



Archaeological Field Unit

**The Model Laundry, Ouse Walk,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire:
An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment**

Scott Kenney

June 2005

Cambridgeshire County Council

Report No. 804

Commissioned by Campbell Melhuish & Buchanan

**The Model Laundry, Ouse Walk,
Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire:
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(TL 2434/7176)**

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SUMMARY

The proposed development, covering an area of approximately 0.43ha and centred on TL 2434/7176, is bounded by Riverside Road, Brook House, and the houses of Victoria Square and Temple Close, in the town of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. The proposed development involves construction of residential dwellings. The site lies in an area of somewhat uncertain archaeological potential, within the medieval town and probably just outside the Saxon/Danish burh. Roman and medieval remains have been recorded in the vicinity, although historic maps indicate no development in the area until the construction of the Model Laundry itself in 1896. The evidence of past activity to the north, south and west, together with the lack of development until the late 19th century, imply a high potential for preservation of any archaeological remains on the site that have not been disturbed by foundations.

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1 INTRODUCTION

This study was commissioned by Campbell Melhuish & Buchanan, in advance of a proposed residential 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 brief issued by Cambridgeshire Archaeology Planning & Countryside Advice (CAPCA). The brief (dated 11th February 2005) was written by Andy Thomas, Principal Archaeologist at CAPCA and includes requirements for both a desk-based assessment and intrusive evaluation: this document only addresses the former aspect.

The site is a roughly rectangular area of approximately 0.43ha, bounded on the south-east by Riverside Road, and with Brook House to the north (Fig.1). To the south-west lie the houses of Victoria Square and Temple Close. The site is centred on TL 2434/7176.

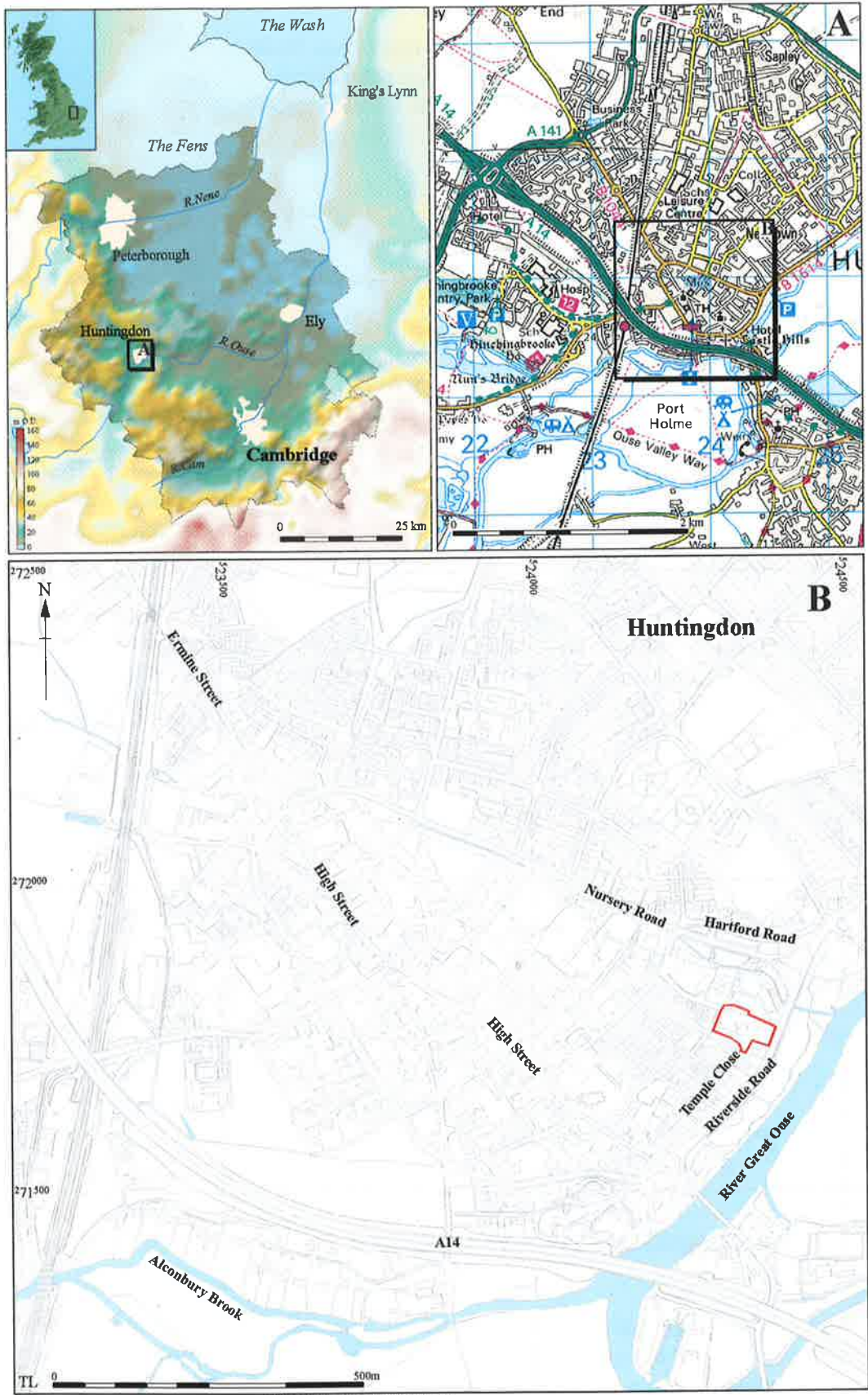
2 TOPOGRAPHICAL AND GEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

The site lies within the modern town of Huntingdon, just inside the eastern side of the ring road. Hartford Road lies at around 10m OD to the north and west. To the south, the land around the High Street is generally higher, at around 14m OD.

According to the British Geological Survey, 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 (BGS 1975).

3 METHODOLOGY

The aim of this desk-based 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 (outlined 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 Historic Environment Record (CHER) 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.

The known archaeological resource was investigated through the Historic Environment 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 (Page *et al* 1932; RCHME 1936) were examined. Reports and archives on excavations carried out in and around Huntingdon were consulted.

The historical records held at the HRO in Huntingdon were also 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 (Appendix D).

A geotechnical survey has been undertaken on the site, consisting of eight test pits and three boreholes. The client made the report available during this study and a facsimile is included as Appendix C.

4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND (Figs 2 & 3)

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).

To the west of Huntingdon lies the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age ceremonial complex of Brampton, where 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 discovered 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 CHER. 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 south-east of the development area. This 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 (McAvoy, in Dawson 2000). Excavations by the AFU south of the enclosure indicate that the activities associated with the monument were widespread (Hinman & Kenney 1998).

Iron Age finds have been found recently within Huntingdon at Watersmeet, including Scored Ware pottery dating from the Middle to Late Iron Age (Cooper and Sperry, 2000). Bronze age pottery and a Neolithic ditch were recorded during evaluation and excavation in 2004 and 2005 on the Walden Road/Walden house sites (Clarke 2004 and Rachel Clarke pers. comm.).

4.2 Roman

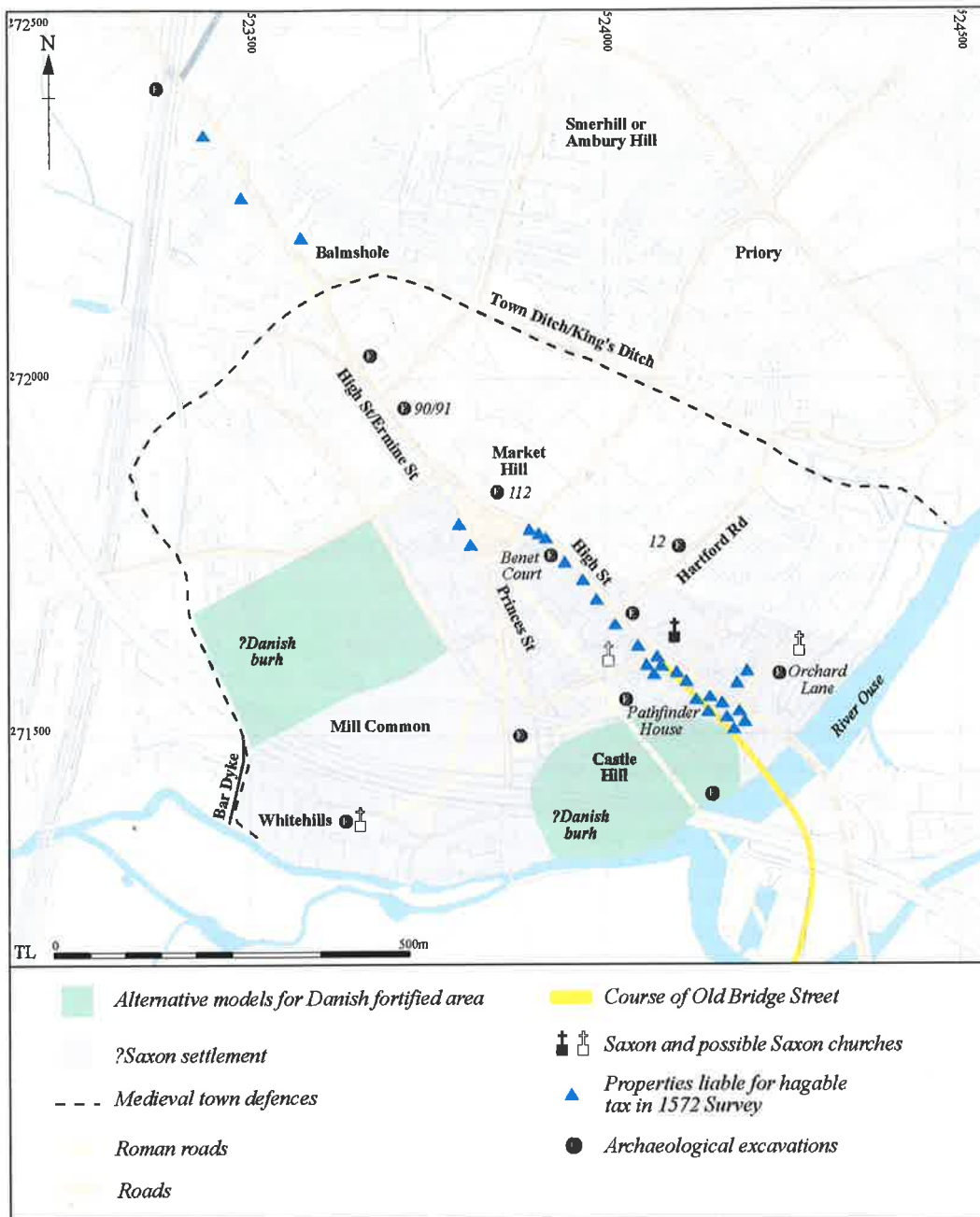
Roman Huntingdon is often seen as a suburb of Godmanchester, and/or ribbon development northwards along Ermine Street. Until very recently, evidence for Roman activity has come mostly from chance finds, and also from three unpublished excavations. The results of these are detailed in Appendix B: in summary, 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 the Ermine Street that led to the villa mentioned above. 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. In 1999 and 2003, evaluations and an excavation at Watersmeet, bordering the Castle, Mill Common and Alconbury Brook, revealed a Roman presence, including a Late Roman cemetery.

Several authors have made attempts to locate the line of Ermine Street between Godmanchester and the northern edge of Huntingdon. The consensus is shown on Figure 2. Ermine Street lies several hundred metres to the south of the subject site. The Roman period CHER entries imply that the area to the north, south and west experienced a range of activities, whilst the presence of an excavated villa site to the south-west of the site, on the high riverbank, implies that further, related, remains may be present in the zone between there and the line of Ermine Street. If similar riverside occupation existed during the Roman period along the northern bank of the Great Ouse, the development site would lie within this zone. The Roman tile mentioned in CHER entry 02733 (Fig.3) may provide evidence of this type of occupation.

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



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Figure 2 Models of Saxon Huntingdon

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 CHER entry is that of the Late Saxon church and burial ground at Whitehills.

In conclusion the development site probably lay outside the Danish burh, the Late Saxon town and the Edwardian burghal defences, although this is by no means certain. Late Saxon occupation has been found on Orchard Lane (Oakey 1997) and Hartford Road (Connor 1996), which itself is probably earlier in date. This site may have been an area just outside the defended settlement, possibly being used for unsociable activities such as tanning.

4.4 Norman & 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.

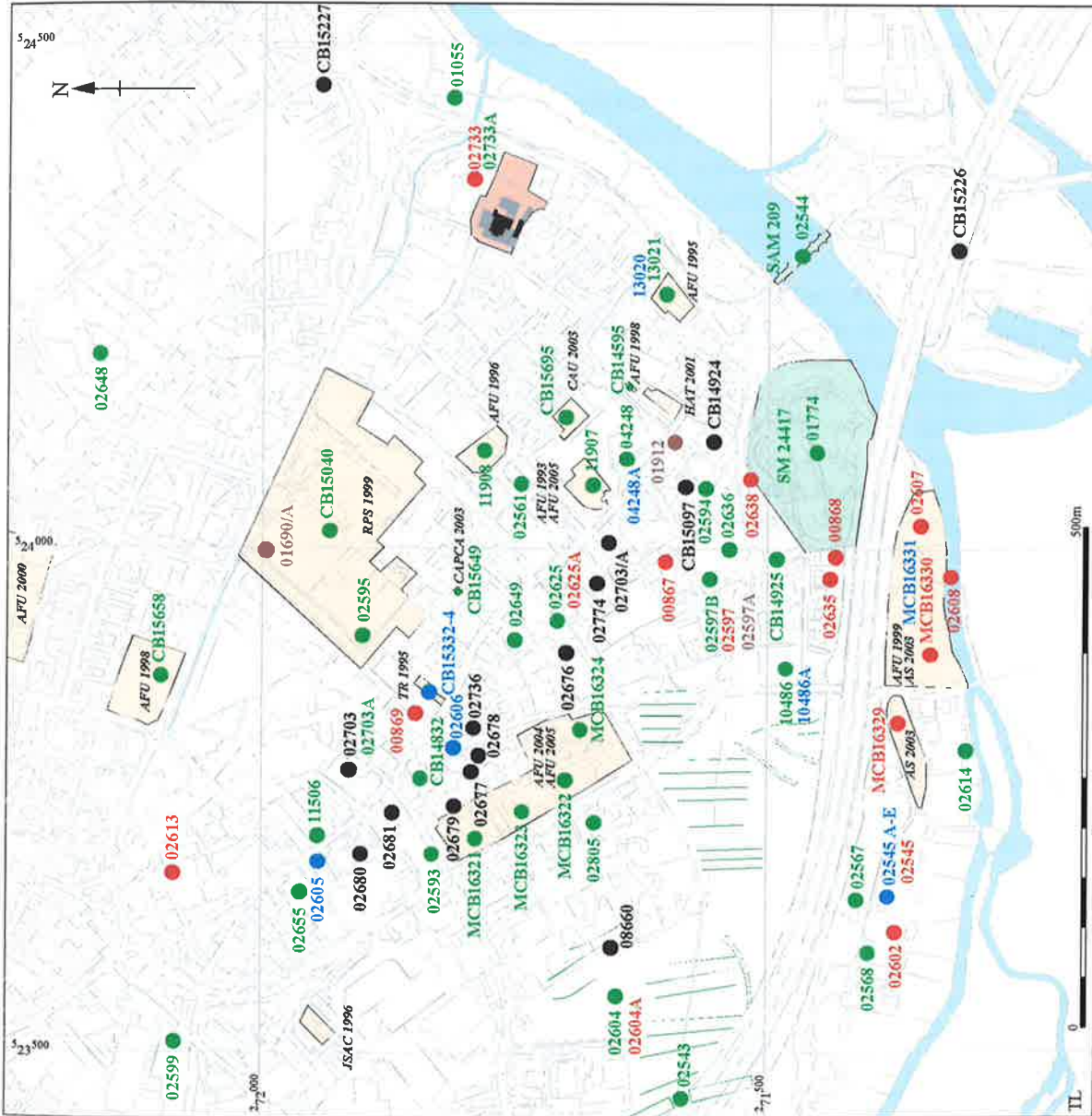
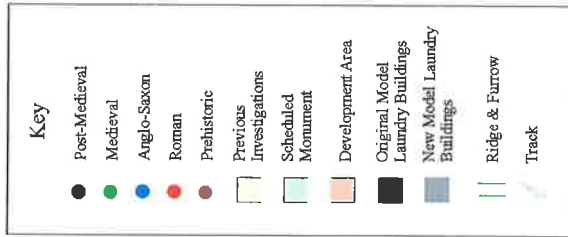
The stone-built bridge carrying Ermine Street over the River Ouse was constructed in AD 1332. It is believed that the present bridge, with six arches, replaced an earlier timber bridge (Page *et al*, 1932). The surviving structure is considered to be one of the finest of its kind in England and was constructed 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 that has not survived, unlike the chapel at St Ives.

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. Archaeological investigations within the town suggest that occupation inside the town ditch may have been rather piecemeal after the 13th century.

Huntingdon had a small Jewry in the 12th and 13th centuries. References exist to its chest of charters and in 1279 a curious grant was made to the bailiffs and good men of Huntingdon for three years of one penny for every Jew or Jewess crossing the bridge on horseback, or a halfpenny if on foot (Page *et al* 1932). The name Temple Close may refer to the original location of such a foundation, rather than to any Templar activity in the area, for



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Figure 3 Development area and CHER entries

which there is no evidence. Although Temple Close or Lane has been used as a street name since at least 1572, it appears that name migrated over the centuries. It once applied to what is now St Clement's Passage, and is currently in use to the south-west of that lane, close to the development area.

During this period, the development site may have been utilised for many types of activity. Medieval pottery was found at the same location as the Roman tile mentioned above (CHER 02733a), and this may indicate nearby occupation utilising the area for rubbish dumping. A moated site lay to the east, close to the riverbank (CHER 01055), but was filled in during the construction of the ring road. This may have been the source of the medieval pottery found less than 100m to the west.

Most of the investigations detailing the medieval finds within Huntingdon are listed in Appendix B.

4.5 Post-Medieval

Huntingdon suffered during the 15th-century War of the Roses and in the Civil War of the 17th century, when the castle defences were re-modelled. Throughout this period 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.

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, it is possible for entries to be transcribed onto Jeffries' 1768 map of Huntingdon, or the 1752 plan of the Hospital Lands. These and John Speed's map of 1610, all show the development area as a blank. Such maps would not have recorded temporary structures or quarrying for instance, and cannot therefore be taken as an indicator that the area was completely unused at this time.

The 1826 map of the Earl of Sandwich's estates indicate trackways crossing this area, leading to the river, but no buildings (HRO no ref.). Again, this is not an absolute indicator of a lack of activity.

The original Model Laundry was constructed in 1896, and is not believed to have had basements or cellars, although this has not been confirmed since the plans are not available. This building burnt down and was replaced by the buildings that currently stand on the site, none of which have cellars. A comparison of the footprints of the original and new Model Laundry buildings is shown on Fig. 3. The patterns of drainage and other services will become clearer once demolition has taken place and areas of hard standing have been removed.

5 ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

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 waxed and waned. The location of the site 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. 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 Historic Environment Record for the zone adjacent to and including the development area begins with a single Roman entry (CHER 02733) relating to tile fragments 'found at a depth of seven feet'. This point is located adjacent to the development area, and medieval pottery was found at the same spot (CHER 02733a). This is probably indicative of medieval rubbish pitting.

The results of previous archaeological investigations in the surrounding area can give some indication of what types and extent of deposits might be present on the Model Laundry site.

At St Germain Street (RPS 1999) to the north-west, modern deposits overlay 0.4m of topsoil, which in turn sealed the archaeology. Features were encountered below this, at a level at least 1.2m below the current ground surface. Almost all of the archaeology encountered on the site was medieval in date and, although remnants of structures and wells survived, the majority of the features were ditches and pits. The water table was high during the excavation, and waterlogged leather items were recovered.

To the west-southwest at Hartford Road, up to 1m of modern overburden overlay a further 1m of cultivation deposits. Below this, negative features were a maximum of a further 1.5m deep. The features consisted of pits, ditches, wells and some structural remains and were dated to the 10th to 14th centuries. No waterlogged deposits were encountered during this excavation (Mortimer, pers. comm.).

At Orchard Lane, to the south-southwest (Oakey 1997), up to 1.2m of 19th- and 20th- century overburden sealed the archaeology, which extended to a further depth of at least 1.6m. Features dating from the 10th to 18th centuries were present on this site and consisted mainly of pits and ditches, but also included quarry pits and a phase of burials. The burials were probably related to one of the lost churches, either St Clement or St Laurence. No waterlogged deposits were encountered during this excavation.

A geotechnical survey (see Appendix C), using trial pits and boreholes has been carried out on the site. This survey indicates up to 1.8m of 'made ground' in some areas of the site, which could represent archaeological deposits. This 'made ground' is deepest towards the north and east of the

site, in the directions of the town ditch and the river, respectively. On the northern side of the site, this might indicate that the potential medieval rubbish pitting suggested by CHER entry 02733 extends into the development area.

In all of the investigations apart from Trial Pit 1, alluvium was shown to underlie the 'made ground'. The table below summarises the results of the survey, where the depths indicate the base of each deposit in metres below ground surface. Trial pit 1 was abandoned before alluvium was encountered. Trial pits 3 and 8 were stopped before solid geology was encountered.

	BH1	BH2	BH3	TP1	TP2	TP3	TP4	TP5	TP6	TP7	TP8
Made ground (modern)	0.60	0.40	1.00	0.40	0.90	0.30	0.10	0.15	0.10	0.40	0.20
Made ground (unknown)	1.80	0.80	1.70	1.20	1.40	1.30	1.60	0.50	0.45	1.50	0.50
Alluvium	2.70	2.50	2.50	-	1.95	3.00	2.40	2.00	2.80	2.50	3.00

Table 1 Results of geotechnical investigation

The site has been fortunate, in that modern 20th and 21st century alterations to it have largely been cosmetic. Much of the area is tarmaced or covered in concrete slab. Both of these are factors that will have had a positive effect on the preservation of any archaeological deposits that survive in that area.

From studying the results of other investigations carried out in the surrounding town, it is therefore possible to suggest that the archaeology of the Model Laundry site will probably be characterised by pits and ditches. Wells and quarries may also be present and the site may have reverted to cultivation some time in the 14th century. Later use of the site is more difficult to predict but, after the contraction of the town, outlying areas such as this may have been used for rubbish dumping or simply left as wasteland.

6 IMPACT OF PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

Given the requirements of a residential 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 landscaping, which would significantly increase the effect upon any archaeology present.

Proposals for mitigation strategies are beyond the scope of this report. The site has moderate 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 may uncover extensive, deeply stratified remains. Without physical investigation this cannot be accurately predicted and modelled, in spite of the documentary research already carried out.

CONCLUSIONS

The archaeological potential of the development area at Huntingdon can be summarised thus:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------|
| • Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age | low/unknown |
| • Iron Age/Romano-British | high/known |
| • Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Danish | moderate/unknown |
| • medieval | high/known |
| • post-medieval | moderate/known |

The study has demonstrated that the subject site lies within a rich archaeological landscape, surrounded by sites of all periods. Whilst largely Roman and medieval remains or finds are known from the vicinity of the subject site itself, its archaeological potential for many periods may be considered moderate, with particular emphasis placed upon the later 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 relative proximity of the site to the river may mean that deposits encountered at depth may be waterlogged. These conditions are ideal for the preservation of organic remains such as wood and leather, as well as foodstuffs and pollen, both of which can give an idea of the local environment and economy.

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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- Ordnance Survey digital maps, 2005
- British Geological Survey 1:50000 Sheet 187, Huntingdon, 1975
- William Margett's map of the Estates of the Earl of Sandwich, 1826 and undated draft

APPENDIX A

Historic Environment Record Gazetteer for Huntingdon (see Fig. 3)

Rec. No	NGR	KEYS	PERIOD
00867	TL/2397/7156	Pottery	Ro
00868	TL/240-/714-	Pottery, cremation	Ro
00869	TL/2382/7185	Pottery	Ro
01055	TL/2443/7178	Moat	Med
01690a	TL/24--/72--	Worked flint	Neo
01774	TL/2409/7145	Castle, well, windmill, chapel, skeleton, battery	Med, P med
01912	TL/241-/716-	Worked flint	Ne
02543	TL/235-/716-	Earthwork, bank, ditch, mound, ridge and furrow	Med ?, P med
02544	TL/2380/7145	Bridge	Med
02545	TL/2366/7138	Excavation	Ro
02545a	TL/237-/713-	Villa, kiln, tessellated, pavement, hearth, ditch, pit, wall plaster, tesserae	Ro
02545b	TL/237-/713-	Church, cemetery, inhumation, carved stone, coin	AS
02545c	TL/237-/713-	Castle, siege, works, inhumation	Med
02545d	TL/237-/713-	Church, wind mill, architectural, fragment, tile, pottery	Med
02545e	TL/237-/713-	House, wind mill, gallows, pottery	P med
02561	TL/23--/71--	Church	Med
02567	TL/237-/714-	Windmill	Med - P med
02568	TL/236-/714-	Windmill	Med - P med
02593	TL/2370/7183	Church	Med
02594	TL/2406/7158	Church	Med
02595	TL/239-/719-	Church, bone	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
02602	TL/2362/7137	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
02613	TL/2368/7209	Key	Ro
02614	TL/238-/713-	Watermill	Med - P med
02625	TL/2393/7171	Pottery, stone vessel	Ro
02625a	TL/2393/7171	Pottery, shoe	Med
02635	TL/2397/7144	Cremation, pottery	Ro
02636	TL/2400/7153	Arrowhead, pottery	Med
02638	TL/2406/7152	Pottery, coffin	Ro
02648	TL/2423/7216	Priory, coffin, tile	Med
02649	TL/2391/7175	Church, inhumation, pottery, tile, carved stone, architectural, feature	Med
02655	TL/2366/7196	Church, churchyard, building material	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
02703	TL/2366/7204	House	P med
02703a	TL/2366/7204	Friary, wall, tile, architectural, fragment, plaster, carved wood	Med
02733	TL/2437/7177	Tile	Ro
02733a	TL/2437/7177	Pottery	Med

02736	TL/2382/7180	Town hall	P med
02774	TL/2397/7168	Pottery	P med
02805	TL/2373/7167	Pottery, inhumation	Med
04248	TL/2409/7164	Church	Med
08660	TL/2360/7166	Human bone	U
10486	TL/2388/7148	Pottery, ditch, animal bone, shell	Med
10486a	TL/2388/7148	Pottery	AS
11506	TL/2371/7194	Pit, pottery	Med
11907	TL/2371/7194	Rubbish pits, yard surfaces, structural remains	Med
11908	TL/2417/7185	Yard surface, rubbish pits, structural remains	Med
13020	TL/2425/7160	Rubbish pits, cess pits	AS
13021	TL/2425/7160	Cemetery	Med
14595	TL/2416/7164	Quarry and rubbish pits	Med
14832	TL/2377/7184	Church	Med
14924	TL/2411/7156	Church	P med
14925	TL/2399/7149	Church	Med
15040	TL/2402/7193	Ditches, pits, industrial activity	Med
15097	TL/2406/7158	WWII Building	Modern
15226	TL/2429/7131	Pillboxes	Modern
15227	TL/2446/7195	Anti-tank defences	Modern
15332	TL/239-/718-	Pits	AS
15333	TL/239-/718-	Pits	Med
15334	TL/239-/718-	Hearths, floors	Med
15649	TL/2396/7181	Tanning pit	Med
15658	TL/2387/7212	Structural evidence, pits, quarry pits	Med
15695	TL/2413/7170	Structural evidence, ditches	Med
16321	TL/2375/7173	Pits, postholes, cultivation layers	AS - P med
16322	TL/2377/7169	Pits, postholes, cultivation layers	AS - P med
16323	TL/2380/7165	Pits, postholes, cultivation layers	AS - P med
16324	TL/2383/7167	Pits, cultivation layers	Ro - P med
16329	TL/2380/7136	Pits, gullies, ditch	Ro
16330	TL/2395/7137	Cemetery, enclosure	Ro
16331	TL/2393/7137	Ditch, pits/postholes	AS - med

APPENDIX B

Previous Archaeological Work in Huntingdon (see Figs 2 & 3) by Dr Paul Spoerry and Scott Kenney

Pre-1990s

Castle Hill Early 1960s

TL 2414/7149; Generally CHER 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

TL 2418/7152; Generally CHER 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

TL 235/719, 236/717; CHER 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

TL 2366/7138; CHER 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 CHER 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

TL 2415/7140; Generally CHER 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

TL 2415/7140; Generally CHER 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 CHER 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

TL 2403/7154

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

TL 2388/7173

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

TL 2391/7175; CHER 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

TL 2366/7204; CHER 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

TL 2366/7204; CHER 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

TL 2388/7148; CHER 10486, CB12453

In 1992 the AFU 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.

Spittal's Link 1993

TL 229/732

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.

90/91 High Street 1993

TL 2371/7194

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.

High Street/Hartford Road Corner 1993-4

TL 2406/7167; CHER 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.

Orchard Lane 1994-5

TL 2420/7160

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 1996

TL 241/718; CHER 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

TL 2384/7183, CHER 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.

St Clements Passage 1998

TL 2413/7162, CHER CB14595

In 1998 the AFU 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

TL 2385/7210, CHER CB186

An evaluation at Brookside revealed medieval activity perhaps representing suburban development immediately outside of the town ditch (Cooper & Spoerry 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, CHER CB183

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

9/10 George St 2000

TL 2367/7171; CHER CB182

An evaluation was carried out to the west of the development area at 9/10 George St in June 2000 by the AFU (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.

Ambury Road 2000

TL 2395/7130; CHER ECB190

Archaeological observation was undertaken on five geotechnical test pits at Ambury Road, Huntingdon by the AFU (Abrams 2000). No archaeology was encountered in any of the test pits.

Watersmeet 2000

TL 2398/7135

An evaluation by the AFU 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.

The Samuel Pepys, 146 High St 2001

(TL 2414/7161) CHER ECB271

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the Samuel Pepys public house, Huntingdon by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust. Post-medieval layers were identified by the evaluation.

Transco Gas Pipeline, 2002

Archaeological monitoring was carried out during work for a new gas pipeline around the ring road in the centre of Huntingdon and also along the High Street and Stukeley Road. Few archaeological remains were encountered, largely because the trenching was located in areas of existing services.

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 by the AFU. 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.

Watersmeet 2003

(TL 2398/7135); CHER ECB1872

An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Watersmeet, Huntingdon by Archaeological Solutions. A Roman cemetery was revealed, containing at least 73 inhumations, as well as an enclosure with evidence of iron smelting

4 Mill Common 2003

(TL 2380/7136); CHER MCB16329

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to 4 Mill Common, Huntingdon by Archaeological Solutions. Roman pits gullies and a ditch were revealed, dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD.

Wood Street, Hartford Road 2003

(TL 2413/7170); CHER ECB1369

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Wood Street, Hartford Road, Huntingdon by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. The evaluation identified medieval structural remains and redeposited dumped layers.

4 Chequers Court 2003

(TL 2396/7181); CHER ECB1335

Archaeological observation and recording was undertaken at 4, Chequers Court, Huntingdon by CAPCA. A feature containing shoe leather and horn cores was recorded, and interpreted as a tanning pit.

Hartford Road/High Street 2005

(TL 2406/7167)

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by the AFU. The excavation identified pre-Conquest activity in the form of pits, possibly dating from the 10th century. Occupation continued in this area into modern times, apparently continuously. Other features recorded included postholes, boundary ditches and wells, and the finds included significant quantities of metalworking debris.

Huntingdon Town Centre (Walden Road/Prince's Street/Walden House) 2004-5
(TL 2380/7170); CHER MCB16321-4

Archaeological evaluation and excavation by the AFU have revealed significant evidence of medieval Huntingdon, as well as features and finds dating from the Neolithic to post-medieval periods. Feature types include pits, ditches, wells, ovens and structural remains. Some of the later walls on site incorporated re-used ecclesiastical masonry, most likely originating from one of the 'lost' churches.

Work is ongoing on this site, and the results will undoubtedly contribute much towards efforts to model the development of Huntingdon from Saxon times onwards.

APPENDIX C

Results from Geotechnical Investigations

Appendix D

The Development Area on Historic Maps

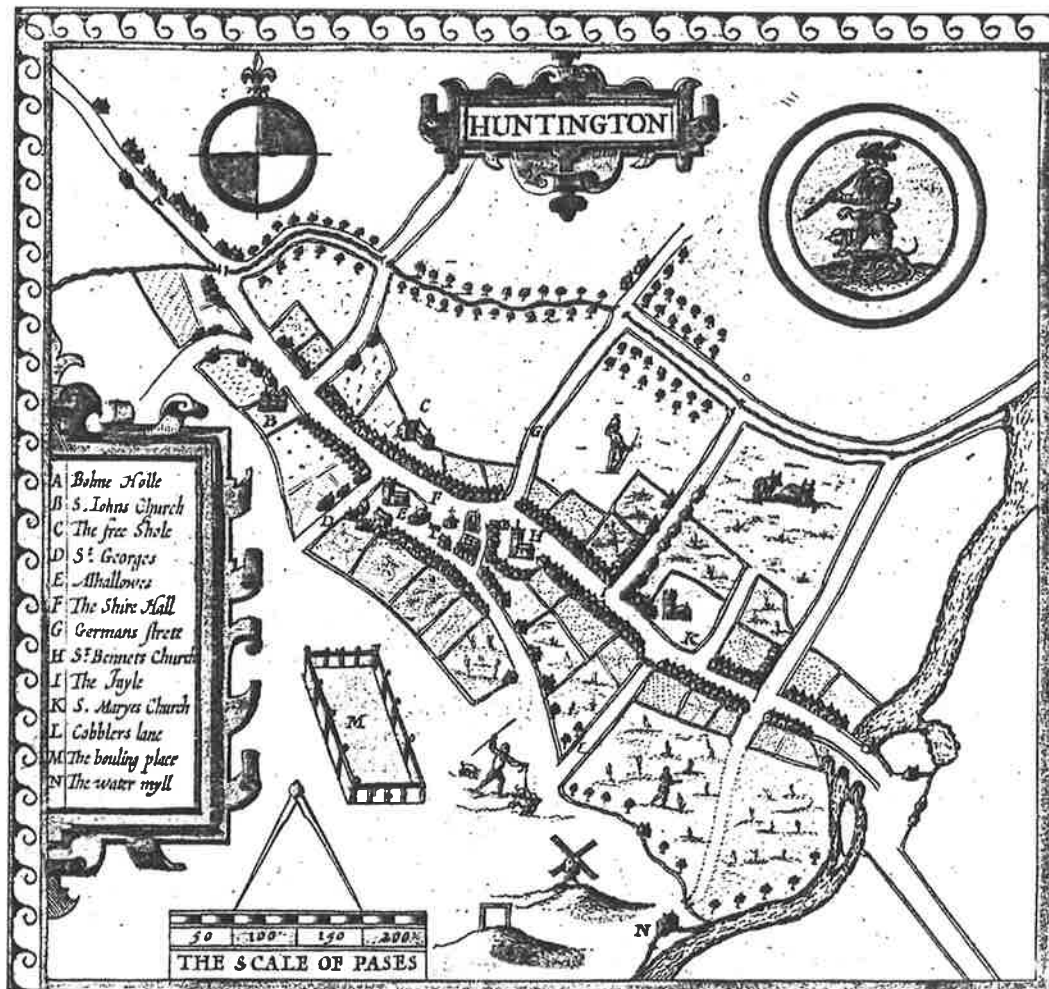


Figure 4 John Speed's map of Huntingdon 1610

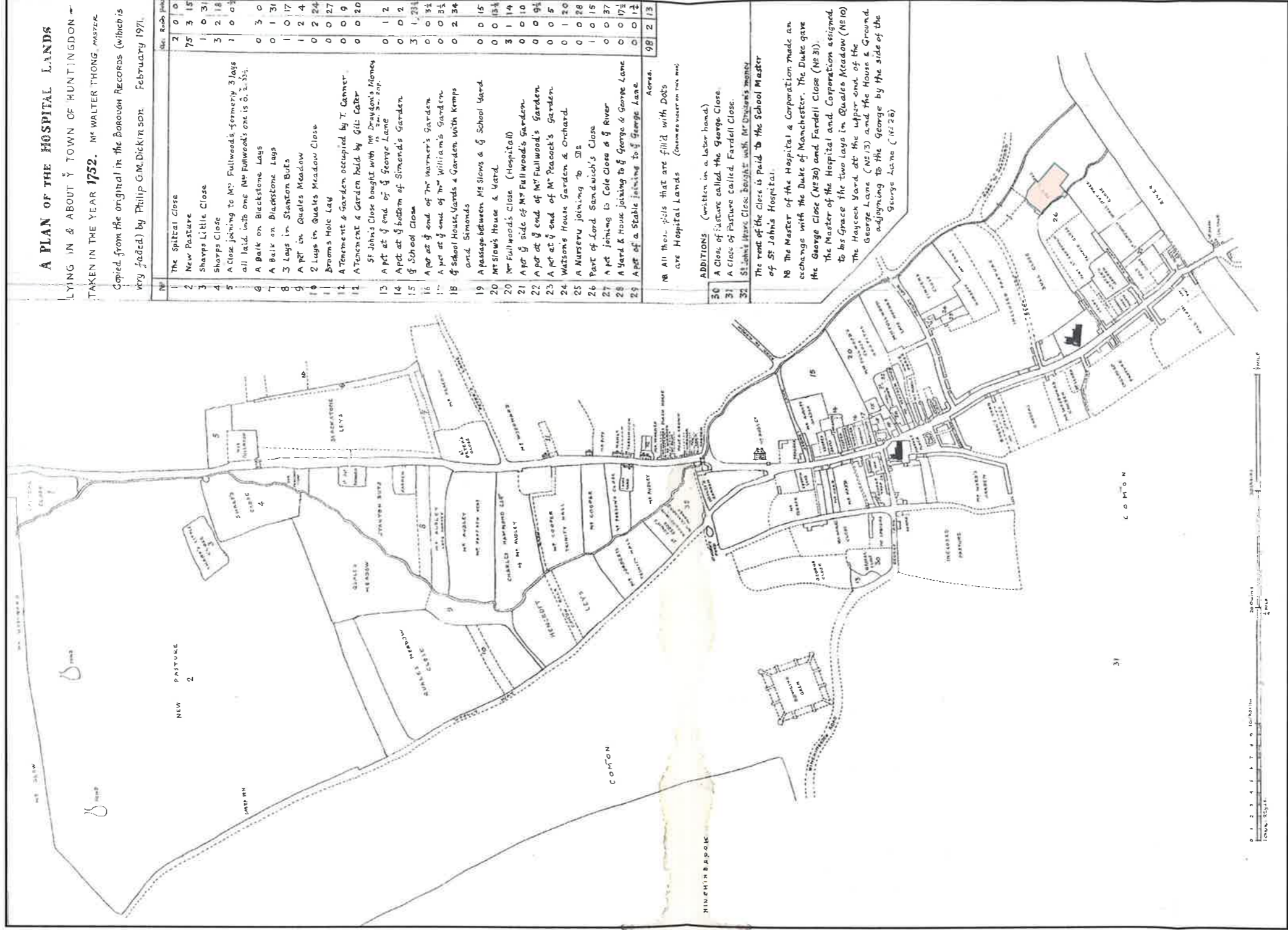


Figure 5 Plan of the Hospital Lands in Huntingdon 1752



Figure 7 Development area on 1892 Ordnance Survey

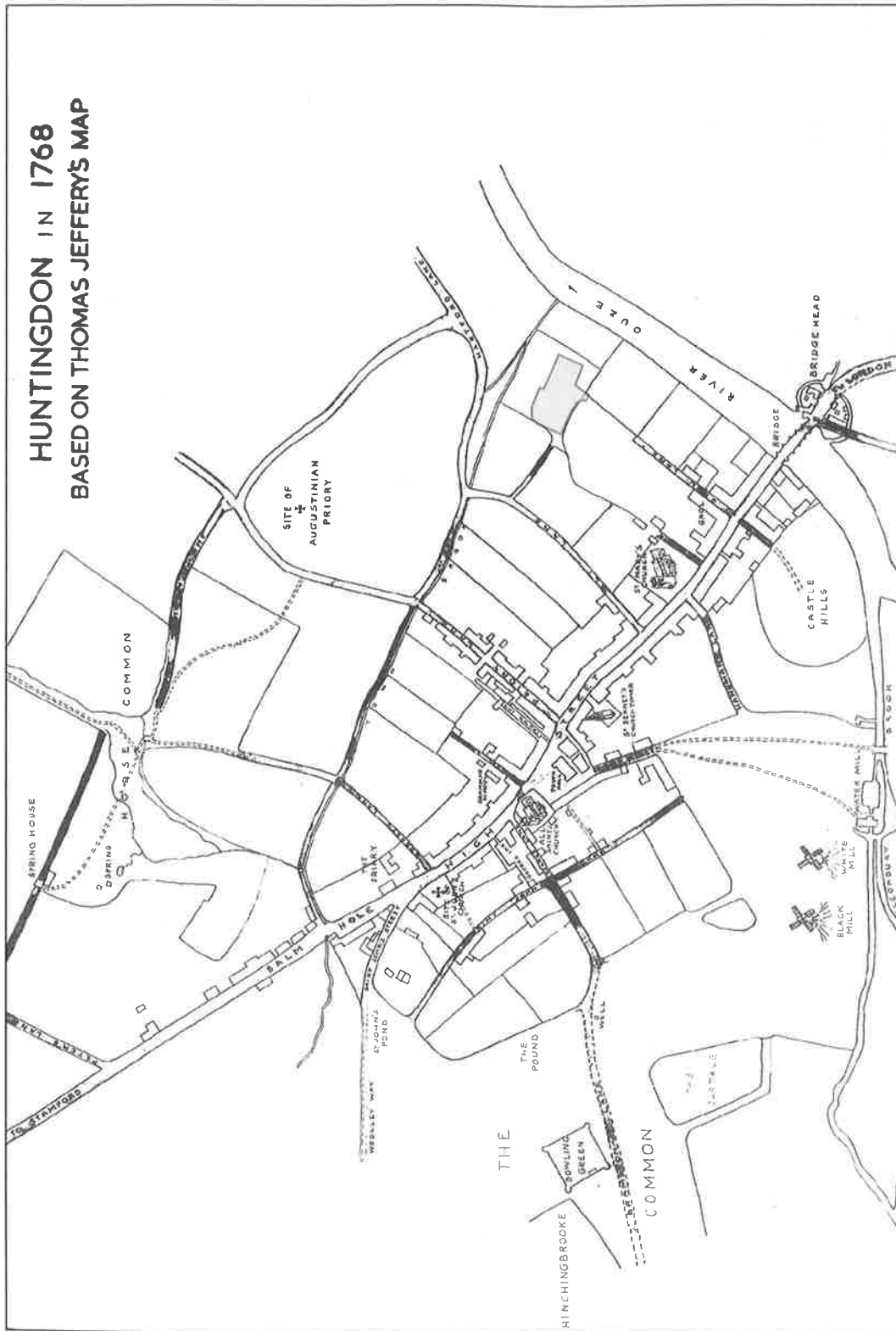


Figure 6 Huntingdon in 1768, based upon Thomas Jeffery's map



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