

Priors Dean

1.0	PARISH	Colemore and Priors Dean
2.0	HUNDRED	Barton Stacey
3.0	NGR	472800 129600
4.0	GEOLOGY	Priors Dean: Lower Chalk

5.0 SITE CONTEXT (Map 2)

As the name suggests, Priors Dean is in a valley. It has steeply sloping sides to the north-east, south-east and south-west. The parish church is at 163m AOD, west of a road that divides it from the manor house opposite. This road approaches from the north-east and continues to climb out of the valley *en route* to Hawkley. Priors Dean was a separate parish until 1932 when it was amalgamated with the adjacent parish of Colemore.

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

Church & manor house

6.1 Prior's Dean has changed hardly at all since the Tithe Map survey of *c.* 1843. The C11 church and C17 Manor House are barely 100m apart at a junction of two lanes. The Manor House stands within its own walled yard of similar date. It is accompanied by stables and other outbuildings. A single C16 fireplace has been re-used from an earlier version of the house.

6.1.1 Church Farm, 400m north-west of the Manor House, is a C18 complex.

6.2 Deserted settlement: a note of caution

The SMR records that Priors Dean is a *shrunk Medieval village* and states that there is documentary evidence to support the case for contraction (Paragraph 10.0, No. SU 72 NW 4A). The case for the Medieval village has been supported by appropriate finds from the same area (SMR records SU 72 NW 4B, 4C, 4D). The site has not been Scheduled and limited surface inspection revealed no evidence of settlement extending beyond the church and manor house (Paragraph 6.1). Given the potential importance of the site, a re-examination of the evidence was deemed necessary.

6.2.1 *The origin of the Priors Dean village theory* Priors Dean is included in a glossary of Deserted Medieval Settlement sites published in Beresford & Hurst (1971: 188). In this volume the term *village* is loosely applied and the authors admit that the information upon which the glossary is based has been derived from a variety of sources. No evidence is cited for the assertion of desertion or shrinkage at Priors Dean, it is simply stated as a fact. The Beresford & Hurst Glossary has been widely used by subsequent authors and seven other East Hampshire settlements have found their way into the SMR on the strength of it. Of these, Hartley Mauditt and Colemore have reasonable claims, whilst Bentley, Blendworth, Empshott, Idsworth and West Tisted range from the unlikely to the absurd.

6.2.2 *The case develops* Having been once suggested, it was not long before a detailed case was made for the Priors Dean *village*. In 1976 a paper was published by Oliver and

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Collins that examined the historical evidence. They assert that the first 'numerical' assessment of Priors Dean can be found in Domesday Book listed under the lands of

Humfrith (Humphrey) the Chamberlain, and the correct entry for Colemore is then quoted in full. The authors then state that the entry for Priors Dean follows straight afterwards and quote:

Terra Regis. In the same Hundred (of Barton Stacey) is Dean which is joined to this manor and here is one ploughland in demesne and two villeins and fourteen borderers with one ploughland and a half. Here are two servants and two mills worth 20s, and four acres of meadow. Wood for three hogs.

From this, Oliver and Collins conclude that both Colemore and Priors Dean were holdings of Humphrey. They further suggest that the 18 individuals listed under Priors Dean = 18 households at 5 person per household = c. 90 people living on the estate / manor in 1086. Unfortunately this will not do. The first two words of the supposed Priors Dean entry betray the error: *Terra Regis*. This is land held directly by the King and not by one of his vassals. The entry for Dean quoted above is for East Dean in Broughton Hundred and not Priors Dean in Barton Stacey. Priors Dean is not specifically mentioned in Domesday.

6.2.3 Other Medieval tax returns are quoted by Oliver and Collins to build up a model of settlement size. These have to be used with great care because the data from each tax is not directly comparable with that derived from others. For example, the total number of taxpayers given for a Lay Subsidy return would not necessarily be equal to the number of dwellings. As a matter of interest, the Census Returns for 1801 record 17 houses for 21 families in Priors Dean. The later Hearth Tax does give a figure for dwellings but it says nothing as to how these were distributed throughout the estate or manor. In short, tax returns can be useful when there is physical (*i.e.* archaeological) evidence of shrinkage or desertion, but they cannot stand alone as evidence of size.

6.2.4 Air photograph surveys The SMR (SU 72 NW 4B, 4C, 4D) cites air photographs as evidence for a shrunken village around the church and manor. Those photographs held by Hampshire County Council were consulted but found to be inconclusive. In an attempt to resolve the issue, 18 *photocopies* of air photographs held by the NMR / English Heritage were examined. The fields shown on Map 5 have been numbered for ease of reference.

<i>NMR Photograph Frame No. & type</i>	<i>Features shown</i>	<i>Map 5 Field No.</i>
mal/78004 Fr. 137	Old field boundaries; SE / NW track?	1 3
OS/68002 Fr. 96	NE / SW field ploughing	4
SU 7329/3	Field systems at 473000 113000 approx.	
SU 7329/6	Field systems & barrow at 473000 113000 approx.	
SU 7329/7	ditto.	
SU 7329/8	ditto.	

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SU 7329/9

ditto.

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SU 7329/10	ditto. Old field boundaries	4
SU 7329/11	ditto. Old field boundaries	4
58/2860 Fr. 0446 F43	Possible rectilinear feature at NW end of field Probable a boundary	4
58/2862 Fr 0016 F42	Plough marks Circular feature to SW of field	4 1
1		
58/2862 Fr 0015 F42	Post-Medieval field boundaries (1959)	3
58/2862 Fr 0016 F42	Ditto	3
58/2862 Fr 0017 F42	No features	
58/2862 Fr 0018 F42	ditto	
CPE/UK1992 Fr 4018	Circular features at 472800 112930	
CPE/UK/1750 Fr 4121	Possible features at south end of field	
1		
CPE/UK/1750 Fr 4122	Old boundaries & field divisions at SE end of field (see 58/2862 F0015 & 16)	1

The air photographs examined do not provide convincing evidence of a shrunken settlement at Priors Dean. Old field boundaries (probably post-Medieval) and plough lines are visible almost everywhere. Circular features, mostly ploughed-out barrows, are numerous in the fields around the church and manor house.

6.2.5 Material evidence Medieval glass, tile and pottery have been recovered from Field 3 but these cannot be used as evidence to support the case for a shrunken settlement. These materials would have found their way into the fields as midden material. Glass can be regarded as high status material and it probably came from the manor house. Post-Medieval and prehistoric finds have come from the same field. In the fields east of the manor house (No. 5 and immediately north) artefact recovery has been limited to prehistoric, post-Medieval and Modern pottery sherds.

6.2.6 Discussion The evidence for shrunken settlement at Priors Dean is circumstantial. A number of *leah* place-names in the immediate locality mark it out as one of woods and clearings (Goleigh, Hawkley, Lye). The church, without dedication, was a chapel annexed to Colemore (1165), and in this role it is likely to have served the manor house and a small community in outlying cottages and farms. It is worth stressing that the photographs supplied by NMR were photocopies only and there is an urgent need for detailed study of good quality prints.

6.3 Site visit condition: sunny periods (15.4.99)

7.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL (Map 5)

7.1 AsAP

In spite of all the reservations about the size of the settlement, it is wise to be cautious. Claims that settlement features are, or have been visible in the fields north-west of the church, demand that these areas should be within an AAP. A field south east of the church has been included because air photographs suggest the presence of circular

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features, possibly ploughed-out round barrows. The field immediately south-east of Field 1 is also worthy of attention.

7.2 *AsHAP*

The church, manor house and their immediate environs comprise an AHAP.

8.0 CHURCH & CHURCHYARD

No dedication

- chapelry dependent upon Colemore
- C11-C12 north door, north transept window and font
- C13 chancel
- C19 bell-turret with spire
- 1856 restored
- 1874 chancel rebuilt
- Monuments: Elizabeth Tichborne † 1623; Bridget Stoughton † 1631; Sir John Compton † 1653; Compton Tichborne † 1657

9.0 BUILDINGS (Map 4)

PRN	Details	Dates	Grade
*	Church Farmhouse	C18	II
*	Parish Church (see 8.0)	C11, 13, 1856	II*
*	Manor Farmhouse & boundary wall NB has a C16 fireplace	C17, 18, 19, 20	II
*	Goleigh Manor	C15	II
13146	Field Farmhouse	C18	II

10.0 SMR DATA SW 472500 129500, NE 473200 130000 (Map 4)

SU 72 NW	No.		
	2	472920 129710	Neolithic. Peterborough ware; 1 x sherd.
	3	472780 129600	Medieval. Parish Church (see 8.0).
	4A	472700 129800	Medieval. Shrunken medieval settlement.
	4B	472700 129800	Medieval. Pottery associated with 4A.
	4C	472700 129800	Medieval. Tile and worked flint associated with 4A.
	4D	472700 129800	Medieval. Glass associated with 4A.
	22	473500 129900	Bronze Age. Ploughed-out bowl barrow. Diameter = 25m, height = 0.5m. HCC AP ref.: run 23e090 & 7729/1/117-8.
	68A	472760 129660	Prehistoric. Flint debitage scatter.
	68B	472760 129660	Post-Medieval. Pottery finds; 3 x sherds.
	76A	473100 129720	Prehistoric. Flint finds; 4 x pieces.
	76B	473100 129720	Post-Medieval & Modern. Pottery finds; 3 x sherds.
	78	473210 129610	Romano-British. Pottery finds; 2 x sherds.
	79	473210 129610	Post-Medieval & Modern. Pottery finds; 37 sherds.

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	80	473210 129610	Prehistoric. Flint debitage; 14 x pieces.
	81	473220 129890	Roman. Single pottery sherd.
	82	473220 129890	Post-Medieval & Modern. Pottery finds; 13 x sherds.
	83	473220 129890	Prehistoric. Flint fragments; 5 x pieces.
	87	473460 129810	Roman. Pottery finds; 8 x sherds.
	88	473460 129810	Medieval. Pottery finds; 50 x pieces.
	89	473460 129810	Prehistoric. Flint fragments; 12 x pieces.
	101	473020 129670	C20. No finds during fieldwalking in this area.
	106	473400 129800	Undated. Earthwork. Lynchets visible on photographs.
SU 73 SW	1A	473250 130000	Bronze Age. Bowl Barrow. 36m diameter, 1.5m high. Slightly damaged by ploughing.
	1B	473250 130000	Bronze Age. Bucket urn associated with barrow group. Details unknown.
	3	473250 130050	Bronze Age. Bowl. barrow. Some plough damage. 26m diameter, 0.5m high.
	67	472500 130150	Post-Medieval & Modern. Pottery finds; 15 x sherds.
	68A	472500 130150	Prehistoric. Flint debitage; 5 x pieces.
	68B	472500 130150	Prehistoric. Burnt flint finds; 4 x pieces.
	69A	472700 130200	Post-Medieval & Modern. Pottery finds; 38 pieces.

10.2 Hampshire Romano-British Settlements survey

<i>Hants No.</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Parish</i>	<i>NAR / NMR Nos</i>
None listed.			

10.3 Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs)

<i>SAM No.</i>	<i>NGR</i>	<i>Site</i>
None.		

11.0 ADDITIONAL SITES / FEATURES (Map 4)

None, but see Paragraph 6.2.4.

12.0 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

- Tithe Map 21M65/F7/192/2 (* / 1843)
- GSGB 300 Alresford
- OS 1: 2500 SW 472500 129500, NE 473200 130000
- OS 1: 25000 Pathfinder 1265 (SU 62/72), Petersfield & the Meon Valley.

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13.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Beresford M & Hurst JG 1971 *Deserted Medieval Villages* Guildford & London, Lutterworth Press
- HTS 6: 97-102
- Hervey T 1896 *A Short History of Colmer and Priors Dean* (abridged version) Colemore, private publication
- Oliver J & Collins FB 1976 Colemore & Priors Dean *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society* **32**: 83-92
- VCH 3: 436-7

14.0 PRIMARY HISTORIC SOURCES

14.1 Domesday Book

Priors Dean is not mentioned in Domesday (see Paragraph 6.2.2)

14.2 Subsidy Rolls

1334		£2.0.6	
1524	<i>1st survey:</i>	none	
	<i>2nd survey</i>	£3.9.6	(19 taxpayers)

NB Taxed with Colemore.

14.3 Manorial Documents

Manors: Goleigh (held by Southwick Priory C14); Frenchs (Fiancheys C13); Goleigh.

NB The manor of Dean was included with Colemore in a charter of King John dated 1203. This confirmed the holdings of Southwick Priory of which Colemore was one. Thereafter the two manors followed the same descent.

14.4 Hearth Tax 1665

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47 hearths chargeable (11 houses)

14 hearths not chargeable (10 houses). Total: 21 houses.

15.0 PLACE NAME

Reign of Henry II (1154-89) *Dena*; 1198 *Dene*. OE *denu* 'valley' which suits the site of the manor house. The manor was held by Southwick Priory, and the modern name has been recorded since 1367 (Coates, 1989: 135).

16.0 PHOTOGRAPHS

See Paragraph 6.2.4 for NMR / English Heritage air photograph details.

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17.0 OTHER PROJECT ELEMENTS

17.1 Pre-Conquest Charters

None.

17.2 Other parish settlements include:

<i>Name</i>	<i>MSP No.</i>	<i>Map ref.</i>	<i>First recorded</i>
Bakers Farm	652		1476
Becksteddle Farm	653	469500 130200	1219
Doscombe	655		1219
Field Farm	656	471100 129800	1219
Fordes Farm	657		1219
Goleigh Farm	658	473400 131200	1219
Rumpleberry Wood	66?		1219
Slade Farm	661	471700 130300	1219

NB It is not certain whether some of these places belong in Colemore or Priors Dean. For the purpose of this survey they are listed under both.

17.3 Enclosures

Parliamentary:

<i>NEP no.</i>	<i>Act</i>	<i>Order</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Details</i>
None.				

Formal Agreements:

<i>NRP no.</i>	<i>Agreement</i>	<i>Award</i>	<i>Details</i>
None.			

17.4 Commons & Greens (residual)

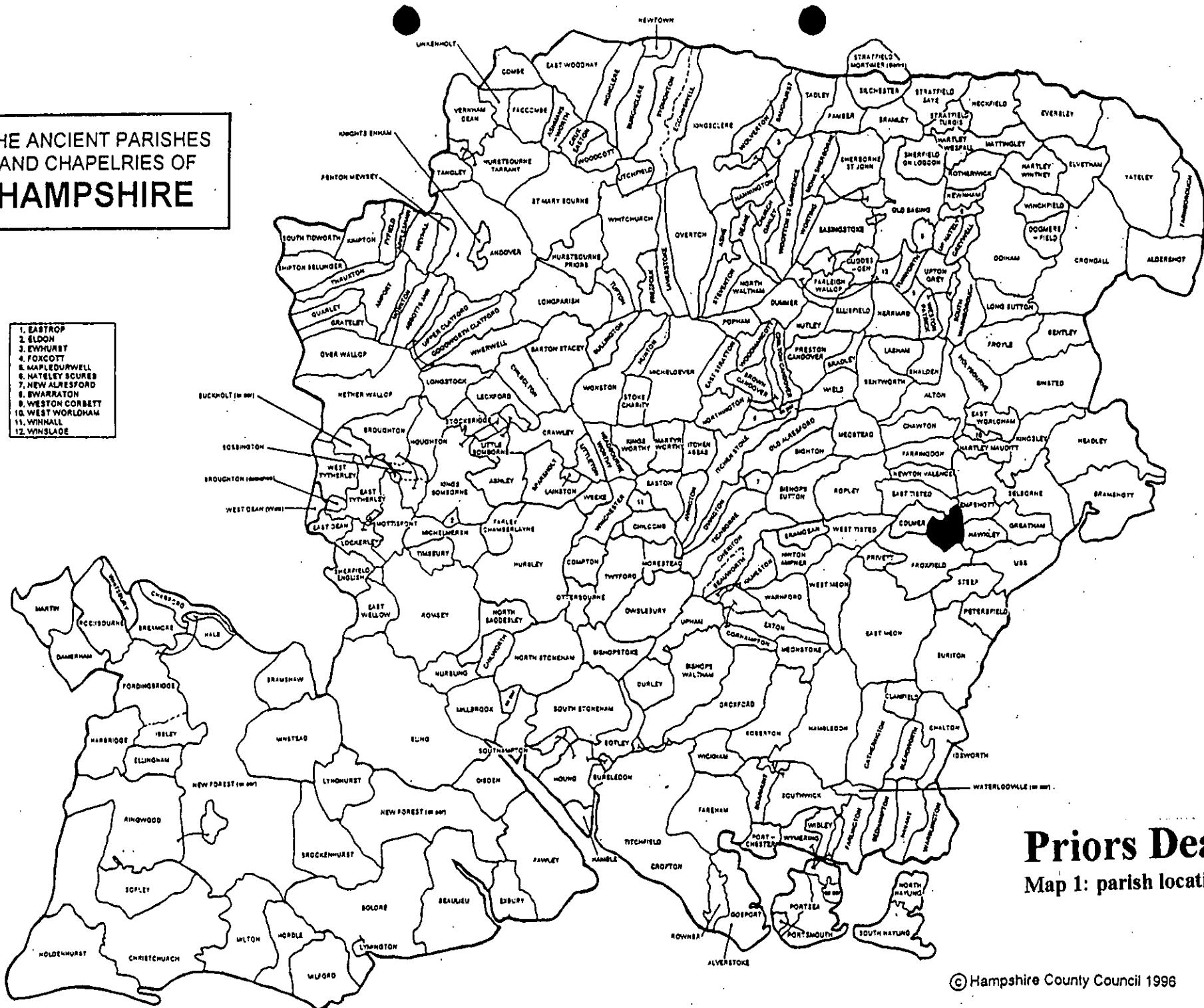
None.

18.0 ILLUSTRATIONS

- 1 Map 1: Parish location (not to scale)
- 2 Map 2: Settlement location at 1: 25000
- 3 Map 3: c. 1843 Tithe Map transcribed at 1: 2500 reduced to 71%
- 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**

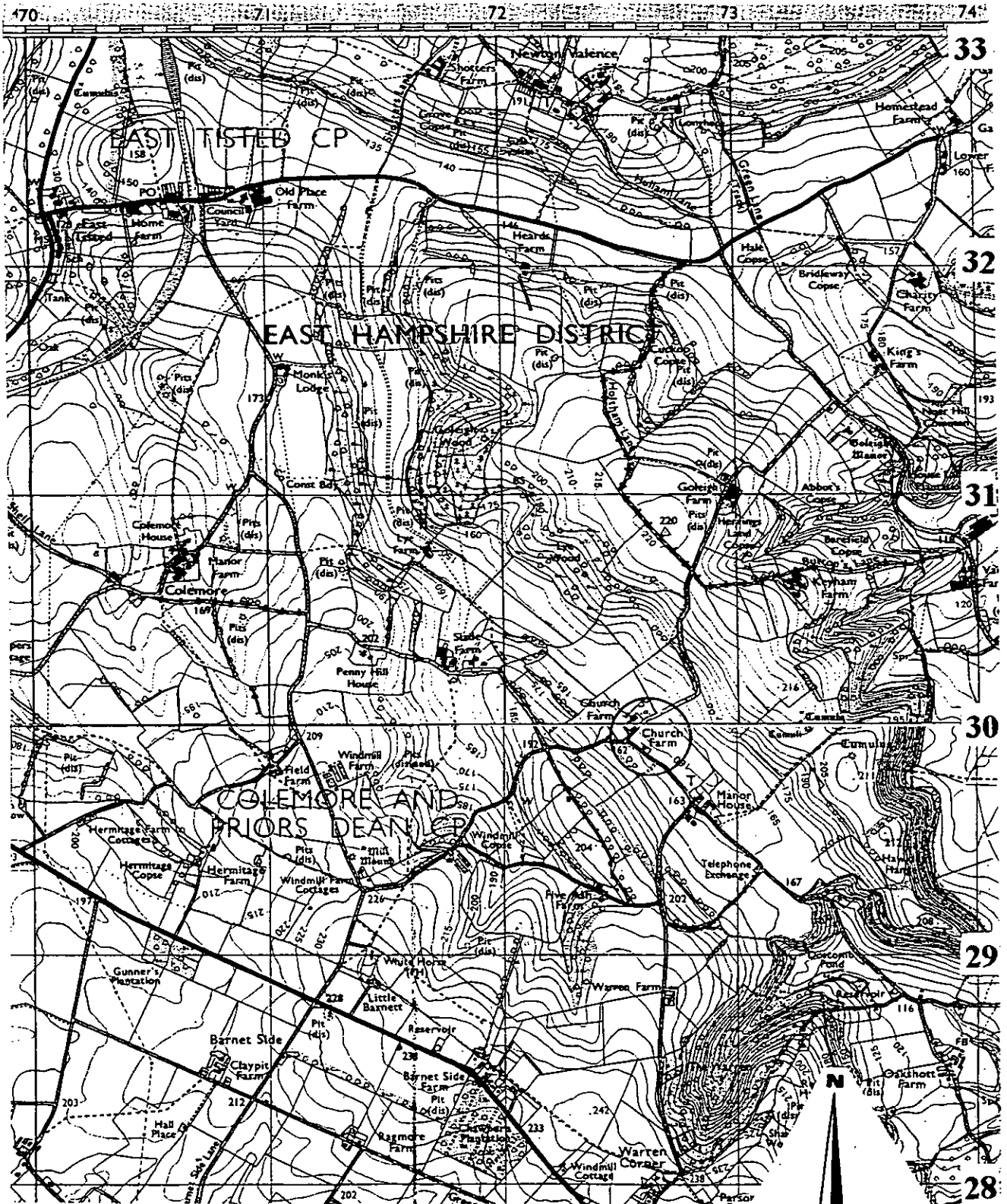
1. EASTROP
2. ELDON
3. EWHURST
4. FOXCOTT
5. MAPLEDURWELL
6. NATELEY SCURVES
7. NEW ALRESFORD
8. BYWARRATON
9. WESTON CORNBETT
10. WEST WORLHAM
11. WINNALL
12. WINSLADE



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Map 1: parish location

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Map 2: general location

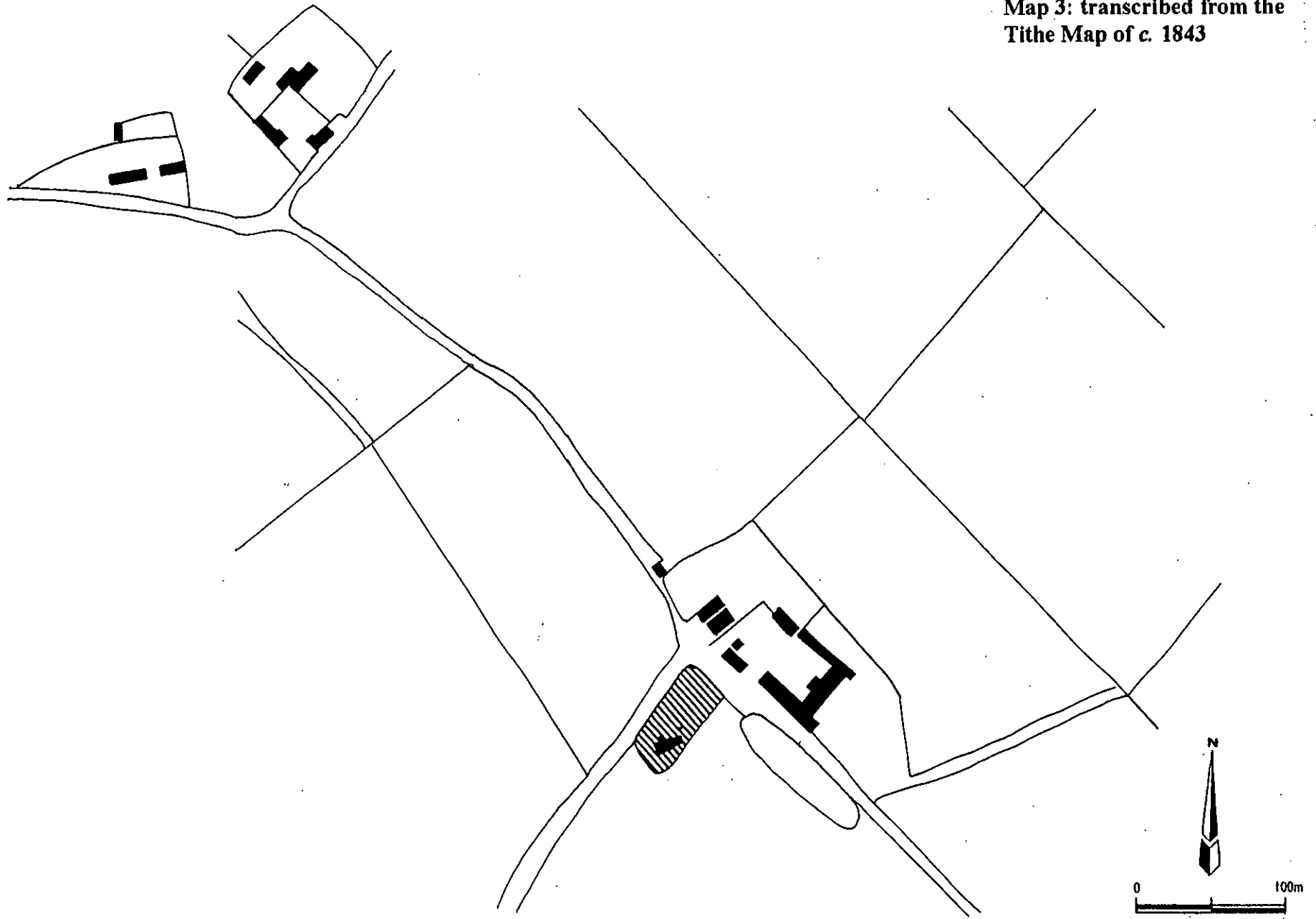


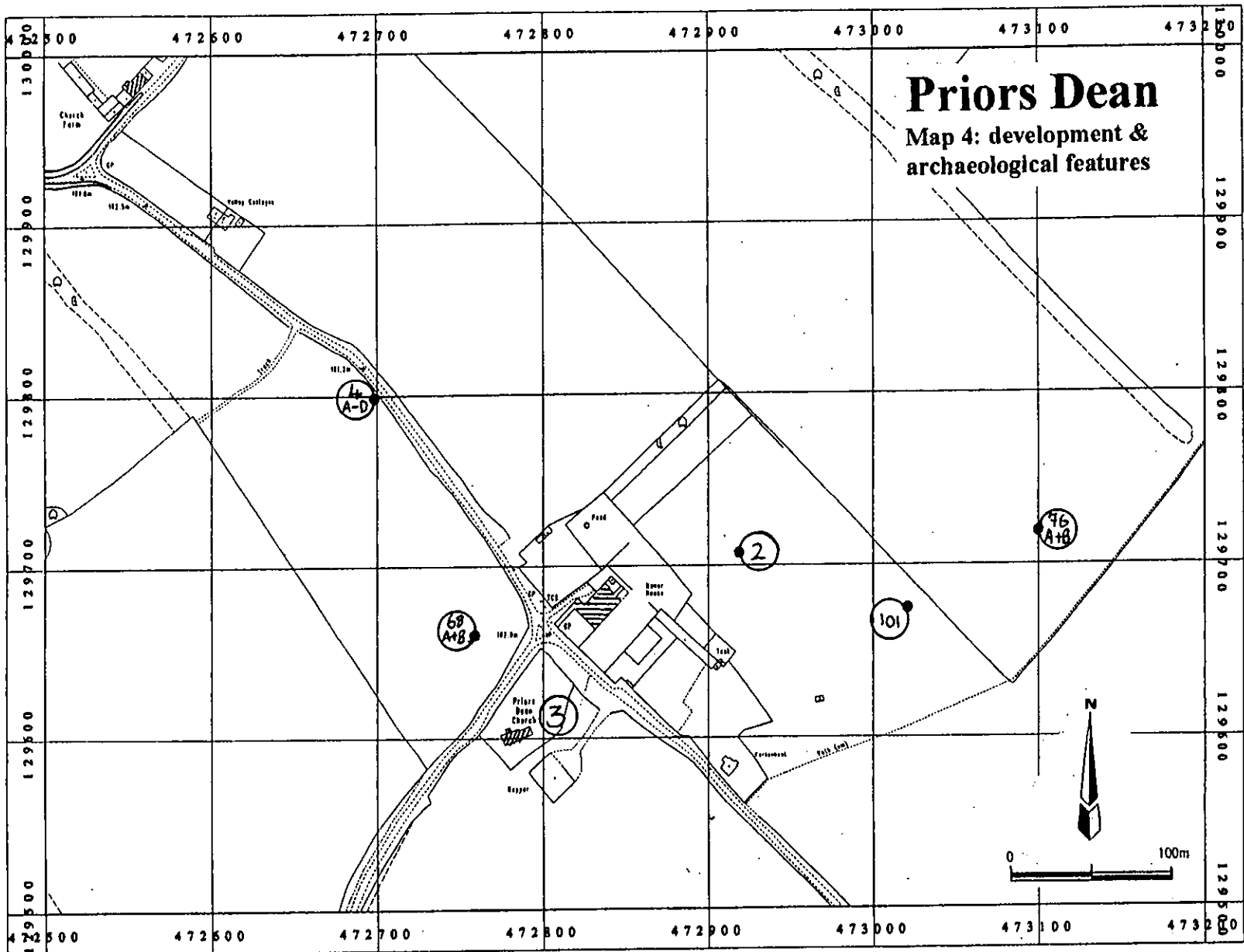
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Map 3: transcribed from the
Tithe Map of c. 1843

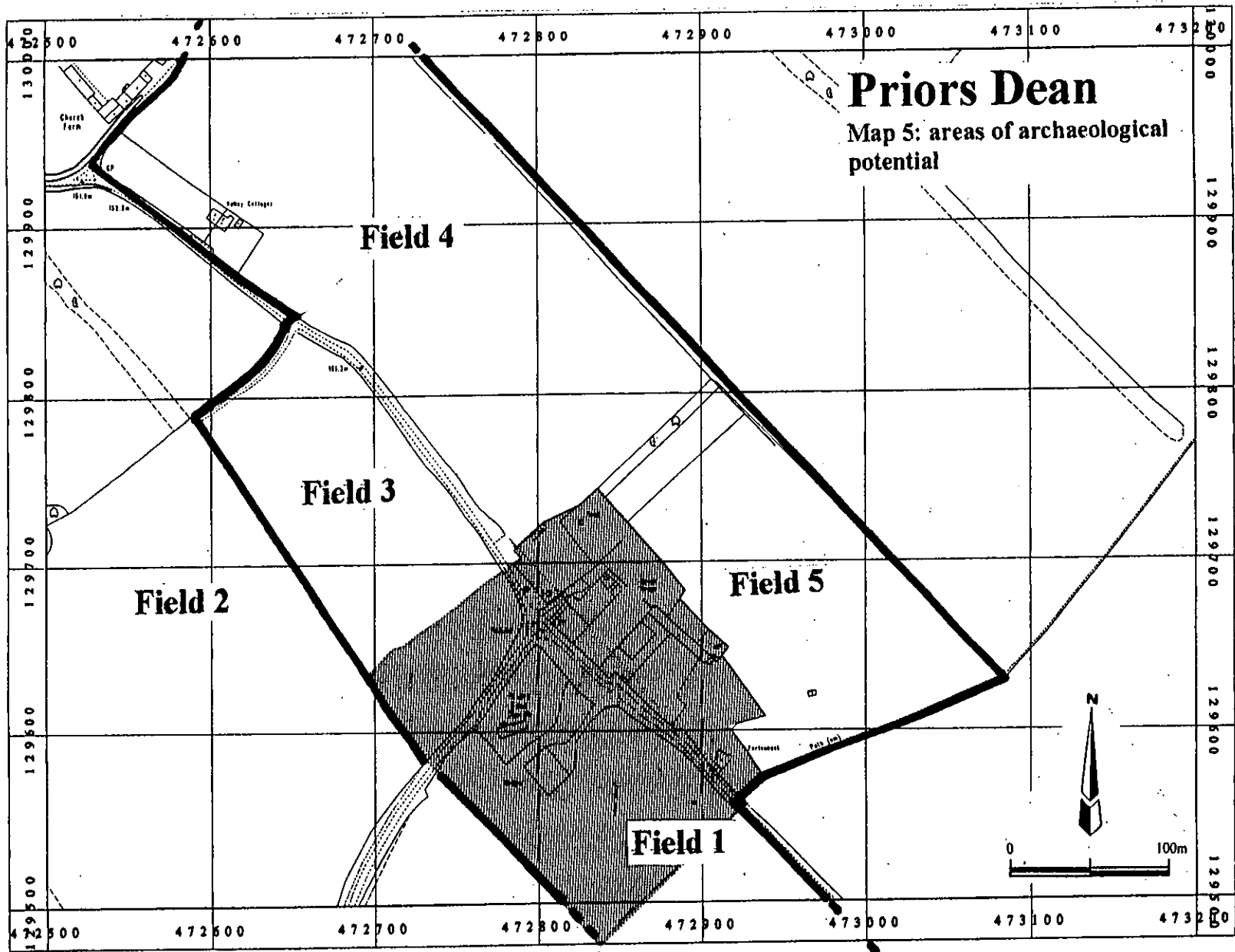




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Map 4: development & archaeological features

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