



Archaeological Field Unit

Town Centre Modernisation, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment

Scott Kenney

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Report No. 212

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**Town Centre Modernisation, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire:
An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment
(TL 2380 7170)**

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SUMMARY

The proposed development in central Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, covers an area of approximately 2.1ha (TL 2380 7170) and is bounded by Walden Road, George Street, Market Hill and Prince's Street. The new complex involves the construction of purpose-built office accommodation and other buildings. The site lies in an area of potentially rich archaeological remains, within the medieval town and probably within the Anglo-Saxon burh. Roman, Anglo-Saxon and medieval remains have been recorded in the vicinity and the site itself contains a considerable section of medieval marketplace frontage. Several buildings on Prince's Street, Market Hill and George Street have Grade II listing status and will be incorporated into the development. Historic maps indicate no development along Walden Road and this area of the site may offer the highest potential for the survival of archaeological remains, particularly relating to Saxon occupation. At least one medieval church and associated burial ground may be present within the development site.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This study was commissioned by Cambridgeshire County Council Property and Procurement in advance of a proposed re-development. The assessment aims to define the archaeological potential of the land likely to be affected by the development. It has been compiled in response to a basic outline proposal as the tender process is still ongoing: the final nature of the development has yet to be determined. This study makes certain assumptions about the final proposal based on available drafts and considers all areas as available for construction unless currently occupied by a listed building.

The site is a roughly triangular area of approximately 2.1ha, bounded by George Street to the north, Market Hill and Prince's Street to the east, and Walden Road to the west (Fig. 1). At the southern tip, just within the ring road, lies Huntingdon Bus Station, which is affected by the proposals. The site is centred on TL 2380 7170.

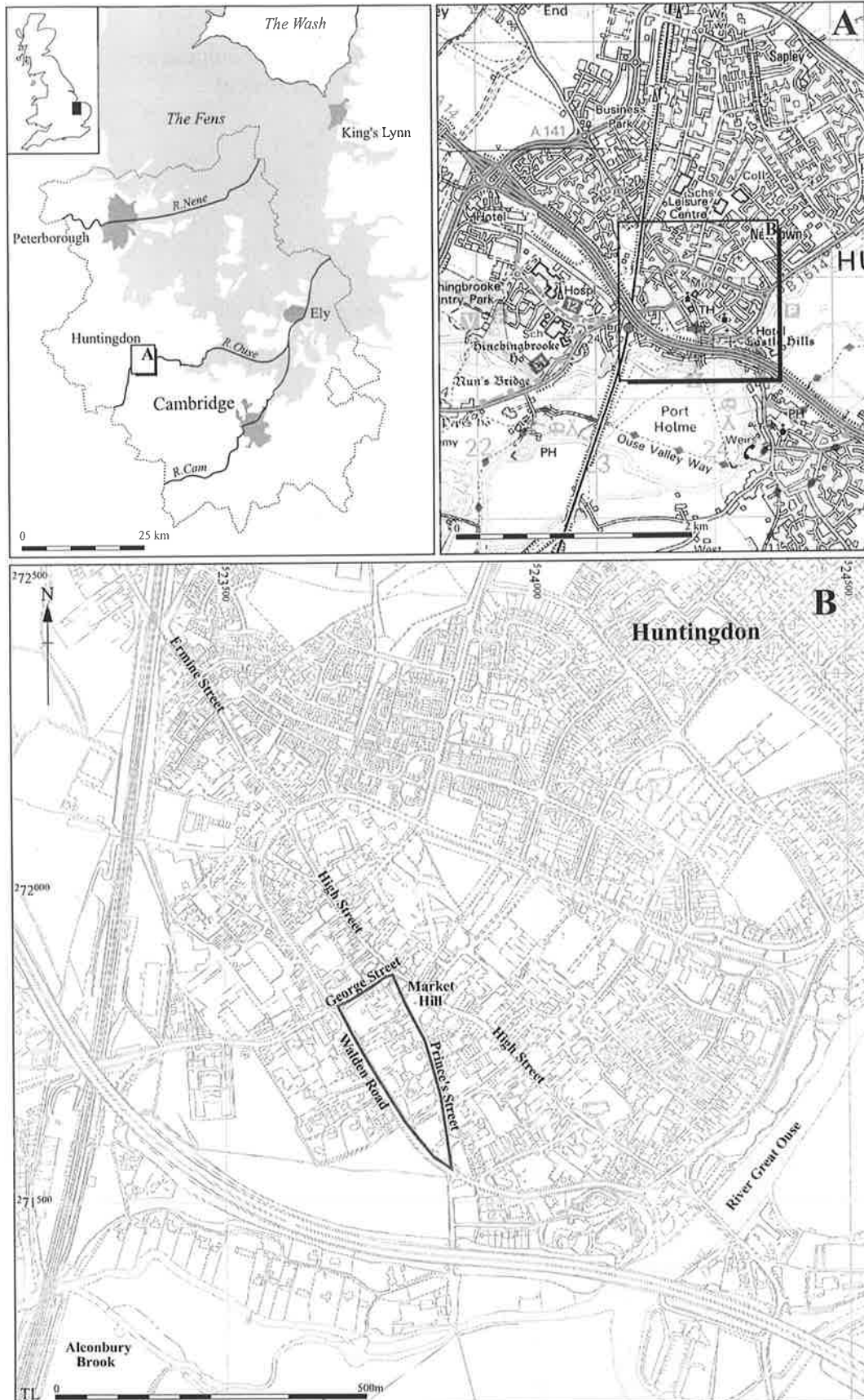
2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the town of Huntingdon, just to the west of the modern centre. Prince's Street slopes down gradually from around 14.8m OD at the southern end to 13.7m OD near All Saint's Church. George Street slopes up from this corner to the west, to reach 16.3m OD, and Walden Road slopes down again to the south, to around 15.2m OD.

According to the British Geological Survey (BGS 1975, Sheet 187), the development area is located on the Pleistocene First and Second Terrace Gravels of the River Great Ouse. The gravels overlie Upper Jurassic Oxford Clays, which are the underlying solid geology across a wide area in this region.

3 METHODOLOGY

The aim of this desktop assessment is to provide information concerning the location, extent, survival and significance of the known archaeological remains in the vicinity and on the site, as well as assessing the potential for further archaeological remains to survive.



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Figure 1 Location of development area (in red)

In order to map the potential for archaeology at Huntingdon, the investigation concentrated on the accessible archaeological and historical resources held by Huntingdon Record Office (HRO), Cambridge Record Office (CRO), the Cambridgeshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) and documentary sources held by the Cambridgeshire County Council Archaeological Field Unit (AFU). The latter includes the archive of the Huntingdon Archaeological Town Survey (1997-9) and material gleaned from the archives of Sidney Inskipp Ladds, held by the Norris Museum in St. Ives. Unpublished archives of archaeological interventions in Huntingdon were also studied, although none refer to the exact area of the current development. The subject area is considered unsuitable for aerial photographic assessment or geophysical survey, due to the current and recent building cover (Fig. 10).

The known archaeological resource was investigated through the County's Sites and Monuments Record held by Cambridgeshire County Council (see Appendix A). Additional published resources such as the Victoria County Histories and the Royal Commission inventory for the parish were examined (Page *et al* 1932; RCHME 1926). Reports and archives on excavations carried out in and around Huntingdon were consulted (Appendix B).

The historical records held at the HRO in Huntingdon were consulted. The Office holds copies of the Enclosure Award, Tithe map and earlier maps of the town, as well as documents referring to land sales. This work was supplemented by study of the Ordnance Survey maps of the area, from the draft First Edition onwards. The modern layout of the town appears to retain many boundaries and holdings set out in the medieval period and perhaps dating from earlier periods.

No geotechnical survey has been undertaken or is known to the client and it has therefore not been possible to assess the condition and status of buried deposits nor to confirm local geological conditions.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric

The subject site is situated within the Ouse Valley, which is rich in prehistoric remains. During the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age, major ritual complexes sprang up and evolved along the course of the Ouse and, although much of the material culture does not survive, these monuments are highly visible from the air as cropmarks. These ceremonial complexes cover extensive territories and are distributed evenly across the landscape (Malim 2000).

Late Neolithic and Bronze Age ceremonial complexes are commonly respected by Iron Age settlement activity that appears to occupy lands away from the river system. This is probably as a result of episodic alluviation along the Ouse during the Iron Age and Roman periods.

To the west of Huntingdon lies the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age ceremonial complex of Brampton. Mortuary enclosures, cursus monuments and ring ditches have been identified. Brampton and its surroundings are an area rich in archaeological activity. Aerial photographic work has recovered evidence for groups of Neolithic monuments including henges, a cursus and a long mortuary enclosure, in addition to Bronze Age burial monuments and Iron Age/Romano-British field systems. Parts of this landscape have been scheduled as an ancient monument (SAM 121). In 1990 and 1991 an investigation of a portion of this monument north of the Thrapston Road and south of Alconbury Brook found evidence for a Neolithic mortuary enclosure situated at the end of a cursus (Malim 1990).

Excavations within the area have also recovered material relating to prehistoric ritual activity. In 1966 a Bronze Age triple ring ditch was investigated south of the Thrapston Road and a cinerary urn and 'maritime' beaker fragments were recovered from the ditches (White 1969). Subsequent work in the same area uncovered an Iron Age settlement and associated ditch systems (Malim and Mitchell 1993).

Within the Huntingdon area, an Iron Age presence has been identified. At Godmanchester a series of Early Iron Age farmsteads or hamlets have been located at intervals along the gravel terrace (Green 1977). One such farmstead has been sample excavated just east of the town (Wait 1992) whilst other evidence of Iron Age activity is known beneath modern Godmanchester in the form of roundhouses and ditched enclosures encountered below Roman occupation (Green *op. cit.*).

Investigations north of the Alconbury Brook at Huntingdon Racecourse have revealed evidence of prehistoric land clearance, settlement and ritual activity adjacent to an ancient stream channel (Macaulay 1996). This settlement, dating to the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age was sealed by alluvial deposits, as were all of those discussed above.

Within Huntingdon itself, artefacts of prehistoric date have been found and reported to the SMR. These are largely of Neolithic and Bronze Age date. The presence of such artefacts is unsurprising given the preference of early prehistoric populations for low-lying gravels and the major Late Neolithic ceremonial complex at Rectory Farm Godmanchester, which lies about 1km to the southeast of the development area. The site consisted of a huge rectilinear 'horned' ditch enclosure approximately 6.3ha in area, with an internal bank and 24 posts arranged regularly along the perimeter of the enclosure. Radiocarbon dates from the site suggest a Late Neolithic date of between 5050 ±80BP and ±4850 80BP (Dawson 2000). Excavations by the AFU south of the enclosure indicate that activities associated with the monument were widespread (Hinman & Kenney 1998).

Iron Age finds have been located most recently within Huntingdon at Watersmeet, including Scored Ware pottery dating from the Middle to Late Iron Age (Cooper and Spoerry 2000).

4.2 Roman

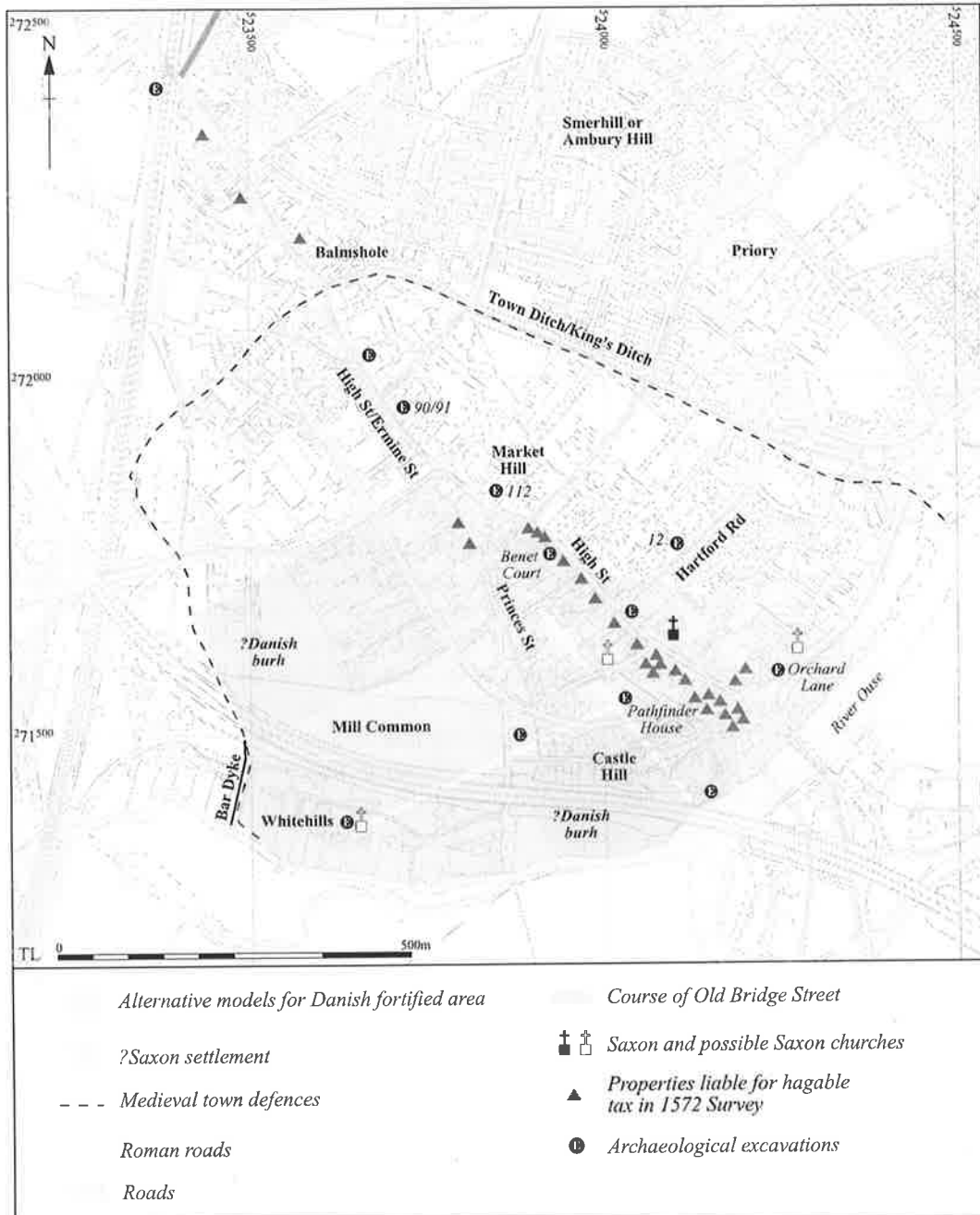
Roman Huntingdon is often seen as a suburb of Godmanchester, and/or ribbon development northwards along Ermine Street. Evidence for Roman activity comes from chance finds and from three unpublished excavations. The results of these are detailed in Appendix B below, but in summary they consist of a villa site overlooking Alconbury Brook, and two investigations within the town that revealed metalled Roman road surfaces. One of these was probably a spur road off Ermine Street that led to the villa mentioned above and detailed below. Chance finds have indicated that roadside burial was taking place during this period alongside Ermine Street. Since this is a common Roman practice, further examples may come to light during future archaeological work in the roadside zone.

Several authors have made attempts to locate the line of Ermine St between Godmanchester and the northern edge of Huntingdon. The consensus for the area around this site is indicated by the line shown on Fig. 2. It is probable that Ermine St lies close by and probably just to the east of Prince's Street/Market Hill. The northern end of the site therefore lies in the roadside zone where various remains include an agger, chance losses, burials, roadside ditches and occasional structures. The Roman period SMR entries to the north imply that the site experienced a range of activities, whilst the presence of an excavated, though unpublished, villa site to the south of the site (on the high riverbank) implies that further related remains may be present here.

4.3 Anglo-Saxon

Although the location of the documented Danish and Late Saxon burhs at Huntingdon (the latter being a re-build or extension of the former) is not known, recent work has attempted to re-assess the evidence. New research indicates that the Late Saxon settlement is located in the southern part of the area later enclosed by the medieval town ditch to the north-east and the bar dyke to the south-west (Spoerry 2000). There is, however, much dispute as to the location of the late 9th to early 10th century Danish burh.

One model, although not the most favoured, is based on the comparative situation at Stamford (Mahany 1982) and would place the burh at a defensible location some distance to the north-west of the river crossing, its western limit conforming to the boundary of the bar dyke (Fig. 2). The alternative and more probable model proposes that the early defended area consisted of a D-shaped enclosure around the river crossing carrying Ermine Street across the River Ouse. This interpretation suggests that the later castle may reflect the approximate location of the Danish burh with, on topographic



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Figure 2 Models of Saxon Huntingdon (from Sperry 2000)

grounds, the western burh defences perhaps coinciding with the western part of the Watersmeet site.

The process of Late Saxon urban development eventually resulted in the very substantial town documented by Domesday Book, which also refers to the twenty properties cleared to make way for the castle (Spoerry 2000). Both documentary and archaeological data suggest that the main area of immediately pre-Conquest settlement extended from the later High Street to the east, as far as bar dyke at the end of Mill Common to the west. One particularly noteworthy SMR entry is that of the Late Saxon church and burial ground at Whitehills.

In conclusion, the development site appears to lie inside the Late Saxon town, probably just within the Edwardian burghal defences. The site is in a key position, in the general location at which a market place might be anticipated: the fact that it lies in the same position as the medieval market place may not be coincidental.

4.4 Norman and Medieval

By the time of Domesday survey there were 256 burgesses (freemen who were heads of households), two churches and a mill.

The major element in the post-Conquest medieval townscape is the castle, built in 1068 and at least partially destroyed in 1174. The imposition of the castle onto the pre-existing Saxon town necessitated the movement of the river crossing, resulting in the construction of a wooden bridge, and made it necessary to lay out a new High Street and, probably, market place. Both Ladds and Dickinson thought that the original castle curtilage was much larger than that surviving by the post-medieval period, and proposed that the area immediately west of the motte was in fact a second bailey (Ladds Archive; Dickinson 1972). The distinct rise from west to east under the houses on the street of Castle Hill, along with the substantial earthworks present on the Watersmeet site (see Appendix B) offer strong support for this model. The fact that the earthworks are not shown on the 1886 OS map (or the 1901 revision) but appear by 1926 may mean that this area was substantially re-modelled in the early 20th century, perhaps when the house called Watersmeet was built. If this land were not part of the castle then it may still have experienced a range of other activities in the medieval period and could have been occupied by buildings, particularly following the castle's demise as a defensive structure.

In summer 2003 ASL Ltd carried out excavations at the Watersmeet site and identified a small Christian burial ground (Spoerry, pers. comm.). No written report on this was available for inclusion here.

The stone-built bridge carrying Ermine Street over the River Ouse was constructed in AD 1332. It is believed that the present bridge, with six arches, replaced an earlier timber bridge (Page *et al*, 1932). The surviving structure is considered to be one of the finest of its kind in England and was

constructed simultaneously at both ends by two different authorities, without much regard to direction. Fortunately, the two parts joined in the middle, but as they were not on the same axis the bridge exhibits a notable bend. Records describe a chapel on the east side which, unlike the chapel at St Ives, has not survived.

St Mary's Priory was built north of the town ditch around AD 1086 and may have been located within a detached cemetery of the pre-Conquest collegiate church of St Mary (Page *et al*, 1932). The new priory was constructed shortly after 1086 by Eustace and was substantially complete by the middle of the 12th century. In 1253 the priory held the original two hides of land with the church and the priory, whose buildings included the infirmary and sacristy, both located within the monastic enclosure. These two hides of land were bounded by the King's Ditch, and the parishes of Stukeley and Hartford on the north east, by the Ouse to the south and by the High Street to the west.

The next two or three hundred years was, in general, a period of population growth and increased prosperity over much of England. Huntingdon was a very successful town during this time. It gained prosperity by being the Shire town and by providing a bridged crossing on Ermine Street, which still formed the basis of the route later to become the Great North Road and A1. In addition Huntingdon collected tolls for all those going to St Ives fair, one of the largest gatherings in the country. By the early 14th century Huntingdon had sixteen churches, two priories, a friary and three hospitals; all the hallmarks of a thriving centre. The castle was partially demolished in the late 12th century and, except for the gaol, ceased to be used. It is not certain whether Huntingdon's lower political profile after this time had any economic effect on the town itself. One might expect this to be the case, although the continued growth of the town's key institutions may suggest otherwise.

The 14th century was the period during which fortunes changed for Huntingdon, an extreme example of a trend seen all over the country. Huntingdon had always gained much of its prosperity from its position as a meeting point for goods passing up the Ouse from the Fenland and the Wash and goods travelling along Ermine Street. During the late 13th and 14th centuries there are many references to disputes between the borough and landowners restricting river flow and riverine access further downstream. In addition, the construction of a bridge downstream at St Ives and the demise of St Ives fair all weakened the local economy. These unfortunate circumstances were compounded by countrywide overpopulation and several years of failed harvests, followed by several waves of plague. It seems that there was a particularly severe visitation of the Black Death to Huntingdon itself, and the shortage of people and parlous state of local finances is regularly attested in documents in the 14th and 15th centuries. Six of the churches are not mentioned in documents after the mid-14th century and by the 16th century only four were still functioning: St Mary's, All Saints, St Benedict's and St John's.

During this period, the street frontage perimeter of the development site may have been extensively built up, and areas that are now open may have housed

structures. The typical medieval urban pattern would suggest densely packed buildings along road frontages, with industrial processes and waste disposal occurring behind, often at the end of long narrow burgage plots. Evaluations carried out to the west of Walden Road at The Views (Cooper & Spoerry 1998) and to the rear of 9/10 George Street (Cooper 2000) revealed the presence of medieval features dating to the 13th and 14th centuries. The feature density across these two adjacent sites increased with proximity to Walden Road, although the easternmost features were largely quarries. This fits the general pattern outlined above, although there is no confirmation of street frontage structures from these investigations. Although no direct evidence exists, it is reasonable to expect that buildings would have surrounded the many urban churches, including St Botolph's (SMR 02805), which may have lain within the southern half of the subject area. St George's church (SMR 02593) may have stood at the extreme north of the development site. (See Appendix C for further details of these churches, as well as that of All Saints.) Houses probably lined the lane that would become Prince's Street, and shops would have surrounded Market Hill, operating from a 'sellar', with living accommodation above (Dickinson 1972). By the 16th century this arrangement had changed, and shops were at ground level, but some of the buildings around Market Hill may have preserved the plan of such below-ground features. The SMR shows ridge and furrow on the triangle of land that currently forms the Bus Station, but cartographic sources indicate trackways crossing this area, leading to the common, and these are also partially shown on the SMR map (see Fig. 6).

4.5 Post-Medieval

Huntingdon suffered during the 15th-century War of the Roses and in the Civil War of the 17th century, and throughout this time documents still speak of 'the poor decayed town'. It was only with the rise of the coaching trade in the 18th century that the town found another role and prosperity returned.

The proximity of windmills and the route to the water mill in the 1572 survey and subsequent maps, may have some significance for the development site. In the post-medieval period the castle saw re-use and major re-modelling for defensive purposes during the Civil War.

It is this point in the evolution of the town that the earliest surviving maps depict. Although a map does not accompany the 1572 survey (Appendix D), it is possible for entries to be transcribed onto Jeffery's 1768 map of Huntingdon (Fig.5) and the 1752 plan of the Hospital Lands (Fig.4). These and John Speed's map of 1610 (Fig. 3), all show the development area as having structures along George Street, Market Hill and Prince's Street, as well as along the southern edge. This edge is the modern northern boundary of the bus station, but at the time, it formed the southern limit of urban construction along the north edge of Mill Common. The 1572 survey of the town tells us that George Lane (now Street) existed, as did a lane later to become Prince's Street. One entry describes 'Saffron Yard', possibly a dyers', and this may have existed at the southern end of the development area.

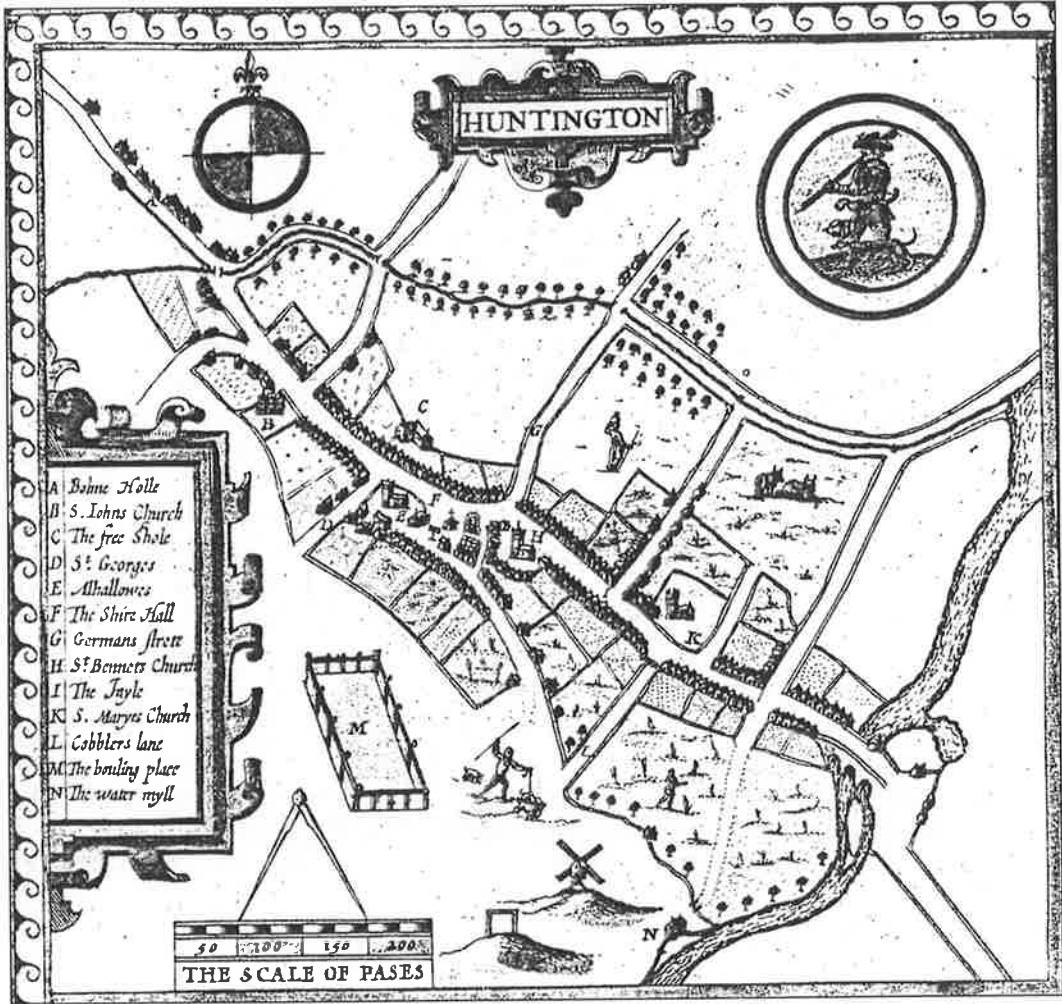


Figure 3 John Speed's map of Huntingdon 1610

At this time, Saffron Walden produced the dye from crocuses, but the town exported this, preferring to produce white cloth itself. Huntingdon may have been one of the end users of the dye, although there are no further historical documents to support this theory. The survey also describes a lane to the north of Saffron Yard, and this could be identified with the narrow alleyway adjacent to Wykenham House.

None of the maps available for study indicated urban development along Walden Road, and even now, there is little along the eastern side of the road. Outside the subject area, there are several listed post-medieval buildings (Fig. 6), including the George Inn (SMR 02681) and the Town Hall (SMR 02736). Within the area, numerous properties along the Prince's Street, Market Hill and George Street frontages are Grade II Listed Buildings, many with cellars: these are fully detailed in Appendix E. No cellar survey of the area was available for study at the HRO and on the 24th June 2003, the author conducted a brief survey. Although the properties with cellars visible from the street largely coincide with the listed buildings, there are also cellars in the 19th-century structures along the south side of George Street.

5 POTENTIAL FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVIVAL (Figs 6-10)

The Huntingdon and Godmanchester area is rich in archaeological remains of all periods. From at least the Roman period onwards, Huntingdon has been the site of continuous occupation, although its fortunes have fluctuated. Its location alone makes it clear that the development site has the potential for survival of archaeological deposits. Study of historical records and known archaeological remains serves to further reinforce this suggestion. The number of recorded find spots from the site itself should not be interpreted, at this stage, as an indication of the density of archaeological remains within the development area.

The Sites and Monuments Record for the zone adjacent to and including the development area begins with a single Roman entry (SMR 00869), a burial urn found in 1824 during the construction of the Post Office. This point is located just across Market Hill from the development area, on the other side of the line of Ermine Street. Slightly further south along High Street, Saxo-Norman pottery was found in features during an excavation in 1995 (SMR CB15332). Saxon pottery has also been found at SMR sites 02605 and 02606, further north along High Street, and just on the western side of Market Hill respectively. To the south, on Mill Common, Saxon pottery was found during excavation in 1992 (SMR 10486a). Medieval entries include the church of All Saints (SMR CB14832; immediately outside the north-east corner of the development area), the reputed site of St George's church (on the north side of George Street; SMR 02593), and the putative site of St Botolph's further south (SMR 02805). The latter location may be subject to some inaccuracy, and might well fall within the southern half of the development area. As noted above, evaluations carried out to the west of Walden Road at The Views (Cooper & Spoerry 1998) and to the rear of 9/10

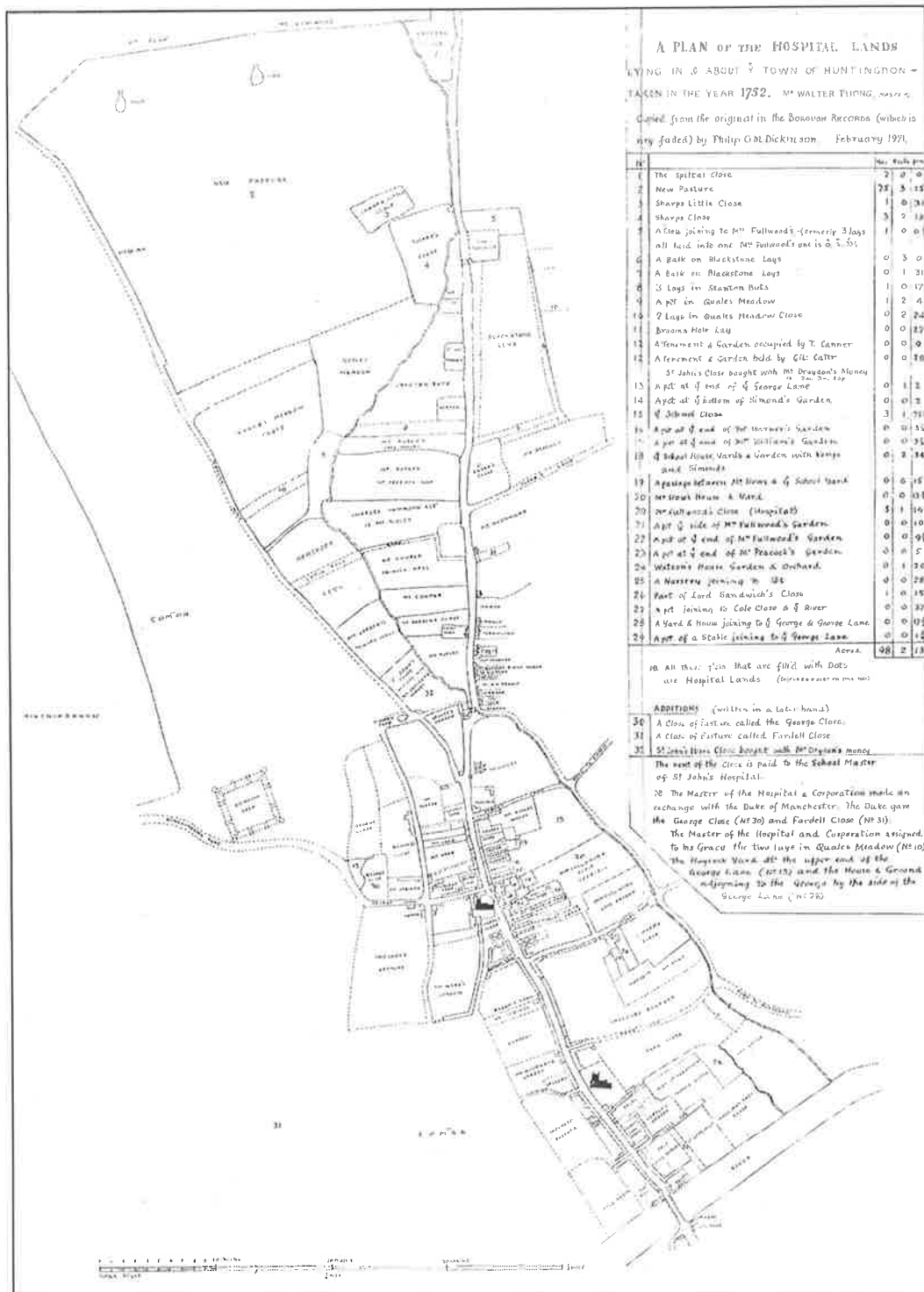


Figure 4 Plan of the Hospital Lands in Huntingdon 1752

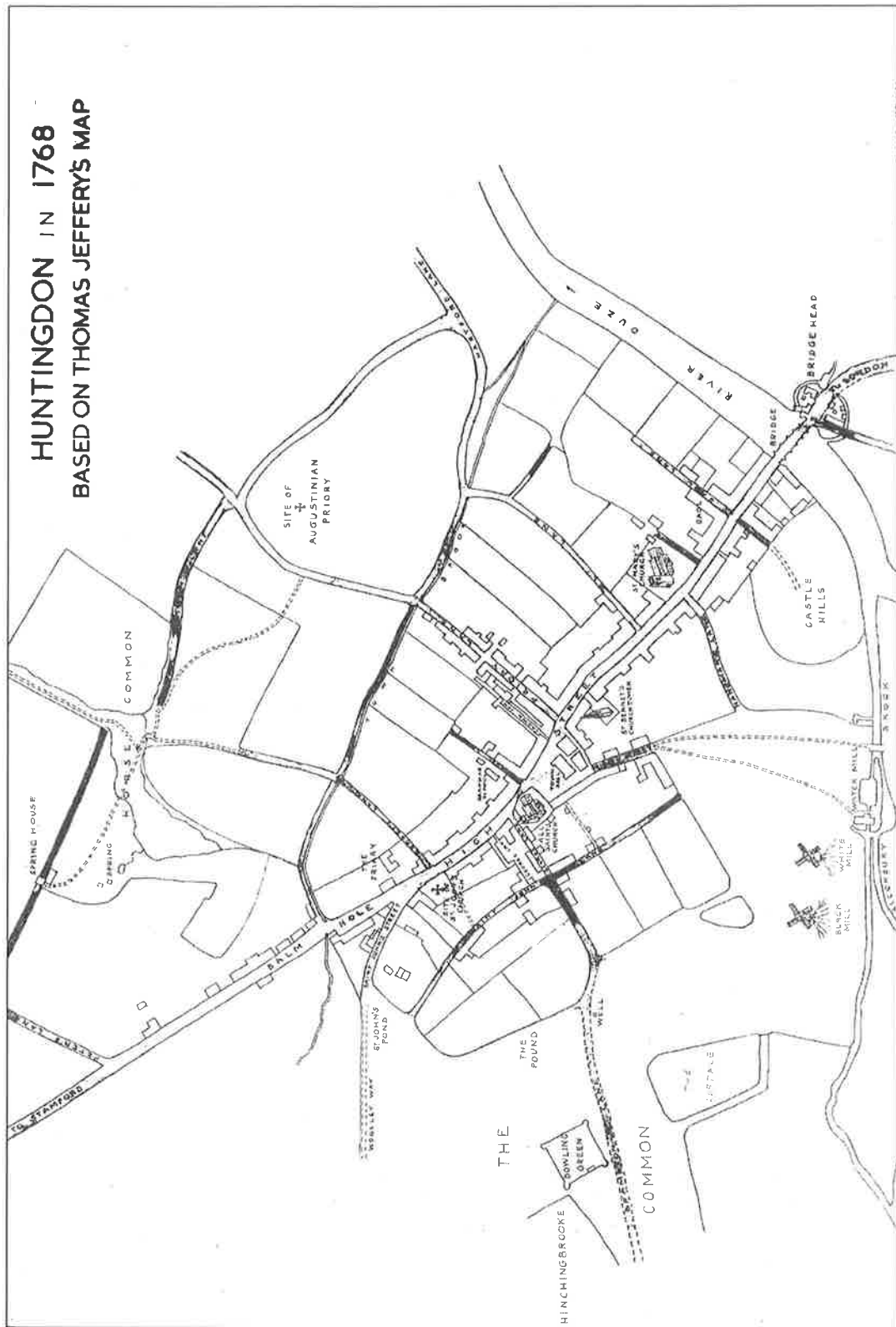


Figure 5 Huntingdon in 1768, based on Thomas Jeffery's map

George Street (Cooper 2000) revealed the presence of medieval features dating to the 13th and 14th centuries. The feature density across these two adjacent sites increased with proximity to Walden Road, although the easternmost features were largely quarries.

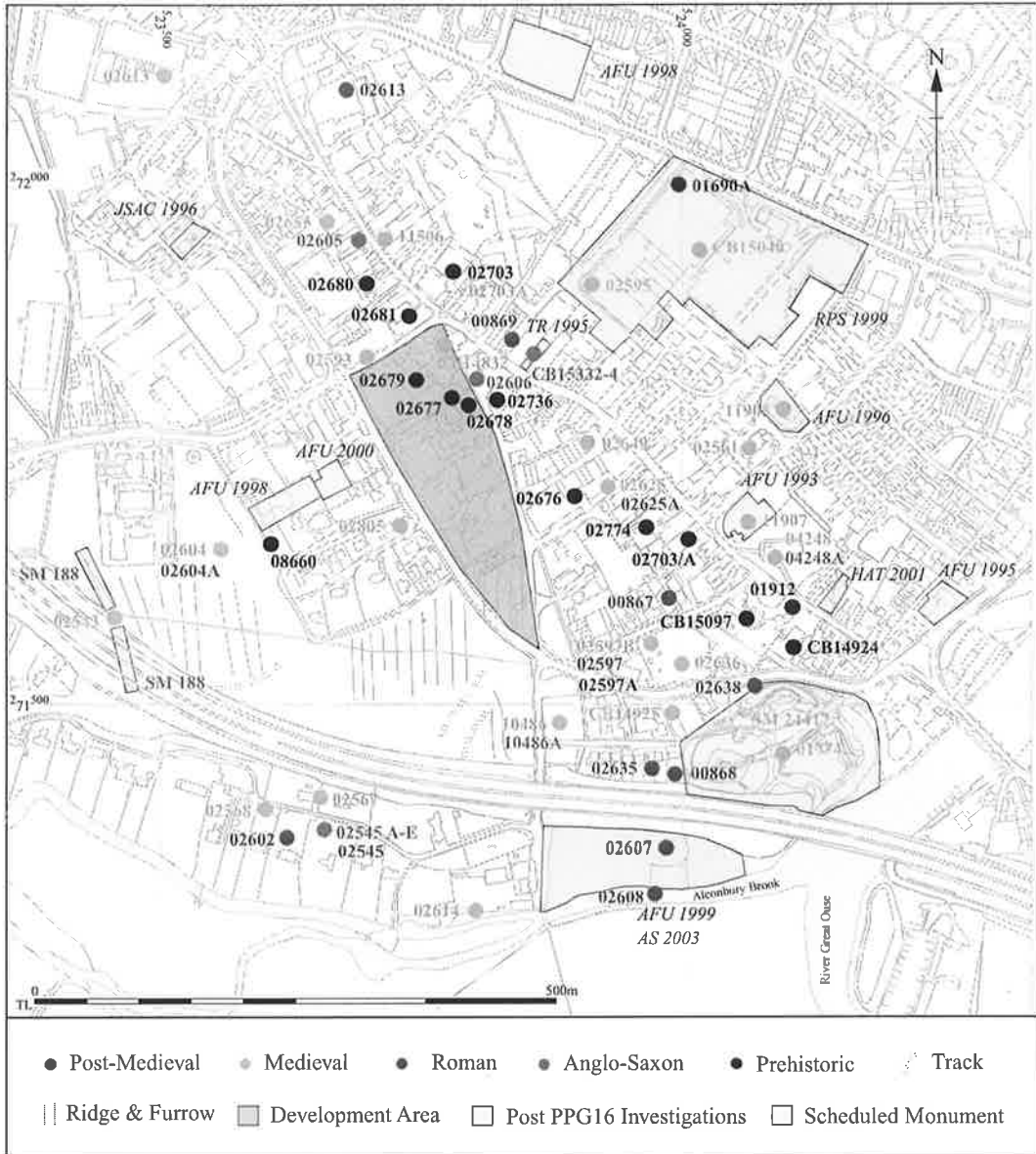
The site has been fortunate, in that modern 20th and 21st century alterations to it have been largely cosmetic. Many structures on the western half of the area are of a temporary nature, and much of the remainder of that half is tarmaced. Both of these are factors that will have had a positive effect on the preservation of any archaeological deposits that survive in that area. Some modification has occurred to the local topography, as evinced by the relative levels of Walden Road, at the junction with George Street, and the adjacent car park on the south side of George Street. The difference here is approximately 0.7m, with the car park being lower by that amount. This modification may have only truncated post-medieval deposits, although this would imply that removal of the tarmac and hardcore is likely to reveal medieval or earlier deposits immediately beneath the modern surfaces. Any form of intrusive construction work would therefore be more likely to compromise these deposits. The bus station and library are both late 20th century additions to this area. Unusually for Huntingdon, no observation seems to have taken place during their construction and no records survive of what may have existed in these locations.

6 IMPACT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT (Figs 7 & 8)

Given the requirements of a multipurpose town centre development and the depths of groundwork, the proposed development will have a major impact on any buried archaeological remains on the site. Foundations and services are usually the main impact zones, but the development may include provision for underground car parking or landscaping, either of which would significantly increase the impact upon any archaeology present. No details of present soil depth or ground water are yet available, although it is usual to conduct borehole tests in advance of such development.

Proposals for mitigation strategies are beyond the scope of this report. The site has high archaeological potential but preservation by record or *in situ* may be considered, depending on the precise nature of the development. Deep deposits may be preserved through architectural or engineering measures. Given the urban nature of the site, intrusive evaluation is likely to uncover extensive, deeply stratified remains.

Whatever finds may be located during work on this area, archaeological investigations within the development zone are likely to have a profound effect upon future models of the evolution of the town.



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Figure 6 Development area and SMR entries

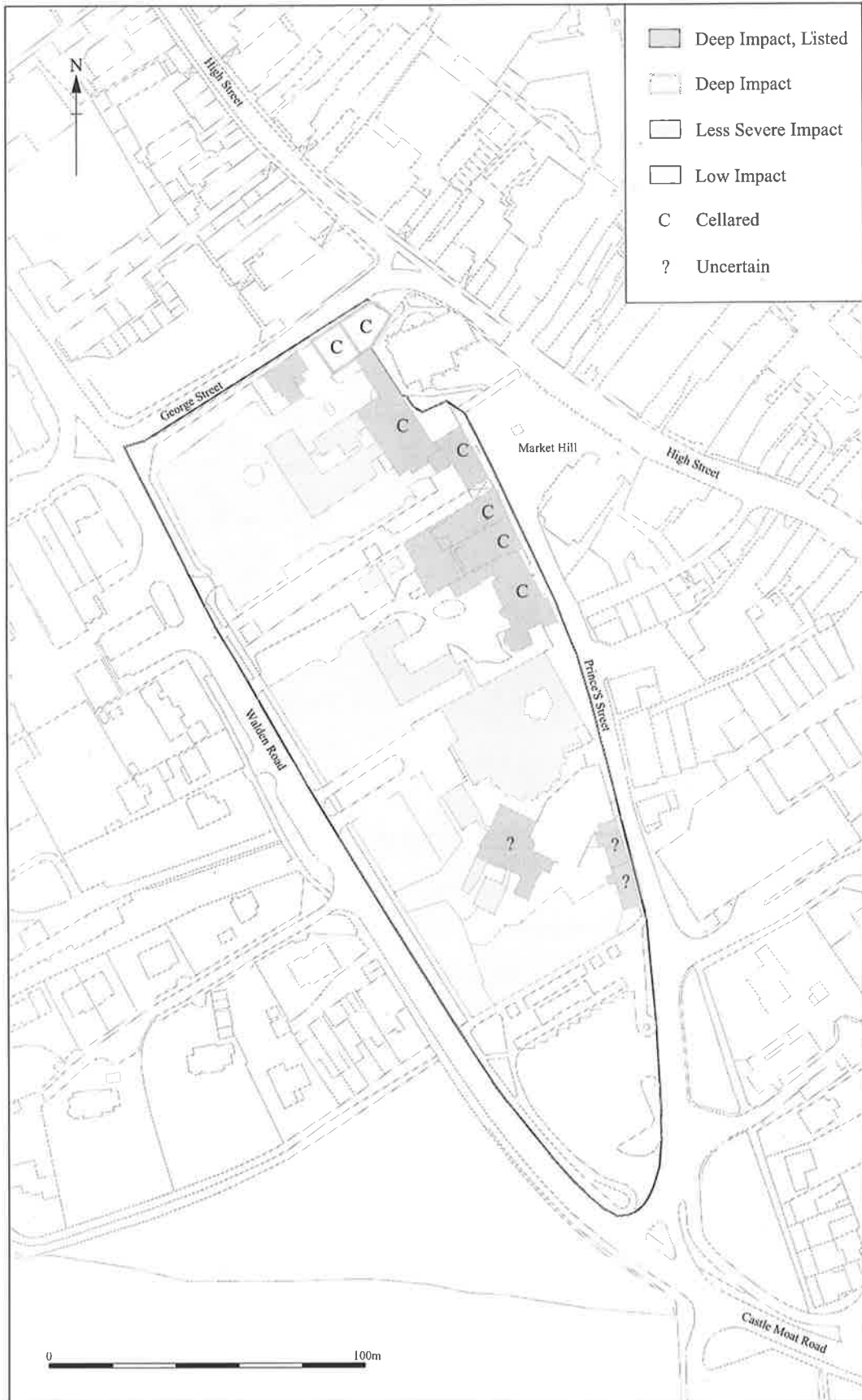


Figure 7 Archaeological impact of proposed development

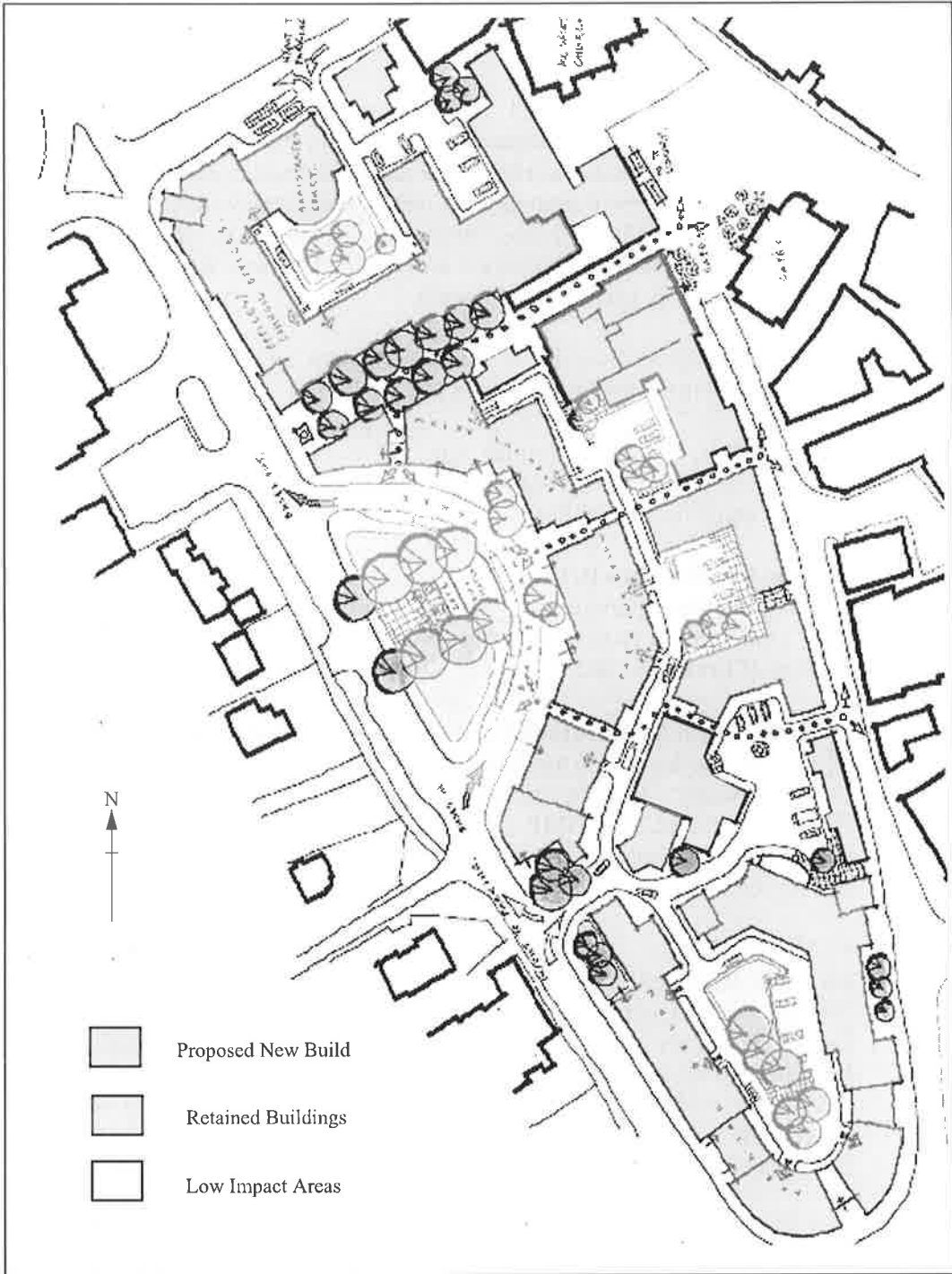


Figure 8 Plan of the proposed development

CONCLUSIONS AND DEPOSIT MODEL (Fig. 9)

The study has demonstrated that the subject site lies within a rich archaeological landscape, surrounded by sites of all periods. Whilst largely medieval and post-medieval remains or finds are known from the subject site itself, its archaeological potential for many periods may be considered high, with particular emphasis placed upon the Saxon period. If archaeology is encountered on the site, conditions for preservation are likely to range from good to very good, particularly at depth.

The archaeological potential of the development area at Huntingdon can be summarised thus (likelihood/certainty):

- **Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age** **low/unknown**
Remains of these periods may be found anywhere across the development area, although the probability is low.

- **Iron Age/Romano-British** **moderate/unknown**
Remains of these periods may be found anywhere across the development area, although the probability is greatest towards the eastern side, closer to the line of Ermine Street.

- **Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Danish** **high/unknown**
Given that the layout of the Saxon burh remains uncertain, it is difficult to predict exactly what types of remains might be located within the development area. The SMR suggests that the north-eastern quarter of the site, close to the market square, may have the highest potential for finds of this period.

- **Medieval** **high/known**
During this period, there would probably have been structures along the Walden Road, George Street, Market Place and Prince's Street frontages. Each structure would have sat in a long narrow burgage plot, separated from its neighbours by fences or possibly walls. To the rear of these plots would have been rubbish and cess pits, quarries, wells, and perhaps some less permanent buildings such as workshops or lean-tos. There may have also been structures lining the lanes that crossed the area from east to west.

The location of St Botolph's is poorly defined in the historical archives, and it may or may not fall within the bounds of the development area. If it does, it would probably lie towards the southern end. St George's, often considered to have occupied the location of the current George Hotel car park, might instead have existed on the south side of George Street, perhaps on the opposite corner to All Saints. There is a possibility that burial grounds associated with these churches may be encountered during development.

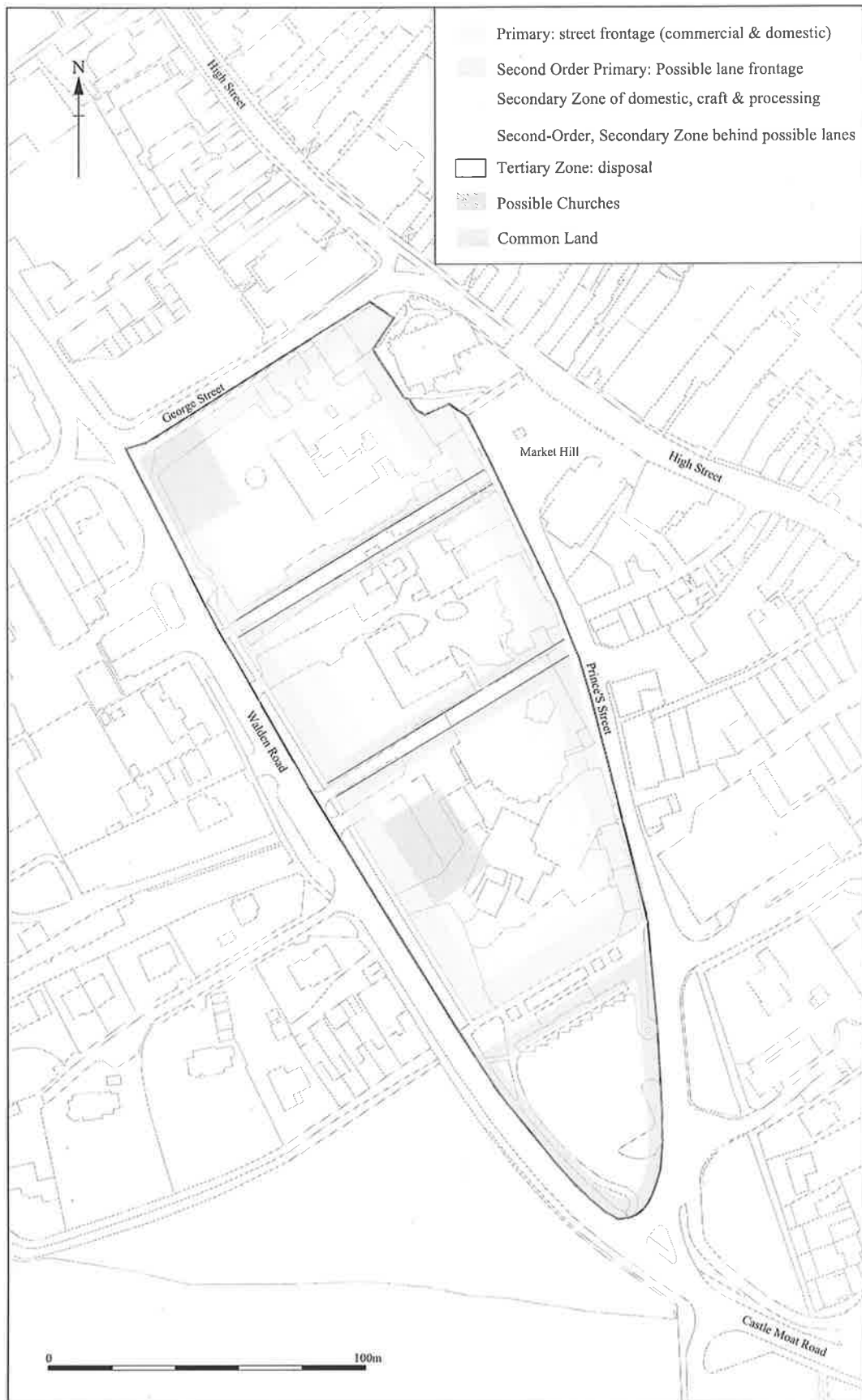


Figure 9 Model of probable post-Conquest medieval landscape

- **Post-Medieval**

high/known

The post-medieval street layout probably matches that of the medieval period very closely. The earliest surviving maps of Huntingdon show buildings along George Street, Market Hill and Prince's Street, but nothing along Walden Road. Most of the buildings with obvious cellars observed by the author are those listed structures on Market Hill and Prince's Street. These would have destroyed earlier deposits during their construction.

Generally, zones of occupation during this period are slightly less predictable, as plots of land are likely to have become amalgamated with buildings constructed away from the roads. The lack of structures along Walden Road persists to the present day (Fig. 10), and may indicate a high chance of survival for Saxon and medieval remains in that part of the site.



Figure 10 Aerial photograph showing extent of summer tree canopy within the proposed development area

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9 CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES

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Jeffery's 1768 map of Huntingdon

1752 plan of the Hospital Lands

John Speed's map of Huntingdon 1610

APPENDIX A

Sites and Monuments Record Gazetteer for Huntingdon (see Fig. 6)

REC. NO	GRID REF	KEYS	PERIOD
00268	TL/256-/726-	inhumation, cremation, brooch, pin, pottery, knife	BA ?, AS ?
00268a	TL/256-/726-	axe	Neo
00268b	TL/256-/726-	quern	IA / Ro
00867	TL/2397/7156	pottery	Ro
00869	TL/2382/7185	pottery	Ro
00871	TL/233-/716-	coin	Ro
00888	TL/23--/72--	coffin, inhumation	U
01054	TL/231-/728-	moat, building, ridge and furrow	Med
01055	TL/2443/7178	moat	Med
01439	TL/255-/728-	worked flint, axe	Pa
01439a	TL/255-/728-	worked flint	Neo
01687	TL/258-/733-	worked flint	Pa
01688	TL/248-/728-	worked flint	Pa
01690	TL/24--/72--	worked flint, axe	Pa
01690a	TL/24--/72--	worked flint	Neo
01774	TL/2409/7145	castle, well, windmill, chapel, skeleton, battery	Med, P Med
01774	TL/2409/7145	castle, well, windmill, chapel, skeleton, battery	Med, P Med
01847	TL/25--/72--	arrowhead, worked flint	Neo
01912	TL/241-/716-	worked flint	Neo
01946	TL 256-/725-	axe, human, bone, urn, pin, knife, quern	BA, AS
01960	TL/253-/727-	arrowhead	BA
01962	TL/25--/72--	axe, palstave	BA
02528	TL/261-/694-	ridge and furrow	Med
02543	TL/235-/716-	earthwork, bank, ditch, mound, ridge and furrow	Med ?, P Med
02545	TL/2366/7138	excavation	Ro
02545a	TL/248-/713-	villa, kiln, tessellated, pavement, hearth, ditch, pit, wall plaster, tessera	Ro
02545b	TL/248-/713-	church, cemetery, inhumation, carved stone, coin	AS
02545c	TL/248-/713-	castle, siege, works, inhumation	Med
02545d	TL/248-/713-	church, wind mill, architectural, fragment, tile, pottery	Med
02545e	TL/248-/713-	house, wind mill, gallows, pottery	P Med
02547	TL/2476/7227	gun battery, ditch	P Med
02547a	TL/247-/723-	worked flint	Neo
02547b	TL/247-/723-	pottery	Ro
02547c	TL/247-/723-	pottery	Med
02560	TL/23--/71--	church	Med
02561	TL/23--/71--	church	Med
02562	TL/23--/71--	church	Med
02563	TL/23--/71--	church	Med
02564	TL/23--/71--	church	Med
02567	TL/237-/714-	wind mill	Med - P Med
02568	TL/236-/714-	wind mill	Med - P Med
02569	TL/23--/71--	church	Med
02572	TL/23--/71--	worked flint	Neo
02574	TL/23--/71--	hospital	Med
02580	TL/23--/71--	hospital	Med
02581	TL/23--/71--	burh	AS
02583	TL/23--/71--	cistern	Ro
02586	TL/228-/714-	inhumation, coin, pottery, hanging bowl, glass vessel, cult object	Ro
02593	TL/2370/7183	church	Med
02594	TL/2406/7158	church	Med
02595	TL/239-/719-	church, bone	Med
02596	TL/23--/72--	church	Med

02597	TL/2397/7156	pottery, coin	Ro
02597a	TL/2397/7156	pottery	IA
02597b	TL/2397/7156	mortar	Med
02599	TL/235-/721-	church	Med
02601	TL/233-/718-	bowling green	P Med
02602	TL/2362/7137	coin	Ro
02603	TL/2355/7139	coin	Ro
02604	TL/2356/7165	arrowhead, pottery	Med
02604a	TL/2356/7165	pottery	Ro
02605	TL/236-/719-	pottery	AS
02606	TL/238-/718-	pottery	AS
02607	TL/2399/7136	coin	Ro
02608	TL/2397/7132	coin	Ro
02609	TL/243-/702-	pottery	Med
02613	TL/2368/7209	key	Ro
02614	TL/238-/713-	water mill	Med - P Med
02621	TL/248-/727-	wind mill	Med - P Med
02624	TL/2425/7159	church	Med
02625	TL/2393/7171	pottery, stone vessel	Ro
02625a	TL/2393/7171	pottery, shoe	Med
02629	TL/245-/748-	forest	Med
02635	TL/2397/7144	cremation, pottery	Ro
02636	TL/2400/7153	arrowhead, pottery	Med
02637	TL/2406/7152	pottery	Ro
02638	TL/2406/7152	pottery, coffin	Ro
02639	TL/2400/7166	house	P Med
02639a	TL/2400/7166	wall painting	P Med
02643	TL/245-/717-	artefact	Med
02648	TL/2423/7216	priory, coffin, tile	Med
02649	TL/2391/7175	church, inhumation, pottery, tile, carved stone, architectural, feature	Med
02652	TL/23--/71--	coin	IA
02655	TL/2366/7196	church, churchyard, building material	Med
02656	TL/2406/7158	house	P Med
02675	TL/239-/717-	house, shop	P Med
02676	TL/239-/717-	house	P Med
02677	TL/238-/718-	house	P Med
02678	TL/238-/718-	inn	P Med
02679	TL/2375/7182	house	P Med
02680	TL/237-/719-	house, shop	P Med
02681	TL/2374/7187	inn	P Med
02682	TL/2542/7264	coin hoard	Med
02683	TL/2499/7245	artefact	Pa
02690	TL/25--/73--	axe	Mes
02696	TL/2469/7203	coin	Ro
02700	TL/254-/725-	coin, mill stone	Ro
02701	TL/2396/7217	token	Med
02703	TL/2366/7204	house	P Med
02703a	TL/2366/7204	friary, wall, tile, architectural, fragment, plaster, carved wood	Med
02707	TL/2273/7148	great house	P Med
02707a	TL/2273/7148	convent, window, arch, architectural, feature	Med
02710	TL/2575/7280	house	P Med
02733	TL/2437/7177	tile	Ro
02735	TL/258-/733-	worked flint	Mes
02736	TL/2382/7180	town hall	P Med
02747	TL/260-/726-	pottery	Ro
02764	TL/242-/711-	seal	P Med
02764a	TL/242-/711-	coin	Ro

02764b	TL/242-/711	church plate	Med
02774	TL/2397/7168	pottery	P Med
02805	TL/2373/7167	pottery, inhumation	Med
03958	TL/2285/7315	gallows, inhumation, human skeleton, pottery	Med, P Med
03958a	TL/229-/732-	pottery	Ro ?
04248	TL/2409/7164	church	Med
04248a	TL/2409/7164	church	AS
05559	TL/253-/727-	worked flint	Pa
05774	TL/2530/7273	worked flint	Pa
06824	TL/262-/708-	rectangular, enclosure, enclosure	U
06918	TL/230-/729-	hospital	Med
08117	TL/2---/7---	worked flint	Neo / BA
08118	TL/2---/7---	worked flint, arrowhead	BA
08660	TL/2360/7166	human bone	U
08747	TL/232-/722-	ridge and furrow	Med
08751	TL/227-/723-	ridge and furrow, earthwork w,	Med, U
09200	TL/260-/720-	enclosure	Ro
09597	TL/25-/72--	spike	BA ?
09781	TL/2---/7---	lock, bottle	P Med
09871	TL/2497/7244	worked flint	Pa
10486	TL/2388/7148	pottery, ditch, animal bone, shell	Med
10486a	TL/2388/7148	pottery	AS
11506	TL/2371/7194	pit, pottery	Med
11740	TL/---/----	ditch, plant remains	Preh
11741	TL/---/----	inhumations, pits	Med

APPENDIX B

Previous Archaeological Work in Huntingdon (Fig. 6)

by Dr Paul Sperry

Pre-1990s

Castle Hill Early 1960s

TL2414/7149; Generally SMR 01774

Philip Dickinson reported that during the laying of telephone lines a short distance within the modern entrance to Castle Hill, in a location close to the footpath, massive stone foundations were discovered a few feet below the ground. He believed that these represent a stone gatehouse inside the moat, probably replacing an earlier one of wooden construction, and stated that tooling on the stones indicated a date of around 1100.

Castle Hill 1963

TL2418/7152; Generally SMR 01774

Construction of the High Street to Mill Common relief road resulted in little damage in the northern section as it ran mostly over the top of the infilled moat. In the garden and car park of the Old Bridge Hotel, however, the foundations of what Dickinson believed to be a Barbican, paired with the gatehouse, were discovered. He did not state whether it was stone-built, but this seems likely. A section through the moat revealed it to be 20' wide with sloping sides becoming near vertical at a depth of 5', at a reduced width of 15'. The full depth is not known as only 7' was revealed, however, Dickinson estimated it to have been 15' or more.

In the car park, Thetford ware and other artefacts were identified and in addition, a large area of fine wood ash about 18 inches deep (c.45cm), was seen close to the gatehouse which Dickinson linked to historic records of the castle being burnt after its capture in 1173. A well with 18th century brickwork was found close by and in the line of the new road.

High Street 1967

TL235/719, 236/717; SMR 02605

A rather cryptic note, apparently from Philip Dickinson, published in the CBA Group 7 Bulletin briefly mentions that excavations for new buildings in the High Street produced "Saxon pottery of the 8/9th century 'at a depth of *twelve feet*'. Also numerous carved stones 'from two of the destroyed churches of the town have also been discovered one with fine chevron moulding'. The two grid references for these findings are, unfortunately, not explained and neither is actually on the High Street.

Whitehills 1967 and 1967-9

TL2366/7138; SMR 02545, 02567

Emergency excavation works were started in 1967 directed by Brian Davison for the Ministry of Works, as a builder had started levelling the site for construction of 2 houses (Davison, unpublished). Following Davison's work Group Captain Trudgian was able to continue excavations on the site as a private venture. The excavation report is available for study through the NMR, however summaries in County SMR and in *Medieval Archaeology* 1967-9 provide a brief statement of each phase of activity. The sequence of construction and activity on the site appears to be as follows, however, succeeding annual statements indicate changing interpretations and this list is almost certainly incorrect at least in part.

- 1 1st century Roman occupation of uncertain form, but a series of ditches are present.
- 2 2nd century timber structure with mortared floor.
- 3 A Roman corridor villa, perhaps of early 3rd century construction, made in part of Barnack stone with a possible industrial (re-)use for one room.
- 4 Re-definition of the above building with changes to partition walls.
- 5 Around 400 east-west aligned burials, associated with late Saxon pottery (St Neots and Thetford type wares). Some of these burials were aligned with part-

- surviving Roman walling suggesting that robbing occurred during the lifetime of the cemetery.
- 6 Some records indicate that the remains of a probable stone building, a chapel associated with the cemetery, were discovered.
 - 7 Scarping of the hill that was associated with the 1174 siege, this site long being assumed to be a siege castle.
 - 8 Very ruined walls of what may have been a medieval church or chapel, including one piece of re-used Saxon decorated masonry (interlace) which had a 13th century arch-moulding on the other side. All a rebuild of the earlier chapel?
 - 9 A windmill (15th century).
 - 10 The gallows, believed by the excavators to have been erected in the 16th century.
 - 11 A second windmill (18th century).
 - 12 19th century cottages.

Castle Hill 1973

TL2415/7140; Generally SMR 01774

Dickinson observed initial works for the Huntingdon bypass, which is located on top of the 19th century railway cutting through the castle, but in construction damaged a larger area of land. He observed a section through the southern rampart that showed it to be of sandy gravel construction lying on top of a raised bank of clay and silt, some ten feet above river level. He noted that where the western end of the moat joined the river the embankment was about 36 feet high. He also observed the castle well, located just outside of the eastern rampart.

Castle Hill 1974

TL2415/7140; Generally SMR 01774

During landscaping of the castle site following the bypass construction Alison Taylor carried out some emergency excavation and recording. Although not published, notes in the County SMR and photos held by CCC AFU indicate that the rampart above the level of the bailey was found to be post-medieval in date and probably of Civil War origin. This covered about 1m of buried soil, which included much artefactual debris of both medieval and Roman date. Below this were a number of shallow-cut and east-west aligned graves, surrounded by coffin nails. The graves may derive from a medieval castle chapel known to have been still in existence in 1327 and presumably with a late 11th-12th century origin.

Pathfinder House Car Park 1973

TL2403/7154

Roger Smith excavated this site for the DoE in 1973. No report or archive exists, but three slides showing plans of the excavated areas and some of the main features are in the possession of David Cozens and copies are with CCC AFU.

The site was located in the former grounds of Castle Hill House and work was allowed in areas of proposed car parks around the then new District Council HQ. A metalled surface, running approximately WSW-ENE, was interpreted as a spur road linking the 2-3rd century Roman Villa 400m to the west at Whitehills with Ermine Street. This latter, or one of Green's two proposed lines, was expected within the excavated area but it was not located and must therefore lie a little to the east of the excavation.

Personal recollections suggest that Late Saxon building remains were found but no actual record exists.

Vague references hint at another trench being located at this time on the north side of St Mary's Street that uncovered a stone church. This reference has not been verified, however, 'great quantities of bone' were known by Carruthers to have been discovered there (1824).

St Benet's Court 1975

TL2388/7173

The large 1970s Benet's area shopping centre development included no archaeological provision beyond a 15m x 7m trial trench, with small linear extension. This represented just 5% of the area of the development and, sadly, is an awful example of a missed opportunity to investigate and/or protect a major part of the town's archaeological resource. The

excavated evidence suggests that the central part of the site may have had little pre-17th century occupation and also that the most significant deposits may lie under up to 2m or more of recent make-up.

The trial excavation was carried out by Terry Betts for the DoE in November 1975, the main purpose being to find the line of Roman Ermine Street and elucidate Roman and medieval occupation. A small triangular-sectioned ditch and associated gravel make-up may have been part of Green's proposed second (eastern) line of Ermine Street. This feature was partially removed by deep medieval ditches running parallel to, and behind, the properties lining the High Street. No trace was found of Green's earlier line of Ermine Street and thus it must either have lain further west, towards Prince's Street, or it did not exist. Cultivation beds containing St Neots, Thetford, Stamford and Lyveden wares lay west of the Roman road ditch and these were in turn covered by a build-up of topsoil under 17th century floors that appear to have been for buildings similar in plan to those surviving into the 20th century. A further metre of make-up overlay these and this may be linked to documentary evidence for ground-raising known for nearby Queen's Head Passage in the late 18th century.

St Benet's Church 1980

TL2391/7175; SMR 02649

St Benet's (Benedict's) Church is known from documents for the reign of Henry I and was still standing until the Civil War, when all but the tower was destroyed. This was pulled down in 1802 and the burial ground used until 1855; the parish was unified with St Mary's in 1668. Repairs to an outhouse revealed foundations and plinth stones, recorded by Ladds (1930); stone from the church was re-used in various constructions between its demise in the 17th century and the construction of a 'gazebo' on the site in the 1980s.

Only a small area (3m x 4m) of the church's known site was available for study, the fieldwork being carried out by A Taylor of CCC, D Cozens of HLHS and CAFG. The earliest E-W wall foundation was of flints bonded with gravel and mortar. The fabric also contained tile and one piece of Stamford ware dated to the 12th century. The wall cut two graves, which suggests that an earlier church, perhaps of wooden construction, may have previously stood here. There were later burials both inside and outside of the stone building and this may have had a porch constructed on the north side. This was followed by an aisle, foundations for the west wall of which were found, and later evidence for part-removal of the west wall of the church may have coincided with the construction of the stone tower observed by Ladds, believed to be of 15th century date. A brick and tile floor was inserted in, perhaps, the 17th century.

After demolition of buildings over the rest of the church site, the team were allowed only part of a day to record some of its dimensions; the tower was found to be 6.4m east-west by 5.8m north-south.

Cromwell House 1976

TL2366/7204; SMR 02703

Small-scale excavations by Alison Taylor and HLHS in the kitchen garden prior to development revealed fragmentary remains of the post-dissolution house foundations, re-using stone from the Friary buildings.

Cromwell House 1984

TL2366/7204; SMR 02703

Small-scale excavations for CCC by David Haigh in advance of redevelopment of the house known to be on the site of the Augustinian Friary, identified that substantial remains of the 13th century buildings survived and also that a major rebuilding had occurred shortly after their initial construction. The remains seemed to be part of the west range, but no function for any room could be confirmed. At dissolution, alterations occurred followed by the major rebuilding of the site to provide the house used by the Cromwell family. The excavator's suggestion that the two observed phases of medieval building date to the Friary's foundation in 1258 and to a documented rebuild after a major fire in 1286 seems reasonable.

Documentary evidence indicates that in 1363 the Friars gained permission to construct an underground conduit leading from a well on Spring Common to the monastery. Carruthers (1824) reports a description of a brick underground feature in the correct location, however, Ladds describes a stone construction in an early 20th century observation opportunity which showed the culvert to run beyond the south side of the present house in the direction of Spring Common.

1990s (Post-PPG16)

Mill Common 1992

TL2388/7148; SMR 10486, CB12453

In 1992 the Archaeological Field Unit dug several small test pits in land to the east of Mill Common (AFU Report No. 59). Although only a tiny area of earlier deposits was exposed the evidence suggests a (property) boundary ditch existed here from perhaps the 11th or 12th century onwards which superseded dumping, possibly within former quarries. Later deposits suggest dumping in both the medieval and modern periods. This location, close to the castle, might conceivably have provided earthen material for the defences, known to have been built in the late 11th century. The suggestion of quarrying here in that period cannot, however, be directly linked to the construction of the castle, although the two *may* be related. The partial demolition of the castle in the late twelfth century might also have provided the fill of any open quarries (before the ditch was constructed), or it may be represented by the dumping over the top of this feature.

A Leper Cemetery at Spittal's Link 1993

TL229/732

In 1993 a team from the AFU excavated and recorded the mostly partial remains of 55-60 human burials during road widening at the Spittal's Link roundabout at the northern end of the historic settlement of Huntingdon (AFU Report No. A20). The Leper Hospital of St Margaret is known to have existed close to this location from its foundation by Malcolm IV of Scotland in the mid-12th century until a probable abandonment in the 15th century. Study of the skeletal material by Corinne Duhig, AFU Palaeopathologist, suggested that a large proportion of the bodies had abnormalities associated with leprosy. In addition it seems that many were buried in one very large pit, but at different depths. This may indicate mass burial of individuals after an epidemic (perhaps one of the 14th century plagues) or it might be that a large open pit was made available for regular, but periodic, burial of individuals who succumbed to secondary diseases and infections associated with leprosy.

Medieval Domestic Rubbish Pits at 90/91 High Street 1993

TL2371/7194

A small recording exercise in 1993 in advance of shop construction and refurbishment revealed a considerable density of archaeological remains behind two historic High Street frontage properties (Heawood 1994). At least twelve rubbish pits were recorded which, from pottery found within their fills, could be dated to the 11th to 12th centuries. At least one of these contained cessy material suggesting the deposition of human waste products. In addition linear features suggested, as expected, that the boundaries between the 'burgage plots' were of similar antiquity to the pits. Other smaller features included postholes which may indicate the former presence of timber structures. This one small recording exercise seems to confirm that there was a great density of occupation within the northern part of Huntingdon, at least in areas close to the High Street frontage, in the 11th to 12th centuries. Until now the historic data seems to have suggested that the main part of the town continued up to the Augustinian Friary (now Cromwell House) and beyond, but perhaps not until the later 13th century. The presence of earlier activity at 90/91 High Street is thus significant.

Medieval and Later Deposits at High Street/Hartford Road Corner 1993-4

TL2406/7167; SMR 11907, CB14013

In 1993-4 the AFU carried out evaluation trenching and observation in advance of a planning decision, on the forecourt of Marshall's Garage at the corner of Hartford Road and the High Street (AFU Report No. 105). Three trenches were excavated which revealed a variety of archaeological deposits. The earliest deposits may date to before the Norman Conquest, but this is not certain.

The first remains of certain date come from the 13th to 14th centuries, the dating deriving from pottery sherds. A gravel surface, perhaps part of a yard, was laid and in addition rubbish pits and evidence for timber, and possibly stone, structures was identified. As the latter in some way back from the High Street frontage it suggests fairly dense occupation in the secondary areas along this main street.

Following this a period of deliberate ground raising occurred, perhaps to combat flooding. Large quantities of clay and other materials, much of it burnt, were dumped towards the end of the medieval period. Then, around 1500, a cellared building was constructed on the High Street frontage which may be one of three inns mentioned in a document dating to 1572. This structure was probably partly demolished in the 17th century and around this time further buildings were constructed on the Hartford Road frontage. These were demolished in the 19th century prior to the building of St Mary's Vicarage.

A Medieval Burial Ground and Later Quarrying on Orchard Lane 1994-5

TL2420/7160

Evaluation in 1994 and excavation in 1995 were carried out by the AFU, funded by English Heritage, in advance of the development of the former Peacock's builders yard on Orchard Lane only 70m from the High Street and close to the riverside (Oakey 1997). Human bone had been recorded during works in adjacent locations and it seemed likely that this might indicate the location of the burial ground of the lost church of St Clement, known to have existed between St Mary's parish and the riverside in the medieval period. Evaluation confirmed the presence of human remains, plus archaeological deposits pre-dating and post-dating the burials.

Excavations revealed rubbish and cesspits dating to the period 900-1150, along with evidence for property boundaries and burials. The date that the burial ground was established is not certain; it cannot be assigned to either before or after the Norman Conquest. It certainly was in existence in the 13th century, however, and may have ceased to function before the end of the 14th century. No evidence for the church itself was found.

After the 14th century the burial ground ceased to function. The later periods of activity on the site mostly seem to suggest that it remained open ground, supporting a belief that the town contracted significantly for several hundred years. In the 16th to 17th centuries, however, a period of quarrying was followed by the partial backfilling of one quarry pit with hot, damaged bricks and other building debris. This may be related to the demolition of structures damaged in the Civil War.

12 Hartford Road; Medieval occupation on a Side Street 1996

TL241/718; SMR 11908, CB14014

In 1996 an evaluation was undertaken at 12 Hartford Road, in advance of a planning decision for a residential development (Connor 1996). A trench along the street frontage revealed three phases of medieval activity from the 12th to mid-14th centuries, including quarrying for clay and the construction of timber buildings. Towards the rear of the property more evidence for several phases of structures was revealed, and in addition a sequence of pitting, presumably for rubbish disposal, may have started as early as the 10th century, but was certainly underway by the early 12th. This was superseded by a mid-14th century dump layer. A pond may also have existed here throughout the medieval period and it was probably not filled in until the 18th century.

This site confirms the presence of dense occupation along Hartford Road, and not just on the immediate street frontage, in the 12th to 14th centuries and possibly earlier. The absence of later activity supports documentary evidence for a severe decline in activity in the town in

the late medieval period, with even a secondary routeway such as this becoming peripheral to the main areas of activity/occupation.

112 High Street 1995/6

TL2384/7183, SMR CB975, CB15332-4

Excavation was carried out by Tempus Reparatum on a key frontage plot on the north side of Market Hill on the High Street (Richmond 1996). The post-excavation assessment provides summaries by feature type and phase that can be reconstructed to gain a perception of the occupation history of the site.

There appears to have been a low level of occupation in the vicinity in the 10th/11th to mid-12th centuries, with only a number of poorly defined layers and pits being possibly representative of this time period.

In the 12th to 13th centuries layers are present which are taken to be indicative of dumping associated with nearby occupation. Pitting increases in magnitude with two very substantial ones located 20m from the frontage, but structural evidence is still slight with only two postholes and *possibly* the earliest layers associated with hearths dateable to this period.

The majority of dumping horizons, make-up and activity surfaces could confidently be dated to the 13th to 14th centuries. In addition many pits were dug, albeit generally of small size. Structural remains take the form of a little post hole evidence for flimsy timber structures, several hearths and one possible domestic fireplace. These remains probably derive from some form of industrial processing taking place on the property in this period.

Stanton Butts, Stukeley Road 1997

TL2325/7260

Evaluation trenching by the CAU west of the old line of Ermine Street revealed dense pitting of a dispersed nature plus linear features that represent either fence-lines or timber buildings mostly dating to the 13th century or thereabouts. Ditched features in the southern part of the site and the possible building remains further north are aligned together but not with the present Stukeley Road which here is believed to preserve the line of Ermine Street. The implication is that the road may have been aligned more to the north-west to south-east at this time. The occupation remains were interpreted as being most likely to be associated with a moated site immediately north of the site, rather than implying ribbon development continuing from the High Street this far north along Ermine Street.

St Clements Passage 1998

TL 2413/7162, SMR CB14595

In 1998 the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council undertook an excavation at St Clements Passage (Roberts 1999). Excavation revealed quarry pits, rubbish pits and deposits dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods. A clay and wood lined pit was found in a group of similar features in the northern part of the site. The considerable build up of a garden type soil suggest this area was open land to the rear of properties along the High Street until the 19th century.

The Old Music and Drama Centre, Brookside 1998

TL2385/7210, SMR CB186

An evaluation at Brookside revealed medieval activity perhaps representing suburban development immediately outside of the town ditch (Cooper & Sperry 1998). This activity was focussed around a crossing point where the track to Abbot's Ripton intersected the town ditch. Other features on the site indicated medieval quarrying and some possible prehistoric features.

The Views 1998

TL 236/717, SMR CB183

An evaluation at this site in 1998 revealed only a single archaeological feature containing 13th- to 14th-century pottery.

Stanton Butts, Stukeley Road 1999

TL2325/7260

Excavations by the AFU revealed suburban ribbon development, activity of an interrupted nature in the 12th to 14th centuries, represented by the truncated foundations of timber buildings fronting onto Stukeley Rd.

These remains have important ramifications for the history and development of medieval Huntingdon. The location of these remains is highly significant since it establishes medieval suburban ribbon development along Ermine St. The identification of suburban development is of considerable interest since it provides an opportunity to examine issues concerning the growth of the town in the 12th and 13th centuries and subsequent decline in the 14th century. The excavation identified a number of phases; the first phase of activity on the site is the Roman roadside ditch. Phase 2 sees the development of roadside buildings and associated tenement plots whilst Phase 3 is characterised by greater development of tenement plots with extensive areas of pitting and quarrying across the site. Phase 4 is characterised by the reinstatement of backplot ditches and further pitting (Cooper & Sperry, forthcoming).

9/10 George St 2000

TL2367/7171, SMR CB182

An evaluation was carried out to the west of the development area at 9/10 George St in June 2000 by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council (Cooper 2000). This area lay adjacent to the evaluation at The Views undertaken in 1998. The evaluation revealed extensive 13th and 14th century quarrying, post-holes and pits, with feature density increasing towards Walden Road.

Watersmeet 2000

TL239/713

This evaluation revealed significant late Iron Age/Roman and medieval remains within the development area. The first century Iron Age or Roman remains may represent roadside activity alongside Ermine Street. The riverside occupation may eventually have culminated in the nearby villa site. The medieval remains consist of several occupation features, plus a re-working of the riverside escarpment that is almost certainly defensive and probably dates to the post-Conquest period, rather than being part of the Danish or Saxon burh. It may therefore represent a 'lost' western bailey of the Norman Castle.

Hinchingbrooke 1997-2003

Just to the west of Huntingdon, adjacent to Hinchingbrooke Country Park, development has been ongoing for several years, creating new housing estates and local amenities. Archaeological work in advance of this has revealed extensive Iron Age settlement from the Middle and Late Iron Age, and also Roman occupation, possibly persisting into the 5th century (Hinman 1997).

The first phase of evaluation, which took place in January 1997, identified a marked concentration of features datable to the late Iron Age adjacent to the northern limit of the current development area. As a result of this evaluation the AFU were commissioned to undertake the simultaneous excavation of two open areas, to the north and east of the current development area (see below).

1997 Excavation

Excavation revealed the north-eastern limit of a middle Iron Age settlement. Significant artefacts recovered included two currency bars, a ritually defaced quern base, the ritually placed upper fore-limb of a boar, a complete rotary quern top and base, knife fragments, iron working waste, loom weight fragments and large quantities of domestic pottery and animal bone.

The presence of currency bars would seem to suggest a settlement displaying a relatively high degree of wealth and status. That these and other objects had been deliberately placed at the same point on the northern settlement boundary is taken as indicative of symbolic ceremonial activity resulting from the beliefs and superstitions of the Middle Iron Age inhabitants.

Enclosure ditches associated with a separate late Iron Age settlement were also revealed at the eastern limit of the previous land sale area, within 30m of the northern limit of the development.

A second phase of evaluation, which took place in spring 2000, identified marked concentrations of settlement related features datable to the late Iron Age and Roman periods.

2000 Excavation

Limited excavation was undertaken by the AFU in 2000. The main features identified included a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pit, a 1st century AD pottery kiln, three inhumations (human burials), a metalworking area/smithy with *in-situ* crucible, structural remains including an aisled barn and possible villa wall foundations, post alignments/fence lines, enclosure ditches, processing areas, hearths/ovens, cistern and rubbish pits.

Significant artefacts were recovered, which included a flint arrowhead (barbed and tanged), late Neolithic/early Bronze Age structured deposits of ceramics, lithics, animal bone and stone. Roman artefacts included high status Claudian/Neronian pottery (1st century AD) including imported Dressel 20 Amphora (Spanish) and rare central Gaulish glazed ware, in addition to painted plaster, metalworking slag, stamped Samian ware, and over 70 metal objects. Environmental sampling has produced evidence for the consumption of fresh seafood, peas, wheat and barley, large assemblages of domestic pottery, tile and animal bone of 1st century through 4th/5th? century AD date.

The New School Site 2000

(TL 223/722)

A further stage of evaluation was undertaken on land to the east and immediately adjacent to the Bob's Wood site in December 2000. The 'New School' evaluation identified a group of pits within the northernmost extent of the development area provisionally dateable to the early Bronze Age. Three pits were similar in terms of size and fill type to a series of features excavated within Area 1 of the 1997 excavations. Those pits, all of which, with one notable exception, were devoid of any artefactual material were aligned roughly north south and had subsequently been truncated by a later Iron Age ditch and have been interpreted as the first formalised phase of boundary definition within that part of the site.

The results of the New School Site were interesting in that the area evaluated was not covered by anything like the density and diversity of remains encountered either in 1997 or on the Bob's Wood site. One possible explanation for the paucity of features dateable to the late Iron Age and the surprising absence of Romano-British artefactual materials may be that the area currently under investigation had held some special significance to the earlier prehistoric peoples of the area, a significance that continued to be respected during the later Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Support for this idea may be gained by the presence of those pits dateable to the early Bronze Age within Trench 26.

Other more pragmatic explanations may include the possibility that this part of the hillside was unattractive for settlement, perhaps due to poor drainage or a relatively exposed location. Evaluation identified a similar absence of artefactual materials combined with a lack of any surviving archaeological features within the south western corner of the Bob's Wood site (Hinman 2000). Here the void in the archaeological record was attributed to poor drainage and soil conditions where the underlying boulder clay lay directly below the subsoil.

Glendower, Mill Common 2003

(TL 2371/7130)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 440 square metres of land to the rear of Glendower, Mill Common, Huntingdon (NGR TL 23714 71304) by the Archaeological Field Unit of Cambridgeshire County Council.

The evaluation identified significant Roman riverside activity that may be related to a Roman villa less than 100m to the west, at Whitehills. A large channel, or a series of channels, which contained Roman building material was identified in Trench 1.

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APPENDIX C

The Churches of All Saints, St Botolph and St George

by Dr Paul Spoerry

This appendix contains information from a forthcoming publication (Spoerry in prep.) and provides extracts relating to the three churches closest to (or perhaps on) the development site.

All Saints (SMR CB 14832)

This surviving medieval church is located on the north side of the medieval market place (Market Hill), and has early 13th century fabric although the first documentary reference to this church is probably in 1217 (Ladds Archive). It appears to have been a holding of both the prior of Huntingdon and the Abbot of Thorney. The topographic model for the pre-Conquest town expounded elsewhere (Spoerry forthcoming) includes the option of an early origin for Market Hill as an extra-mural market place in line with common practice in Edwardian burghal foundations (Haslam 1984). This model often includes a new burghal church located adjacent to the new burghal market and All Saints is in such a position. There are some problems with this suggestion. Firstly, two probable pre-conquest church locations have already been proposed and in addition the area around Market Hill has failed to produce pre-Conquest remains, despite several observations and small excavations. The location of All Saints also appears to be directly over the former line, or lines, of Roman Ermine Street which, almost certainly, still functioned as the main spinal member of the Saxon settlement until the imposition of a new plan following the construction of the castle in the immediate post-Conquest period. Also, in the 19th century All Saints parish was restricted to a slice of the probable medieval urban settlement and this does not look like the residual part of a much larger Saxon holding associated with an early church, especially not with a burghal church. This parish is demarcated on its north east side by the town ditch, emphasising its urban character, and in addition the inclusion of a small piece of frontage on St Germain Street, on the south eastern edge of the parish was taken by Ladds (unpub. archive held in the Norris Museum, St Ives) to indicate that the post-medieval parish also included the medieval parish of St Germain (see below).

In conclusion, All Saints is unlikely to have had pre-Conquest origins and is therefore not a Saxon foundation and not one of the two Domesday churches. Its important position on the northern edge of Market Hill implies that it was probably created soon after the immediate post-Conquest re-ordering of the settlement as a church and parish specifically for part of the newly added or re-designed parts of the town. It may have been intended to replace the Mill Common church, which was now in a peripheral position, separated from the main focus of the post-Conquest settlement. Alternatively, if the Mill Common church was deliberately moved to, or replaced by, St Andrews or St John the Baptist's, All Saints could have been a new foundation serving a major holding in the town, which is the manner in which many urban churches of the period started out.

St Botolph's (SMR 02805)

St Botolph's church, a very recognisable pre-Conquest dedication, was owned by Huntingdon Priory and in a deed of 1451 a close called 'Paradys' enclosed with a vine hedge located is described as 'lying in the parish of St Botolph in Huntingdon, between the king's highway on one side and land of the house of nuns of St James of Hynchynbrok on the other side, one end abuts on the road which leads towards the castle and the other end on the king's highway which leads to Barredych...' (HRO BR Box1 1451, translated by S Edginton). Ladds also saw this reference and took it to mean that St Botolph's was on the west side of town in the area of Mill Common. This is supported by detail from the 1572 survey (Dickinson 1972) that seems to locate both a vineyard and the close called Paradys in the region between the castle and the western edge of town. The Late Saxon church excavated on the edge of Mill Common above the Alconbury Brook in the 1960s, but not published (SMR 2545, and a plan published in Spoerry 2000), is a good candidate for St

Botolph's, the proximity of the Kings Highway, the Nuns lands, plus the road to the castle, to the close called Paradys implies that the parish ran northwards across what is now Mill Common to the road to Hinchingsbrooke. We might therefore expect that one of the more populous quarters of the Saxon town now lies undisturbed in this area.

Alternatively, SMR point 2805, which was described by Ladds as perhaps being on the eastern side of Walden Road rather than its vaguely defined location as in the SMR, seems to represent a burial ground that has also been associated with St Botolph's Church. This attribution may be wholly erroneous.

St George's (SMR 02593)

The general location of St George's church can probably be seen on Speed's map of 1610 (Fig. 3). This attribution is by no means certain, however, as Speed's map may just be referring to St George's Street. The balance is in favour of this being a church location rather than simply a street name as most of the other items identified by Speed are churches and public buildings. As to which building is being referred to, the SMR and Taylor (1984) both link the name to a building lying on the north side of modern 'George Street' that would now be in the yards of the George Inn. It is this author's belief that Speed's notation relates to a more substantial building drawn on the south side of this same street.

Nonetheless it seems that the church was on St George's/George Street, the surviving George Inn receiving its name from its location and not vice versa. Ladds also noted in his archive that St George's was subsumed into All Saints parish, meaning it had to have been a fairly central and small urban parish in the first place. All of this must, however, be judged alongside the simple fact that no other or earlier reference to St George's church has been found to date.

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APPENDIX D

Extract from the 1572 Survey of Huntingdon

293 ITEM on the north side of the Comons a peece of Ground called the Saffron Yard in the tenure of Sergeant Meade.

294 ITEM next yt a Comon lane compassing the sd Saffron Yard upon the north and abutting to ye great Comons.

415 ITEM A Comon lane called the George Lane.

420 ITEM a Tryangle peece of ground adjoyning to the Saffron yard in the tenure of Joan Ventris.

421 ITEM a Comon lane leadinge from the Markett Hill to the greate Commons.

Notes

293 The Saffron Yard was near Hinchingbrooke and a lane led to it from Prince's Street.

421 This lane is now Prince's Street.

APPENDIX E

Listed Building Information

Church of All Saints MARKET HILL	Period 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20 Grade B
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- A mainly C15 church but with some earlier fabric.
- Mostly rubble, castellated throughout Nave, aisles, chancel, northwest tower, south porch.
- Slate roofs.
- Restored by Sir George Gilbert Scott c.1860.
- Four bay Perpendicular nave with Perpendicular aisle windows on north and decorated south aisle windows, clerestorey to nave with three light windows, glass of 1860 by Clayton and Bell.
- Angel roof of C15 type to nave, this by Scott, the chancel roof is original.
- The tower rebuilt in brick in mid C17 with the castellated top in the C19.
- Elaborate reredos and screen of 1859, organ chamber and vestry, Scott 1859.
- RCHM DESCRIPTION; The walls, generally, are of rubble, but the east part of the south aisle is of ashlar and the tower is partly of brick; the dressings are of Ketton and Barnack stone.
- The roofs are covered with lead.
- The earliest part of the existing building is the west bay of the north arcade, which is of early C13 date and now forms a tower arch.
- The Tower itself was built late in the C14, and late in the C15 or earlier in the succeeding century the rest of the church, including the Chancel, Nave, North and South Aisles and South Porch, was rebuilt.
- The nave and north aisle were restored in 1859 and in 1861 the east part of the south aisle was rebuilt, largely with the old material.
- The North Vestry and Organ Chamber are modern.
- Architectural Description: All the details are of late C15 or early C16 date unless otherwise described.
- The Chancel, 30 ft by 16 ft, has a moulded plinth and an embattled parapet.
- The parapet string is carved with small bosses, including a rose, crown, fleur de lys, star, portcullis, crescent with manacles, molet, feathers, knot and a shield with the name R Nowel, presumably that of the builder of the chancel.
- The partly restored east window is of four cinquefoiled lights with tracery in a four-centred head with moulded reveals and crocketed label with finial and grotesque stops.
- In the north wall is a modern arch to the organ chamber and further east a doorway with chamfered jambs and four centred head.
- In the south wall are three much restored windows, each of three cinquefoiled lights with vertical tracery in a four centred head with moulded reveals and label similar to the east window, but with returned stops; below the middle window are traces of the blocking of a former doorway.
- Flanking it are the outlines of a parapet or breast wall, cut back, which may possibly indicate the former existence of an outside pulpit.
- The chancel arch is two centred and of two orders, the outer double hollow chamfered on the west face, and continuous, and the inner moulded and springing from attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases.
- The inner order may be of C14 material reused and the responds have been partly restored.
- The Nave, 50 ft by 19ft, has a north arcade of four bays, the three eastern have four-centred arches of two moulded orders with a moulded ogee label on the south face, carried up to the string course at the base of the clerestorey.
- The columns have each four attached shafts with moulded capitals and bases and the responds have attached half columns, the westernmost bay is of early C13 date.
- The arch is two centred and of two chamfered orders, it springs on the east from a cylindrical column with a moulded capital, all partly engaged in the respond of the adjoining bay.

- The west respond is chamfered, the inner order of the arch resting on a short shaft with a moulded and foliated capital and a moulded base, supported on a foliated corbel.
- The south arcade is of four bays uniform with the three eastern bays of the north arcade.
- The clerestorey has an embattled parapet with a carved gargoyle on the north side.
- There are three restored windows on the north and four on the south side, each of three cinquefoiled lights in a four-centred head with a moulded label.
- The North Aisle, 11 ft wide, has an embattled parapet with carved bosses on the string course.
- The buttresses have crocketed pinnacles and a niche with gabled and crocketed head in the face of each.
- The two east bays have been rebuilt, but with much of the old material reused, and the fourth bay has been much restored, the two eastern bays are faced with ashlar.
- In the east wall is a window, almost entirely modern, and of four cinquefoiled lights with vertical tracery in a two-centred head with a moulded label.
- The mullions are carried down below the sill, both inside and out, to form panels.
- On the inside the two middle panels are original and formed the reredos of an altar, they are each subdivided into two cusped panels, enclosing a blank and mutilated shield supported by two mutilated angels.
- The side panels have sub cusped heads with foliated spandrels partly original.
- In the south wall are three windows, similar to that in the east wall, the old work includes probably the head stops of the labels and most of the panelling below the windows.
- Each panel has a sub cusped head with foliated points and spandrels; the partly restored south doorway has moulded jambs, four centred arch and label.
- In the west wall is a window of four cinquefoiled lights with tracery in a four-centred head with moulded reveals and label.
- The North West Tower, 10 ft by 9 ft, was built over the west bay of the north aisle late in the C14 and is of two stages with an embattled parapet and crocketed pinnacles at the angles, partly restored; the parapet string has a series of mask corbels.
- The walls are of brick and stone with stone dressings, except the upper part of the bell chamber, which is faced with ashlar.
- In the east wall of the ground stage is a two-centred arch of two chamfered orders, the outer continuous and the inner springing from attached shafts with moulded capitals and chamfered bases.
- The upper storey of the ground stage has a pointed opening in the east wall.
- The bell chamber has in each wall a window of two cinquefoiled lights with tracery in a two-centred head with moulded reveals and label.
- The South Porch has an embattled parapet with two carved gargoyles.
- The two centred outer archway is of two moulded orders, the outer continuous and the inner springing from attached shafts with moulded capitals and modern bases; the responds have been partly restored.
- In the middle of the parapet is a small niche with a moulded and carved bracket and a bowed and ribbed canopy.
- The side walls have each an internal recess with a four centred head, containing a partly restored window of two cinquefoiled lights in a two centred head with moulded reveals and label.
- The Roof of the chancel is low pitched and of three bays with moulded main timbers, and curved braces to the tie beams.
- The timbers form panels that are carved on the soffit and have bosses at the intersections carved with a cross on a foliated background, a pelican in her piety, the letters I H S and foliage.
- The wall posts have carved figures of saints, but they are of doubtful antiquity.
- The roof has remains of colour but has been considerably restored. The roof of the nave is modern, but some of the carved figures supporting the wall posts may be original.
- There are three early C16 wall posts carved with figures, probably from the nave roof, are retained in the modern vestry and four others have been incorporated in the modern Library of the archdeaconry.
- Fittings: Bells, four. The first three by Newcombe, 1606, the fourth by Tobias Norris, 1676.
- The Font In the south aisle has an octagonal bowl, with remains of an arch on each face, springing from flat shafts at the angles, with remains of flat capitals, probably early C13.

- Monuments: In south aisle over south doorway, to Alice Greene, wife of Charles Weaver, 1636, alabaster wall monument with kneeling figures of man and wife, two sons, three daughters and a bay, side pilasters supporting cornice with broken scrolled pediment, cartouche and three shields of arms.
- Piscina In chancel with chamfered jambs, four centred arch in a square head, shelf and quatrefoiled drain, early C16.
- Stoup In south porch, in east wall, recess with vaulted four centred head, remains of bowl with moulded base, early C16.
- Incorporated in chancel walls and loose in churchyard are numerous worked and moulded stones.
- Incorporated into the tower walls are a stone with cross in round panel, perhaps a consecration cross, and a stone with C12 chevron ornament.

Walden House

Period L 17, L 16, 18, E 19, E 20

MARKET HILL

Grade II

- Late C17, two storeys with dormers, red brick, stone dressings, Ionic pilasters at either end of front.
- Five windows with carved architraves, with swags on aprons below those on first floor.
- Sashes, no glazing bars, modillioned cornice.
- Later door, probably early C19, six panel, plain pilastered surround, with dentil cornice.
- Elaborate C18 fanlight.
- Hipped tile roof with three flat-topped dormers, big brick stack with keyed recessed niches.
- RCHM DESCRIPTION: Walden House, now used as County Council Offices, is of two storeys with attics and basement.
- It is built of brick with stone dressings and the roofs are tiled.
- The house is probably of late C17 date and is symmetrically designed on a rectangular plan; a modern extension has been added at the back.
- The front or north east elevation is in five bays with a projecting Ionic pilaster at each end and has a moulded stone plinth and a modillioned eaves cornice.
- The central doorway is a later addition, but the two windows on either side are square headed and have moulded and eared architraves and moulded sills.
- The five windows to the first floor are similar and below each is a stone apron with a carved swag.
- The roof is hipped and has three flat topped dormers and, lighting the basement, are square headed windows with rubbed brick arches.
- The two chimney stacks which appear behind the ridge each have a recessed round headed panel on the front face with plain projecting impost and key blocks.
- The back elevation has a plinth, a flat projecting band of brick at the first floor level that drops down to a lower level at either end and a moulded eaves cornice of wood.
- The old windows on the first floor have been replaced by large modern windows, but on the ground floor, on either side of the modern porch, the original windows remain, each square headed and with a moulded brick cornice and pediment.
- The window frames and sashes on both fronts are modern.
- Inside the building the south east room on the ground floor is lined with bolection moulded panelling and the fireplace is flanked by Doric pilasters supporting an entablature with a pulvinated frieze; over the fireplace is a late C17 moulded shelf.
- Two rooms on the first floor have original moulded cornices and one room in the attics has a late C16 door of six panels.
- The staircase rises round a well from the ground floor to the attics, with three flights between each floor; it has moulded strings and handrails, turned balusters and square newels, panelled and surmounted by moulded finials with acorn tops.

Wykeham House

Period E 18, E 19, M 19

MARKET HILL

Grade II

- Early C18, Two storeys with dormers, gault brick, stone and stucco dressings rusticated quoins, band between storeys and modillioned eaves cornice.
- Five windows, sashes with glazing bars.

- Big square plain mid C19 porch, doorway with console brackets to head.
- Hipped old tile roof, with three flat topped dormers and brick stacks.
- Side elevations of red brick.
- Whole presumably refronted early C19, but the basic design retained.

Falcon Inn **Period** 16, 17, 18, 19, 20
 MARKET HILL **Grade** II

- C16 in origin with C17 and C18 alterations.
- Partly timber framed and plastered and partly brick.
- Carriageway on front with moulded late C16 oak posts, lintel, enriched brackets and panelled gates.
- C18 bow window above.
- Cornice, parapet, roof not visible.
- Back wing with bay windows with dentilled cornice and C16 and C17 interiors.
- Some visible external timber framing.
- One sash window with glazing bars over the inside front of the archway.
- Seat of the Cromwellian Commissioners in 1649.
- RCHM DESCRIPTION: Falcon Hotel is of two storeys, partly timber framed and plastered and partly of brick; the roofs are tiled.
- The house was built late in the C16 but has been much altered, the front block having been rebuilt as a separate building now used as a club.
- The carriage way at the south end of the front has posts and lintels of oak, those in front with simply carved brackets to the lintel and to the former overhang.
- The doors are of two folds with small moulded panels and in the right fold is a wicket.
- The carriage way has a chamfered beam in the ceiling and exposed joists, and against the south wall is a recess in brick, arched over and with moulded corbelling supporting a chimney above.
- In the back wing, flanking the yard, is a window of c1700 with original double hung sashes.
- Inside the building the Billiard Room is lined with original panelling and has a moulded ceiling beam with geometrical decoration on the soffit; the fireplace is of early C18 date and has a heavy moulded architrave and cornice.
- Another room, the present bar, has a chamfered ceiling beam.
- Upstairs, the east room of the back range has a plaster ceiling of pointed barrel form.

Nos 7 and 8 **Period** 18, E 19, M 19
 MARKET HILL **Grade** II

- Architecturally two buildings.
- Three storeys and four storeys.
- Gault brick and cement, altered sash windows.
- C18 and early C19.
- Three storeys, two windows to No 7, four storeys one window to No 8, sashes, some with glazing bars.
- Mid C19 shop fronts.
- Slate roofs.

No 5 (Gazeley House, County Education Office) **Period** E 19 or M 19
 MARKET HILL **Grade** II

- Early to mid C19.
- Gault brick.
- Two storeys, one, three and two window bays, the Centre set forward, sashes with glazing bars, one paired one on right ground.
- Band at first floor level.
- Arched doorway to left with arched window over.
- Cornice, parapet, roof not visible.
- Brick end stacks.

Nos 10 and 10A

Period E 18 or M 18. 19

PRINCES STREET

Grade II

- Originally the stable block to Lawrence Court, C18.
- Long one storey and attic range with a modern extension on the south.
- Wall to street rebuilt in gault brick in C19.
- Three sash windows with glazing bars.
- Plain doors, the gable ends and rear elevation are the original red brick.
- Pantiled roof with four gabled dormers at rear.

Lawrence Court

Period E 18 or M 18. L 19

PRINCES STREET

Grade II

- Early to mid C18 altered, L-plan.
- Red brick.
- Two storeys, two and three window bays on the inner faces of the L.
- Sash windows with glazing bars, one tripartite.
- Late C19 porch in the inner angle.
- Eaves cornice, parapet, old tile roof of M profile, brick stacks.
- Similar rear elevations.



**Cambridgeshire
County Council**

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