
53228	DCB3289	TL 1699 5877	No 168B Great North Road. Early C19. Plaster. Hipped Welsh slate roof with projecting eaves and panelled soffit. 3 storeys. 3 sash windows with stucco voussoirs and glazing bars. Wooden door surround with reeded pilasters, dummy fanlight and gabled canopy. Wooden pilasters on quoins. Included for group value. Nos. 162, 164, 168B and No 168 form a group. Also form a group with Nos. 2 to 8 (even) Ackerman Street.
53325	DCB3402	TL 1705 5880	The Cage and Village Lock Up. Circa 1826, restored 1963. 1 storey. Red brick, patched upper part in gault brick. Tiled roof with brick gable coping and dentil eaves course. Pointed arched entrance with studded boarded door and wrought iron grill over. Stone plaque on west wall inscribed "The Eaton Socon Cage. This ancient lock-up was built in 1826 for the confinement of local malefactors. Restored in 1963 it is now in the care of the Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire Naturalists Trust.
53219	DCB3830	TL 1694 5912	Eaton House. Early C19. Irregular double fronted house with 4 window bays and 4 window extension to east. 2 storeys. Hipped slated roof with projecting eaves. Gault brick. Gauged flat brick arches to recessed sash windows with glazing bars. Round-arched doorway with patterned fanlight and panelled door.
53224	DCB3525	TL 1692 5859	Methodist Chapel, 120 Great North Road. Circa 1850. Romanesque style. Gault brick. Slated roof with enriched gable parapet. 5 window frontage and 4 window return. Round-arched openings with enriched mouldings and dogtooth decoration - all in brick. Moulded sill bands and ground floor impost bands.

			Windows with radial glazing bars and margin lights. Doorway with flanking columns. Blind Lunette in gable with plaque inscribed 'Methodist Chapel 1850'. Included for curiosity value.
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**AS1469, Wheatsheaf, Eaton Socon**

Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	TT	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
1003		3	Layer	19th C	(5) 135g	4407	650	Fe. Frag - 42g Glass - (2) 524g Slag - 55g
1005	1006	3	Pit	Late 17th-18th C	(2) 16g	8063	297	Slag - 729g Fe. Frag - 6g
1007	1008	3	Ditch	18th-19th C	(22) 212g	721	173	Glass - 9g Oyster Shell - 24g Fe. Frag. - 49g Coal - 29g Clay Pipe (stem) - 3g Mussel Shell - 1g
	1009				(12) 65g	176	48	
1010	1011	3	Pit	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> /13 <sup>th</sup>	(8) 31g	6		Oyster Shell - 2g
1012	1014	3	Ditch	19th- 20th	(6) 76g	34		
1015	1016	2	Pit/Ditch	11th-13th	(2) 83g	715		
1017	1018	2	Pit			159	8	
1019	1020	1	Posthole			85		Fe. Frags - 57g
1021	1022	1	Pit				22	Slag - 38g Glass - (1) 1g
1023	1024 1025 1026	2	Large Pit	Late 18th-early 20th	(1) 15g	1594 1 10939		Slate - 735g Clay Pipe - 4g
1029	1030	1	Pit	Late 16th-18th	(2) 24g		548	
1037	1038	1	Pit	11th-12th	(2) 9g		4	
1045	1046	1	Pit	13th-15th	(1) 1g	1188	78	Glass - (2) 23g



## APPENDIX 4 SPECIALIST REPORTS

### The Pottery

*by Peter Thompson*

The evaluation recovered 62 sherds weighing 590g from ten features and one layer. The assemblage predominantly ranges from medieval to early modern in date, although most of the medieval pottery is residual. One residual early Iron Age flint tempered sherd is also present from Ditch F1007 (L1008).

Potentially the earliest features datable by pottery include Pit F1037 (L1038) which contained a sherd of St Neots ware and a quartz sand and limestone tempered sherd suggesting a date of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> centuries, although the feature could possibly be a little later. Pit F1010 (L1011) contained similar sherds including St Neots-type ware, and so may be of the same date or slightly later. Pit F1015 (L1016) contained a single sherd of early medieval shelly ware.

Ditch F1007 (L1008 & L1009) contained the highest medieval concentration comprising 22 sherds, although these were re-deposited in a later feature which also contained late post-medieval to early modern pottery. The medieval sherds included Potterspury ware from south of Northampton, and a flanged jar rim suggesting that a feature centred on the 14<sup>th</sup> century may have been disturbed by later activity. Pit F1029 (L1030) contained a single glazed medieval sherd which is probably a Potterspury ware (late 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries). F1029 (L1030) contained a highly decorated jug sherd imported from Brill, Bucks which includes a rouletted iron trailed clay slip line. This is probably of 13<sup>th</sup> century date but was residual in a later feature.

### KEY:

PFLT: prehistoric flint tempered late 2<sup>nd</sup> – mid 1<sup>st</sup> millennium BC

MSH: medieval shelly ware 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

MS: medieval sandy ware 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

MSSH: medieval sandy and shelly ware 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

UPG: unidentified glazed ware

SNEOT: St Neot's ware 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>

MQLST: medieval quartz and limestone ware 11<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>

BRIM: medieval Brill ware 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>

POT: Potterspury ware late 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>/early 16<sup>th</sup>

PMBL: Black glazed post-medieval red earthenware late 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

PMRE: Post-medieval red earthenware late 16<sup>th</sup>+

STMBL: Staffordshire Mottled ware late 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup>

LONS: London stoneware late 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>

CREAM: Creamware early 18<sup>th</sup>-late 19<sup>th</sup>

TPW: Transfer Printed Ware late 18<sup>th</sup>+

REFWE: Refined white earthenware late 18<sup>th</sup>+

<b>Feat.</b>	<b>Cont.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Comment</b>
1003		Layer	3x103g PMRE 1x5g CREAM 1x22g LONS	19 <sup>th</sup>	PMRE: 2 vessels
1005	1006	Pit	1x12g PMRE 1x3g STMBL	Late-17 <sup>th</sup> -18 <sup>th</sup>	
1007	1008	Ditch	1x8g PFLT 2x15g MSH 1x6g MSSH 4x23g MS 4x29g MQLST 1x12g UPG 1x12g POT-type 2x17g PMRE 3x65g PMBL 1x8g LONS 2x4g REFWE	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	PFLT: /polished burnished MS: flanged rim UPG: possibly Potterspury type PMRE: 2 vesels PMBL: minimum of one tankard LONS: prob from same vessel as L1009
	1009		3x7g MSH 1x4g MSSH 2x11g MSSH 2x17g MQLST 1x5g UPG 1x2g PMRE 1x6g LONS		MSSH: everted jar rim UPG: faded green glaze, sandy with a little calcareous
1010	1011	Pit	4x14g SNEOT- type 3x8g MSSH 1x6g MQLST	11 <sup>th</sup> - 12 <sup>th</sup> /13 <sup>th</sup>	SNEOT: thickened jar rim
1012	1014	Ditch	5x72 PMRE 1x1g TPW	19 <sup>th</sup> -20 <sup>th</sup>	PMRE: flower pot, one possibly two vessels
1015	1016	Pit /ditch	1x6g MSH	11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup>	1x72g fired clay
1023	1025	Pit	1x14g REFWE	Late 18 <sup>th</sup> - early 20 <sup>th</sup>	
1029	1030	Pit	1x11g BRIM 1x11g PMBL	Late 16 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup>	BRIM: highly decorated with rouletted iron stained clay strips
1037	1038	Pit	1x5g SNEOT 1x4g MQLST	11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup>	
1045	1046	Pit	1x1g UPG	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> (residual)	UPG: possibly Potterspury-type ware
1047	1048	Pit	1x41g PMRE	18 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup>	



## The Ceramic Building Materials

*Andrew Peachey*

The trial trench evaluation excavations recovered a total of 137 fragments (27910g) of post-medieval CBM, including peg tile, wall and flooring bricks (Table 1). The CBM occurs in a fragmentary but only slightly abraded condition. The assemblage includes two modest concentrations from pits, with further fragments in a layer, pit and ditch features that may be related to post-medieval structures that previously occupied the site.

CBM type	Fragment Count	Weight (g)
Peg Tile	77	10725
Wall Brick	49	10188
Flooring Brick	11	6997
<i>Total</i>	<i>137</i>	<i>27910</i>

Table 1: Quantification of CBM form types in the assemblage.

The CBM was quantified by fragment count and weight (g) with fabric types and any extant dimensions or characteristics also recorded. All data was entered into a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet that forms part of the site archive.

### *The CBM Fabrics*

The CBM occurred in three fabrics, all of which would have been produced locally in the Eaton Socon and St.Neots region, exploiting local clay resources.

- Fabric 1: Oxidised red-orange throughout with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.25mm), common calcareous grains/voids (0.1-3mm, occasionally larger) and occasional red iron rich grains (0.5-3mm, occasionally larger).
- Fabric 2: Pale yellow-brown to cream throughout with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.25mm), common calcareous grains/voids (0.1-3mm, occasionally larger) and occasional red/black iron rich grains (0.5-3mm, occasionally larger).
- Fabric 3: Oxidised red-orange throughout with inclusions of common quartz (0.1-0.5mm), sparse flint and iron rich grains (0.25-3mm, occasionally larger).

### *The CBM Forms*

The most common CBM form type in the assemblage is peg tile in Fabrics 1 & 2 used in the construction of post-medieval roofs. The peg tiles present in the assemblage have complete dimensions of 270x155-160x12-14mm with a sanded base and two circular or diamond shaped holes (10mm wide) located at one end of the tile. If the peg holes are circular then they are often counter-sunk on one side and exhibit a radial impression (30mm wide) where a tool was used to pierce the tile as it was drying. Diamond shaped peg holes are less regular and appear to have been cut with a knife as the tiles were drying. Pit F1023 (L1024 & L1026) contained a significant concentration of peg tile in the assemblage, in total 20 fragments (8237g) in association with sparse

fragments of wall and floor brick. Layer L1003 also contained 28 fragments (1438g) of peg tile, while sparse fragments were near ubiquitous in other features that contained CBM.

The wall brick in the assemblage comprised a single type of brick in Fabrics 1 and 3. This type of brick has partial dimensions of ?x100-105x60mm thick with a flat base, slightly irregular arrises and faces. Typically fragments of this type of brick are quite fragmentary, but a small concentration of 13 fragments (4146g) was contained in Pit F1005 (L1006), while further fragments are common in the assemblage.

The flooring brick in the assemblage only occurs in Fabric 2 and typically occurs as modest to large fragments, though none are complete. This type of brick has partial dimensions of ?x100-110x30-40mm and typically exhibits an upper surface that has been worn smooth. Pit F1005 (L1006) contained a small concentration of 4 flooring brick fragments (3067g), while further fragments are relatively common in the assemblage.

### *Conclusion*

The CBM in this assemblage represents a homogenous group of peg tile, wall and flooring brick that is likely to have derived from a structure that previously occupied the site, with particularly notable concentrations in Pits F1005 and F1023 that may represent the deposition of demolition material. The forms and fabrics exhibited by the CBM indicates it was produced between the late 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, probably within the latter half of this chronological range.

## The Animal Bone Report

Dr Julia E. Cussans

A small assemblage of 174 animal bones was recovered from 11 contexts, the majority of which were pit fills plus two fills of Ditch F1007 and Layer L1003. Bone preservation was rated as ok to excellent. Many of the bones were quiet abraded, with the exception of the dog bones which all came from partially articulated burials. A small number of the bones had signs of dog gnawing; no bones were noted as burnt.

Species present were cattle, sheep/goat, pig, horse, dog, fallow deer and probable chicken. A high proportion of bones could only be identified as large terrestrial mammal (LTM – cattle or horse sized) or medium terrestrial mammal (MTM – sheep or pig sized). The figure for MTM is somewhat inflated here as the MTM bones from L1030 are ribs and vertebrae that were identified on site as part of the partial dog skeleton from the same context. With the exception of dog, all of the bones of which come from two partial skeletons, cattle and sheep/goat were the most numerous species, with pig and horse being represented by a single bone each. Limited exploitation of wild resources was indicated by the presence of a single fallow deer (*Dama dama*) bone. The single probable chicken bone was observed as containing medullary bone indicating an egg-laying female. Butchery marks, both cuts and chops, were fairly common throughout the assemblage and included possible cuts on a dog tibia from L1050 and a cattle humerus that appeared to have been sawn through.

Feature	Context	Cattle	Sheep/ goat	Pig	Horse	Dog	Fallow Deer	LTM	MTM	Bird	Total
1003	1003	3	1	-	1	-	1	8	-	-	14
1005	1006	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
1007	1008	3	3	-	-	-	-	4	9	1	20
1007	1009	-	-	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	4
1017	1018	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
1021	1022	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
1029	1030	-	2	-	-	18	-	-	70	-	90
1037	1038	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	2
1045	1046	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
1047	1048	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	6
1049	1050	-	-	-	-	18	-	8	3	-	29
<b>Total</b>		<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>174</b>

Table 2: Species presence and abundance.

The partial dog skeleton from L1030 (Pit F1029) included the head, forelimbs, a femur and pelvis and a large selection of ribs and vertebrae. The baculum (penis bone) was also present indicating a male animal. No foot bones or other hind limb bones were present. The only other bones found in this pit

were two fragment of sheep/goat bone. A second partial dog skeleton was recovered from L1050 (Pit F1049), this does not appear to have been noted as articulated during excavation but the bones do appear to belong to a single individual. Bones present are the skull and mandibles, the atlas and axis (neck vertebrae), most of the forelimbs and both tibiae; there were no ribs, vertebrae or foot bones present. The majority of the bones were fused with the exception of the proximal humerus, indicating the animal was not fully mature at death; the fusion lines were also still visible on the proximal tibiae. Within this pit there was also a selection of large mammal vertebrae. Three of these were lumbar vertebrae which had massive exostosis (additional bone growth) resulting in the three bones having fused together; the cause of this is currently unknown. Three other vertebrae appeared to have been subject to large blade chopping (butchery). Little else of note can be said about this small assemblage.

## **THE ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES**

*Dr John R Summers*

### **Introduction**

During excavations on land at the Wheatsheaf public House, Eaton Socon, by Archaeological Solutions Ltd, seven bulk soil samples were taken for environmental archaeological assessment and processed by water flotation. Samples ranged from 10 to 20 litres, in line with AS sampling guidelines for trial trench excavations.

This report details the results of an environmental archaeological assessment of the bulk sample light fractions. The significance of the results are discussed and the potential benefits of future sampling and environmental analyses are presented.

### **Methodology**

Samples were processed at Archaeological Solutions Ltd offices in Bury St. Edmunds using a Siraf style flotation tank. The light fractions were washed onto a mesh of 250µm (microns), while the heavy fractions were sieved to 500µm.

Once dry, the light fractions were scanned under a low power stereo microscope (x10-x30 magnification). Botanical and molluscan remains were identified and recorded using a semi-quantitative scale (X = present; XX = common; XXX = abundant).

In samples containing larger quantities of charcoal, a small sub-sample of larger charcoal fragments (>2mm) were fractured in order to produce a transverse section for the assessment of variation in the assemblage (ring-porous, diffuse-porous and *Quercus* sp.). Reference literature (Cappers *et al.* 2006; Jacomet 2006; Kerney and Cameron 1979) and a reference collection of modern seeds was consulted where necessary. Potential contaminants, such as modern roots, seeds and invertebrate fauna were also recorded in order to gain an insight into possible disturbance of the deposits.

## Results

The results from the assessment of the bulk sample light fractions are detailed in Table 3. Nomenclature for cereals follows Zohary and Hopf (2000) and that of other herbaceous taxa follows Stace (1997). Nomenclature for mollusca is based on Kerney and Cameron (1979).

### *Carbonised plant macrofossils*

The charred remains of crop plants were by far the most common in the samples. Three cereals were identified: free-threshing type wheat (*T. aestivum* type); hulled barley (*H. vulgare*); and oat (*Avena* sp.). No diagnostic chaff elements were present to provide more precise taxonomic identifications. No asymmetric barley grains were identified, which could indicate the cultivation of a two-row variety. However, no rachis segments were present to confirm this. In addition, no oat floret bases were present to confirm that a cultivated oat variety was present, although this would seem likely in a medieval assemblage.

In addition to the cereal remains, a number of large legume seeds were present. Their size and shape was comparable to pea (*Pisum sativum*), although further identification would be necessary to confirm this.

A small number of wild plant taxa were present in sample 6 of pit fill L1022 (F1021). These were cleaver/goose grass (*Galium aparine*) and stinking chamomile (*Anthemis cotula*), which are both common weeds of arable fields. *Galium aparine* is potentially indicative of autumn-sowing and may have grown among an autumn-sown wheat crop. *Anthemis cotula* is more common on heavier soils (Stace 1997, 733) and can be problematic during harvesting due to its irritating sap (Straker *et al.* 2007, 885).

### *Charcoal*

Charcoal fragments >2mm were present in the majority of samples. A range of wood types were present, with diffuse-porous roundwood, ring-porous types and oak (*Quercus* sp.) all noted. Oak provided the dominant signature, being present in three of the samples and in the highest concentrations. Oak is a superior fuel wood and may have been preferentially selected. However, further analysis and identification would be necessary to determine the full range of fuel woods exploited, their potential sources and relative importance.

Fragments thought to be coal and black, vitreous fuel ash slag may indicate that coal was also burnt as fuel at the site.

### *Mollusca*

A limited range of archaeological molluscs were encountered in samples 5 (L1020) and 6 (L1022). Helicidae and *Cochlicopa* sp. are generally reflective of open habitats, while species in the family Zonitidae tend to be more shade-loving. In general the impression is of open, perhaps grassland vegetation, although the number and range of mollusc taxa is small.

### *Modern contaminants*

Modern contamination in the assemblages was mostly reflective of the overlying vegetation, including stems and leaves of a number of plants, including yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*), as well as modern seeds, such as elder (*Sambucus nigra*) and goosefoot (*Chenopodium* sp.). The common occurrence of rootlets and a small number of burrowing molluscs (*Ceciloides acicula*) could have caused the movement of remains within deposits through bioturbation but the concentrations are low and the impact likely to be minimal.

## **Discussion**

Of the assemblages contained charred plant macrofossils, only sample 2 of L1011 (F1011) was spot dated to the medieval period. Samples 3 and 4 from F1007 were spot dated to the 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century, whilst sample 6 of L1022 (F1021) could not be dated. However, the comparability of the carbonised macrofossils in all four samples suggests that they may all represent material of a similar age and origin. Ditch F1007 was found to contain numerous sherds of medieval pottery which appeared to have been re-deposited in a later feature (Pottery Report above). A similar scenario could also have resulted in the deposition of medieval charred plant remains in the same feature through the disturbance of earlier deposits.

The cereals and pulses in the samples probably reflect the food economy of the site. The relatively high density and frequency of charred food plants is indicative of nearby settlement and domestic activity (food processing/preparation). The few weed taxa in L1022 shows that some crop processing may have taken place at the site, indicating that cultivation may have taken place locally.

A mixed economy of wheat, barley, oats and pulses in the area around the present site can be hypothesised from the data. Such plants are frequent in medieval archaeobotanical assemblages, such as those from West Fen Road, Ely (Ballantyne 2005). Free-threshing type wheat is generally the dominant cereal, as appears to be the case in the present assemblages. The lower representation of oats could result from use as fodder. Equally, however, it is



possible that the grains represent weeds amongst other cereals since it was not possible to determine whether a wild or cultivated variety was present.

The cultivation of nitrogen-fixing pulses can be an important feature of a crop rotation system, allowing returns from fields that would otherwise lie fallow. The seeds of leguminous plants are frequently under-represented in assemblages of carbonised macrofossils since their processing involves less contact with fire than that of cereals. The frequency of pulses in the samples from the present excavation indicates that they formed an important part of the diet for the site's inhabitants.

Continuing the interpretation of domestic activity, it is likely that the charcoal present is the fuel residue from domestic hearths. It would appear that a range of wood types were exploited, including oak (*Quercus* sp.). The range of sources is indeterminate at present but it is possible to suggest that there was limited pressure on local woodland, allowing the burning of oak for general fuel use.

### **Statement of potential**

The samples from trial excavations at the Wheatsheaf, Eaton Socon, have provided evidence of rich archaeobotanical assemblages. There is the potential for the recovery of quite large, analytically viable assemblages of charred plant macrofossils and charcoal should further excavations take place at the site. However, there is the potential problem of the disturbance and re-deposition of material by later activity, which could have a detrimental effect on the potential of any environmental samples.

The material most likely derives from domestic occupation, being predominantly composed of food plants, including cleaned cereal grain and pulses. The presence of probable weed taxa in L1022 may also indicate some crop processing at the site. Further excavation, sampling and archaeobotanical analysis would allow a more detailed examination of the food economy at the site, including the analysis of the relative importance of the different cereal crops to the diet of the site's inhabitants.

Further analysis of charcoal assemblages would allow the full taxonomic classification and quantification of fuel resources. This would enable interpretations to be drawn regarding local woodland availability, access and management.

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Potential - Charcoal		Potential - CPR		Comments	Molluscs		Charcoal		Non-cereal taxa		Cereals		Volume (litres)	Spot date	Feature type	Feature	Context	Sample number	Site code
					Notes	Molluscs	Notes	Seeds	Notes	Grain preservation	Notes	Cereal grains							

Table 3: Data from the assessment of bulk sample light fractions from trial excavations on land at the Wheatsheaf public house, Eaton Socon. Abbreviations: HB (hulled barley – *H. vulgare*); FTW (free-threshing type wheat – *T. aestivum* type); Oat (*Avena* sp.)

## PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. The Wheatsheaf PH, 125 Great North Road, Eaton Socon. Looking north-west.



DP 2. Trench 1. Looking north-north-west.



DP 3. Trench 1. Looking north.



DP 4. Pit F1029. Looking east.



DP 5. Pit F1037. Looking south.



DP 6. Pits F1047 and F1049. Looking west.





DP 7. Pit F1045. Looking east.



DP 8. Pit F1021 and Posthole F1019. Looking east.



DP 9. Trench 1, north end. Sample section 1A. Looking west.



DP 10. Trench 1, south end. Sample section 1B. Looking west.



DP 11. Trench 2. Looking east-north-east.



DP 12. Trench 2. Looking west.





DP 13. Pit F1023. Looking south-west.



DP 14. Pit F1023. Looking south.



DP 15. Pit F1017. Looking west.



DP 16. Pit F1015. Looking east.



DP 17. Trench 2, west end. Sample section 2A. Looking south.



DP 18. Trench 2, east end. Sample section 2B. Looking south.





DP 19. Trench 3. Looking north-north-east.



DP 20. Trench 3. Looking north.



DP 21. Pit/Ditch F1007. Looking west.



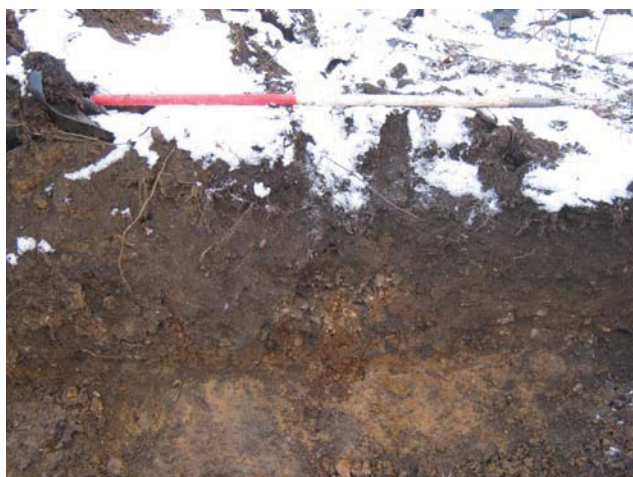
DP 22. Pit F1005. Looking north.



DP 23. Pit F1010. Looking south.

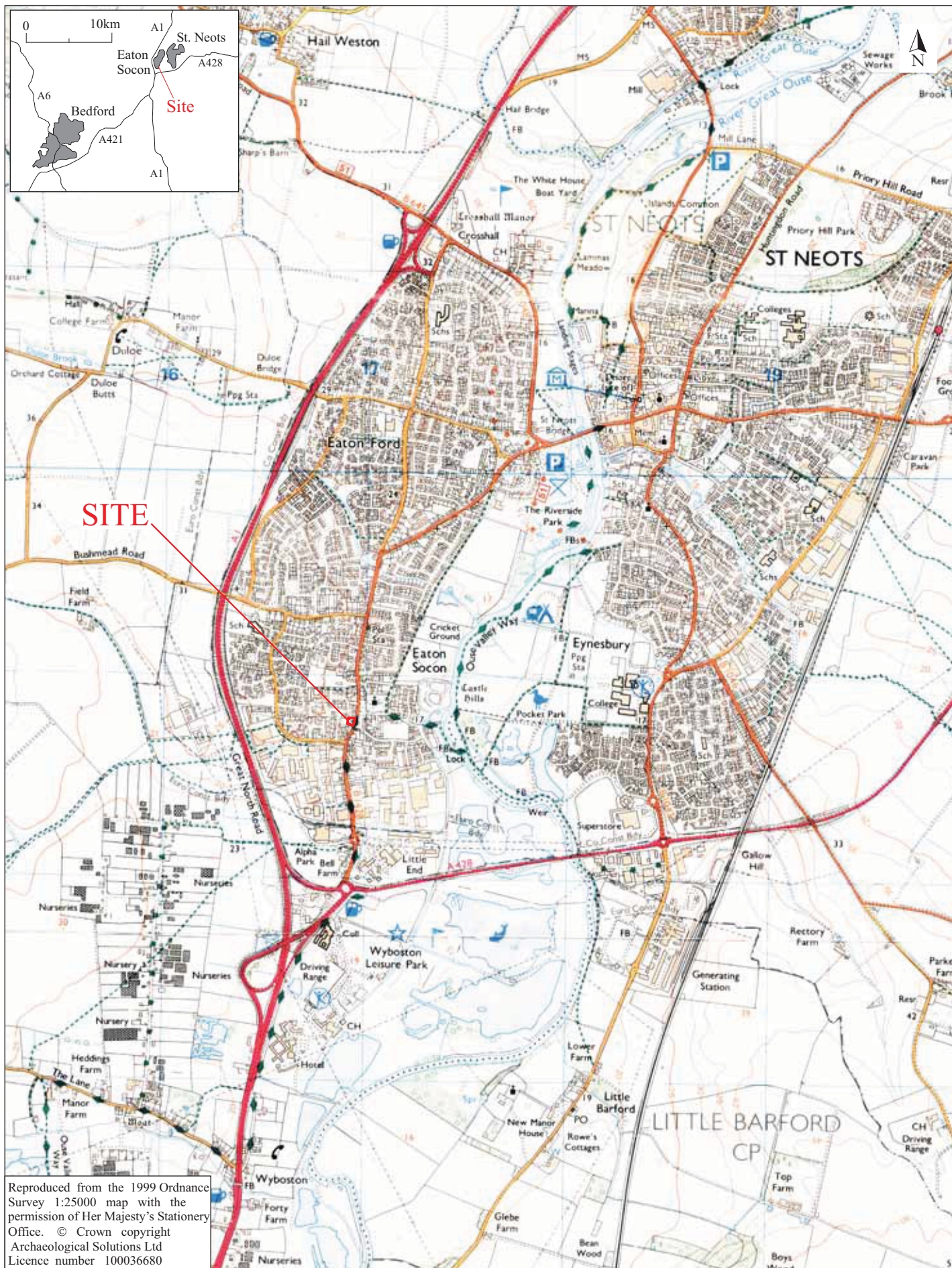


DP 24. Trench 3, north end. Sample section 3A. Looking east.



DP 25. Trench 3, south end. Sample section 3B. Looking east.





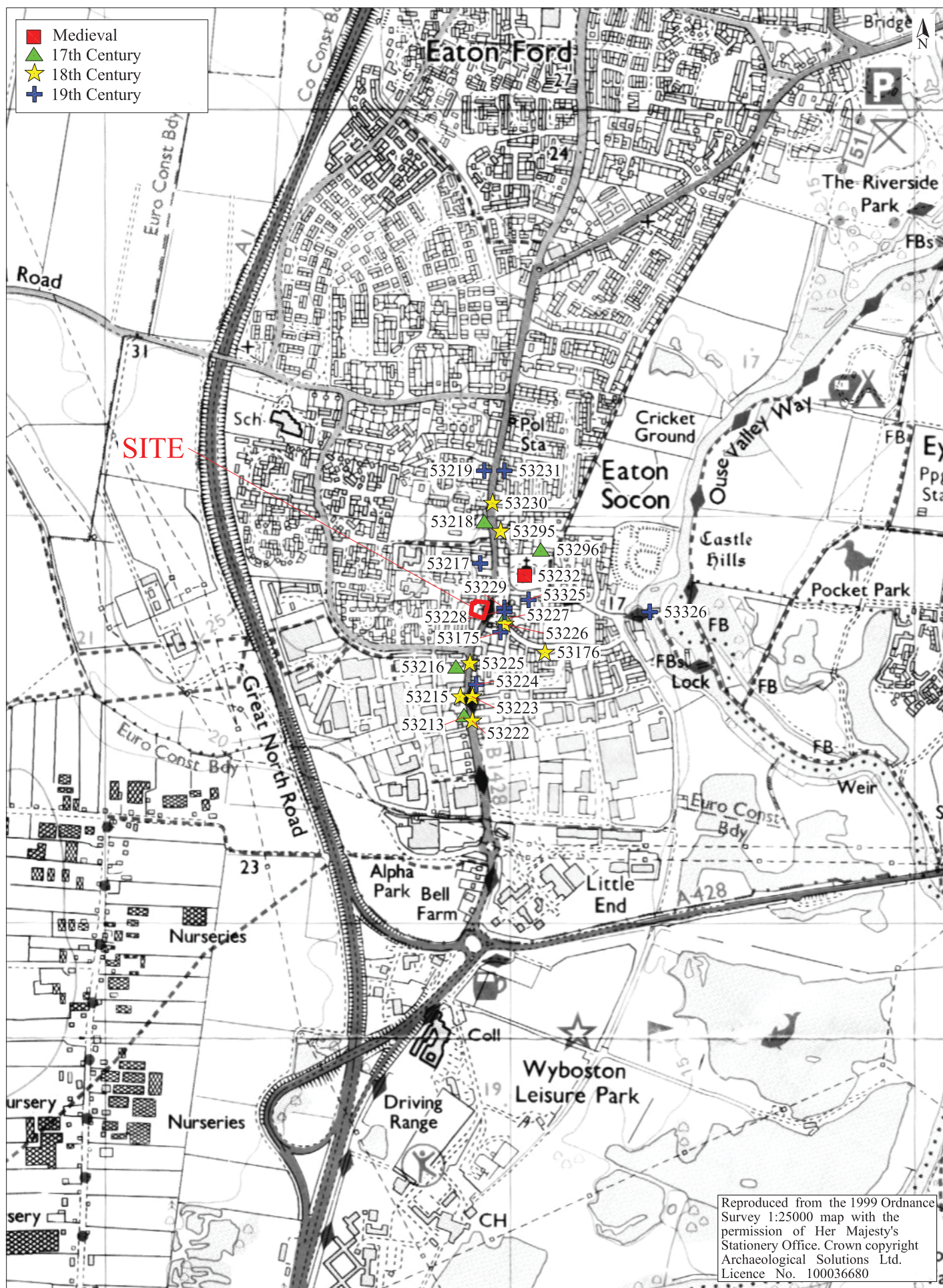
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**Fig. 1 Site location plan**  
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4









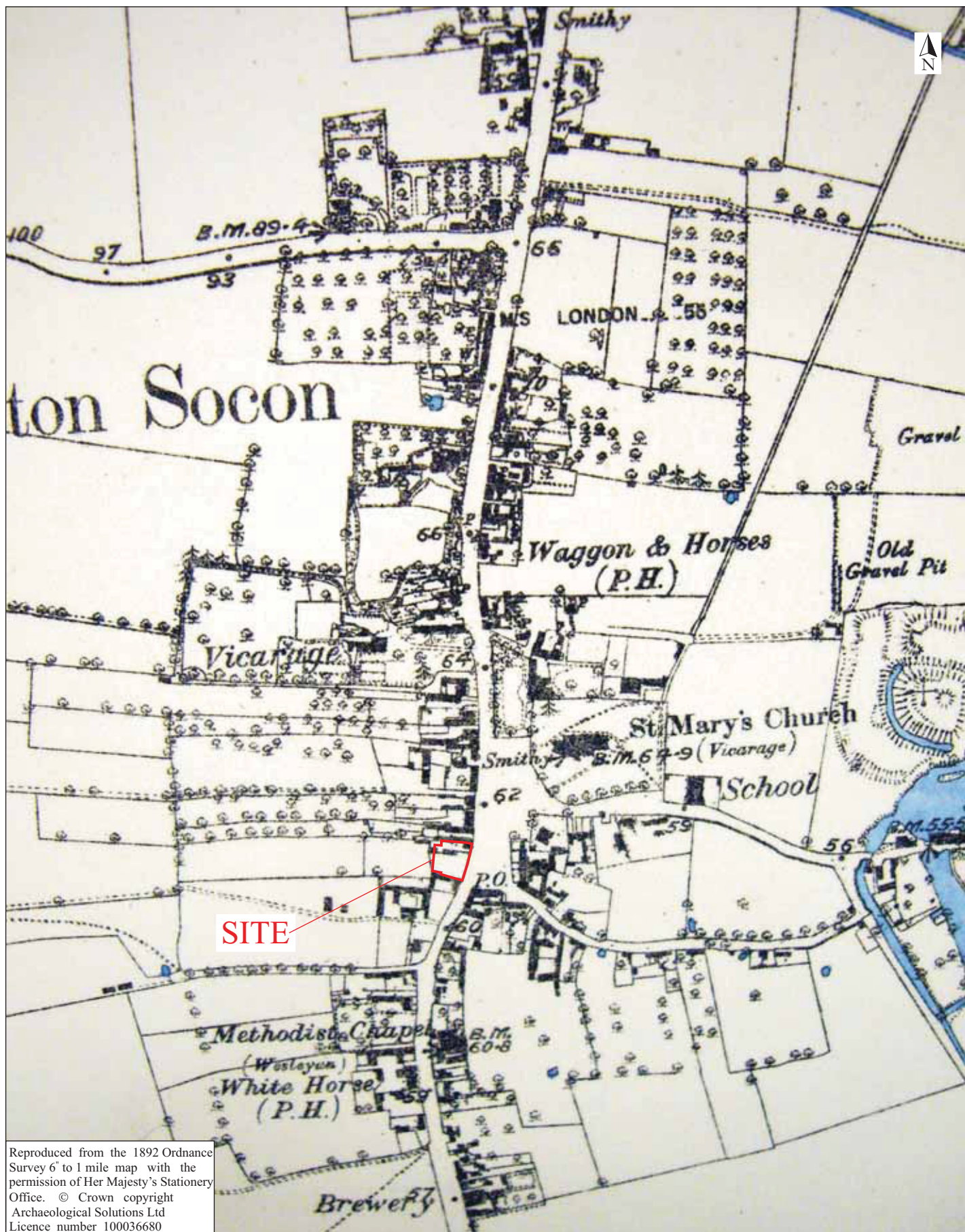


Archaeological Solutions Ltd  
**Fig. 3a HER Data - Listed buildings**  
 Scale 1:12,500 at A4





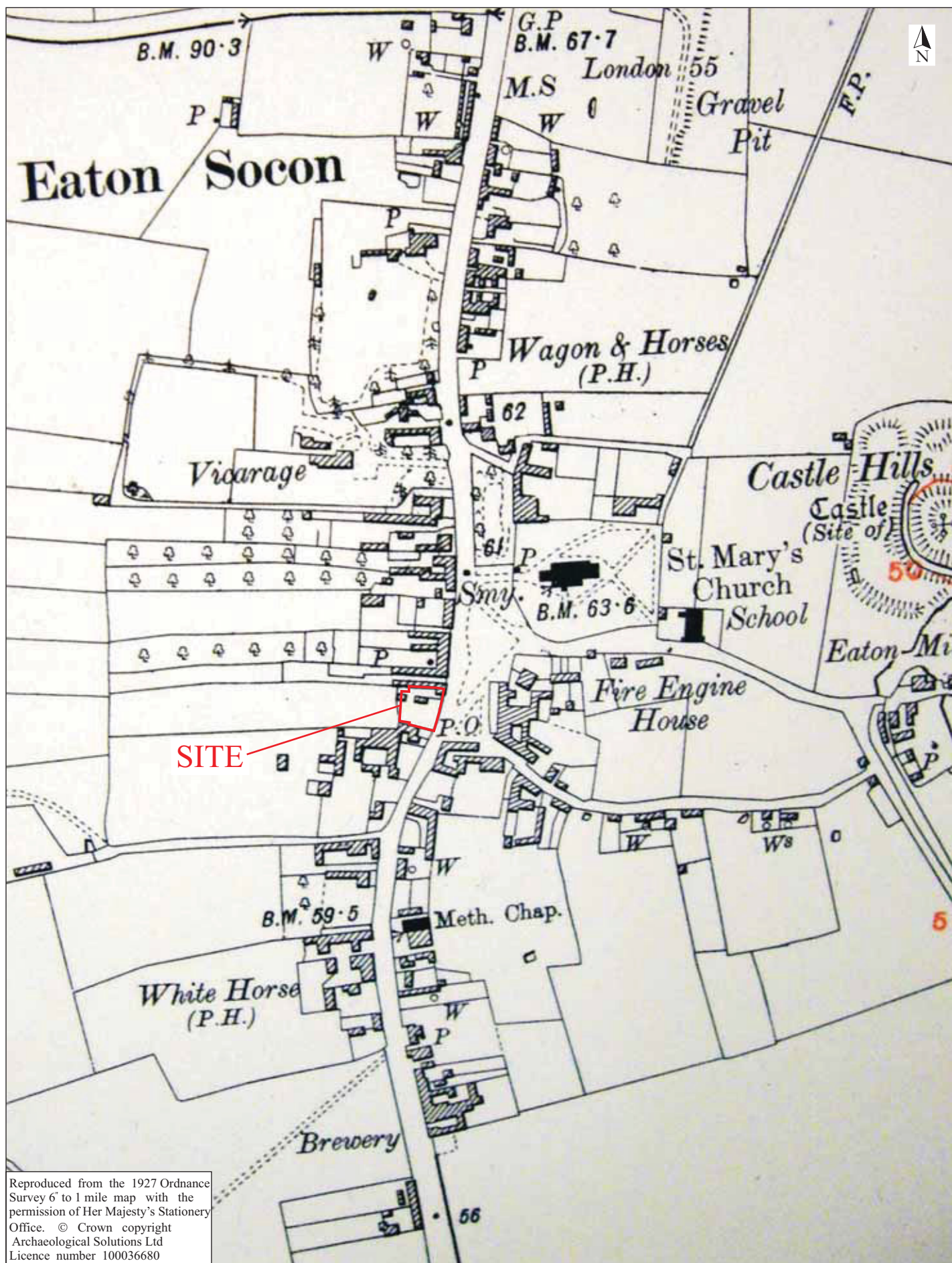




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<p><i>Archaeological Solutions Ltd</i></p> <p><b>Fig. 5</b> 1st edition OS map, 1892</p> <p>Not to scale</p>
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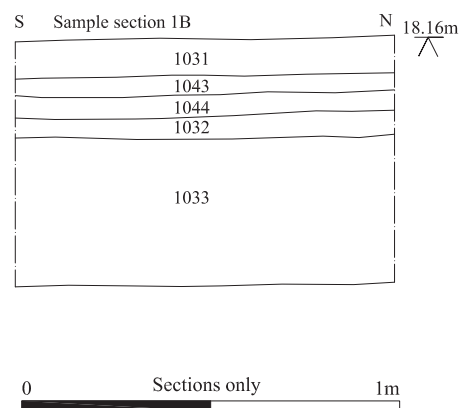
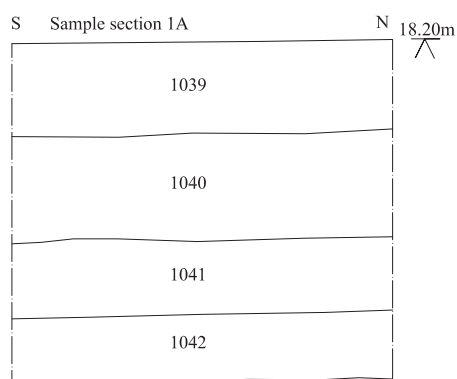
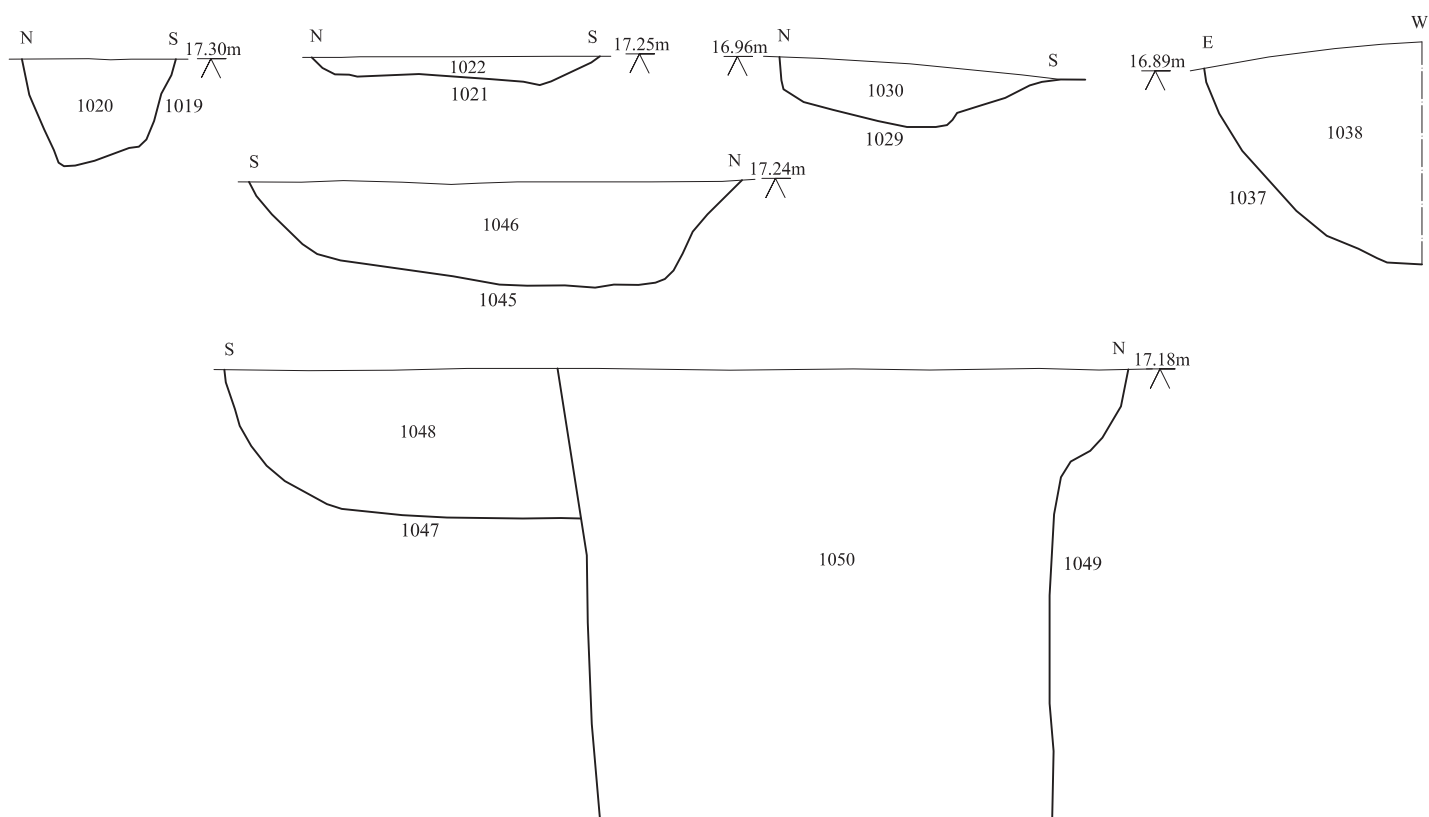
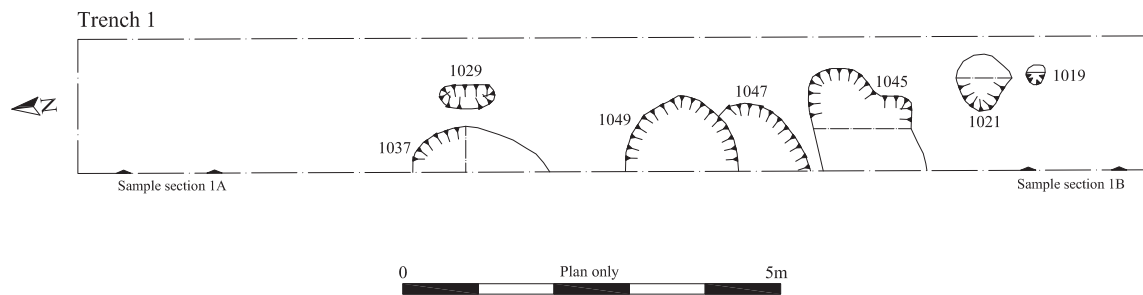


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 Fig. 6 OS map, 1927  
 Not to scale





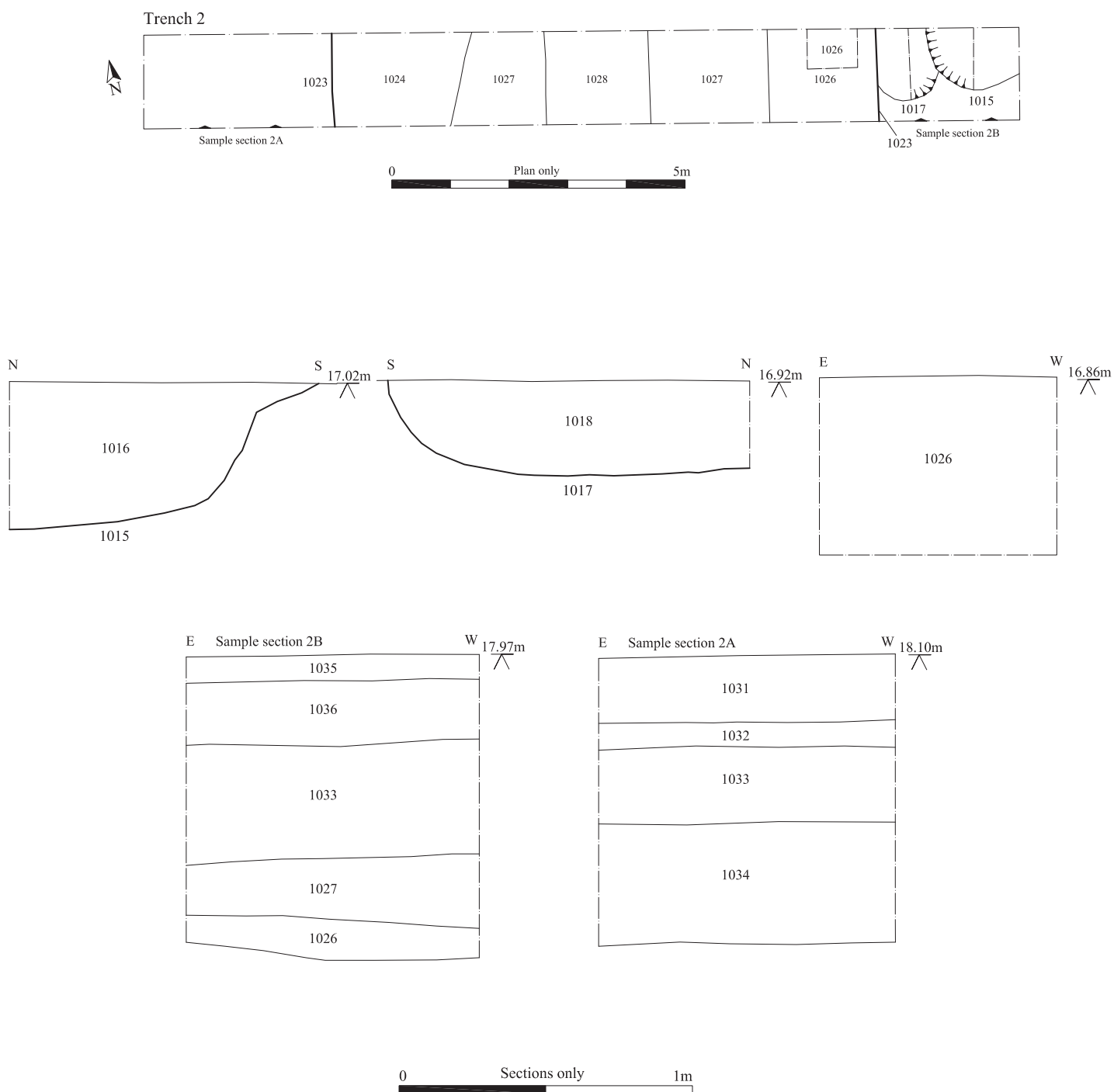
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 Fig. 7 OS map, 1950  
 Not to scale



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**Fig. 8 Trench plans and sections**

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4

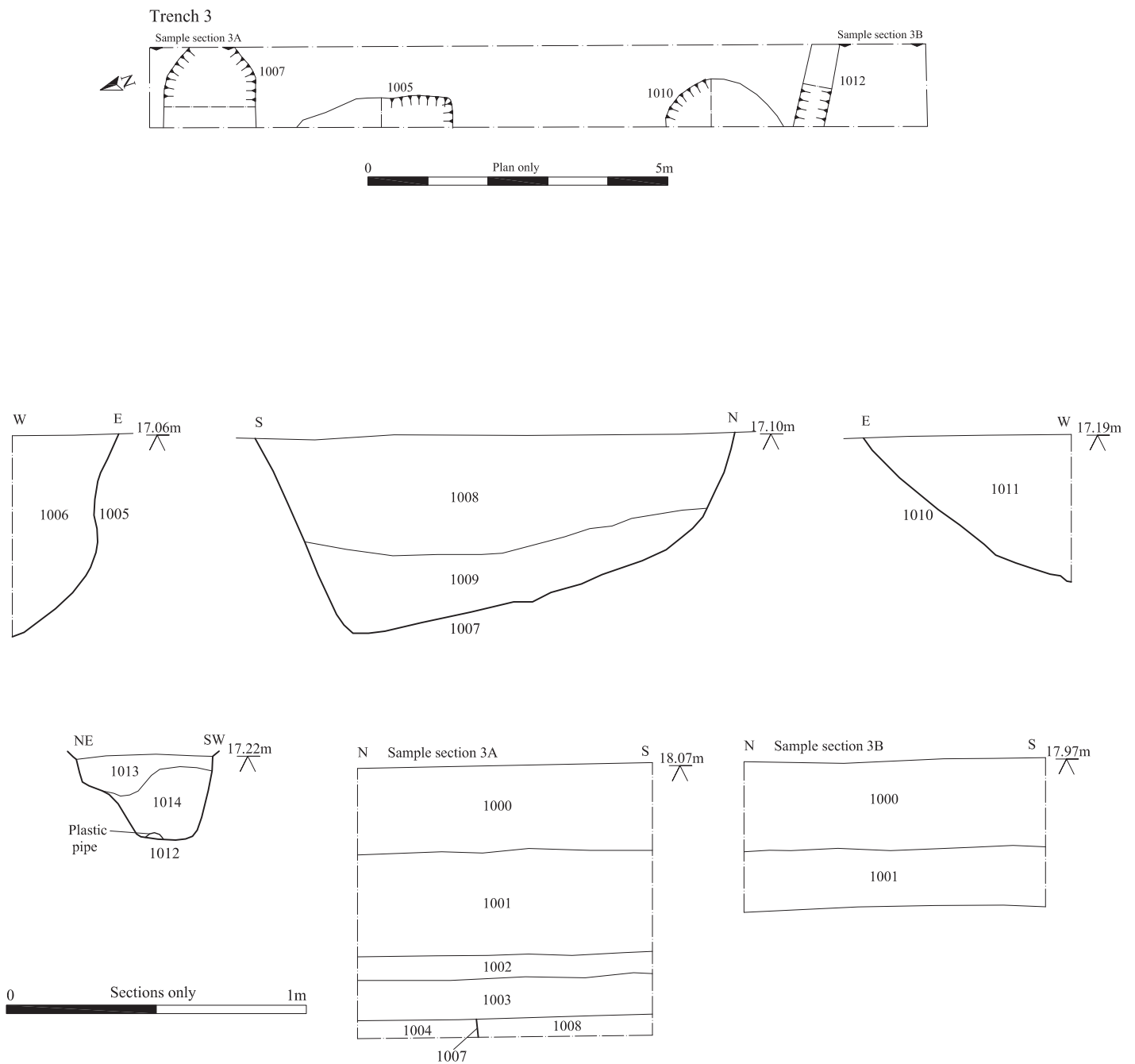


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**Fig. 9 Trench plans and sections**

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4





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**Fig. 10 Trench plans and sections**

Scale 1:100 and 1:20 at A4