

General Certificate of Education
June 2005
Advanced Level Examination



GEOGRAPHY (SPECIFICATION B)
Unit 5 The Synoptic Unit
Advance Information Booklet

GGB5/PM

Date of Issue: 1 May 2005

In addition to this booklet you will require:

- The Ordnance Survey map extract (enclosed).

Instructions

- This Advance Information Booklet will be issued on 1 May 2005 in advance of the examination for Unit 5. You should make yourself familiar with the information in the booklet.
- This material must be kept **unmarked** for use in the forthcoming examination.
- You will also be issued with an OS map extract.
- The OS map extract must be kept **unmarked** for use in the forthcoming examination.
- In order to demonstrate your synoptic ability and your decision-making skills, you should, in each of your answers, wherever possible, use a range of information, ideas and examples other modules you have studied to show your understanding of the connections between different aspects of your course and the topic in question.

STUDY ALL THE INFORMATION IN THIS BOOKLET

This exercise is based on Section 13.2 of the Specification.
The information in this booklet comprises the following:

- Item 1** Background to Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club
- Item 2** Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club – Members' Questionnaire
- Item 3** Extracts from student coursework
- Item 4** The geography of the Ouse Burn valley
- Item 5** Census statistics for Dene Ward, Newcastle upon Tyne
- Item 6** Preliminary Ideas for Development at Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club

**N.B. There is a fitness and leisure club at Castle Farm in Newcastle.
There are no plans for development, as far as the writer of this booklet is aware. The material in Items 2, 3 and 6 has been created specifically for this examination.**

Item 1 **Background to Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club**

Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club (Grid Reference 257675) was originally built in 1989 as a private tennis club. It was built on land originally owned by Newcastle City Council. Part of the land had been hard-surfaced tennis courts, but poor maintenance had made these unusable. The rest of the land had been a grassed area (known locally as the ‘dog field’ because of the number of people who used it to walk their dogs).

There was considerable local opposition to the building of the club at the time because it was felt that this was an important area of green land, accessible to the public, within the city. However, this opposition was countered by people who stated that:

- the council was short of money for essential services, and the sale would help funding, at a time when rate capping had limited the council’s ability to raise income;
- the land in question was only a small part of the much larger Jesmond Dene, an area for public recreation;
- the area was one of the most poorly maintained parts of Jesmond Dene;
- the developers agreed to build an old people’s home on land adjacent to the club;
- the area was to be fully landscaped, with planting round the club to provide screening from the park and from local housing;
- the land was to be used for sporting facilities, and though private, these would add to the total of amenities in the area.

There have also been several changes of ownership. Now the club is owned by a major national company, with interests in leisure clubs, brewing and restaurants. Since the first construction there have been two major extensions to the club’s premises. Membership is thriving, especially since the extension of the swimming pool. However, the growth in membership is putting considerable strain on some of the facilities.

Various suggestions have been made concerning possible future development. It is known that there is opposition to any further building work. People on neighbouring housing estates, people who travel through this area to work and users of Jesmond Dene are all opposed to some degree. Since the club was first built there has been a substantial amount of housing on greenfield sites in Dene Ward. There is an increased population with a reduced area of open space in the northeast of Newcastle. However, the council is known to be willing to consider selling further small parcels of land for development in the area, so long as it is acceptable to local residents.

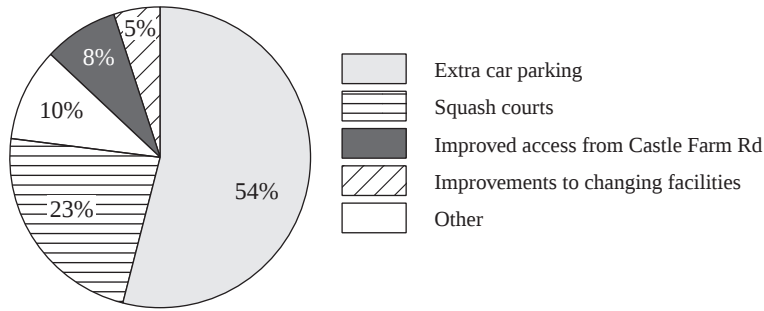
It is equally apparent that there is growing pressure on parking spaces – both on-road and off-road – in the area. A particular problem is caused within a kilometre or so of the club by the presence of the Freeman Hospital. Since the Hospital Trust introduced a charge for parking in the Freeman’s car park, there has been a huge increase in on-street car parking during the day, largely due to hospital staff’s cars. It is known that at least 10% of the club car park spaces are used, during the whole of every weekday, by club members who work at the hospital.

There are very few brownfield sites available to builders in the area. The only possibility is the area of land to the north of the club where there is a group of former school buildings. These housed two schools, until a reorganisation of education in Newcastle made the buildings redundant.

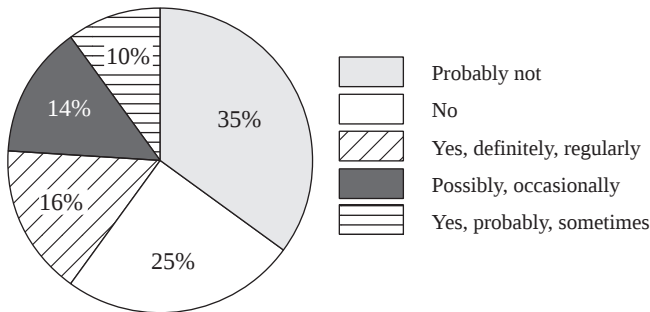
Item 2 Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club – Members’ Questionnaire

The new management of the Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club commissioned a survey into the views of the membership on possible future developments of the club. The club has about 4,000 members. Approximately 25% of these returned questionnaires. Here are some extracts from the report, each of which show how people responded to the questions.

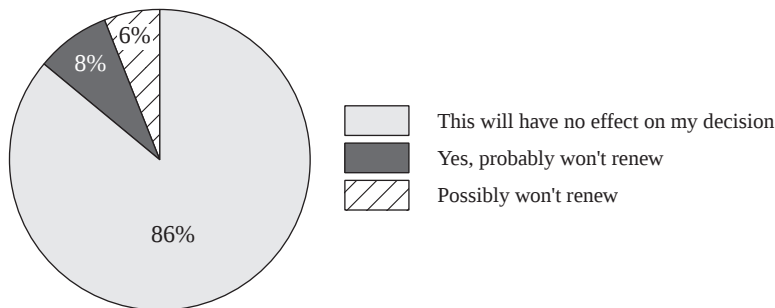
Q1 What development would you most like to see in future?



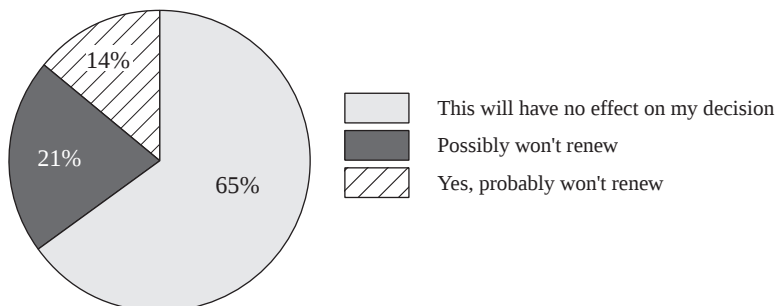
Q2 If new squash courts were built would you be likely to use them?



Q3 If new squash courts are not built would this affect your decision to renew membership?



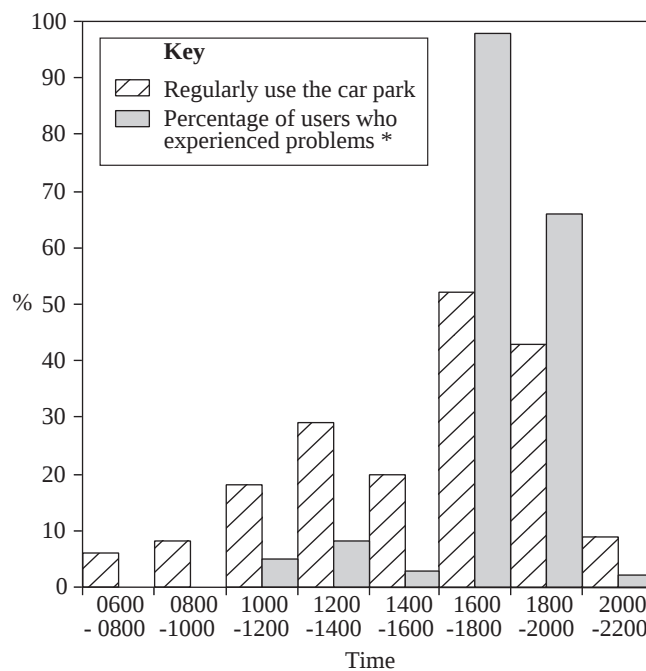
Q4 If more car parking space is not provided would this affect your decision to renew membership?



Question 5 How do you come to the club?

Always by car	53%
Usually by car	23%
Never by car	18%
Always on foot/cycle	8%
Sometimes on foot/cycle	22%
Always by public transport	6%
Sometimes by public transport	14%

Question 6a Do you regularly use the car park at the club at the following times?
Question 6b If so, have you experienced problems with car parking at those times?



* Figures are a % of those who answered yes to using the car park regularly at that time.

Item 3 Extracts from student coursework

An A Level student who lives near to the entrance to the club is a member of the club. She was asked to complete the management questionnaire, and this suggested a possible geography coursework project to her. She carried out her own survey of the people living on her estate. Here is an extract from her work:

“I gave out questionnaires to 50 people on the estate, chosen by a stratified sampling technique. I had 43 questionnaires returned.”

Question (a) How long have you lived here?

Since the estate was built 16 years ago	8
11–15 years	5
6–10 years	10
1–5 years	15
Less than 1 year	5

Question (b) Are you a member of the Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club?

Yes	11
No	32

Question (c) Does the Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club cause you any problems?
If so, what?

No	21
Yes	20
Left blank	2

Noise in the evenings	3
Parking on Castle Farm Road*	15
Parking on the estate roads	5
Spoils the views	3

(Some people mentioned more than one problem.)

* See Map 2, page 13.

Question (d) On a scale of 1 to 7 (where 1 = strongly in favour and 7 = strongly against) how would you rank the following proposals for development of Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club?

(i) Use outdoor tennis courts to extend the car park

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
15	20	5	0	0	1	2

(ii) Use land between the present car park and Freeman Road* to extend the car park

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	2	0	10	3	13	15

(iii) Use land behind the old people's home to extend the car park

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
5	4	3	4	12	10	5

(iv) Use land between the present car park and Freeman Road to build squash courts

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	0	0	3	1	12	27

(v) Use land behind the old people's home to build squash courts

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
0	0	0	4	8	11	20

(vi) Use derelict land from old school* to build squash courts with car park

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	0	3	18	2	12	7

* See Map 2, page 13.

Item 4 The geography of the Ouse Burn valley

The Ouse Burn is a north bank tributary of the Tyne. It rises to the north of the city. It flows across a surface covered with glacial till, overlying coal measure rocks, for about 5km until it reaches the suburb of Gosforth (GR250693).

From there the valley gradually deepens and becomes more steep-sided. Post-glacial melt water cut the gorge which is now known at Jesmond Dene (GR256680–263653). At its deepest the valley is almost 50m deep.

After flowing through this gorge for about 5km the Ouse Burn then flows into a completely artificial culvert and then into a tunnel. When it leaves the tunnel (GR262647) it flows through a tidal stretch until it joins the Tyne (GR264641).

The valley has been affected by extensive building right to the edges of its flood plain, and sometimes on the flood plain itself – as in South Gosforth (GR256682).

In 2002 building of Newcastle Great Park started, to the north of the city, on land released from the Green Belt. This is an area of prestige premises for high-tech industry and commerce, with luxury homes. In places the Ouse Burn has been diverted and it has even been used to feed newly created lakes and ornamental water features.

The land in Jesmond Dene used to be a private park, owned by Victorian entrepreneur and engineer, Lord Armstrong. He left it to Newcastle Council, which maintains the park with a mixture of semi-wild land, formal gardens, sports fields, children's play areas and so on, all connected by many miles of paths and tracks. Unfortunately, pressure of use on slopes, which are very steep in places, is leading to erosion problems becoming apparent in some places.

At present the management of runoff in the Ouse Burn, and of land use in the valley as a whole, has meant that flooding has not been a major problem in the valley as a whole, although there are occasional, short lived floods, on roads in Grid Square 2568. Housing in this area has also been almost flooded on a number of occasions in the past. It is also important to ensure that the river continues to flow at a reasonable rate during summer, in order to manage the pollutants, which inevitably find their way into such an urbanised river, and which threaten the valued leisure space in the valley.

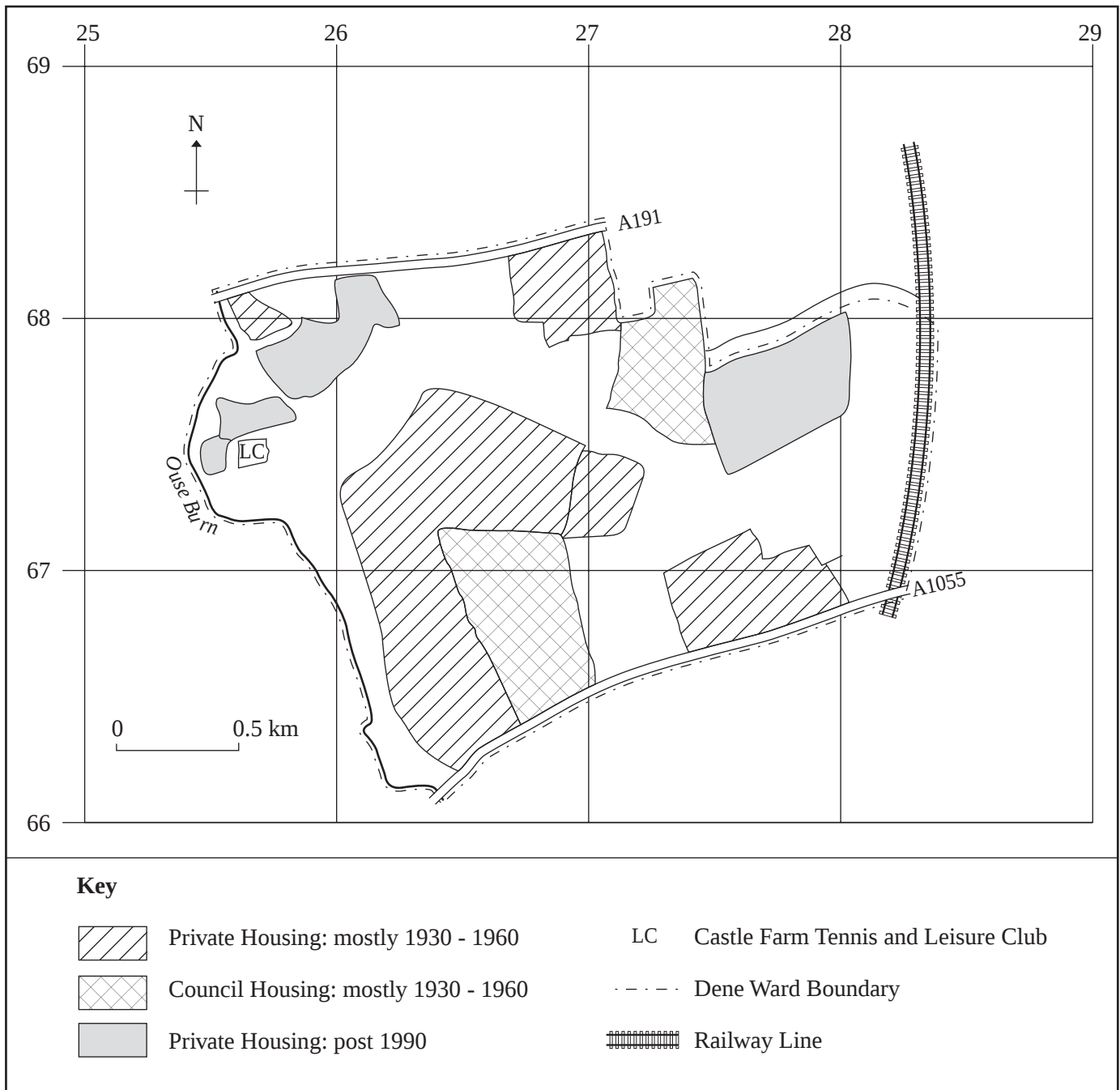
However, any increase in the speed and volume of runoff leads to increased erosion of the banks and bed and flooding can add to the erosion threat on the steep valley sides. Every period of flood also threatens to block and damage the culvert to the south of Jesmond Dene, especially when trees and other vegetation become trapped and cause partial damming of the river.

Flow of the Ouse Burn has to be constantly monitored to try to ensure that problems do not arise in future. It is suggested that global warming might lead to increased climatic instability. This could cause more frequent flood events in autumn and winter, and lower flows in summer.

Item 5 Census statistics for Dene Ward, Newcastle upon Tyne

Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club lies in Dene Ward. The following statistics are from the 2001 census and compare Dene Ward with the whole of Newcastle and with the whole of England and Wales.

Map 1 Dene Ward boundaries



Resident Population and Age

The resident population of Dene Ward, as measured in the 2001 census, was 15,498 of which 48 per cent were male and 52 per cent were female. The resident population of Newcastle upon Tyne was 259,536 of which 48 per cent were male and 52 per cent were female.

Resident population (percentage)

	Dene Ward 2001 (1991)		Newcastle upon Tyne	England and Wales
Under 16	19.0	(17.1)	18.8	20.2
16 to 19	7.2	(6.1)	5.8	4.9
20 to 29	12.4	(11.3)	16.6	12.6
30 to 59	41.6	(41.4)	38.4	41.5
60 to 74	11.8	(14.6)	12.8	13.3
75 and over	8.0	(9.5)	7.6	7.6

No other ward in the city has seen such a large change in age structure since the 1991 census. In 1991 Dene Ward had the largest proportion of people over 75, and of people aged over 60, of all the wards in the city. The decade between censuses saw a rapid fall in both number and proportion of older people in the ward. There was an increase in the number and proportion of families with children over the same period. Predictions suggest that these two trends will both continue into the next decade.

Health

The 2001 census asked people to describe their health, over the preceding 12 months, as 'good', 'fairly good', or 'not good'.

Resident population (percentage)

	Dene Ward	Newcastle upon Tyne	England and Wales
Good	70.3	65.1	68.6
Fairly good	21.3	23.1	22.2
Not good	8.4	11.8	9.2

Economic Activity

Resident population aged 16 to 74 (percentage)

	Dene Ward	Newcastle upon Tyne	England and Wales
Employed	59.3	50.0	60.6
Unemployed	2.6	4.7	3.4
Students	13.3	13.8	7.3
Retired	13.4	13.2	13.6
Looking after home/family	4.7	6.2	6.5
Permanently sick or disabled	4.6	8.5	5.5
Other economically inactive	2.0	3.7	3.1

Housing and Households

In Dene Ward there were 6,101 households in 2001. 95 per cent of the resident population lived in households. The remainder of the population lived in communal establishments. The number of households in Newcastle upon Tyne was 111,243.

Percentage of total households

	Dene Ward	Newcastle upon Tyne	England and Wales
One person households	27.6	35.2	30.0
Pensioners living alone	15.5	16.2	14.4
Other all-pensioner households	10.0	8.0	9.4
Contained dependent children	30.1	26.9	29.5
Lone parent households with dependent children	4.0	7.1	6.5
Owner occupied	79.1	53.3	68.9
Rented from council	12.6	28.0	13.2
Rented from Housing Association or Registered Social Landlord	0.5	5.5	6.0
Private rented or lived rent free	7.8	13.2	11.9
Have no car or van	27.7	45.2	26.8
Have 2 or more cars or vans	24.5	15.4	29.4

Item 6 Preliminary Ideas for Development at Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club

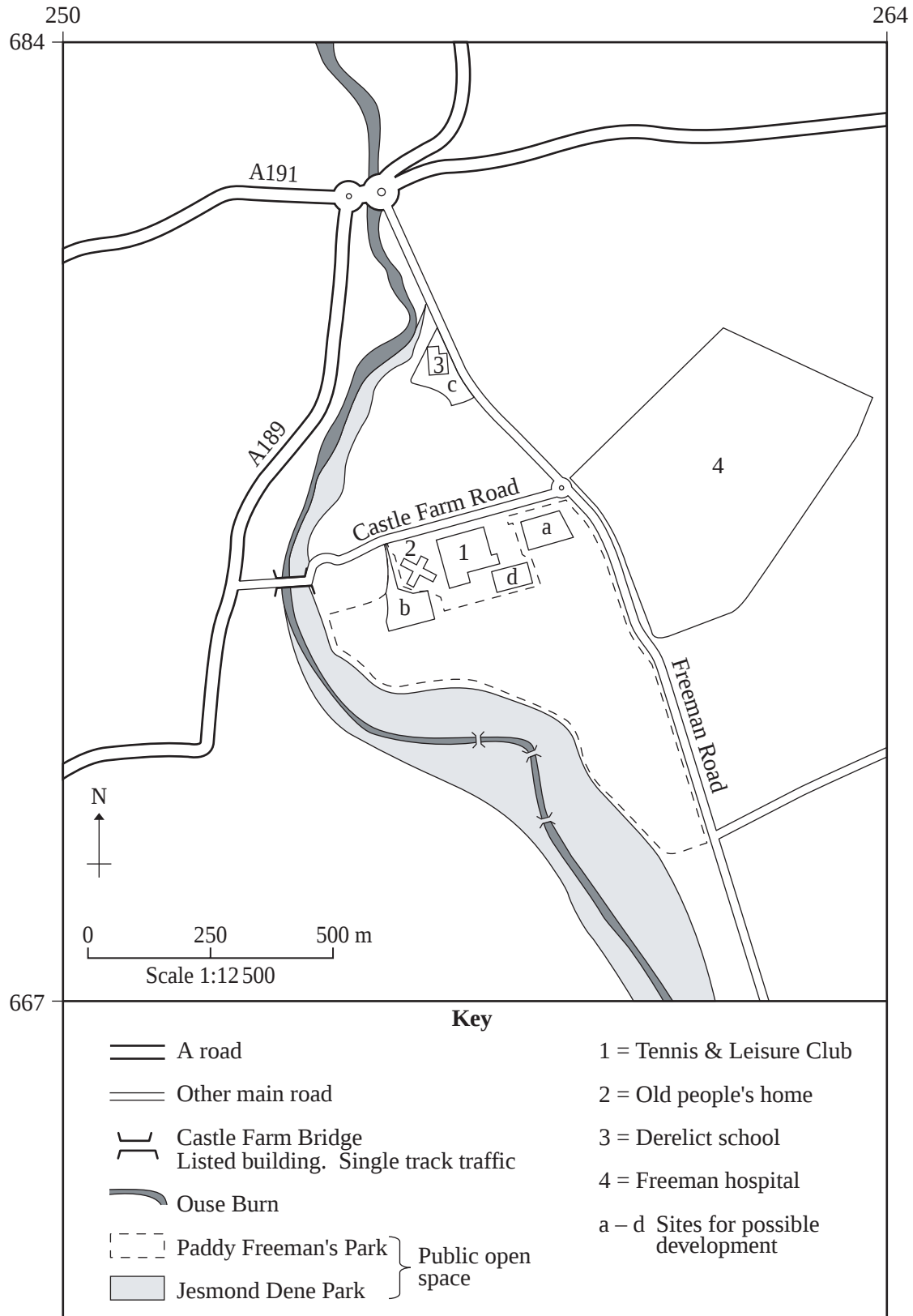
Four sites are being considered for development of the leisure club (see Map 2).

These are:

- (a) land to the east of the present site. At present this land is owned by the council. It is part of the park. It is grassed, partly hidden from the road by trees. Access to any new development would be via the entrance to the club as used already.
- (b) land to the west of the present site. At present this land is owned by the council. It is part of the park and is grassed, with some clumps of shrubs. Access to any new development would be via a new road to be built alongside the old people's home.
- (c) land to the north of the present site. At present this is a derelict school and its former car park and playground. This land is owned by the council. There is no public access because of the danger of the derelict buildings. If developed, access would be through the old school gates on to the main road to the east of the site.
- (d) land within the present club site. It is owned by the club. At present this is used for four outdoor tennis courts. These are well used from June to August, but are little used for most of the rest of the year.

The management of the club realises that it would be a waste of time to give detailed consideration to any site which is likely to arouse very strong local opposition and which is unlikely to obtain planning permission from the local authority.

Map 2 Sites for possible development of Castle Farm Tennis and Leisure Club



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