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**CASTLE HILLS HOUSE, SCHOOL LANE, EATON SOCON,
ST NEOTS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE**

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION
&
ARCHAEOLOGICAL MONITORING
AND RECORDING**

CHER NO. ECB3682

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NGR: TQ 1727 5880	Report No: 4024
District: Cambridge	Site Code: AS 1438
Approved: Claire Halpin	Project No: 4595
Signed:	Date: February 2012



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OASIS SUMMARY SHEET

Project details			
Project name		Castle Hills House, School Lane, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambridgeshire	
<p><i>In November 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Castle Hills House, School Lane, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (NGR TQ 1727 5880). Following the evaluation, in January and February 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of monitoring and recording. The evaluation and monitoring were commissioned by Eric M. Adkins and Associates on behalf of Mr and Mrs J. Brown and were undertaken in advance of a proposed new extension to the residential dwelling and garage extension/replacement. They were undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Huntingdonshire District Council Planning Ref. 11/00642FUL).</i></p> <p><i>The evaluation revealed two linear ditches, not contemporary. One contained Late Iron Age – Early Roman pottery and a fragment of a triangular loom or thatch weight that may have been utilised in the late Iron Age or Roman periods. There are a considerable amount of Romano-British archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site. Most of the archaeological evidence is indicative of large rural settlements distributed along the banks of the river Great Ouse, which would have been advantageous for water supplies and for exploitation of the fertile ground for agricultural and pasture. A large cropmark complex (HER 00389) is located c. 215m north-east of the site and it is likely that the settlement site continued south-west.</i></p> <p><i>The monitoring revealed three undated ditches (F2006, F2008 and F2010) broadly parallel (orientated E/W) to Ditch F1011 recorded in the trial trench evaluation. A modern pit (F2012) contained disarticulated human remains likely to be associated with the 'Castle Hills' Scheduled Monument immediately to the north-east.</i></p>			
Project dates (fieldwork)		07-09/11/2011	
Previous work (Y/N/?)		N	Future work (Y/N/?) Y
P. number		4595	Site code AS 1438
Type of project		An Archaeological Evaluation	
Site status		Adjacent and within Scheduled Ancient Monument (HER 00374)	
Current land use		Residential	
Planned development		New extension to residential dwelling and garage extension/replacement	
Main features (+dates)		Ditches	
Significant finds (+dates)		2 sherds of late Iron Age/early Roman pottery, disarticulated human bone	
Project location			
County/ District/ Parish		Cambridgeshire	Huntingdonshire St Neots
HER/ SMR for area		Cambridgeshire HER	
Post code (if known)		PE19 8GW	
Area of site		c. 715m ²	
NGR		TQ 1727 5880	
Height AOD (min/max)		17/18m	
Project creators			
Brief issued by		HET	
Project supervisor/s (PO)		Zbigniew Pozorski	
Funded by		Mr & Mrs J Brown	
Full title		Castle Hills House, School Lane, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambridgeshire. An Archaeological Evaluation	
Authors		Pozorski, Z., Stoakley, M.	
Report no.		4024	
Date (of report)		February 2012	

CASTLE HILLS HOUSE, SCHOOL LANE, EATON SOCON, ST NEOTS, CAMBRIDGESHIRE

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVALUATION

SUMMARY

In November 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Castle Hills House, School Lane, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (NGR TQ 1727 5880). Following the evaluation, in January and February 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried out a programme of monitoring and recording. The evaluation and monitoring were commissioned by Eric M. Adkins and Associates on behalf of Mr and Mrs J. Brown and were undertaken in advance of a proposed new extension to the residential dwelling and garage extension/replacement. They were undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Huntingdonshire District Council Planning Ref. 11/00642FUL).

The site is located in an area of archaeological significance at Eaton Socon, St Neots, to the immediate south of the boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Castle Hills. The rear part of the house extends across the boundary. The site had a potential for Anglo-Saxon and medieval archaeological remains.

In the event the evaluation revealed two linear ditches, not contemporary. One contained Late Iron Age – Early Roman pottery and a fragment of a triangular loom or thatch weight that may have been utilised in the late Iron Age or Roman periods. There are a considerable amount of Romano-British archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site. Most of the archaeological evidence is indicative of large rural settlements distributed along the banks of the river Great Ouse, which would have been advantageous for water supplies and for exploitation of the fertile ground for agricultural and pasture. A large cropmark complex (HER 00389) is located c. 215m north-east of the site and it is likely that the settlement site continued south-west.

The monitoring revealed three undated ditches (F2006, F2008 and F2010) broadly parallel (orientated E/W) to Ditch F1011 recorded in the trial trench evaluation. A modern pit (F2012) contained disarticulated human remains likely to be associated with the 'Castle Hills' Scheduled Monument immediately to the north-east.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 In November 2011 Archaeological Solutions (AS) carried an archaeological evaluation at Castle Hills House, School Lane, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambridgeshire (NGR TQ 1727 5880; Figs. 1 & 2). Following the evaluation, in January and February 2012 Archaeological Solutions (AS)

carried out a programme of monitoring and recording. The evaluation and monitoring were commissioned by Eric M. Adkins and Associates on behalf of Mr and Mrs J. Brown and was undertaken in advance of a proposed new extension to the residential dwelling and garage extension/replacement. They were undertaken in compliance with a planning condition attached to planning approval (Huntingdonshire District Council Planning Ref. 11/00642FUL).

1.2 The evaluation was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (HET; dated 28/09/2011) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 06/10/2011) and approved by HET. The project conformed to the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA) *Code of Conduct* and *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Field Evaluation* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

1.3 The archaeological monitoring was undertaken in accordance with a brief issued by Cambridgeshire County Council Historic Environment Team (dated 01/12/11) and a written scheme of investigation (specification) prepared by AS (dated 01/12/11), and approved by HET. It complied with the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (IFA) *Code of conduct, Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Watching Briefs* (revised 2008), as well as the document *Standards for Field Archaeology in the East of England* (Gurney 2003).

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

1.5 The objectives of the project of archaeological monitoring and recording were:

- to ensure the archaeological monitoring of all aspects of the development programme likely to affect buried archaeological remains;
- to secure the adequate recording of any archaeological remains revealed by the development programme; and
- to secure the analysis, interpretation, publication (if required), long-term conservation and storage of the project archive.

Planning policy context

1.6 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 former village, now part of St Neots town, located c. 25km directly west of Cambridge following the A1303 and the A428. The village is located on the outskirts of the historic town of St Neots and the B1428 runs north/south through Eaton Socon with the A1 parallel to the west.

2.2 The site is located east off Castle Hill Close in a predominantly residential area that extends north from School Lane. It is situated at the south-western end of a large rectangular open field surrounded by trees/hedgerows and is located c. 90m west of the river Great Ouse. The site comprises a large three-storey residential dwelling of c. 715m². The house is orientated west/east and the rear of the house extends northwards across the boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (1009629, HER 00374), the Saxon cemetery and settlement site at Castle Hills located c. 30m north-east

3 TOPOGRAPHY, GEOLOGY AND SOILS

3.1 The site is located c. 90m west of the river Great Ouse. It is situated on level ground within the river valley at a height of c.17-18m AOD.

3.2 The underlying geology on the site comprises river terrace deposits and marine gravels consisting of sand and gravel with subordinate silt and clays (British Geological Survey 1978). These deposits are commonly shelly due to a marine origin.

3.3 The soils of the surrounding area belong to the Efford 1 association, described as well-drained, fine, loamy soil which is associated with similar permeable soils affected by groundwater (Soil Survey of England and Wales 1983).

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Palaeolithic to Mesolithic

4.1 Palaeolithic archaeological remains are sparse within the environs of the site and comprise five handaxes, a flake and mammoth remains (HER 00511) located c. 215m to the south. Mesolithic archaeological remains are also limited within the vicinity of the site and include three flint scatters (HERs 00373, 00512 & 00377) all located south-east between c.155m and 250m from the site respectively.

Neolithic

4.2 There is a high quantity of Neolithic archaeological remains within the vicinity of the site. Neolithic find-spots include three flint implement scatters (HERs 04459A, 04459 & 01919) located c. 185m to the east. Monuments of Neolithic date are located in Eynesbury south-east of the site and include a large ring ditch enclosure (HER 00376) and a cursus (HER 17676) both located within close proximity to each other at a distance of c. 250m from the site. Another cursus (HER 11671) is situated c. 225m east of the site and associated finds include a Bronze Age cremation and a Mesolithic blade. A Neolithic long barrow (HER 00381) with an elongated oval ditch is situated c.220m directly east as well as a possible Neolithic double enclosure (HER 17697).

4.3 A series of Neolithic pits were excavated at Alpha Park c. 230m to the south (HER 18206) and numerous flint implements, an antler pick and auroch remains were retrieved. Ditches and pits of possible Neolithic date were excavated at Ernulf School, c. 240m east of the site (HER 17395) and a hearth floor (HER 00369) was discovered at Little End c.165m to the south-west.

Bronze Age to Iron Age

4.4 There is a low quantity of Bronze Age archaeological remains within the vicinity of the site. Urned cremations (HER 17703) were discovered c.200m east of the site. Evidence of later Bronze Age occupation is present at Barford Road in Eynesbury c. 15m south-west of the urned cremations. A large number of pits and ditches were excavated and numerous finds were retrieved, including pottery, a socketed axehead, faunal remains and flint implements (HERs 15831 & 17704). Barbed and tanged arrowheads (HER 00372) were also discovered at Eaton Socon lock c. 45m south-east of the assessment site and at Eynesbury c. 155m to the east (HER 00373A).

4.5 A large middle Iron Age settlement enclosure is situated on Bushmead Road c. 250m north-west of the site (HER 16945). A substantial ditch was excavated and may have formed part of an earlier and larger occupation site to the north. Scattered around this ditch were numerous ditches, gullies and a post-hole with a large amount of middle Iron Age pottery and faunal remains recovered. A sub-rectangular enclosure is present to the north-east and isolated pits are present to the south-east.

Romano-British

4.6 There is a considerable amount of Romano-British archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site. Most of the archaeological evidence is indicative of large rural settlements distributed along the banks of the river Great Ouse, which would have been advantageous for water supplies and for exploitation of the fertile ground for agricultural and pasture. A large cropmark complex (HER 00389) is located c. 215m north-east of the site and it is likely that the settlement site continued south-west. Situated c. 30m north-west of

the cropmark complex is a possible Roman villa (HER 00684) from which coins, pottery and tesserae were retrieved. A large scatter of Roman pottery, tesserae and building material (HER 00396b) was discovered c. 40m north-east of the site. A bronze bracelet (HER 16788) and two pottery scatters (HERs 11777 & 11778) were located c.182m – 226m south-west of the site.

4.7 Three settlement sites are located to the south-west, including several parallel ditches c. 210m from the site, possibly forming part of a field system (HER 16710). A cropmark complex (HER 11778) comprising a road and field boundaries is located c. 170m from the site and a rural settlement site at Prior's Gate (HER 16504) c.185m from the site. Archaeological features include linear ditches forming field systems, enclosures and a drove-way as well as numerous quarry pits, ring gullies and a small rectangular enclosure. A Roman settlement site at Alpha Park (HER 16505) located c. 60m to the east of Prior's Gate revealed ditches and pits as well as enclosures of 2nd to 4th century date. A possible Roman villa (HER 04253) and several linear ditches (HER 11671a) are also located between c. 155m – 230m east of the site.

Anglo-Saxon to Medieval

4.8 There are four Saxon settlement sites located in the vicinity of the site, including several early Saxon sunken-featured buildings with associated pits and finds (HER 17706) c. 250m south-east of the site. Twenty Saxon features were excavated at Eynesbury located c. 200m south-east of the site (HER 19113), including two sunken-featured buildings as well as pits, post-holes and gullies. A series of Saxon pits were discovered c. 230m south of the site at Alpha Park.

4.9 The site is located to the immediate south of the boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Castle Hills (HER 00374, SAM 10009629), which is a large defensive earthwork castle and ring ditch which overlies part of the late Saxon vill and deserted medieval village. A large horse-shoe ditch encloses two sub-rectangular wards on the river side. A Norman castle was constructed in c. 1180 and it is likely that a building would have stood there, as clay foundations and building material were discovered in the south ward. Structural remains are present on the castle site, with waterlogged remains in surrounding ditch fills, buried soils below the rampart banks and post mill mound. Excavations within the northern ward (HER 00374) revealed at least 40 Saxon burials and two substantial buildings (HER 00374a), possibly representing a Saxon settlement site of 9th century date.

4.10 The village is mentioned as "Eaton" in the Domesday Book, when the manor belonged to Eudo Dapfier. In the 13th century the village became a "Soke", which meant it was independent of the local Hundred Court at Barford. The village was also previously known as "Sudbury". St Mary's Church (HER 00371, Listed Building 1127971), located c. 60m north-west of the site, was constructed during the early 14th century to serve as the focal point for the parish of Eaton Socon.

4.11 Three medieval find-spots include a pottery sherd (HER 17750) and an iron horse decoration (HER 17754) located between 75 - 230m north-west of the assessment site. An iron crucible (HER 09782) was discovered c. 230m to the south of the assessment site. A series of furrows and ridges (HERs 18774, 18772 & 18768) run north-east/south-west through the environs of the assessment site, possibly indicating a generalised direction of farming/ploughing in the medieval period

Post-medieval and modern

4.12 Post-medieval archaeological remains are limited within the vicinity of the site. A 19th century milestone (HER 18057) is present on the exterior of Milestone Cottage c. 140m to the north-west. Several find-spots include a 17th century trade token discovered on 14 School Lane c. 45m west as well as post-medieval pottery c. 150m to the east of the assessment site. The 19th century Eaton Ford Methodist Church (HER17193) is located c. 215m directly north of the site. The village of Eaton Socon became part of the town of St Neots in 1965.

5 METHODOLOGY (TRIAL TRENCHING)

5.1 One trench and two test pits were excavated using a mechanical 180° excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket (Fig. 2). Trench 1 was located within the footprint of the proposed south eastern extension to the house while the test pits were located within the proposed extended garage. Trench 1 measured 9 x 1.60m, Test Pit 1 measured 2 x 2m and Test Pit 2 measured 1.60 x 1.60m.

5.2 Topsoil and undifferentiated overburden 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 (TRIAL TRENCHING) Figs.2 & 4

Trench 1 (Fig. 2, DP 2-3)

<i>Sample section 1A (DP 7): west end, south-east-south facing</i> <i>0.00 = 17.30m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.10m	M1000	Concrete floor of the conservatory.
0.10 – 0.10m	L1001	Plastic sheet.
0.10 – 0.33m	L1002	Levelling layer of modern CBM rubble.
0.33 – 0.67m	L1005	Made ground. Dark brownish grey, compact, sandy silt with occasional CBM fragments.
0.67 – 0.94m	L1006	Subsoil. Light yellowish brown, compact, silty sand.
0.94m +	L1007	Natural mid to dark yellow, silty, clay.

<i>Sample section 1B (DP 8): east end, north-west-north facing</i> <i>0.00 = 17.25m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.23m	L1008	Topsoil. Dark grey, soft, sandy silt.
0.23 – 0.72m	L1006	Subsoil. As above.
0.72m +	L1007	Natural clay. As above.

Description: A wall with its foundation (M1003 and M1004) and two linear features (F1009 and F1011) were present within the trench.

M1003 (0.23 x 0.24m) was recorded within the western end of the trench and its northern section. The wall was present 0.31m below existing ground level and below a levelling layer of rubble L1002. M1003 was constructed of mid red bricks (0.11 x 0.06m) bonded with creamy mortar. The wall was on foundation M1004 (0.42 x 0.40m) which comprised gravelly concrete. The wall was of modern date.

Ditch F1009 was linear (0.60+ x 1.10+ x 0.89m; DP 4), orientated north/south. It had moderately sloping sides and a concave base. Its fill, L1010, was a mid greyish brown, compact, sandy silt. It contained animal bone (31g). F1009 cut Ditch F1011.

Ditch F1011 was linear (9+ x 1.60 x 1.16m; DP 5–6), orientated east/west and it extended along the entire length of the trench. It had irregular sides and a concave base. It contained three fills. The upper fill, L1012, was a mid greyish brown, compact, sandy silt. It contained two sherds of late Iron Age – Early Roman pottery (61g), fired clay probably from a triangular loom or thatch weight (169g), and animal bone (84g). The middle fill, L1013, was a mid to dark yellow and brown, compact, sandy silt; ?redeposited natural. No finds were present. The basal fill, L1014, was a mid to dark greyish brown, compact, sandy silt. It contained animal bone (330g).

Test Pit 1 (Fig. 2, DP 9)

<i>Sample section (DP 10): east side, west-south-west facing</i> <i>0.00 = 17.60m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.15m	L1008	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.15 – 0.33m	L1005	Made ground. As above, Tr.1.
0.33 – 0.75m	L1006	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.75m +	L1007	Natural clay. As above, Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

Test Pit 2 (Fig. 2, DP 11)

<i>Sample section (DP 12): west side, north-east facing</i> <i>0.00 = 17.62m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.16m	L1008	Topsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.16 – 0.36m	L1005	Made ground. As above, Tr.1.
0.36 – 0.71m	L1006	Subsoil. As above, Tr.1.
0.71m +	L1007	Natural clay. As above, Tr.1.

Description: No archaeological features or finds were present.

7 METHODOLOGY (MONITORING & RECORDING) Figs. 2, 5 & 6

7.1 The work for the house extension comprised initial site clearance and the demolition of some remaining elements of an existing conservatory in the area of the proposed new extension. Strip trench foundations were then excavated and measuring 0.60m wide and 1m+ deep.

7.2 For the garage foundations an initial visit took place to monitor the excavation of two small test pits within the area of the proposed footing, each measuring c.2.5 x 0.50m. The site was then monitored during the excavation of the garage foundations. The foundations were 0.60m wide and 1m+ deep.

7.3 During all excavations the exposed surfaces were cleaned as appropriate and examined for archaeological features and finds. Archaeological features and deposits were recorded using *pro-forma* recording sheets, drawn to scale and photographed as necessary.

8 RESULTS (MONITORING & RECORDING) Figs. 2, 5 & 6, DPs13-28

8.1 Sample sections were recorded within the area of the house extension:

<i>Sample Section 1</i>		<i>DP 15</i>
<i>South facing</i>		
<i>0.00m = 17.14m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.18m	L2000	Topsoil. Dark greyish brown clayey silt with frequent small stones
0.18 – 0.70m	L2001	Subsoil. Mid yellowish brown clay silt
0.70 – 0.88m+	L2002	Natural. Mid yellowish orange silty clay

<i>Sample Section 2</i>		
<i>North-west facing</i>		
<i>0.00m = 17.23m AOD</i>		
0.00 – 0.20m	-	Modern gravel driveway
0.20 – 0.35m	L2000	Topsoil. As above
0.35 – 0.70m	L2001	Subsoil. As above
0.70 – 0.98m+	L2002	Natural. As above

Sample Section 3 East facing 0.00m = 17.18m AOD		DP 16
0.00 – 0.40m	L2000	Topsoil. As above
0.40 – 0.71m	L2001	Subsoil. As above
0.71 – 1.10m+	L2002	Natural. As above

Description: A modern pit and an undated ditch (F2003) were recorded during the excavation for the foundations for the house extension.

Ditch F2003 (>0.6m x 1.0m x 0.40m) was aligned approximately east/west. It had moderately steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2004, was a mid greyish brown sandy silt with occasional small stones. It contained no finds.

8.2 Sample sections were recorded within the area of the garage footings:

Sample Section 4 West-north-west facing 0.00m = 17.57m AOD		DP 18
0.00 – 0.65m	L2000	Topsoil. As above
0.65 – 1.03m+	L2005	Natural. Light brownish yellow silty sand with occasional rounded and angular small pebbles and frequent chalk/limestone flecks and fragments

Sample Section 5 South-south-west facing 0.00m = 17.60m AOD		
0.00 – 0.65m	-	Fill of modern pit with plastic etc.
0.65 – 1.05m+	L2011	Fill of ditch F2010. Mid yellow brown silt.

Sample Section 6 West-north-west facing 0.00m = 17.65m AOD		
0.00 – 0.26m	L2000	Topsoil. As above.
0.26 – 0.46m	L2001	Subsoil. As above.
0.46 – 1.08m+	L2005	Natural. As above.

Sample Section 7 North-north-east facing 0.00m = 17.61m AOD		
0.00 – 0.20m	-	Modern concrete and gravel driveway
0.20 – 0.80m	L2014	Garden soil. Dark grey brown, compact silt.
0.80 – 1.20m+	L2005	Natural. As above.

Description: Garden soil L2014 was exposed in the south-eastern corner of the area of the garage. It contained horse bones derived from the articulated partial skeleton of a horse (Animal Bone Report below). Three undated parallel ditches (F2006, F2008 and F2010) were present towards the northern end of the area of the garage, and were recorded across two foundations. They were overlain by Subsoil L2001. A modern pit, F2012, was recorded in close proximity to these ditches. F2012 contained modern finds including wire

insulation. It also contained disarticulated human remains, and close by the skeletal remains were two copper alloy rings (SF1). These finds are likely to be derived from Castle Hills Scheduled Monument immediately to the north-east.

Ditch F2006 was linear in plan (length 6.20m+, width 1.18m, depth 0.67m) and oriented east/west. It had steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2007, was a mid yellow brown, compact silty sand with occasional small stones and occasional chalk flecks. It contained animal bone (7g).

Ditch F2008 was linear in plan (length 6.40m+, width 0.83m, depth 0.55m) and oriented east/west. It was notably more substantial towards the east. It has steep sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2009, was a mid yellow brown, compact silty sand with occasional small stones. It contained no finds.

Ditch F2010 was linear in plan (length 6.40m+, width 1.50, depth 0.40m) and oriented east/west. It had shallow sides and a concave base. Its fill, L2011, was a mid yellow brown, compact silty sand. It contained animal bone (57g).

Pit F2012 was roughly square in plan (length 1.63m, width 0.36m+, depth 0.46m). It had steep sides and a flattish base. Its fill, L2013, was a dark grey brown silt with moderate small stones. It contained modern finds including wire insulation. It also contained disarticulated human remains, and close by the skeletal remains were two copper alloy rings (SF1). These finds are likely to be derived from Castle Hills Scheduled Monument immediately to the north-east.

9 CONFIDENCE RATING

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

10 DEPOSIT MODEL

10.1 The site was commonly overlain by Topsoil L1008, a grey, soft, sandy silt (0.15 – 0.25m thick). Within the western part of Trench 1, where the former conservatory was located, the uppermost deposit was concrete floor (M1000) with levelling layers L1001 and L1002 (0.30 – 0.35m thick). The topsoil overlay Made Ground L1005, a dark brownish grey, compact, sandy silt with occasional CBM fragments (0.30 – 0.40m thick). L1005 overlay Subsoil L1006, a light yellowish brown, compact, silty sand (0.30 – 0.45m thick). The natural geology, L1007, was present at 0.70 – 0.95m below existing ground level and comprised a mid to dark yellow, silty, clay.

11 DISCUSSION

11.1 The site is located in an area of archaeological significance at Eaton Socon, to the immediate south of the boundary of the Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM) of Castle Hills. The rear part of the house extends across the boundary. The area of the proposed extension and garage lies outside the boundary of the SAM.

11.2 The monument is a ringwork castle, which relates to the presence of a Saxon vill and cemetery, shifted medieval settlement and a windmill mound (Scheduled Ancient Monument 1009629, Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record HER 00374). A large, horse-shoe ditch encloses two sub-rectangular wards on the river side. Continuous occupation evidence is recorded on the site from the late Saxon to Norman period. Structural remains are present on the castle site, with waterlogged remains in the surrounding ditch fills, buried soils below the rampart banks and post mill mound. Buried waterfront structures may also survive closer to the foreshore of the river Great Ouse. Excavations in 1949/50 in the northern ward recovered 40+ Saxon burials, probably from a settlement and church which are earlier than the other earthworks, and may have been defended by the horse-shoe ditch. Excavations in 1962 recorded a 9th century Saxon settlement.

11.3 The site had a potential for archaeological remains, in particular for the Anglo-Saxon and medieval archaeology. Such remains would relate to the Castle Hills Scheduled Ancient Monument, adjacent to the site. The Monument comprises the Norman castle which overlies part of the late Saxon vill and deserted medieval village. In the event the evaluation revealed two linear ditches, not contemporary. One (F1011) contained Late Iron Age – Early Roman pottery and a fragment of a triangular loom or thatch weight that may have been utilised in the late Iron Age or Roman periods. There are a considerable amount of Romano-British archaeological remains in the vicinity of the site. Most of the archaeological evidence is indicative of large rural settlements distributed along the banks of the river Great Ouse, which would have been advantageous for water supplies and for exploitation of the fertile ground for agricultural and pasture. A large cropmark complex (HER 00389) is located c. 215m north-east of the site and it is likely that the settlement site continued south-west.

11.4 The monitoring revealed three undated ditches (F2006, F2008 and F2010) broadly parallel (orientated E/W) to Ditch F1011 recorded in the trial trench evaluation. A modern pit (F2012) contained disarticulated human remains likely to be associated with the 'Castle Hills' Scheduled Monument immediately to the north-east. In close proximity to the skeletal remains two copper alloy rings were found (SF1). They each measured 14mm in diameter, 6-7mm wide and 1mm thick, with a possible function as decoration for either clothing or hair. It is likely that the skeletal remains represent Saxon burials that were disturbed elsewhere on the property before being re-deposited within Pit F2012.

12 DEPOSITION OF THE ARCHIVE

12.1 Archive records, with an inventory, will be deposited with any donated finds from the site at St Neots Museum. The archive will be quantified, ordered, indexed, cross-referenced and checked for internal consistency.

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APPENDIX 1 HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT RECORD DATA (HER)

The following sites are those that lie within a 1km radius of the assessment site. The table has been compiled from data held by the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER).

SMR	NGR SP	Description
Palaeolithic		
HER 00511	TL 17 58	Palaeolithic flakes and remains of a mammoth found at Eaton Socon. From this grid ref, Wessex Arch lists at least 5 hand axes & 1 flake (Bedford Museum)
Mesolithic		
HER 00373	TL 177 585	Mesolithic flint scatter, Eaton Socon. Very dense flint scatter including Mesolithic blades. Box of Mesolithic flints from finds scatter beside river at Eaton Socon including flakes, blades, anvil, cores.
HER 00512	TL 178 585	Mesolithic finds, Eaton Socon. Blades and flakes unretouched - unknown quantity (accurate location). Many blades, tools and flakes found on surface of field beside the river at Eaton Socon.
HER 00377	TL 181 583	Mesolithic flints, Eynesbury. Flints comprising 2 blades or flakes, 1 scraper and 1 other flint.
Neolithic		
HER 00376	TL 180 582	<p>Ring ditch, Eynesbury. Excavation by Wessex Archaeology in 2000-1 revealed a sub-oval hengiform ring-ditch. The monument was 20m in diameter and comprised an external bank (Bronze Age), internal ditch and two entrances (early Neolithic).</p> <p>A cropmark of ring ditch recorded by CUCAP but nothing is visible on the RAF APs from 1946. Linear ditches and ring ditches seen (R Palmer 18/08/1983). Any upstanding remains have been removed by ploughing, buried deposits have been truncated. No environmental remains found. It is thought that any surviving deposits are too badly damaged to warrant scheduling, site best managed through the planning process. Excavation by Wessex Archaeology in 2000-1 revealed a sub-oval hengiform ring-ditch. The monument comprised a ring ditch 20m in diameter with an external bank and two entrances. These lay to the NNW and to the ESE, the latter had been 'closed' by the later digging of a pit which contained Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery. The ditch was up to 2m wide and up to 0.8m deep and had concave sides and a flat base. It contained Neolithic pottery, flint working debris, burnt flint and animal bones, these finds being concentrated in the SE quarter of the ring-ditch. A radiocarbon date of 3970-3690 cal. BC was returned.</p>
HER 18206	TL 1677 5805	Neolithic features, Alpha Park, Eaton Socon. Evaluation revealed a pit containing an antler pick, suggested to be of Neolithic date. A further programme of archaeological recording was undertaken in advance of development, revealing a moderate level of preservation. The earliest evidence on the site comprised a pit containing a red antler pick, and struck flints of Palaeolithic and Neolithic date. A re-cut of the pit also yielded Neolithic flint artefacts and an auroch's horn core. Three other pits produced fragments of red deer antler and bone, and a single abraded flint flake, suggested also to be of prehistoric date, although some of the artefacts may be residual finds in later features. The inclusion of the Palaeolithic flint and placing of an auroch's horn core in

		the pit re-cut may be interpreted as evidence for structured deposition.
HER 17395	TL 1823 5883	Prehistoric features, Ernulf School, Eynesbury. An evaluation revealed an undated ditch and pit. The alignment of the ditch is similar to that of the Neolithic cursus, with which it may be associated. The pit is suggested to be a tree bore or tree throw hole, also of possible Neolithic date.
HER 17676	TL 1815 5838	South cursus, Eynesbury. Having originally been identified during an AP assessment of the area conducted during the mid-1990s, a Neolithic cursus was excavated by Wessex Archaeology during 2000-1. The cursus is one of several in the immediate vicinity, hence 'South Cursus'. On excavation the cursus was revealed to be 316m long and 77m wide and was oriented NNE-SSW. The northern half of the eastern side of the monument had been left open, meaning that the ditches of the cursus form an incomplete rectangle. The ditches of the cursus were found to be U-shaped and measured between 2m and 2.6m wide and were between 0.5m and 0.8m deep. The ditches contained animal bone, worked flint, Bronze Age pottery and Romano-British pottery. Fifteen sediment samples forming two vertical sequences were taken from the fills of the cursus' ditches. They were dated from single grains of quartz using new luminescence methods based on Optically Stimulated Luminescence. This dating showed that the lowermost fills of each ditch began to be deposited in the early to mid 5th millennium BC and that the uppermost fills were laid down in the 3rd millennium BC.
HER 17697	TL 1805 5873	Possible Neolithic double enclosure, Eynesbury. An area excavation by Wessex Archaeology in 2000-1 revealed a double enclosure of probable Neolithic date. The northerly of the two enclosures was sub-rectangular and measured 8.5m N-S by 14.5m E-W. The southerly enclosure was sub-circular and approx 10m in diameter. The ditches of these enclosures were 0.8m wide and contained flint working debris, animal bone and a deer antler pick. Each enclosure contained undated postholes and pits.
HER 17698	TL 1801 5847	Neolithic pits, Eynesbury. Excavations by Wessex Archaeology in 2000-1 revealed thirty Neolithic pits scattered across the western half of the excavated area. These pits were between 0.7m and 1.8m wide and between 0.15m and 0.4m deep. They contained a rich variety of Neolithic artefacts, including worked flint tools (scrapers, blades, arrowheads, hammerstones, cores, axes), animal bones, antler tools, plant remains, hazelnuts, and Neolithic pottery.
HER 11671	TL 181 588	Northern cursus, Eynesbury. Bronze Age cremation. A magnetometer survey was undertaken on land to the S of Ernulf School. The survey area was relatively noisy, possibly due to the past use of the area for market gardens. One linear anomaly was detected in the E of the survey which may represent a continuation of a linear feature apparent in aerial photographs. Archaeological evaluation revealed a shallow ditch, corresponding to the eastern cursus ditch. Further monitoring of groundworks along the north of the proposed football pitch revealed the western cursus ditch. Further aerial photographic assessment was carried out, revealing north to south parallel ditches, following a slightly sinuous course. The western of the ditches is cut by a large rectangular feature, probably an enclosure. Two evaluation trenches were excavated through the northern cursus ditch in September 1997. The western ditch was found to be truncated and disguised by a medieval furrow. The eastern ditch was found to be U-shaped, 1.45m wide and 0.57m deep, and the ditch deposit indicated a possible external bank that had been deliberately slighted into the ditch. The cursus was found to be 66m wide, and was traced for over 98m along its length, although the northern end has not been traced. The southern portion of the cursus was excavated by Wessex Archaeology during 2000-1. The cursus was demonstrated to be 101m long in total and 65m wide. The

		U-shaped ditches were between 2m and 2.4m wide and 0.4 and 0.8m deep. The cursus was oriented NNE-SSW and there was a gap in the centre of the southern end of the monument. OSL dated the cursus to 4150 +/- 350BC. The ditch-fills contained a Mesolithic long blade, Bronze Age pottery sherds and some deer antlers, which may have been used as tools during the construction of the cursus. A later Neolithic long barrow (CHER 00381) was situated between the parallel ditches at the southern end of the cursus and a Mid- to Late Bronze Age cremation cut the ditch. Mesolithic blade discovered.
HER 04459	TL 18 59	Neolithic and Bronze Age flint implements, Eynesbury. S1, Neo and BA flint implements found at Eynesbury. Side scraper of white flint, length 5cm, width 4cm. Triangular arrowhead of grey flint, length 2.9cm, width 2.2cm. Scraper of black flint with extensive secondary flaking, length 4.5cm, width 4.2cm. Thick circular scraper with extensive secondary flaking, length 4.3cm, width 3.5cm.
HER 04459A	TL 18 59	Leaf-shaped arrowhead, Eynesbury. Leaf shaped arrowhead found at Eynesbury (early Neolithic).
HER 00381	TL 181 587	<p>Long barrow, Barford Road, Eynesbury. Parallel linear ditches, an oval ditch (long barrow or conjoined round barrows?) and other ditches visible on an aerial photograph (R. Palmer, 18/07/1983). A further aerial photographic assessment was carried out in 1993, revealing a slightly trapezoidal oblong ditch, generally assigned a Neolithic date and thought to be a long barrow. An evaluation trench was excavated across the presumed long barrow in September 1997, confirming the interpretation of the site. Eastern and western ditches were identified, but no internal features were located. A geophysical survey was also carried out, but proved inconclusive. No pottery was recovered from the barrow boundary ditch, the only finds being an un-diagnostic flint flake and a sheep's tooth.</p> <p>The long barrow was fully excavated by Wessex Archaeology in 2001-2. The elongated oval ditch of the barrow was aligned NNE-SSW and measured 58.5m in length and 29m in width, narrowing to 20m width at the southern end. The ditch was 5-7m wide in the northern part of the monument and 2.6m-3m wide and 0.6-0.8m deep in the southern part. The ditch had originally been dug out as a continuous feature and a number of localised re-cuts were recorded in the northern sector. The northern end of the long barrow contained many structured deposits, including antler picks, animal and human remains, quernstone fragments and polished stone axes. The location of the majority of the structured deposits, the marked widening of the ditch and the presence of a possible palisade gully, all suggest the northern part of the barrow was the focus of ritual importance and of activities associated with the barrow. Limited evidence was found for an internal mound within the ditch circuit and no internal inhumations were recorded, suggesting that while the barrow was a focus for mortuary practices, the ritual deposits associated with these were incorporated into the ditch.</p> <p>The long barrow was constructed in the late Neolithic and the deposits from the ditch suggest a span of at least 500-600 years when the monument remained a focus for Neolithic ritual practices. A radiocarbon date of 2900-2350 cal. BC was returned. The monument was cut by a Mid-Late Bronze Age cremation feature, as well as a late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pit containing structured deposits, suggesting the monument's importance as a focus of ritual activities may have continued for 2000 years after its initial construction. This site was first identified on air photographs taken from 1959 onwards. The long barrow and surroundings have been fully excavated ahead of a housing development and no remain now survive. The site is therefore not recommended for scheduling. The results of an EH</p>

		project to test a range of pre-screening criteria which could be used to determine which bone samples from gravel sites might be most suitable for radiocarbon dating. The most successful method was the measurement of whole bone percent nitrogen. Eighteen bone samples from Eynesbury formed part of the test data-set, although none of these samples contained enough collagen to yield a date.
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
Prehistoric Undated		
HER 16898	TL 1814 5888	Undated features, St Neots Community College. An evaluation revealed a large number of undated features, including ditches and pits, which may be prehistoric or Roman in date. Many of the ditches ran on a N-S alignment, and may relate to the driveway identified in a previous evaluation to south of the site. It is suggested the ditches may have formed part of a larger system of drove-ways, field boundaries and stockade pens, which was laid out in a linear pattern along the eastern side of the Ouse flood plain. Many of the pits may be Neolithic, Bronze Age or Iron Age in date, but no artefacts were recovered to suggest a function or date for these.
Bronze Age		
HER 17703	TL 1807 5867	Early Bronze Age cremations, Eynesbury. One urned cremation and six unurned cremations dating to the Early Bronze Age were discovered during excavation. The urned cremation was contained within a decorated collared urn and buried within a small circular pit. The urn was buried upside down in the pit. An additional five pits contained unurned cremations and a further spread of cremated bone represented a sixth.
HER 00373A	TL 177 585	Flint scatter, Eynesbury. Flint scatter. Very dense scatter including leaf-shaped (early Neolithic) and barbed and tanged arrowheads (Bronze Age).
HER 00372	TL 173 584	Flint arrowhead, Eaton Socon Lock. Bronze Age barbed and tanged arrowhead found in this field in 1957.
HER 02032	TL 18 59	Bronze axehead, Eaton Ford. Socketed bronze axehead, single loop, 3 moulded ridges on each side. Length 9cm, width 4,8cm. Originally labelled "R Fox 61". Donated by Huntingdon Literary and Scientific Institute.
HER 15831	TL 1799 5856	Barford Road 1997 (evaluation). 2 late Bronze Age pits & ditch with Roman ditch. All of the cropmarks visible on the aerial photographs were recognised as archaeological features in the trenches, along with a few additional field boundaries and pits. Cropmarks from the Neolithic & Bronze Age include a series of enclosures interpreted as Neolithic cursuses and associated monuments. All features had been truncated by ploughing, and there were no upstanding earthwork remains associated with the long barrow, ring ditches or cursus monuments. The

		southern cursus has been destroyed by quarrying. In addition to the Neo/BA features, late BA/early Iron Age pits were found. Iron Age pit alignments were imposed as boundaries cutting across the earlier prehistoric landscape. An area to the E of the prehistoric monuments was found to contain Romano-British and later field systems and trackways, as well as a single isolated ring ditch. Except in a few isolated cases, artefacts were sparse, and period of construction could not be refined for many excavated features. The lithic scatters found during field walking did not reveal any underlying features. The remains of medieval ridge and furrow were also recorded.
HER 17704	TL 1806 5859	Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pit alignment enclosure, Eynesbury. A Late Bronze Age to Early Iron Age enclosure comprising 440 pits, of which 55 were excavated. Excavation and aerial photograph analysis show the enclosure to be 426m long and 180m wide and aligned north-south. The lines of the enclosure were sinuous, but it was broadly rectangular. Relatively few sherds of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pottery and very few pieces of worked flint and animal bone were excavated from the pits. Two additional clusters of Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits were discovered, one to the north of the excavated area and one to the south. The northern group comprised 11 pits, which on excavation were found to contain pottery, the clay mould of a Bronze Age socketed axe, worked flints, fragments of quern stone, animal bones and disarticulated human remains. The southern group comprised 6 pits containing pottery, animal bone, worked flint and quern stone.
Iron Age		
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.
Roman		
HER 00389	TL 180 591	Cropmark complex, St Neots. Pits, circles and overlapping outlines of small square fields on air photo, P Addyman, July 1962. A substantial scatter of Romano-British potsherds were found. A magnetometer survey was undertaken in advance of proposed developments, revealing a series of field systems and enclosures, indicative of a settlement complex. Survey work to the east and northeast were magnetically quiet, suggesting that the eastern and northern extents of the settlement had been defined. The results indicated that the settlement pattern continues to the west, and possibly the south, of the development area. Ditches forming possible enclosures and field divisions mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.
HER 00396b	TL 181 593	Conygeare. A scatter of Roman pottery, building stone and tesserae was turned up by the plough in 1964. The indicated site falls on arable land which has been cultivated for many years, and there are no surface

		finds of archaeological interest.
HER 00684	TL 1799 5920	Roman villa, St. Neots. Roman pottery, tiles and tesserae, possible site of villa (Nothing visible on APs OS 1968). There is nothing of archaeological interest to be seen at this site; possible siting error. Much pottery, building debris, coin, brooch, ploughed up. Hypocaust tiles.
HER 04253	TL 1785 5855	Possible Roman villa, Barford Road, Eynesbury. Enlargement of an APs to show detail of a circular cropmark revealed the outlines of what appears to be a large Roman courtyard villa nearby. No further information about the 'putative' villa.
HER 11671A	TL 181 587	Roman and undated ditches, Eynesbury. During evaluation a ditch producing Roman pottery was excavated, corresponding to a north-south trackway ditch identified from aerial photographs. Two further undated north-south ditches were investigated.
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 11779	TL 170 580	Roman pottery scatter and Saxon brooch. Roman pot scatter and AS brooch found. Bedfordshire CC SMR records presence of cropmarks
HER 16710	TL 1709 5800	Romano-British and undated remains, Colmworth Business Park, Eaton Socon. An area of 1310 m square was excavated in advance of development. One ditch with a V-shaped profile was identified, containing two sherds of Romano-British pottery and a small quantity of animal bone. A further 6 parallel ditches were also found running E-W across the site, containing no dating evidence, but suggested to be the remains of a cultivation system, of possible Romano-British date. A number of undated small pits/postholes were also identified.
HER 16788	TL 167 580	Roman Bronze Bracelet, Eaton Socon. Bronze bracelet found on former archaeological site at Bell Farm, Eaton Socon (Wessex Archaeology). Very good condition. Bronze, circular, with snake head terminals.
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.
Medieval		
HER 17706	TL 1808 5823	Early Saxon sunken-featured buildings, Eynesbury. Excavation by Wessex Archaeology during 2000-1 revealed seven Early Saxon sunken-featured buildings, all of which were aligned west-east. Two SFBs were intercutting, three were complete and two were heavily truncated. Most were of simple construction, with only two supporting posts, one at either end of the hollow. Each SFB appears to have had a timber floor suspended above the hollow. The majority of the artefacts from these hollows came from later dumping layers and comprised a typical array of Early Saxon domestic items: pottery, copper alloy pins, worked bone pins/points/awls and combs, spindle whorls, glass beads and some residual Romano-British material. Several Early Saxon pits of various sizes were also discovered. These pits contained a variety of domestic rubbish, including worked bone, iron and copper-alloy objects, pottery and residual worked flints. Some of the SFBs and pits were enclosed within two long sections of curvilinear gully which delineated a sub-rectangular area. Both gullies were poorly dated, but contained sherds of possible Anglo-Saxon pottery.
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 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 quernstone 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 17750	TL 1661 5939	Medieval pottery sherd, Kings Road, St Neots. A single sherd of medieval pottery from Kings Road, St Neots. A high-fired, thin-walled rim-sherd.
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 00374A	TL 1733 5890	Saxon settlement, The Hillings, St. Neots. Scheduled Monument 1009629. 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 a settlement there and a church (stone and mortar debris was found overlying the burials) defended 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 there was a Saxon settlement there from probably the C9. Pottery finds indicate that the building went out of use in the C12. Finds 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".
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 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.
HER 00374	TL 1733 5890	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

		<p>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 x 20m 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 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.</p>
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 18208	TL 1675 5802	Medieval - post medieval remains, Alpha Park, Eaton Socon. A programme of strip, map and record was undertaken in advance of

		development. An enclosure, which cut a Roman ditch and was associated with ceramic building material, may date to the medieval period or later. A number of undated features were also recorded, some of which may be of medieval or post-medieval date, but little dating evidence was recovered to secure the dating of these. A number of post-medieval ditched boundaries, post built fence lines and a brick well were also recorded within the excavation area, and probably relate to the development of Bell Farm.
HER 18768	TL 1673 5806	Ridge and furrow, St Neots. Earthwork ridge and furrow mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.
HER 18772	TL 1715 5873	Ridge and furrow, St Neots. Earthwork ridge and furrow mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.
HER 18773	TL 1758 5892	Ridge and furrow, St Neots. Levelled ridge and furrow mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.
HER 18774	TL 1763 5970	Ridge and furrow, St Neots. Levelled ridge and furrow mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.
HER 18825	TL 1821 5914	Ridge and furrow, St Neots. Levelled ridge and furrow mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.
Post-medieval		
HER 09780	TL 18 59	Post-medieval pottery, Eynesbury. Pottery finds from Eynesbury, now in Longsands Museum, St Neots:- Cistercian ware sherd salt glazed Sieberg ware Base.
HER 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.
HER 16097		Trade token, Eaton Socon. Post-medieval copper alloy trade token from garden of 14 School Lane, Eaton Socon. Copper alloy, with date 1667 (James Hawke)
HER 17193	TL 1734 5972	Eaton Ford Methodist Church, St Neots. Built in 1850 of yellow brick. Just arched openings with bits of brick decoration.
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.
Undated		
HER 00387	TL 18 59	Wessex-type querns, Eynesbury. Upper stone of a Wessex type beehive quern, large, of grey stone, diameter 290mm, height 180mm.
HER 18769	TL 1685 5818	Possible enclosure, St Neots. Ditches forming possible square enclosure mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.
HER 18770	TL 1704 5804	Ditches, St Neots. Ditches forming possible field divisions mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.
HER 18771	TL 1733 5806	Track, St Neots.
HER 02201	TL 179 591	Parallel linear ditches, St. Neots. Parallel linear ditches, probably non archaeological.
HER 10064	TL 173 581	Conjoined square enclosures, St. Neots. Two conjoined square enclosures, one with electric pylon. Notwithstanding the above this does not appear on the overlay. Conjoined square enclosures plus pits mapped from Bedfordshire 1996 aerial photography.
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.

APPENDIX 2 CONCORDANCE OF FINDS

TRIAL TRENCH EVALUATION

AS 1438: Castle Hills House, School Lane, Eaton Socon, St Neots, Cambs
Concordance of finds by feature

Feature	Context	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)
1009	1010	Fill of Ditch				31
1011	1012	Fill of Ditch	Late IA - Early Roman	(2) 61g	169	84
	1014	Fill of Ditch				330

MONITORING & RECORDING

Feature	Context	Seg.	Description	Spot Date	Pottery	CBM (g)	A.Bone (g)	Other
2001			Subsoil				29	
2006	2007	B	Ditch				7	
2010	2011		Ditch				57	
2012	2013		Pit	Modern	(1) 6g		32	H. Bone - 2630g Wire insulation - 2g Charcoal - 1g Cu. Fragment - 1g Fe. Frags - 224g Cu. Rings SF1 - (2) 3g
2014			Layer				1087	

APPENDIX 3 SPECIALIST REPORTS

The Pottery

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of two sherds (61g) of pottery contained in Ditch F1011 (L1012). The pottery comprises body sherds from a shell-tempered jar that was hand-made, but finished on a slow wheel. The body sherds indicate the jar would have been shouldered with an everted rim, although the actual rim is not present. This type of jar may have been produced in the late Iron Age to early Roman periods (1st century BC/AD).

The Fired Clay

Andrew Peachey

The evaluation recovered a total of two fragments (169g) of fired clay contained in Ditch F1011 (L1012). The fired clay has inclusions of common well-sorted, quartz sand (0.1-0.5mm) and has been fired to a relatively high temperature resulting in an oxidised orange-brown colour throughout. The fragments indicate the fired clay would have formed part of a 50mm thick object, with at least one cylindrical hole passing through the object. Therefore, it is highly probable the fired clay formed part of a triangular loom or thatch weight that may have been utilised in the late Iron Age or Roman periods.

The Animal Bone

Julia E. Cussans

Trial Trench Evaluation

During the evaluation a total of 37 bones were recovered from three ditch fill contexts, L1010, L1012 and L1014. Mammal taxa represented were cattle, sheep/goat, pig and dog; 23 of the bones could only be identified as large or medium mammal. Other than this sheep/goat was the best represented taxon with cattle, pig and dog being represented by a single bone each. A single bird bone - probably chicken - was also recovered. The bones were generally well preserved with little sign of abrasion, gnawing or burning. A few of the bones showed signs of butchery including a sheep/goat axis with a chop mark into the dorsal (upper) side indicating an attempt, at least, at decapitation. Two ageable mandible fragments were present, one each from sheep/goat and pig. No other bones of particular note were present; no pathologies were noted.

Monitoring & Recording

A total of 100 bones were recovered from five separate deposits (Table 1). In general preservation was rated a good, fresh breaks were fairly common, a few of the bones had been subject to canid gnawing and there was a low occurrence of bone abrasion. Species represented were cattle, sheep/goat,

pig and horse. A number of bones that could not be safely identified to species were recorded as either large terrestrial mammal (LTM - cattle or horse sized) or medium terrestrial mammal (MTM - sheep/goat or pig sized). The vast majority of the bone fragments came from Layer F2014 which included a horse axis and a number of LTM vertebrae and rib fragments. These included at least four other cervical vertebrae and eight thoracic vertebrae. It seems likely that all of the LTM bones from this deposit belonged to horse and may have been deposited as an articulated partial skeleton. There were no signs of butchery or pathology on these bones and all of the vertebral epiphyses were fused indicating an adult animal.

Ditch fill L2011 (F2010) included a pig mandible from a fairly young animal. The dp4 (4th deciduous premolar) was in wear and the M1 (1st molar) was fully erupted with slight wear on the enamel only (Grant 1982 - wear stage a). A perforation in the crypt was visible for the eruption of the M2. This places the animals into Hambleton's (1999, Table 4) ages stage B, with a suggested age of 2-7 months. The dp2 tooth was slightly rotated, indicative of tooth overcrowding; there were no signs of butchery on this mandible. No other bones of particular interest were present.

Feature	Context	Cattle	Sheep/goat	Pig	Horse	LTM	MTM	Total
2001	2001	1				1		2
2006	2007 B						2	2
2010	2011		1	1	1			3
2012	2013	1				1		2
2014	2014				1	90		91
Total		2	1	1	2	92	2	100

Table 1: Species presence and abundance

References

Grant, A. 1982, 'The use of toothwear as a guide to the age of domestic ungulates', in Wilson, B., Grigson, C. and Payne, S. (eds.) *Ageing and Sexing Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites*, British Archaeological Reports, British Series 109, 91-108

Hambleton, E. 1999, *Animal Husbandry Regimes in Iron Age Britain: a comparative study of faunal assemblages from British Iron Age sites*, British Archaeological Reports British Series 282

PHOTOGRAPHIC INDEX



DP 1. Castle Hills House, School Lane, Eaton Socon. Looking north-west-north.



DP 2. Trench 1. Looking west.



DP 3. Trench 1. Looking west-south-west.



DP 4. Ditch F1009. Looking north-west-north.



DP 5. Ditch F1011. Looking north-east.



DP 6. Ditch F1011. Looking south-west.



DP 7. Trench 1, west end. Sample section 1A. Looking north-west-north.



DP 8. Trench 1, east end. Sample section 1B. Looking south-east-south.



DP 9. Test Pit 1. Looking west-north-west.



DP 10. Test Pit 1. Sample section, looking east-south-east.



DP 11. Test Pit 2. Looking north-west.



DP 12. Test Pit 2. Sample section, looking north-west.



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General view of outer ditch of 'Castle Hills' scheduled monument. Looking south east.



14
Post-excavation view of house extension footings. Looking west-north-west.



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Sample Section 1. Looking north-north-east.



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Sample Section 3 and Linear F2003. Looking west-north-west.



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Pre-excavation view of garage area. Looking north east.



18
Sample Section 4 garage footing test pit excavation. Looking east-south-east.



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Mid-excavation view of garage footings. Looking south.



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Sample Section 6. Looking east-south-east.



21
Ditches F2006 and F2008. Looking east-south-east.



22
Ditch F2010. Looking east south-east.



23
Ditch F2008 and Pit F2012. Looking west-north-west.



24
Ditch F2006 with modern pit above. Looking west-north-west.



25
Sample Section 7. Looking south-south-west.



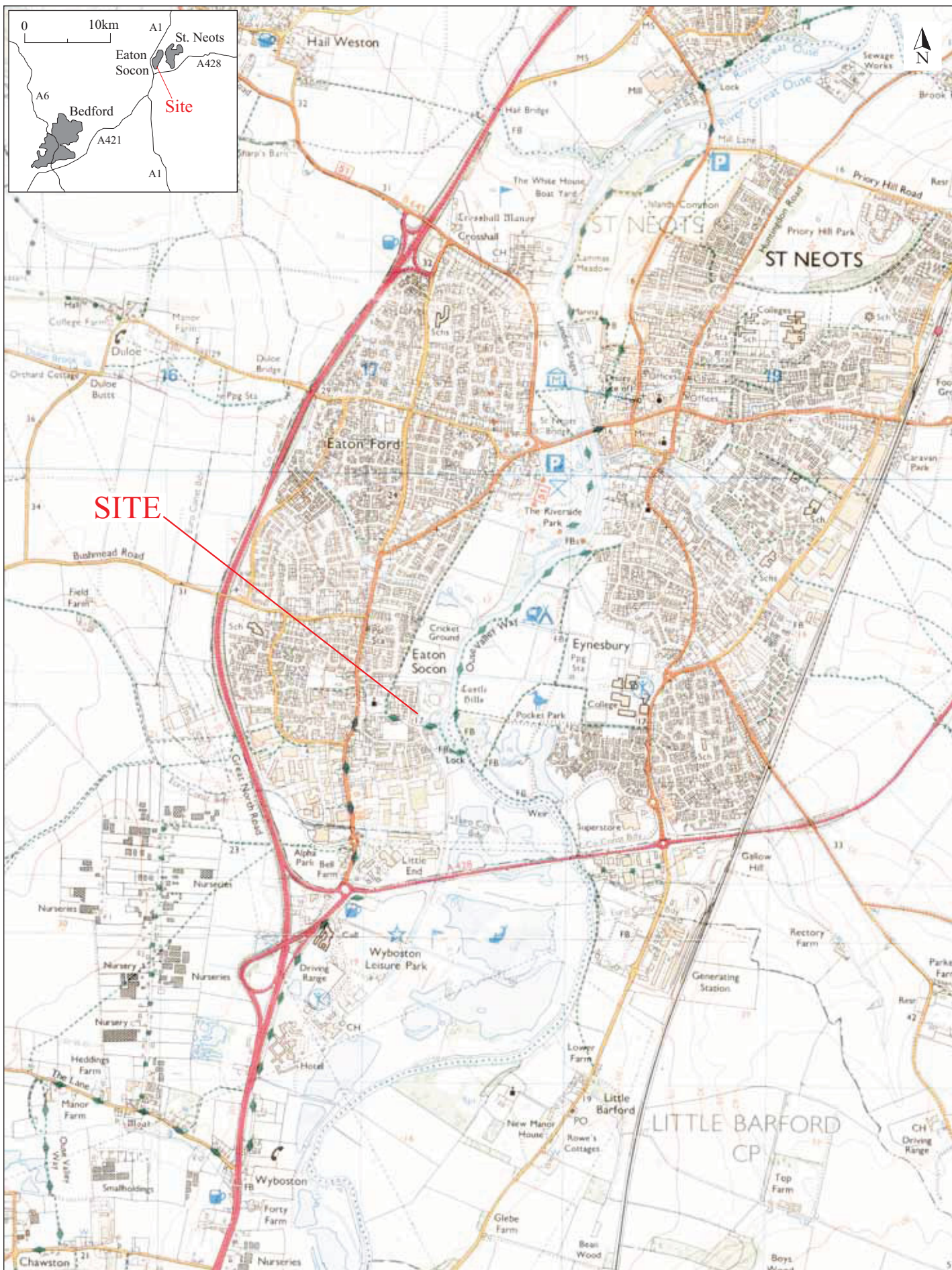
26
General view. Looking north east.



27
General view of internal footing. Looking south east.

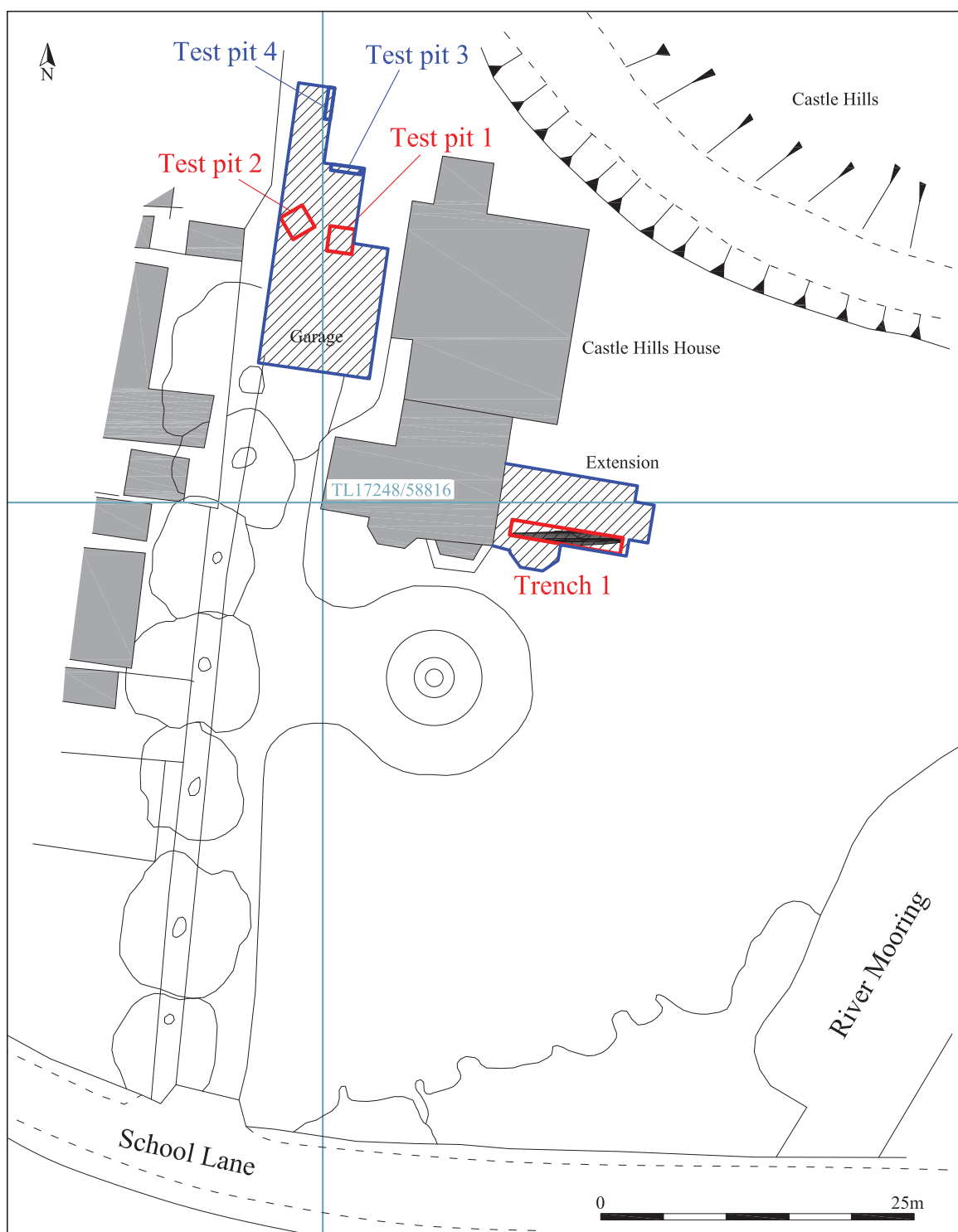


28
*General view of completed garage footings.
 Looking north.*



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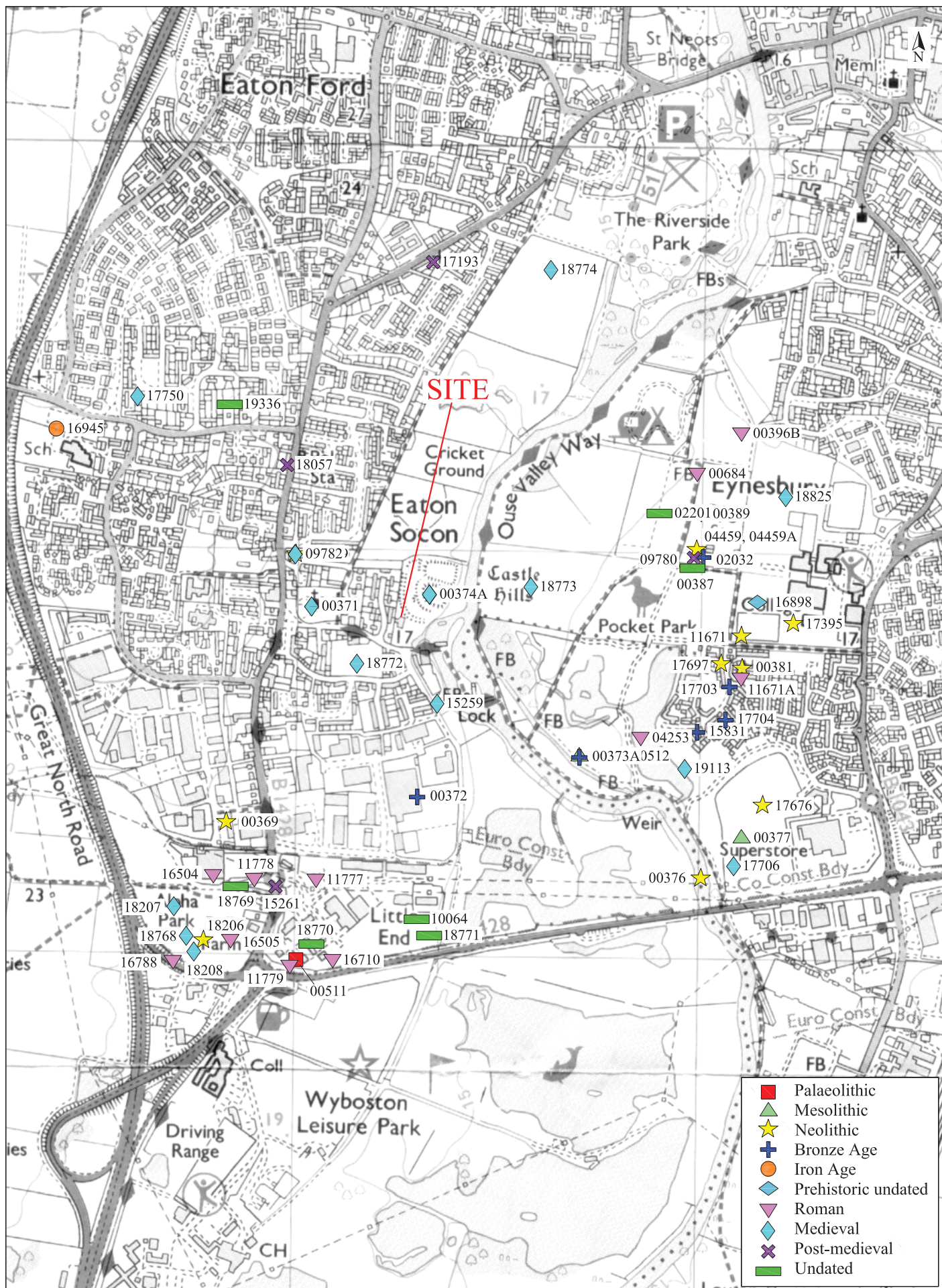
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Fig. 1 Site location plan
 Scale 1:25,000 at A4



— Trial trenches (November 2011)

— Area of monitoring & recording (January 2012)

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Fig. 2 Trench location plan
Scale 1:500 at A4



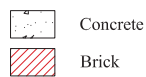
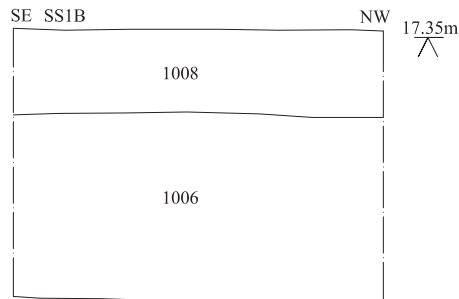
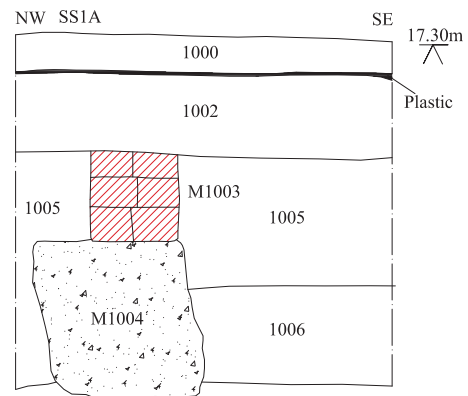
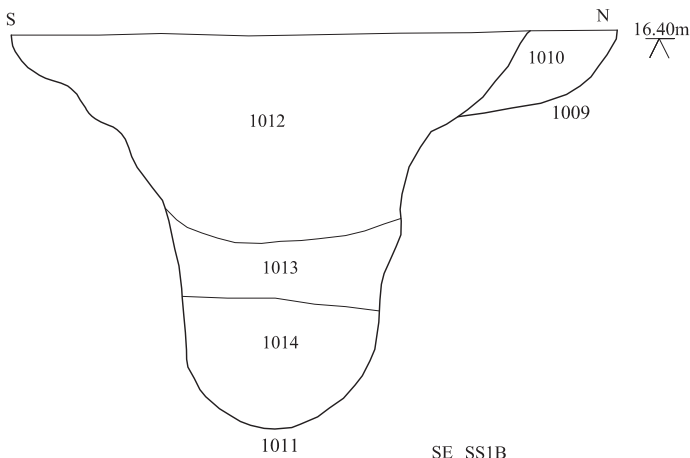
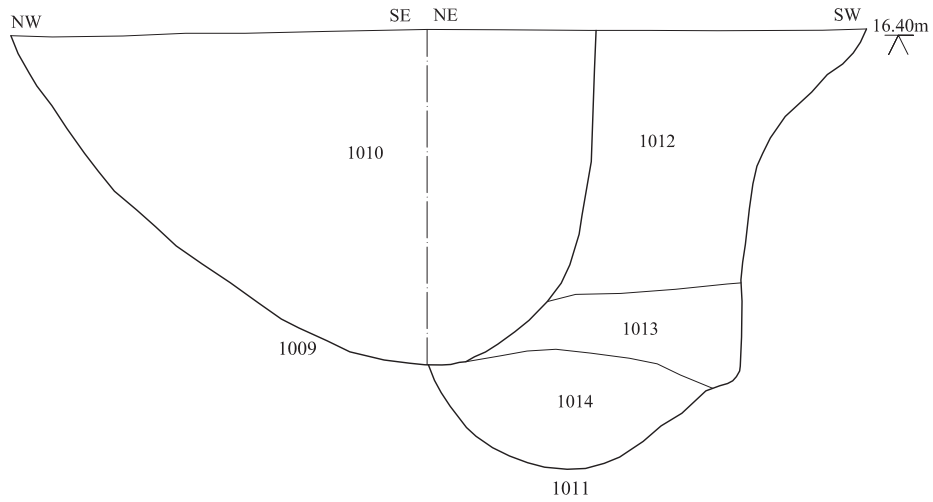
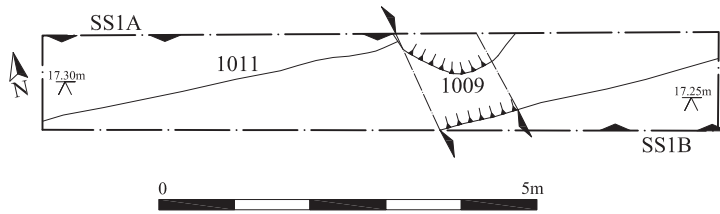
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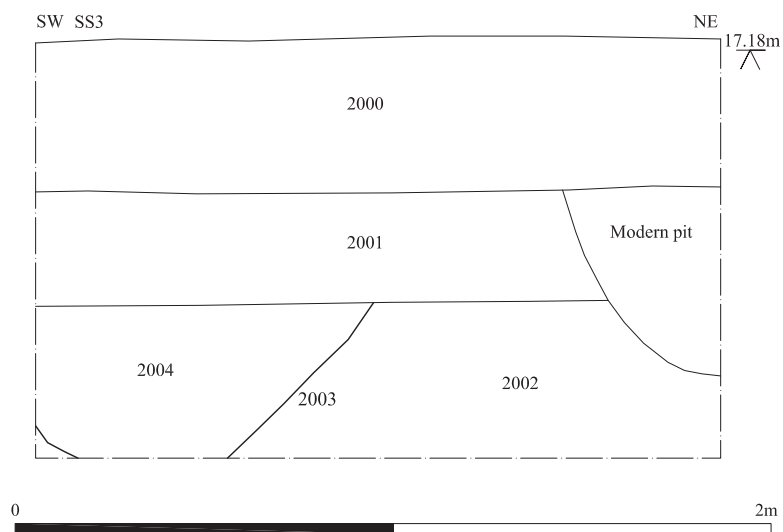
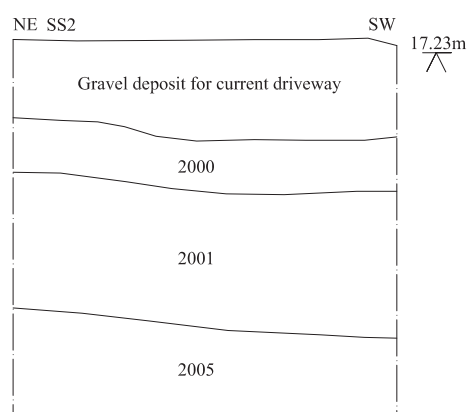
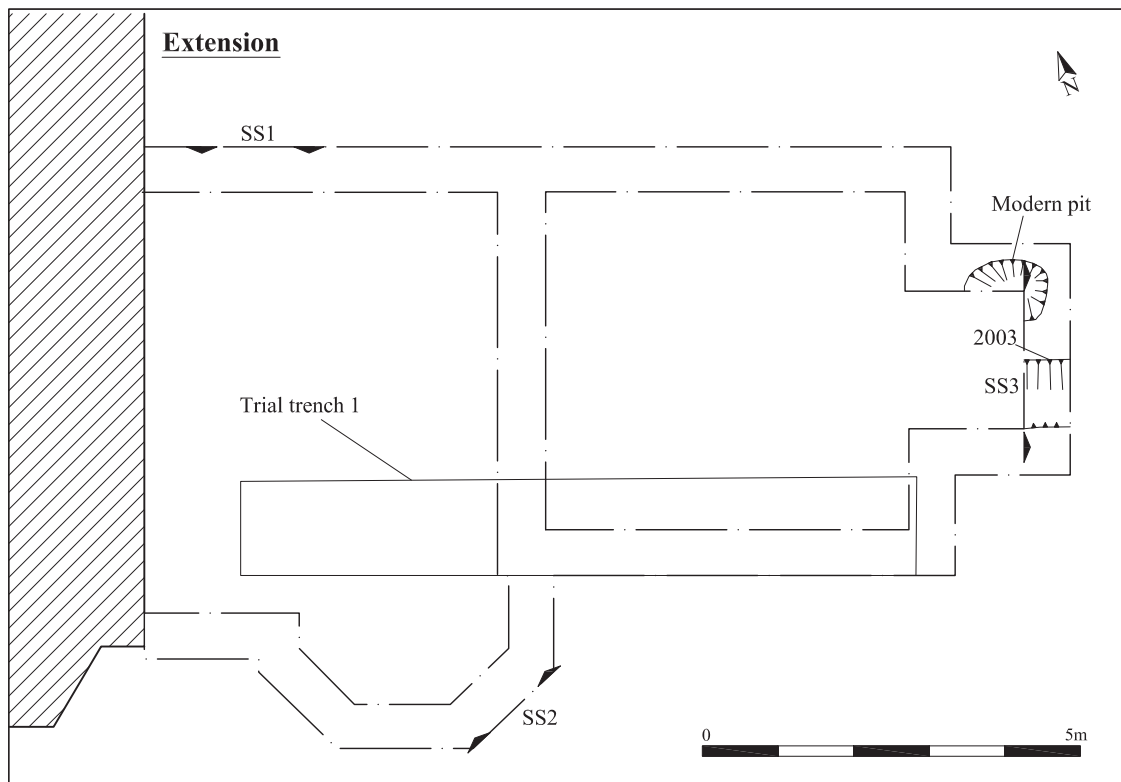
Fig. 3 HER Data

Scale 1:12,500 at A4

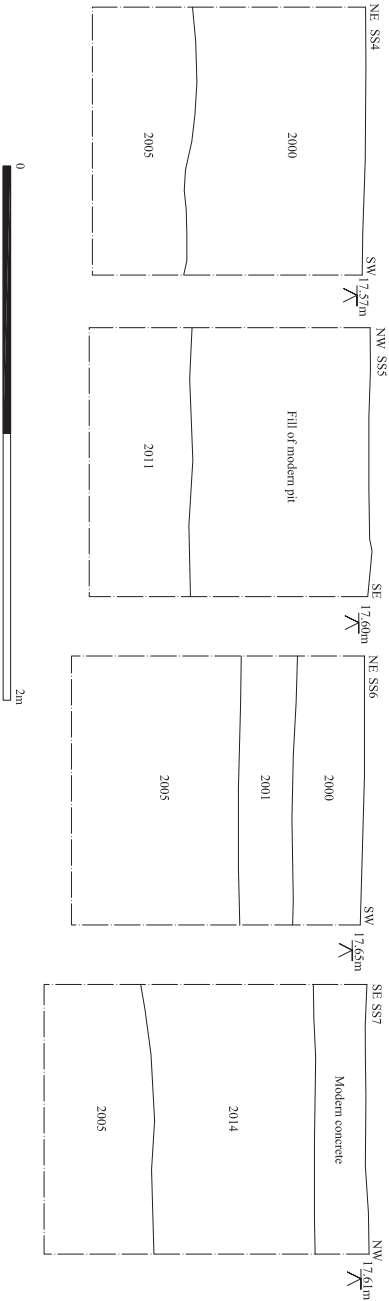
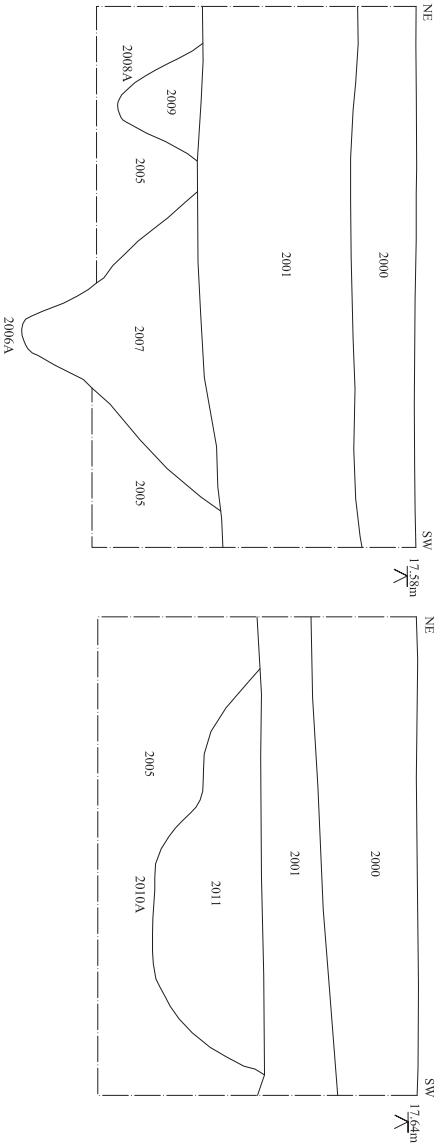
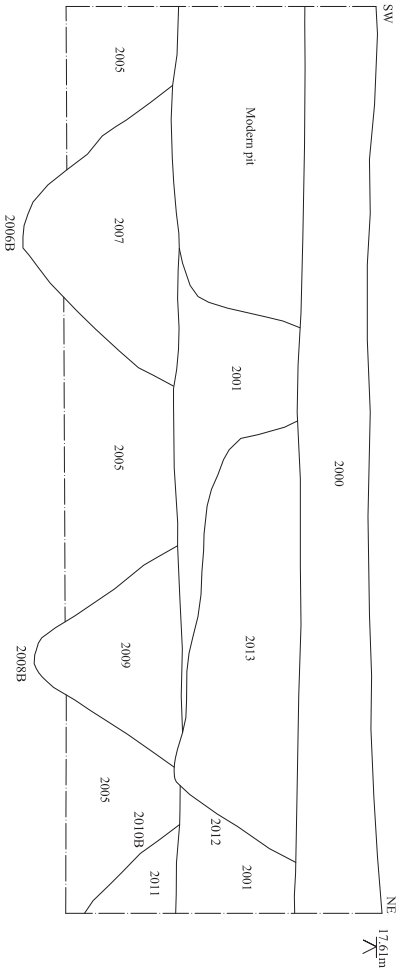
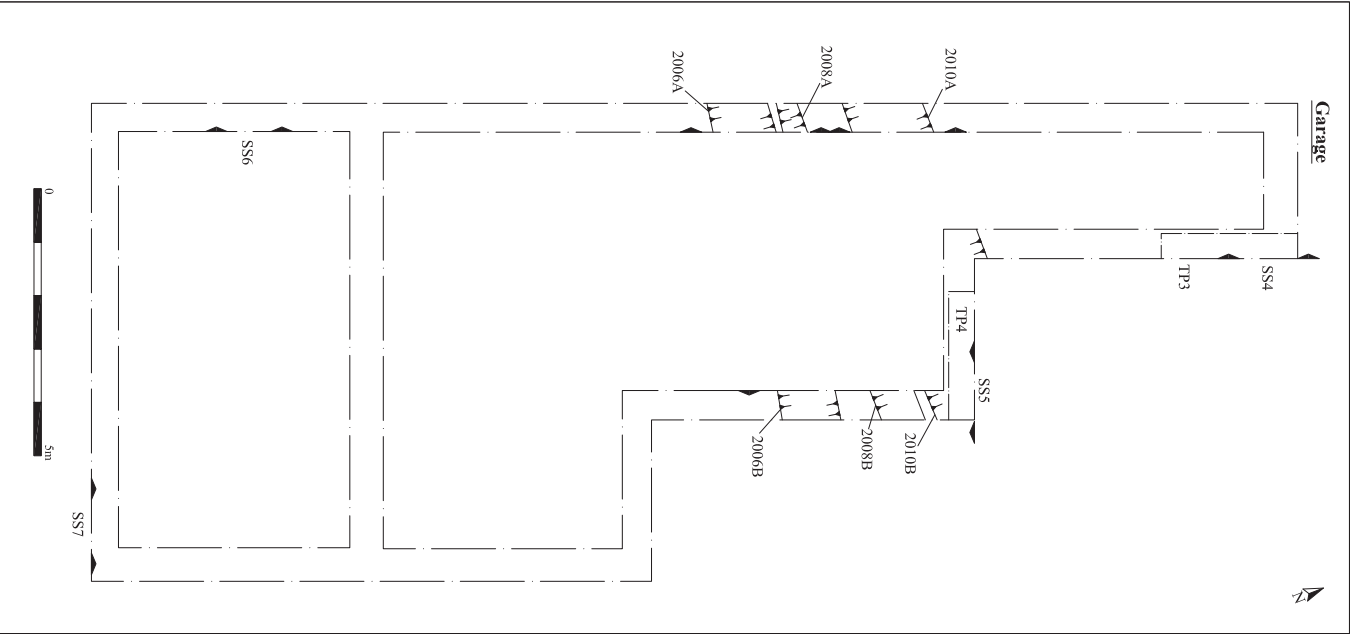
Trench 1



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Fig. 4 Trench plan & sections
 Scale plan at 1:100 & sections at 1:20 at A4



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Fig. 5 Trench plan & sections
 Scale plan at 1:100 & sections at 1:20 at A4



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Fig. 6 Trench plan & sections
Scale plan at 1:100 & sections at 1:20 at A3