Sewer replacement works, Jesus Lane, Cambridge



Archaeological Watching Brief Report



March 2013

Client: Anglian Water Services

OA East Report No: 1444 OASIS No: oxfordar3-144548

NGR: TL 4510 5882



Sewer replacement works, Jesus Lane, Cambridge

Archaeological Watching Brief

Site Code: CAMJEL13

CHER No.: ECB 3910

Date of Works: January – February 2013

Report No.: 1444

Authors: Louise Bush BA MA PIfA and Gareth Rees BA MA AIfA

Client: Anglian Water Services

Report Date: February 2013

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Report Number: 1444

Site Name: Jesus Lane, Cambridge

HER Event No: ECB 3910

Date of Works: January – February 2013

Client Name: Anglia Water Services

Client Ref: n/a

Planning Ref:

Grid Ref: TL 4510 5882

Site Code: CAMJEL13

Finance Code: CAMJEL13

Receiving Body: CCC Stores

Accession No:

Prepared by: Louise Bush
Position: Project Officer
Date: March 2013

Checked by: James Drummond-Murray

Position: Project Manager

Date: March 2013 Signed:

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Summary

Throughout January and February 2013, Oxford Archaeology East carried out an archaeological watching brief at Jesus Lane, Cambridge (TL 4510 5882). The monitoring was carried out during sewer replacement works along the length of Jesus Lane.

No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the monitoring. The sewer trench only revealed post-medieval and modern demolition and backfill, along with modern sevices.

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1 GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

1.1.1 Jesus Lane is located to the east of Cambridge city centre (Fig. 1). The current ground-level rises from 8m at the eastern end to 9.4m OD at the western end. The underlying geology comprises alluvial deposits overlying 1st terrace deposits of the river Cam (British Geological Survey 1981). These are covered by 2-3m of buried soil, dumped deposits and modern over-burden.

2 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

2.1.1 This background takes into consideration historical sources, cartographic evidence and data currently held in the HER. A search was carried out for all sites recorded in the Cambridgeshire HER within 100m of Jesus Lane (Fig. 2). Research has previously been carried out in to the archaeological significance of Jesus Green (Phillips 2008) and much of this background is reproduced here.

Prehistoric

2.1.2 Archaeological remains dating to the prehistoric period are not common in this area and consist of two sites and one find spot. Excavations at Jesus Close (MCB15990) uncovered ditches and postholes which may have been part of a Bronze Age field system (Whittaker 1998). Residual later prehistoric lithic material recovered from St. John's Triangle may indicate that this agricultural usage continued to the west (MCB18192; Newman 2008). A single lithic implement was recovered from a site at Jesus College Library site (HER11890; Evans 1995).

Roman

- 2.1.3 The Roman town of Cambridge (*Duroliponte*) was located on modern day Castle Hill, approximately 0.5km to the north-west of Jesus Lane. This location was chosen because a combination of a slow-moving river and firm ground on either side made it a natural river crossing since prehistoric times (RCHM 1988).
- 2.1.4 Although the focus of settlement was on Castle Hill it appears to have spread to the south of the river. Evidence of settlement as well as industrial activity has been uncovered during excavations at 35 Jesus Lane (CB15727; Alexander et al. 2004), Sydney Sussex College (HER04638; HER04802; HER05004c), Park Street (CB15513; Dodwell 2002) and St. Johns Triangle (MCB18192; ECB2513). Numerous finds of coins, a quern stone and pottery around Jesus Lane indicate that settlement was present in this area from the 1st to the 4th century.
- 2.1.5 Later Roman activity was evidenced at 11 Park Street and 35 Jesus Lane which may have been part of a large inhumation cemetery (discussed below). If this is the case this cemetery would have lain under much of the present course of Jesus Lane.

Saxon

2.1.6 The core of the Late Saxon town (*Grantabrycge*) appears to be to the south of the river with archaeological work suggesting the area between the market and St. Benets church was the most densely settled (Taylor 2004: 48). The Late Saxon/early Medieval King's Ditch enclosed the settlement, running from the river at Mill Lane across the east side of the town, going under Jesus Lane and along the approximate line of modern day Park Street, before returning to the river (Whittaker 2002).

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2.1.7 Saxon finds in the vicinity of Jesus Lane include several brooches (HER04541; HER04608a; HER04804) as well as a comb, blue glass beads and a spindle whirl from Petty Cury (HER10362). Domestic properties and boundaries were established at St. John's Triangle, to the west of Jesus Lane in the Saxo-Norman period (Newman 2008; HER18193). An inhumation found during excavation of drains on Jesus Lane was associated with a Saxon brooch, but may relate to the late Roman cemetery (HER04804).

Medieval

- 2.1.8 Jesus College is located along the north-eastern edge of Jesus Lane and has its origins in the early Medieval period. Between 1159 and 1161 King Malcolm IV of Scotland, who was also Earl of Huntingdon, gave to the nuns of Cambridge ten acres on which to build a Benedictine nunnery, dedicated to St. Radegund (Salzman 1948, 218-9). It was bounded to its north by Jesus Ditch, which is still present today (Whittaker 1999). Presumably the line of Jesus Lane was established at this time as a southern boundary to this nunnery. Excavations at Jesus College library uncovered external working areas as well as storage pits and a garden, probably associated with the nunnery (HER11890; Evans 1995) whilst investigations in the Master's Garden uncovered fifteen skeletons which probably lay in the parishioners cemetery (HER11307; Evans et al. 1998).
- 2.1.9 Jesus College, (founded 1496/7) dedicated to St Mary and St. Radegund, was established in the dissolved nunnery buildings (Roach 1959, 421). The college acquired its name from its chapel, Jesus chapel, which originally served the old nunnery and the surrounding area. This is significant as Jesus Lane (formerly Nun's Lane) is likely to have acquired its name from the college by which it passed. There is likely to have been a road of sorts in this location prior to this time as a main route between Cambridge, Barnwell and Newmarket.
- 2.1.10 A Franciscan friary of 'Grey Friars' (HER05004) was located at the south-western end of Jesus Lane and several artefacts relating to this establishment have been uncovered (HER04434; HER04546; HER04602). The friary was founded in the 13th century by William de Esseby and later expanded on to the land of an old synagogue. It was dissolved in 1538 prior to the construction of Sydney Sussex College on the site in 1596.
- 2.1.11 To the north of the friary a bridge spanned the King's Ditch at the point where Jesus Lane crossed it (HER04606). Occupation along Jesus Lane in the medieval period is attested to in part by the discovered of building rubble dating to this period during the original drainage works (HER04758) as well as pits and ditches uncovered during excavations at the ADC theatre (CB15310).

Post-medieval

- 2.1.12 Three small scale metalworking workshops along with extensive building remains have been uncovered to the west of Jesus Lane, at St. John's Triangle (MCB18196; Newman 2008).
- 2.1.13 In the 17th century, during the Civil War period, Cambridge was the administrative centre for the New Model Army in East Anglia. Defensive earthen banks ran along the modern course of Emmanuel Road and Victoria Avenue passing by the eastern end of Jesus Lane (Taylor 2004, 134).
- 2.1.14 Cartographic evidence indicates that the course of Jesus Lane did not alter much from the post-medieval period to the modern day (see below).



Excavations

No. 35-37 Jesus Lane (CB15727; Alexander et al. 2004)

2.1.15 Part of a middle Roman settlement and a later Roman inhumation cemetery was uncovered in the basements of 35 to 37 Jesus Lane. The settlement may have been associated with industrial activity speculated to have taken place in this part of the lower Roman town. The cemetery consisted of 32 skeletons, six with grave goods, aligned north-east to south-west. The extents of the cemetery were not located and it may have continued north in to the current location of Jesus Lane. The burials were located between *c.* 6.8m and *c.* 6.15m, approximately 1.9m below the modern pavement level.

No.11 Park Street (CB15513; Dodwell 2002)

2.1.16 Roman inhumations were also uncovered in the basement of 11 Park Street, 150m to the north-west of the 35-37 Jesus Lane cemetery. Pottery recovered from two ditches indicated that settlement activity was also occurring in this area in the mid Roman period. It is possible that both the Jesus Lane and Park Street cemeteries were part of a large late Roman cemetery.

Master's Garden, Jesus College (HER 11307; Gdaniec and Miller 1993)

2.1.17 Human skeletons were uncovered during groundworks for services in the Master's Garden of Jesus College. Fifteen bodies were recovered, thought to relate to the parishioners cemetery of the chapel of the convent of St. Rhadegund. These would have dated from the 12th to 15th century.

Evaluation at the ADC Theatre, Park Street (CB15310; Whittaker 2002)

2.1.18 Two trenches excavated at the ADC theatre uncovered a ditch dating to the middle Roman period. A ditch dating the medieval period may have been part of the King's Ditch, originally the Late Saxon town boundary.

Cartographic Evidence

- 2.1.19 Cambridge, being an important historic town, has many cartographic sources, stretching back to the 16th century. Jesus Lane is shown following it's current course from the earliest map, produced by Richard Lyne in 1574 (Fig. 3). Jesus College and its east and west boundaries are visible, as is the King's Ditch running under a bridge at the western end of Jesus Lane to the north of the friary. No buildings are depicted to the south-east of Jesus Lane, opposite the college. A similar view can be seen on George Braun's 1575 map of Cambridge viewed this time from the west (Fig. 4), William Smith's map of 1588 (Fig. 5) and John Speed's map of 1610 (Fig. 6), viewed from the east. The early maps also show the area of Jesus Green running all the way up to the King's Ditch on its western side. On the John Speed map of 1610 the Friary has been replaced by Sydney Sussex College but the King's Ditch is still visible.
- 2.1.20 The 1688 map of Cambridge by David Loggan (Fig. 7), viewed from the east, is the first to refer to Jesus Green by name. Although this map was drawn approximately 40 years after the Civil War period, the earthworks, which supposedly run through Jesus Green, are not recorded. Whereas the Civil War fort on Castle Hill is clearly depicted. The line of the King's Ditch is still depicted but it is not labelled as such.
- 2.1.21 The 1763 map of Cambridge (Fig. 8), viewed again from the east, and the 1798 William Custance map (Fig. 9) shows a channel running from the intersection of the King's



Ditch and Jesus Lane, around Jesus College into Jesus Ditch and then returning to intersect with the eastern end of Jesus Lane. The western part of this channel is particularly straight and may follow the line of the civil war defensive ditch. The line of the eastern part of the King's Ditch is depicted as crossing over Jesus Lane. Cole's map of 1804 (Fig. 10) is very similar in detail to the Custance map.

- 2.1.22 Richard Grey Baker's 1830 map of Cambridge (Fig. 11) shows a much wider area as the town slowly spreads eastwards, however there still appears to be common land to the south of Jesus Lane. By the time of Baker's map the King's Ditch had been filled in. An Act of Parliament in 1794 for the cleaning up and paving of Cambridge saw the ditch infilled by 1815 (Whittaker 2002).
- 2.1.23 A map of Cambridge in 1840 by J. Dewhurst and W. Nichols (Fig. 12) is very similar in detail to the Baker map of ten years earlier. The First Edition Ordnance Survey map of 1886 (Fig. 13) shows that by this time the land west of Malcolm Street had been built on whilst there remained undeveloped land in the grounds of Sydney Sussex College.
- 2.1.24 By the time of the 1901 Ordnance Survey map the Middle Ditch has disappeared, possibly filled in as part of the work carried out in preparation for the 1894 Royal Agricultural Show, which took place on Jesus Green. Victoria Avenue was constructed in 1890 and this can be seen on the map, on the alignment of a footpath visible on the 1886 map.
- 2.1.25 The 1926 Ordnance Survey map (Fig. 14) depicts major changes in the use of Jesus Green from common land to recreation ground with avenues of trees, tennis courts, a bowling green and the lido present.

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3 Methodology

- 3.1.1 The objective of this watching brief was to determine as far as reasonably possible the presence/absence, location, nature, extent, date, quality, condition and significance of any surviving archaeological deposits within the development area.
- 3.1.2 The monitoring took the form regular site visits in order to establish the extent and depth of any surviving archaeological deposits. The archaeological level, if present, is expected to be 1-2m below the road surface and at the edges of the trench in areas unaffected by the Victorian sewer.
- 3.1.3 All archaeological features and deposits were recorded using OA East's *pro-forma* sheets. Trench locations, plans and sections were recorded at appropriate scales digital photographs were taken of all relevant features and deposits.

4 RESULTS

- 4.1.1 The original replacement works plan was to cut a 5m wide trench along the length of the road (Plate 1). Once this was started the method used to replace the sewer was altered to using cassions, resulting in only a 3m wide trench being cut (Plate 2)
- 4.1.2 During the interventions along the centre of Jesus Lane, only post-medieval backfill and modern services were seen.

5 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1.1 No archaeological features were observed during the replacement works. No finds dating to to before the post-medieval period were seen. The soil matrix seen beneath Jesus Lane is the type to be expected within a town, consisting of post-medieval demolition backfill.

6 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 6.1.1 The authors would like to thank Anglian Water Services who commissioned and funded the archaeological work. Thanks also go to Ben Tate of Claret Civil Engineering Ltd. for his on site cooperation.
- 6.1.2 The project was managed by James Drummond-Murray. The site visits were undertaken by Gareth Rees and James Fairbairn.



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APPENDIX A. OASIS REPORT FORM

All fields are required unless they are not applicable.

Project D	etails	;								
OASIS Nun	mber oxfordar3-144548									
Project Nan	ne	e Sewer replacement works, Jesus				mbridge				
Project Date	es (fiel	dwork)	Start	08-01-2013			Finish	08-0	2-2013	
Previous W	ork (by	/ OA Ea	ast)	No			Future	Worl	k Yes	
Project Ref	oronoc	Codo	•							
Site Code	CAMJE		.		Plannir	ng App.	No.	Γ		
HER No.					Related HER/OASIS No.			lo. [cambridg1-38502	
Type of Pro	iect/Te	chnia	اعمال عما	d						
Prompt	,000 i			t (this should be	e in your br	rief/spec)				
Please sel	ect al	l techi	niques	used:						
☐ Field Observation (periodic visits) ☐ Part Ex			cavation				Salvage Record			
Full Excavation (100%)		Part Sur	Survey				Systematic Field Walking			
Full Survey	Full Survey		Recorde	ed Observation				Systematic Metal Detector Survey		
☐ Geophysical Survey ☐ Remo		Remote	Operated Vehicle Survey				Test Pit Survey			
Open-Area	Open-Area Excavation Salvag		Salvage	Excavation			X	Watching Brief		
List feature typ	es using	g the NN	IR Mon	nds & Their ument Type ive periods. If no	e Thesa	urus ar	_		Is using the MDA Object state "none".	type
Monument			Period			Object			Period	
None Select period		eriod		None			Select period			
Select period		eriod	iod]		Select period			
Select period					Select period					
Project L	ocati	on								
County	Cambridgeshire				Site Address (including postcode if possible)					
District	Camb	ridge City	/			Jesus L Cambri				
Parish	Camb	ridge				CB5	_			
HER	cccs	Store								
Study Area	Linear	-				Nationa	al Grid R	efere	ence TI 4510 5882	



Organisation	nisation OA EAS		Г					
Project Brief Originator Andy Tho		ndy Thomas						
Project Design C	riginator	-						
Project Manager		James Di	James Drummond-Murray					
Supervisor			Louise Bush and Gareth Rees					
Project Archi	ves							
Physical Archive			Digital Archive			Paper Archive		
CCC Store			OA East		cccs	CCC Store		
CAMJEL13 CAM			CAMJEL	CAMJEL13 CAMJEL				
Archive Conten	ts/Media							
	Physical Contents	Digital Contents	Paper Contents	Digital I	Media	Paper Media		
Animal Bones				Databa	ase	Aerial Photos		
Ceramics				GIS		Context Sheet		
Environmental				Geoph	ysics	Correspondence		
Glass								
Human Bones				☐ Illustra	☐ Illustrations			
Industrial				☐ Moving	☐ Moving Image			
Leather				Spread	dsheets			
Metal				Survey	,	Matrices		
Stratigraphic				▼ Text		Microfilm		
Survey				☐ Virtual	Reality	Misc.		
Textiles						Research/Notes		
Wood								
Worked Bone						Plans		
Worked Stone/Lithic								
None	\boxtimes	\boxtimes	\boxtimes			Sections		
						Survey		

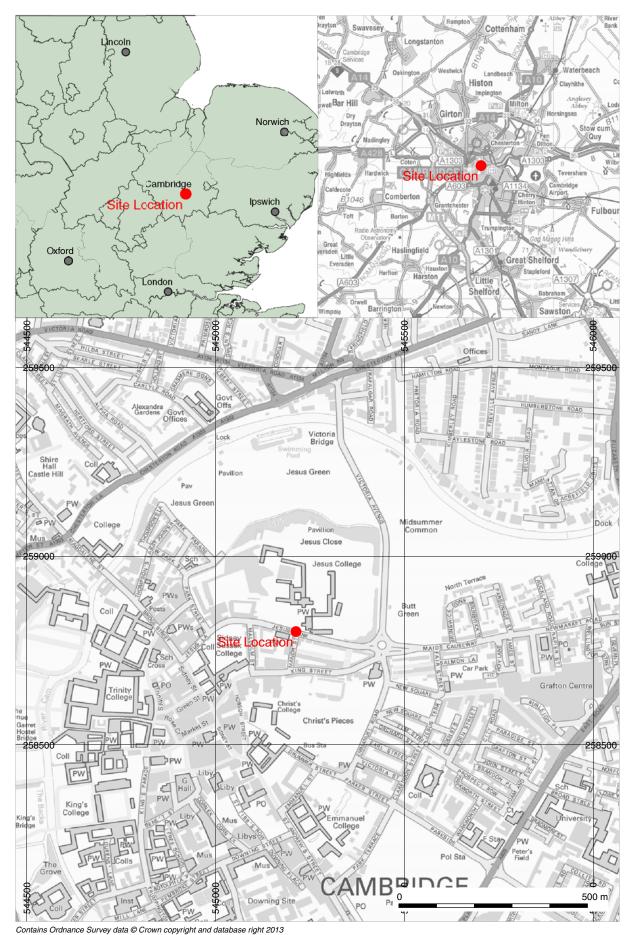


Figure 1: Site location



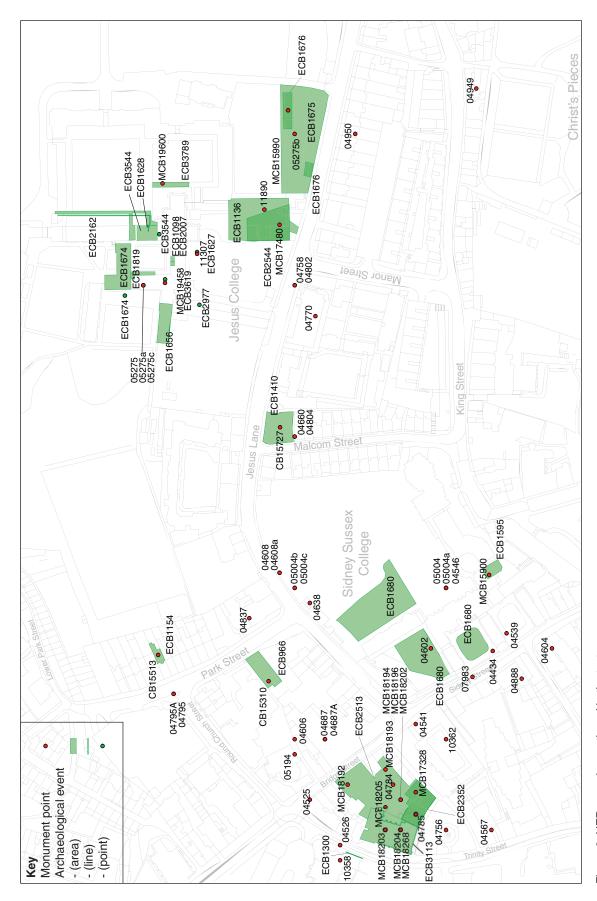


Figure 2: HER records mentioned in the text



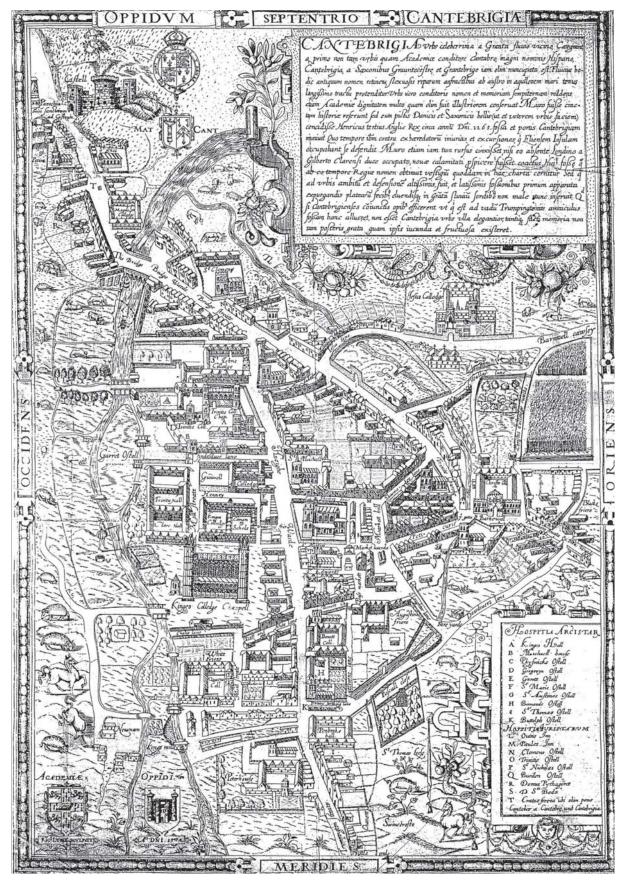


Figure 3: Richard Lyne Map, 1574



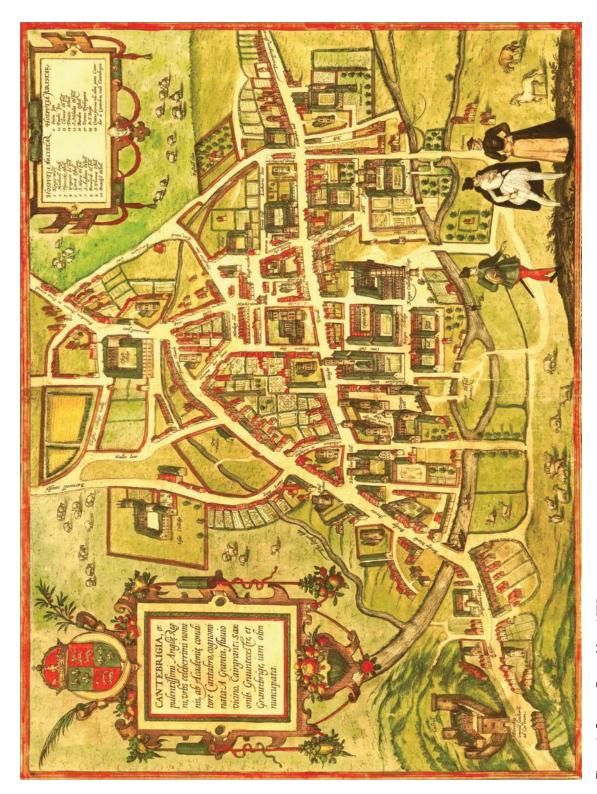


Figure 4: George Braun Map, 1575



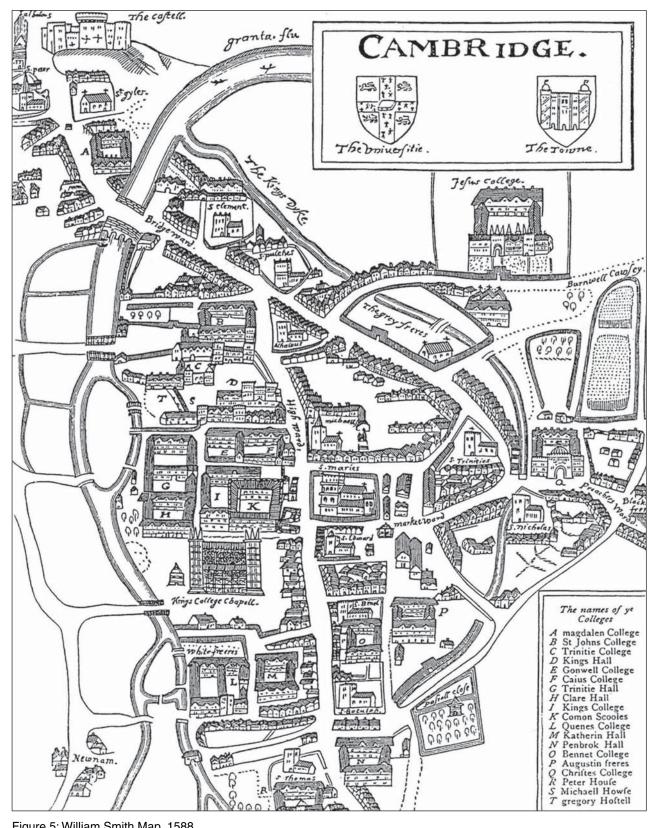


Figure 5: William Smith Map, 1588



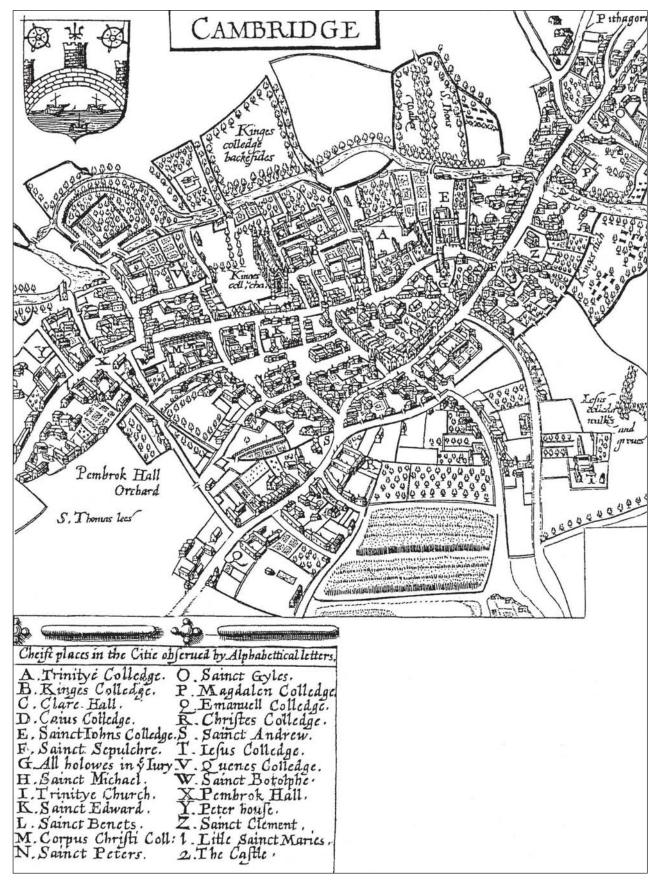


Figure 5: John Speed Map, 1610



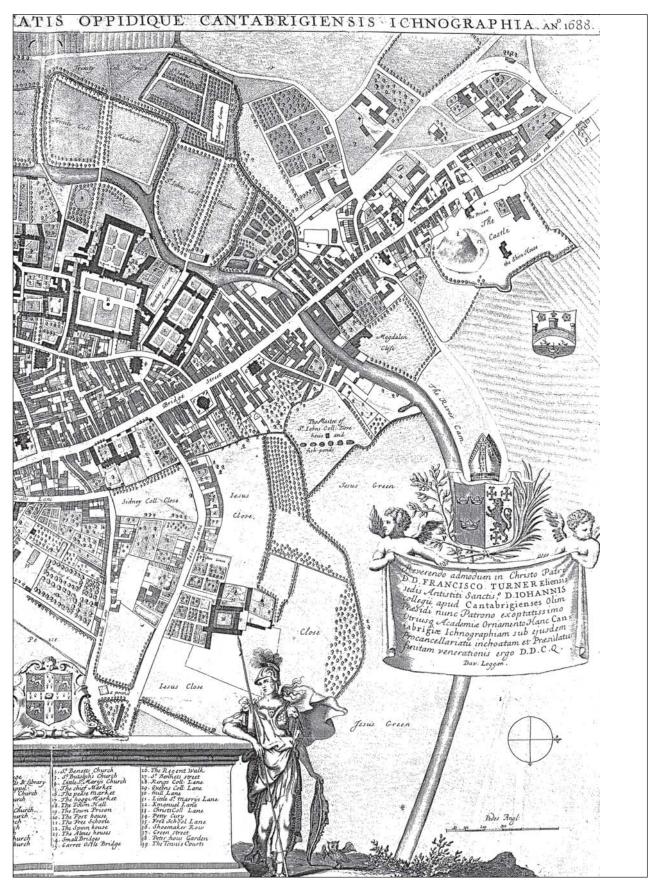


Figure 7: David Loggan Map 1688



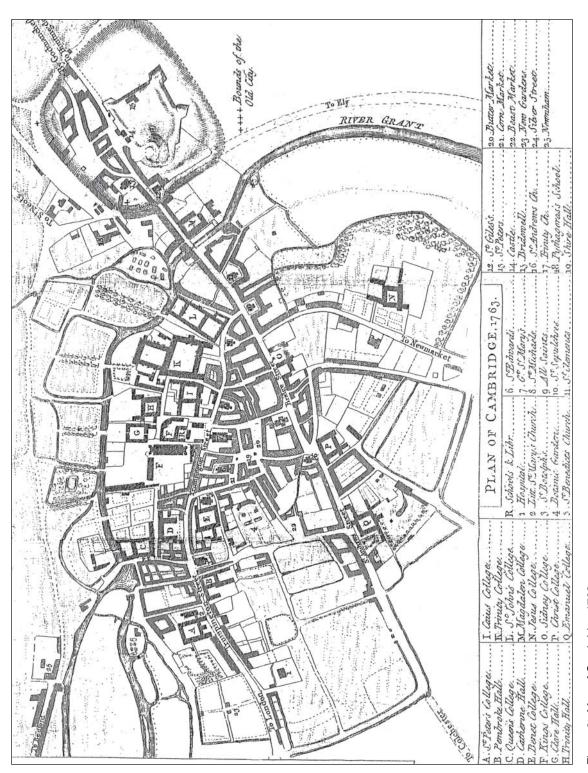


Figure 8: Map of Cambridge 1763



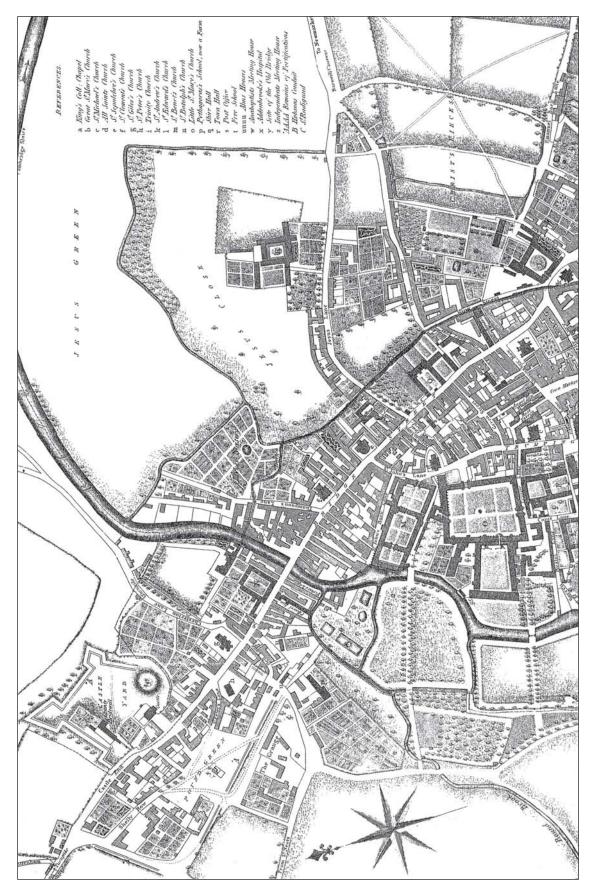


Figure 9: William Custance Map 1798



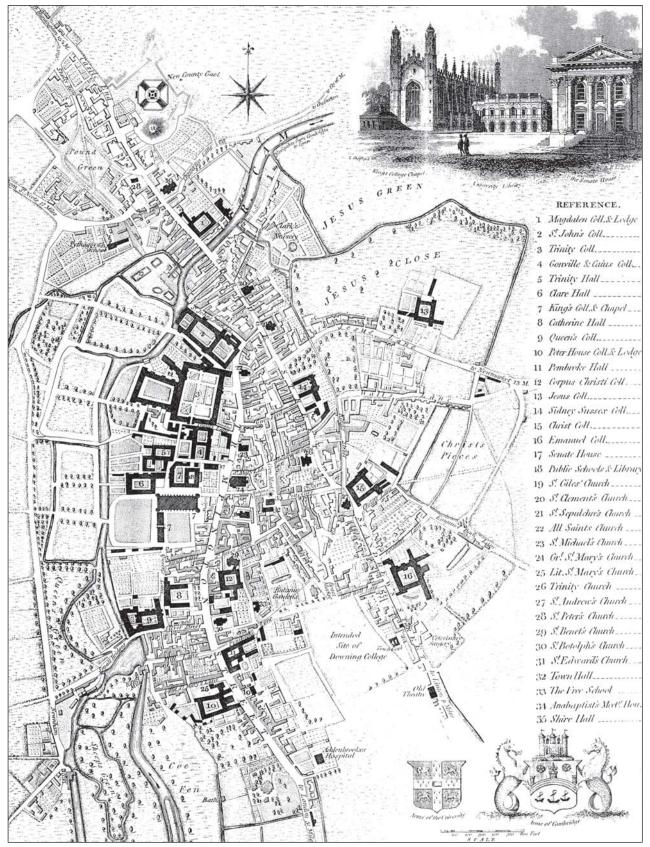


Figure 10: Cole Map, 1804



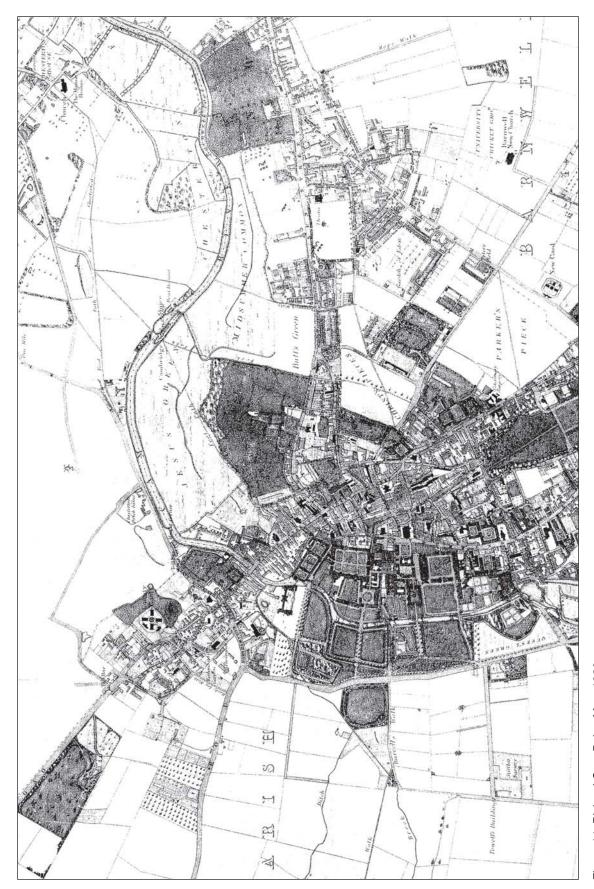


Figure 11: Richard Grey Baker Map, 1830

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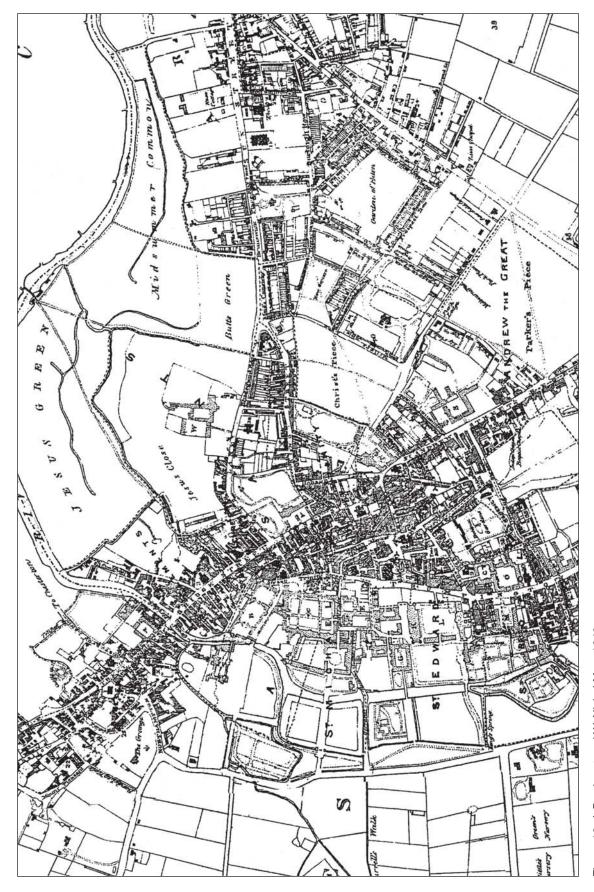


Figure 12: J. Dewhurst and W. Nichol Map, 1840



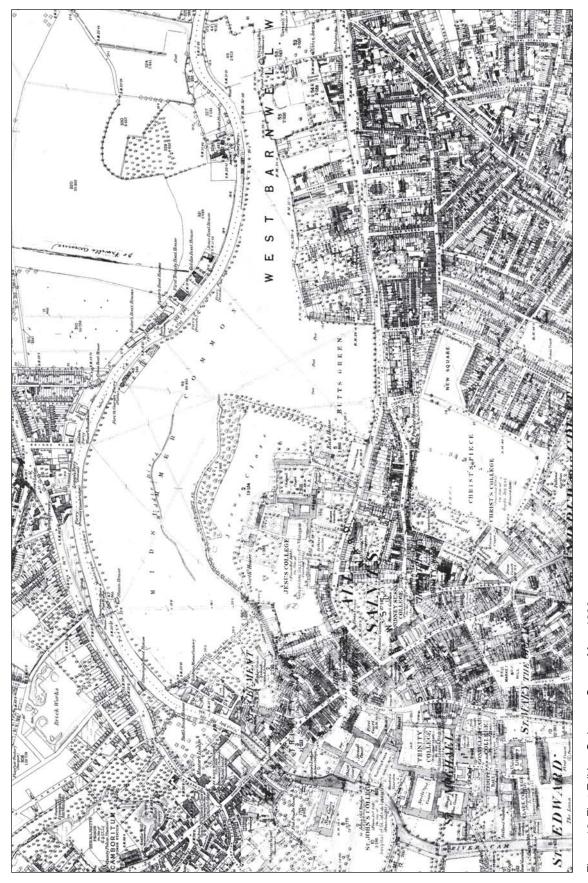


Figure 13: First Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1886



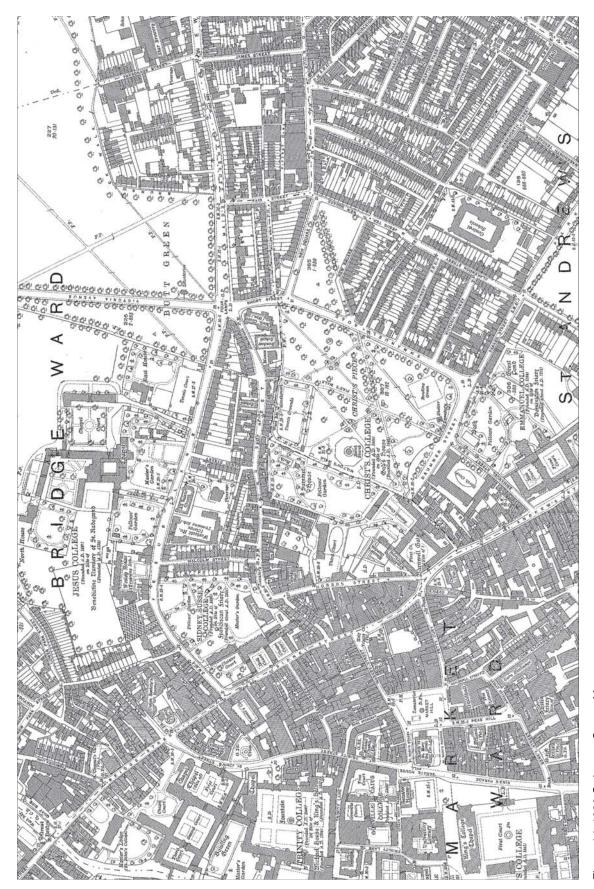


Figure 14: 1926 Ordnance Survey Map





Plate 1: Initial ground investigation (looking west)



Plate 2: Ground works using a cassion



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