

Itchen Abbas

1.0	PARISH	Itchen Abbas, now Itchen Valley (Map 1)
2.0	HUNDRED	Bountisborough
3.0	NGR	453460 132720
4.0	GEOLOGY	Upper Chalk

5.0 SITE CONTEXT (Map 2)

Itchen Abbas is on the north bank of the river Itchen formerly within a sub-rectangular

parish that extends *c.* 3km to the north. However, it is now a part of the Modern parish of Itchen Valley. A road bridge spans the river to connect Itchen Abbas at a point a little to the east of Avington on the south bank. The settlement (*c.* 50km AOD at the church of St John the Baptist) appears as long and narrow from east to west, expansion northwards having been contained by the abandoned track bed of the Winchester to Alresford railway.

6.0 PLAN TYPE & DESCRIPTION (Maps 3, 4 and 5)

Church & manor house

6.1 *Late Romano-British & early medieval* The Sites and Monuments Record gives details of remains of these periods that have been recovered from the grounds of the primary school (paragraph 10.0 nos 60, 61, 50744 and 50931). This area might provide the context for the discovery of *two curious chalk coffins containing skeletons* recorded by Duthy as quoted in VCH (4: 191). The C19 Plough Inn is a little to the south-west of the primary school and it is constructed within a chalk quarry. It possible that archaeological finds were made during the excavation of this feature. The primary school site is in an ideal settlement location on high ground (*c.* 60m AOD) overlooking the Itchen to the south. There is a possible association between this site and that of a Romano-British villa *c.* 1.6 km to the north-north-west. The church, manor house and mill group is within 50m south-west of the school.

6.2 *Later medieval* By the time of the Domesday survey the focal area of Itchen Abbas is likely to have consisted of the manor house, church and mill that together make a group of buildings close to the north bank of the river Itchen. Itchen Abbas Manor is a mid-C18 building but it is probable that it had a predecessor either on the same site or close by. Domesday does not mention a church and it might be significant that the earliest fabric in the present building is C12. However, the manor was held by the abbess and nuns of St Mary before 1066 which makes it probable that there was a pre-Conquest church at Itchen Abbas. A mill is listed in Domesday and it is conceivable that this was on or near to the site of the remnant post-medieval sluice and mill buildings.

6.3 *Site visit conditions:* strong sun (23.4.2002).

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7.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL (Map 5)

7.1 *AsAP*

7.1.1 The church, manor house and mill group. The C12 church fabric and the reference to a mill in the Domesday Book are indicative of the archaeological potential of this area.

Particular attention should be devoted to the 1999 graveyard extension that lies between church and mill.

7.2.1 Earthworks south of Baring Close situated east of the area demarcated by Map 5. Note paragraph 11.0, no. 1.

7.2 *AsHAP*

7.2.1 It is clear from the SMR that the primary school site is part of wider AHAP. A number of Modern houses have been constructed here but open spaces remain, whilst to the west are the grounds of the late medieval Old House and the C19 Old Post Cottage.

8.0 CHURCH & CHURCHYARD

St John (Baptist), 1863-83 (*architect*: William Coles)

- Earliest mention of the church in 1280;
- Original church demolished in 1863;
- Chancel arch and C12 doorway of north transept porch are re-set from the original church;
- New church completed in 1883 in neo-Norman style, cruciform layout of stone with flint walls;
- Chancel and nave with transepts and west bell cote;
- Churchyard extended north-eastwards in 1999.

9.0 BUILDINGS (Map 4)

PRN	Details	Dates	Grade
14742	Barn Close House, Station Hill	1910-11	II
317	The Old Post Office (now the Old Post Cottage)	mid C19	II
41238	The Saddlery, Station Hill	C19	not listed
9562	1 Hillside Cottages, B3047	early C19, 20	II
9563	2 Hillside Cottages, B3047	early C19, 20	II
9564	Ivy Cottage, B3047	early C19	II
9565	Vine Cottage, B3047	mid C18, 20	II
9616	The Old House, Northington Road	C17, 19, 20	II
9617	Church of St John the Baptist	1863-83	II
9628	Church of St John the Baptist: 4 x tomb chests in churchyard	late C18 / 19	II

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9619	Itchen Abbas Manor	mid C18, 19, 20	II
9620	Yew Tree Cottage, Rectory Lane	late C18, 19	II
9621	127 Rectory Lane	early C19	II
9622	128 Rectory Lane	early C19	II
9623	Abbey House, Rectory Lane	1693, C19	II*

10.0 SMR DATA SW 453285 I32440, NE 453990 I33370 Map 4)

SU53SW	No.		
	11	453450 I32720	Medieval parish church of St John the Baptist (see paragraph 8).
	19	453530 I32760	Post-medieval brick built watermill. The head
&			tail race of the leat survive along with the sluice gate.
	49	453500 I32700	Medieval reference to Itchen Abbas (see paragraphs 14.1 and 15.0).
	60	454000 I33000	Medieval. Pewter political medalet of Elizabeth I.
	61A	453600 I33000	Late Roman / Early Anglo-Saxon. Inhumation and cremation cemetery. It was discovered at Itchen Abbas School playing field during the laying of a gas pipeline. Post-Roman phase assigned to mid-late C5. Further excavation was carried out in 1986.
**	61B	453600 I33000	Late Roman. East / West male burial without grave goods thought to be late Christian (However it could just as easily be pagan since orientation and absence of grave goods is not an indicator of belief in C5 -IH 2002).
	61D	453600 I33000	Roman. A gully running across the cemetery site was cut by later Saxon graves.
	62A	453600 I33000	Late Roman / Early Anglo-Saxon cemetery included a number of burial practices and could have been used over a long period of time.
**	62B	453600 I33000	Early Medieval. Inhumation aligned north / southburied with C5 grave goods including a sword, spearhead, knife and belt. Buried in a coffin wearing hobnail boots (a late Roman feature – IH 2002). There was also a purse containing a late Romano-British coin (Surely late Roman coin. In fact, a number of features of this burial suggest a late Roman date-IH 2002).

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50744 453600 133000	Late Roman / Early Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Itchen Abbas Primary School. A watching brief carried out in August 1994 identified no archaeological finds or features.
50931 453600 133000	Late Roman / Early Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Itchen Abbas Primary School. An archaeological evaluation carried out in December 2001 identified no archaeological finds or features.

10.1 Hampshire Romano-British Settlements survey

<i>Hants No.</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>NAR / NMR Nos</i>
50	452826 134375	Itchen Valley (formerly Itchen Abbas)	SU53SW4

10.2 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)

<i>SAM No.</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Site</i>
167	452800 134300	Itchen Abbas Roman villa site.
510	453300 134700	Banjo-type settlement.
588	452890 137440	Round barrows and earthworks in Micheldever and
	452820 138440	Itchen Woods.
	453070 138010	
	452660 137640	
	453420 137420	
	452500 136620	
	453010 136860	
	453250 136260	
	453170 136070	
	453160 135550	
26704	452970 134360	Two round barrows 100m north-east of Itchen Abbas Roman villa.

11.0 ADDITIONAL SITES / FEATURES (Map 4)

1	454250 133150	Substantial earthworks immediately south of Baring Close and opposite the entrance to Franklins Farm in Rectory Lane. This site is on the east side of the settlement. The earthworks are probably field systems but could include house platforms. Nothing structural is shown on this site on the 1: 10,560 map of 1874. NB These features are to the east of the area demarcated by Map 4.
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12.0 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- Tithe Map 21M65/F7/129/2 (1839 / 1839)
- GSGB 300 Alresford
- OS 1: 2500 SW 453285 132440, NE 453990 133370
- OS 1: 25000 Explorer 132: Winchester, New Alresford & East Meon
- OS 1: 10,560 453234 132806 (1874)

13.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Coates R 1989 *The Place-names of Hampshire* Southampton, Ensign
- HTS 1: 149-161 (Itchen Valley)
- VCH 4: 191-2
- Youngs SM (*et al*) 1985 *Medieval Britain and Ireland in 1984 Medieval Archaeology* 29: 180-81

14.0 PRIMARY HISTORIC SOURCES

14.1 Domesday Book

44, 1 Hugh son of Baldric holds *Itchen (Abbas)* from the King. The Abbey of the nun's of St Mary's Winchester held this manor before 1066. Then it answered for 12 hides; now for 3½ hides. Land for 3 ploughs. In lordship 4 ploughs; 9 villagers and 9 smallholders with 3 ploughs. 16 slaves; a mill at 20s; meadow, 24 acres. Value before 1066 £15; later £17; now £11.

The Abbess of St Mary's claims this manor. The whole Hundred and in addition the whole Sherifffdom bears witness that it was in the (lands of the) Abbey before and after 1066 and ought to be by right. King William returned it to this Church.

14.2 Subsidy Rolls

1334		£3.0.4½	
1524	<i>1st survey:</i>	£4.13.8	(25 taxpayers)
	<i>2nd survey:</i>	£4.7.10	(21 taxpayers)

14.3 Manors

Itchen Abbas only.

14.4 Hearth Tax 1665

39 hearths chargeable (16 houses)
9 hearths not chargeable (7 houses). Total: 23 houses.

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15.0 PLACE NAME

15.1 Itchen Abbas 1086 *Icene*; 1167 *Ichene Monialum*; 1539 *Ichyn alias Abbesse Ichyn*. The village takes its name from the river (*q.v.*). Historically it is *Abbess Itchen*; the manor was held by the superior of St Mary's Abbey, Winchester, in 1086 *cf.* Leckford Abbas (Coates, 1989: 100).

16.0 PHOTOGRAPHS

- Sluice and mill race as itemised in paragraph 10.0, no. 19;
- Earthworks as detailed in paragraph 11.0, no. 1.

17.0 OTHER PROJECT ELEMENTS

17.1 Pre-Conquest Charters

None known.

17.2 Other parish settlements include:

<i>Name</i>	<i>MSP No.</i>	<i>NGR / map ref.</i>	<i>First recorded</i>
None recorded.			

17.3 Enclosures

Parliamentary:

<i>NEP No.</i>	<i>Act</i>	<i>Order</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Details</i>
14079	52 Geo. III cap. cxxxiii, 1812		1812	185.12 acres (actual); 180 acres (Act). Itchen Stoke Common.

Formal Agreements:

<i>NEP No.</i>	<i>Agreement</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Details</i>
No formal enclosure known.			

17.4 Commons & Greens (residual)

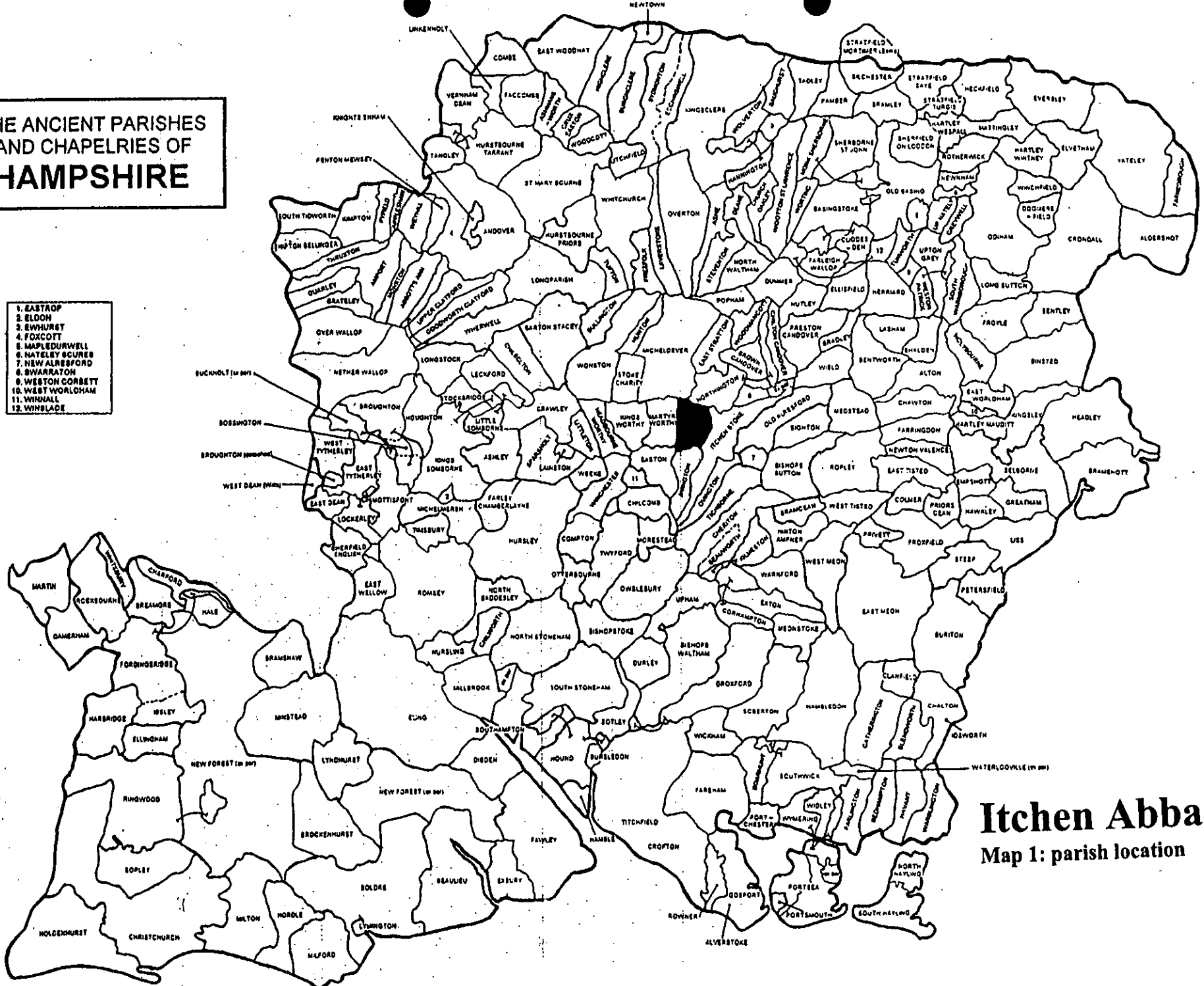
None known.

18.0 ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1 Map 1: Parish location (not to scale)
- 2 Map 2: General (settlement) location at 1: 25000
- 3 Map 3: Ordnance Survey First Edition County Series (*c.* 1870s) not to scale
- 4 Map 4: Development & archaeological features at 1: 2500 reduced to 71%
- 5 Map 5: Areas of archaeological potential at 1: 2500 reduced to 71%.

**THE ANCIENT PARISHES
AND CHAPELRIES OF
HAMPSHIRE**

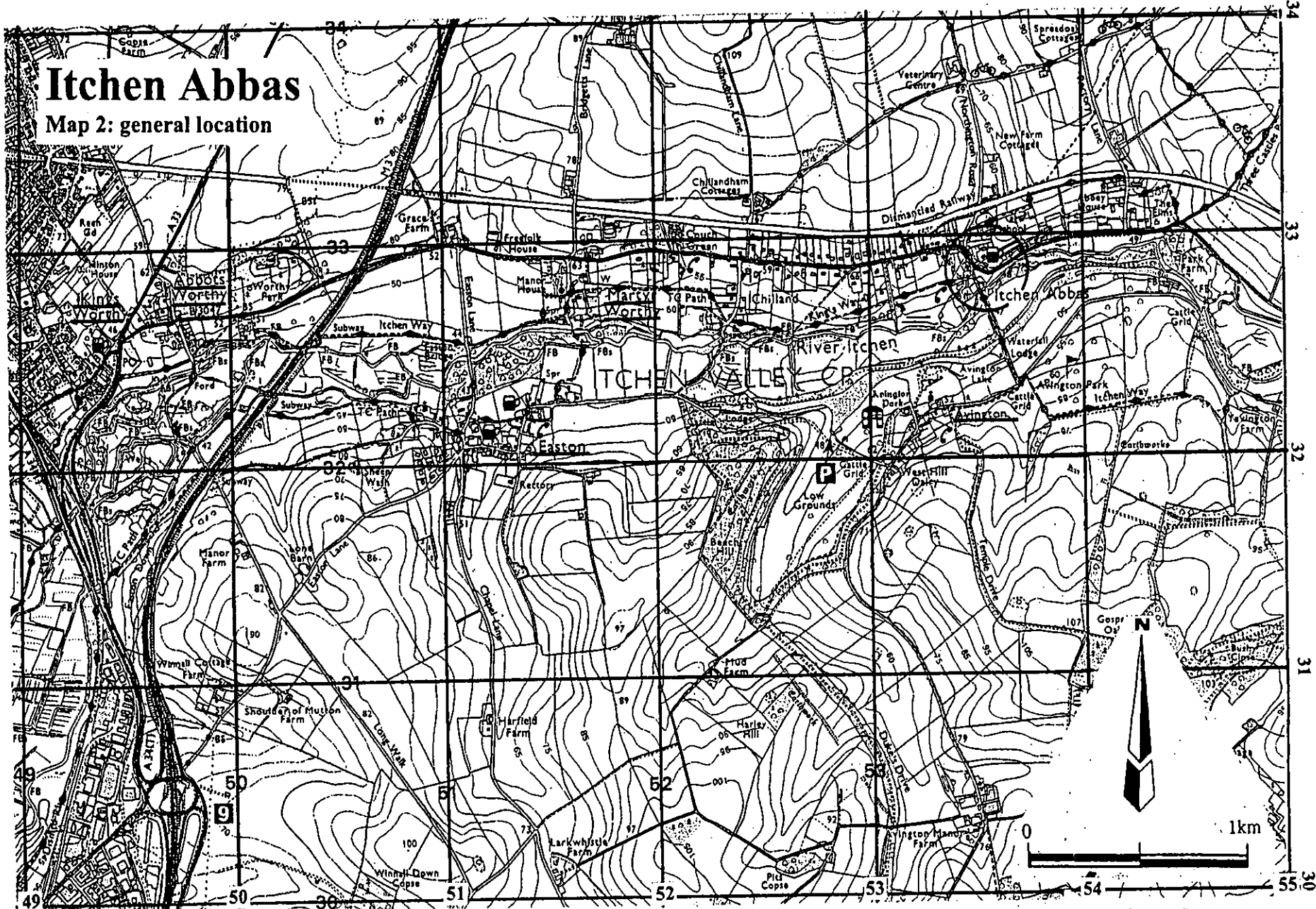
- 1. EASTROP
- 2. ELDON
- 3. EWHURST
- 4. FOXCOTT
- 5. MAPLEDURWELL
- 6. NATELEY SCURES
- 7. NEW ALRESFORD
- 8. SHARATON
- 9. WESTON CORBETT
- 10. WEST WOOLHAM
- 11. WINHALL
- 12. WINDLADE



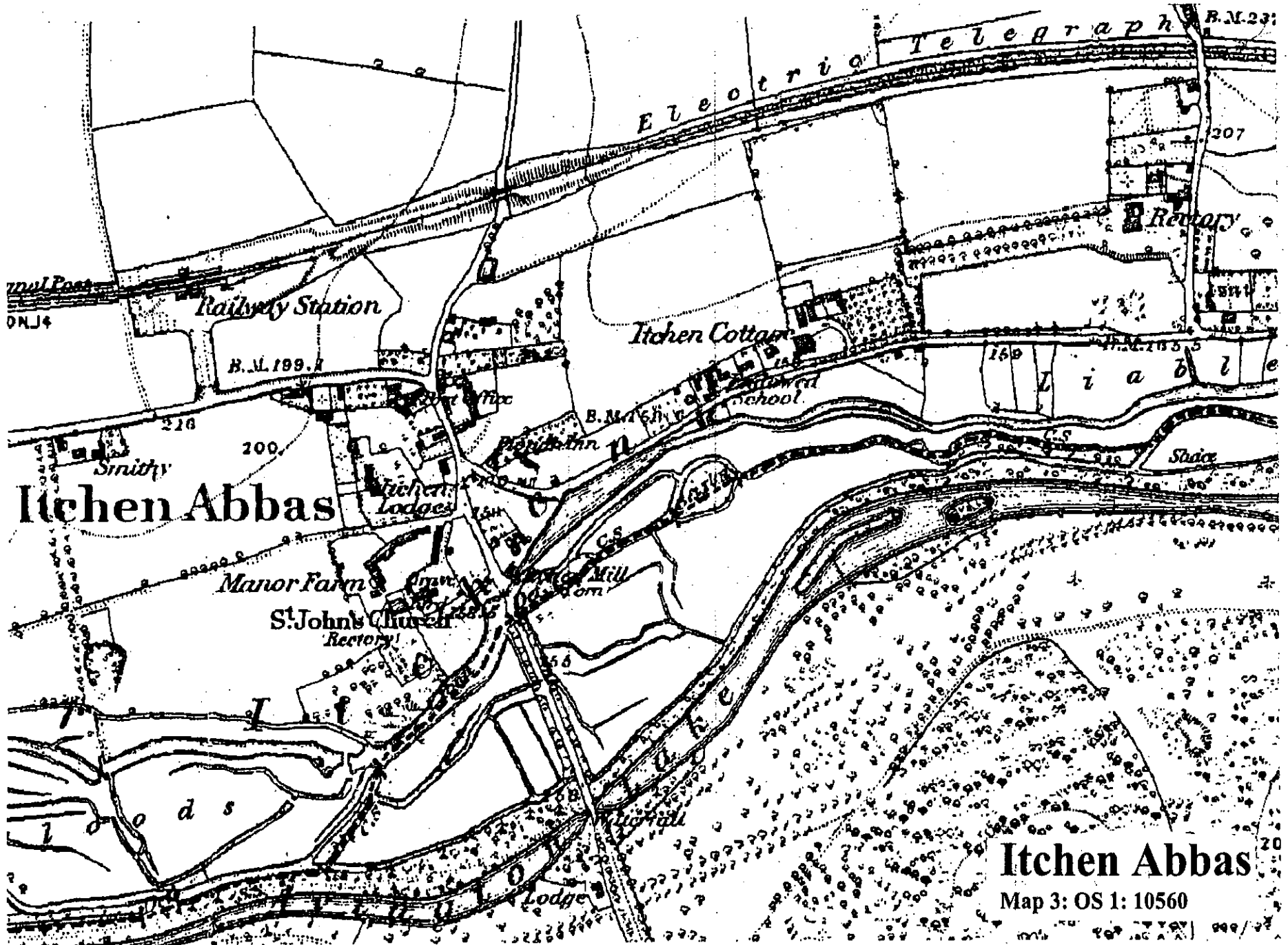
Ichen Abbas
Map 1: parish location

Itchen Abbas

Map 2: general location



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Map 3: OS 1: 10560

133300

133200

133100

133000

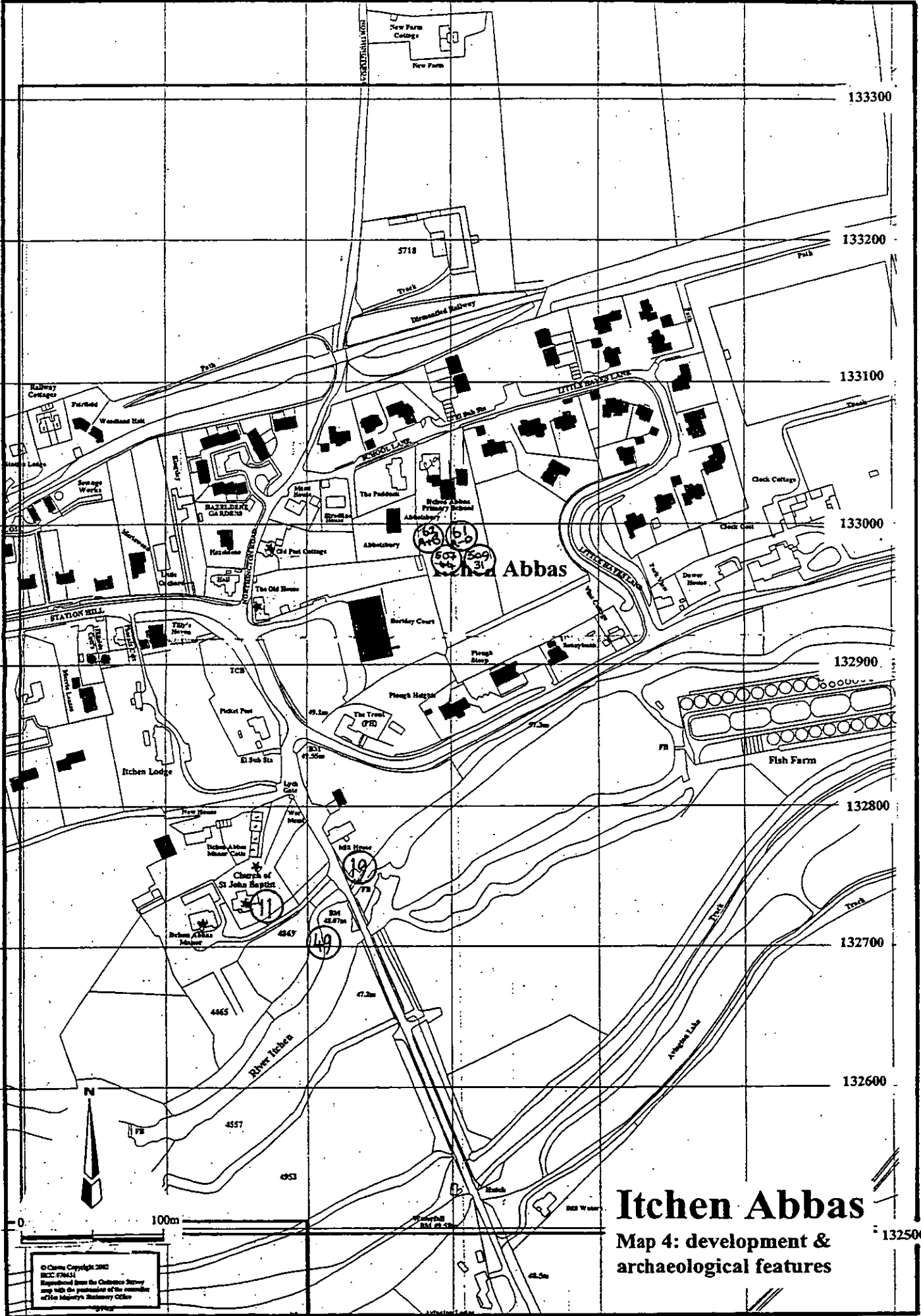
132900

132800

132700

132600

132500



Ichen Abbas

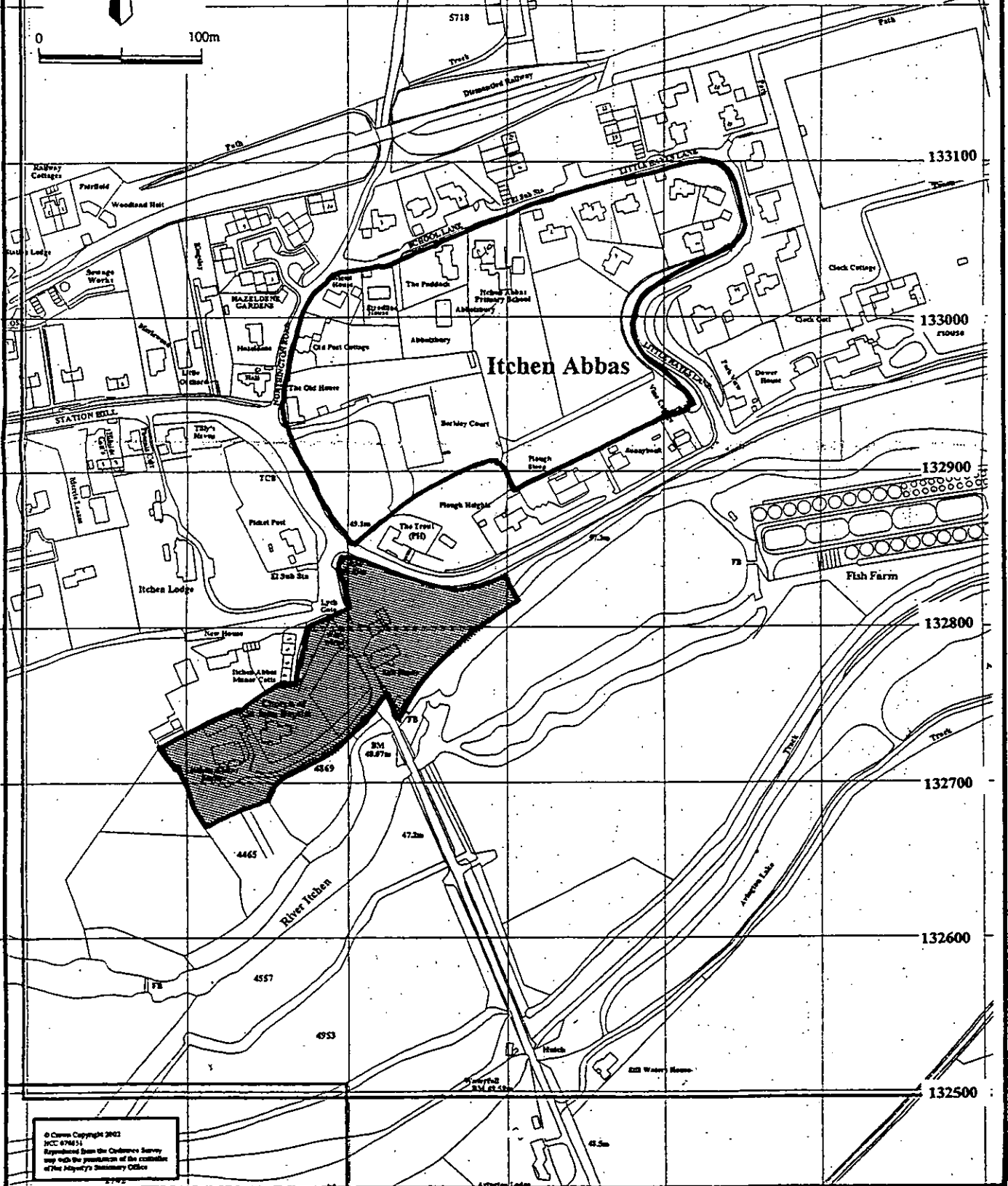
Map 4: development & archaeological features

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453300 453400 453500 453600 453700 453800 453900

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Map 5: areas of archaeological potential



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453300 453400 453500 453600 453700 453800 453900