Nottinghamshire
County Council
Environment

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

EAST BRIDGFORD

Prepared
for

ENGLISH HERITAGE

Extensive Urban Survey Programme

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

EAST BRIDGFORD

GILL STROUD, 2001

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Assessment

This assessment has been produced through the Extensive Urban Survey Programme, an English Heritage funded initiative to assist local planning authorities with the conservation of their urban archaeological resource. East Bridgford is one of 18 small towns in Nottinghamshire selected for such assessment.

The assessment is a desk-based survey, the scope of which includes both above and below ground archaeological remains of all periods, using information from the County Sites and Monuments Record, local histories, early maps and plan form analysis, with the results presented as a series of maps generated by GIS. It provides a foundation for the development of an archaeological management strategy that could be adopted by the local planning authority as supplementary planning guidance.

1.2 Overview of the settlement

East Bridgford stands on the south-east bank of the Trent in the southern half of Nottinghamshire, approximately 10 miles north-east of Nottingham and about the same distance south-west of Newark. The area is one of high prehistoric and Roman activity, with East Bridgford lying only a short distance from the Fosse Way and from the Roman town of *Margidunum*. Although there is currently no evidence for such early settlement on the site that developed into East Bridgford, the remains of a Saxon cross at the church, together with the Domesday Book reference, indicate that a thriving community had become well established before the Norman Conquest.

The settlement appears to have continued to prosper, profiting not only from its location in a fertile, densely populated area in the Trent Valley, but also from its position at a crossing point of the Trent. Already in the 11th century, it was linked with Gunthorpe on the other side of the river via a ford and a ferry. This position was important enough to warrant the construction of a small castle overlooking the crossing, probably by the new Norman overlord. By the early 14th century East Bridgford had acquired a market and at some point its layout was deliberately reorganised into regulated plots along a grid of streets, cottagers along one, husbandmen along another. The hope may have been that East Bridgford would succeed with its market and develop into a town; however, this did not happen. There is no evidence that the market survived beyond the 14th century, or that East Bridgford was ever more than a village. It suffered further during the population crises of the 17th century, and only began to expand beyond its medieval limits in the later 20th century with the construction of commuter housing. As a result, the village has retained much of its historic street pattern and rural character.

2. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Most of the parish of East Bridgford lies on the Mercia Mudstone which forms the higher north-western edge of the Vale of Belvoir, with the land falling away sharply to the Trent floodplain. The Trent at this point flows along the easternmost side of its valley, against the East Bridgford bank. The village itself is situated along the ridge parallel to the valley, the church standing on a particularly imposing site, at about 46m AOD. The ground continues to rise very gently eastwards to *c.* 49m AOD along College Street then down again further east to *c*. 46m AOD at Cross Lane.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

East Bridgford lay in Bingham wapentake in 1086. It is now administered by Rushcliffe Borough Council.

4. SOURCES

4.1 Primary sources

From the later 15th century, half the manor of East Bridgford belonged to Magdalen College Oxford. As a result, they hold a certain amount of archival material. These consist mainly of the following:
- 53 deeds dating 1319-1628
- Copies of leases, some dating back to the 1480s
- Account Rolls, survival rate haphazard: almost complete for 1409/10-1414/15, then nothing until the 1480s, after which the sequence is quite good, although not complete. From the mid-1530s, East Bridgford's accounts were included with the accounts relating to some of the college's Northamptonshire properties.
- Various rentals, from the 15th cent. to the 19th cent.
- Some papers relating to a dispute between Francis, Lord Lovell and Magdalen, over East Bridgford, c.1483.
- One or two letters, some going back to c.1480
- A copy of the enclosure award of 1801.

They do not, however, hold any manorial documents (Archivist, Magdalen College, pers. comm.).

Some material is also held in Nottinghamshire Archives. This includes a variety of parish records, such as glebe terriers, material regarding repairs to the church, and churchwardens' accounts from the 17th century, as well as minutes of meetings of the East Bridgford Vestry. However, as at Magdalen, there are very few manorial documents, with the exception of a few manor court assessments and a fragment of 17th century manor court roll. Nottinghamshire Archives also holds a collection of notes made by Du Boulay Hill between 1898 and 1932 while compiling his history of the parish (see below). None of these primary documents were consulted for this report.

East Bridgford Local History Group (EBLHG) have established a computerised photographic archive of the village which, in the year 2000, contained over 600 images.

4.2 Secondary sources

The main, and virtually the only, history of East Bridgford is by Arthur Du Boulay Hill, written in 1932, the result of almost 30 years' residence there as rector. He includes, as appendices, items from T M Blagg's collection of transcripts of various documents, including among other things the *Placita de Quo Warranto*, various Subsidy Rolls, and the schedules written on the margin of one of the 17th century maps of East Bridgford.

A more recent useful publication is that produced by the members of a Workers Education Association course held in East Bridgford in 1983-4 covering some aspects of their local history research for the period 1600-1900. They have also published some of the images from their photographic archive referred to above. An examination of the village and its fields as an example of an English rural community in the early 17th century has been produced by Kenryo Ashikaga with additional historical information from Adrian Henstock (Ashikaga & Henstock 1996).

4.3 Cartographic evidence

East Bridgford is fortunate in having two early 17th century maps which show the parish in considerable detail. One is a coloured map of 1614, the other a cruder version of 1612 which is faded and difficult to read in places. The latter may have been the draft for the former, which is more carefully drawn, although the two differ in various details. The maps were produced for Magdalen College as a survey of their East Bridgford estate, and include some descriptive text and tables, as there appears to be no accompanying terrier. The next map is that drawn up for the enclosure of the parish

in 1796, followed by the small-scale map of 20 Miles around Mansfield produced by Sanderson in 1835. No tithe map exists, as tithes were commuted at enclosure.

The publication by EBLHG (1985) includes a map of 1879 entitled 'enlarged plan of village' but which is incomplete, only apparently showing the land owned by Magdalen College Oxford. The 1st edition 25" Ordnance Survey map was published in 1884.

4.4 Archaeological evidence

There are 30 sites recorded on the Nottinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) within the area of East Bridgford under consideration in this report, ranging from prehistoric finds to standing buildings. The only known archaeological work is that carried out by Du Boulay Hill within the church at the beginning of the 20th century (Du Boulay Hill 1903).

5. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

5.1 Prehistoric

Few finds of prehistoric date have come from East Bridgford itself. A thumbnail scraper of unpatinated flint was found in a back garden in the early 1960s (SMR 1859) and worked flint flakes were found in the churchyard some time before 1978 (SMR 2027). In addition, two late Bronze Age socketed axes are recorded as having been found in the East Bridgford area some time before 1980 (SMR 1860); however their findspot is not known.

Nevertheless, East Bridgford lies in an area rich in prehistoric sites and finds, as Figure 1 shows. The floodplain and terraces of the Trent Valley are noted for the cropmark evidence of early prehistoric ritual monuments and later prehistoric settlements, and for the ancient river channels and alluvial deposits that favour the survival of organic remains and palaeoenvironemtal evidence. Numbers of objects, from a Palaeolithic flint hand axe, through Bronze Age spearheads and axe-heads to Iron Age pottery have come from the riverbank and the river itself in the Gunthorpe-East Bridgford area.

The higher ground on which East Bridgford sits is no less rich in prehistoric sites and remains, with early prehistoric flint tools coming from the surfaces of fields and later prehistoric settlement appearing as cropmarks and soilmarks and recorded on aerial photographs. Notable amongst these is a concentration of flint and stone objects of late Mesolithic, early to late Neolithic and Bronze Age date recorded during fieldwalking between 1991 and 1993 in fields to the west and north of *Margidunum,* (Knight 1994). In addition, at least 14 probable Iron Age pottery sherds were found scattered around this area. The Roman town of Margidunum itself was probably preceded by a late prehistoric settlement.

Particularly significant to the future development of East Bridgford was 'the Streete Way', the road which forms the south-western boundary of East Bridgford parish as marked as on the map of 1612. This led directly from *Margidunum* to a ford at East Bridgford and probably has its origins in a long distance prehistoric trackway (Du Boulay Hill 1932). The East Bridgford-Gunthorpe crossing of the river Trent appears to have been a significant influence on the area from at least late prehistory.

5.2 Roman

Nothing of Roman date is recorded on the SMR as coming from the built-up area of East Bridgford. However, as Figure 1 shows, the late prehistoric pattern of a well populated area was maintained and developed in the Roman period. The Fosse Way (SMR 600), a major strategic road constructed in the 1st century AD by the Roman Army, later became the south-eastern parish boundary of East Bridgford whilst 'the Streete Way', which continued as the route to the river crossing, defined the south-western boundary. The focus for settlement though was the Roman town of *Margidunum* (SMR 1741, SAM 4), part of which is included in the southern corner of East Bridgford parish.

Margidunum began as a fort built in *c.*AD 50-55 to command the crossroads of the Fosse Way and the 'Streete Way' with the routes to and from the East Bridgford-Gunthorpe river crossing. The presence

of an existing settlement may have also contributed to the choice of site. By about AD 75 at the latest, the military post appears to have been abandoned and development of *Margidunum* continued as a civilian settlement. This was initially fortified by a rampart and ditch and later by a rampart, stone wall and ditch, or ditches (Todd 1969). The occupied area though, was greater than the fortified area with settlement extending along the Fosse Way north and south of the walls. *Margidunum* was clearly a centre fulfilling a number of important administrative, economic and social functions, and influenced the pattern of settlement in its vicinity. The presence of Roman villas at Newton (SMR 1827) and Car Colston (SMR 1466) for example, can be related to the town.

It is not surprising therefore, that Roman pottery and other materials and objects have been picked up from the surfaces of the fields in East Bridgford parish, within the area of *Margidunum* and at a number of more widely distributed locations. Whilst these may indicate the origins of the community in East Bridgford, there is no evidence currently for Roman settlement within the present village. The beginnings of the settlement we know today appear to lie wholly within the Early Medieval period.

5.3 Early Medieval

Although the earliest written reference to East Bridgford comes from Domesday Book, its origins are certainly earlier. The place-name, which in 1086 was written as *Brugeford,* indicates the presence of a ford across the Trent. The first element of the name was taken by Gover *et al* (1940) to mean a bridge, with the conclusion that it must have replaced an 'ancient ford' at a very early date. Du Boulay Hill (1932), on the other hand, argued that the first element, **brycg**, did not originally mean a bridge in the modern sense, but rather the strengthening of a river-crossing by stones either laid under water or along the approach to the water's edge to form a 'causeway-ford'.

Prior to the conquest there appears to have been one main manor, held at the conquest by Odincar, and three much smaller ones, held by Thurstan, Roskell and Justan. There was almost certainly an early church, as Domesday Book records both a church and a priest present by 1086. Foundations of what are believed to be the pre-conquest church were recorded during restoration work in 1903 and 1914 (SMR 1897). In addition, two fragments of carved stone found built into walls repaired in 1778 proved to be parts of a Saxon cross shaft which had been used to form a window arch (SMR 1897a). Otherwise no early medieval material has been recovered from East Bridgford itself.

Some Anglo-Saxon material has been found to the south, at *Margidunum.* A brooch was found on the modern surface in the 19th century (SMR 1742) and a pendant was found unstratified during early 20th century excavations at the site (Todd 1969). Anglo-Saxon pottery was recovered from three different sites at *Margidunum* during excavations between 1966 and 1968, although the sherds were unstratified and unassociated with other remains. Todd (1969, 78) argued that their occurrence over so large an area suggested that 'they are not merely the relics of occasional visits to the site by squatters'. More recently, at least three probable Anglo-Saxon pottery sherds were found scattered around the Romano-British occupied area (Knight 1994). These were identified from a total of 98 sherds of plain handmade pot which had been found, of which 14 were probably Iron Age. The remainder could not be securely differentiated, but it is obviously possible that more than just the three identified sherds are of Anglo-Saxon date.

A couple of further finds of this period have been made in the vicinity. To the east of the village a quern stone, thought to be of possible Anglo-Saxon date, was found in the late 1940s, (SMR 5620) while at approximately the same distance to the west, Anglo-Saxon loom weights and pottery have been found at Granby House, Shelford (SMR 1804).

5.4 Medieval

5.4.1 Domesday Book, 1086

Land of Roger de Busli:

> *M. In (East) Bridgford Odincar had 4 c. of land taxable. Land for 6 ploughs. Roger has in lordship 3 ploughs and 20 Freemen with 10 b. of this land; 15 villagers and 3 smallholders who have 11 ploughs. A priest and a church; meadow, 12 acres. Value before 1066 £3; now £5.*
>
> *3M. There also Thurstan, Roskell and Justan had 6 b. of land taxable. Land for 1 plough. Meadow, 3 acres; the land is not cultivated. Value before 1066, 8s; now 3s.*

An interesting feature of the Domesday Book entry is the considerable increase in value of the main manor, from £3 to £5; the majority of manors are usually recorded either as decreasing in value or remaining the same.

5.4.2 The manor

East Bridgford has a somewhat complicated manorial history as the result of a number of failed male lines. After the Conquest it formed part of the extensive northern possessions of Roger de Busli. He also founded and endowed the Priory of Blyth in the north of the county, providing it with two parts of the tithes of the East Bridgford demesne. The manor came to the Biset family, probably by the 12th century, but then passed, via marriage, to two great nieces of the last Biset. Their sons, Thomas de Multon and Philip de Caltoft, inherited equal portions of the manor in the early 14th century. The part inherited by de Multon came, probably by marriage, to the Deyncourt family in the 1340s. It remained with them until 1468, when it was settled on William de Waynflete the Bishop of Winchester, as part of the endowment of his new foundation of St Mary Magdalen College in Oxford. The second portion passed from the Caltofts to the Chaworths of Wiverton by marriage in the later 14th century, then to the Scrope family of Masham in the first half of the 15th century, although the Chaworths retained their share of the advowson (Du 1932).

There were other smaller estates in addition to the two parts of the manor. One of these was owned by John Babington in the later 14th century, which came via marriage to Sir Robert Sheffield.

5.4.3 Communications

By 1086 there was already a ferry crossing the Trent between East Bridgford and Gunthorpe, as indicated in the entry for Gunthorpe in Domesday Book: '*Tolls and a ship which pay 30s 8d*'. Other medieval documents refer to the ferry also; for example, a right of ferry, *passagium de Briggeford*, was granted to Thurgarton Priory in the 12th century by charter of the then lord of the manor, Henry Bisset (Du Boulay Hill 1932). There are numerous medieval and later references to the ferry (SMR 5472).

Although the status of the Fosse Way is uncertain during the Medieval period, it almost certainly would have continued to provide East Bridgford with reasonably direct access to Newark to the north. Much traffic however, is likely to have used the parallel route through Kneeton to East Stoke (see 5.5.2).

5.4.4 The settlement and its environs

Medieval East Bridgford lay at the western end of its parish, with extensive open arable fields to the east. Meadows would have lain in the floodplain of the Trent with the main pasture being an area of hillside lying to the north-east of the village. Islands in the river were also used for pasture.

During either the 11th or the 12th century a motte and bailey was constructed on the escarpment to the north east of East Bridgford (SMR 1822, SAM 23212). From that position it would have been able to command the Trent valley at one of its crossing points.

Little appears to be known about the settlement in this period. Du Boulay Hill suggests a possible population of some 250 inhabitants in 1086, based on the figures given in Domesday Book. There appears only to have been a single manor house, even after the manor was divided. The house fell into Multon's moiety of the manor; however, he did not reside at East Bridgford. Du Boulay Hill assumed that the business of the manor would have continued to be carried on there, organised by Philip Caltoft, who did live in the village and who 'took the lead' in establishing their joint rights as lords of the manor.

Some idea of the relative wealth of the settlement can be gained from the Lay Subsidy of 1334. This records that East Bridgford was taxed at £3/3/11d, a reasonable amount since within the wapentake only seven places were taxed at a higher rate, compared with 28 at a lower amount (Glasscock 1975).

5.4.5 The parish church of St Peter

A church was present at East Bridgford by 1086, as indicated by the Domesday Book record. In 1191-3 King John gave the 'chapelry of Blyth with all its appurtenances namely ... the Church of Brigeford...' to St Mary's Priory at Rouen (Du Boulay Hill 1932, 74). In the early 14th century the advowson of the church was disputed, with the then lord of the manor claiming that he had recovered it from Rouen by a writ of Richard I. The court decided in his favour. Following the division of the manor, it was agreed that the advowson should be exercised alternately.

Although the present church is dedicated to St Peter, this may not be the original dedication. The 'King's Book' of 1535 gives it as St Mary's, but is not necessarily reliable, while early York Registers are said to record it as St John the Baptist (Du Boulay Hill 1932).

A chantry was endowed in 1353 by William Deyncourt, who gave a house for three chantry priests plus 300 acres of land. The chantry continued until the dissolution.

Standing fabric indicates that the church was totally rebuilt in the 13th century, and enlarged in the 14th and 15th centuries. Some archaeological investigation was carried out in the early 20th century which revealed evidence of the medieval church prior to its extensive rebuilding in later centuries.

5.4.6 Markets and fairs

Philip de Caltoft and his cousin Thomas de Multon, as joint lords of the manor, claimed in the *De quo warranto* in 1330 all rights of court-leet, free warren and fishing, toll of vessels and cattle for sale etc. At the same time, Philip claimed a weekly market and two annual fairs, referring to a previous grant made in 1327. The market was held on a Tuesday, and the fairs on the vigil, feast and morrow of St Barnabas, and on the feast of St Luke plus the following two days. In 1361 Edward III confirmed the grant to Thomas Atte Hethe and Robert Deyncourt, the then holders of the two moieties (Unwin 1981). There may be a much earlier reference to a market, however, in the form of a charter dated 1203 in which King John grants the holding of a market and fair at *Brigiford*, county Nottingham (information from the Doubleday Index, Notts Local Studies library, ref. BM Index to Charters i, 108).

5.4.7 Trade and industry

The following tradesmen are recorded at East Bridgford in various assize rolls transcribed by Du Boulay Hill (1932): Gilbert le Spicer (grocer) in *c.* 1311, Richard the Taillour in 1315 and again in 1330 and Henry Reynold, Roper, in 1427. Pits were being dug for marl by the mid 14th century, possibly for local use only, as there is a reference of 1330 to the ground giving way and falling in on a man standing in a cart within a marl pit.

It appears from the *Placita de quo Waranto* of 1330 that the Trent was used to supply the town with certain goods, as the joint lords of the manor claimed, in addition to free fishing in the Trent, 'toll of vessels landing and of mill-stones brought to the same town', and received fourpence for every 'vessel laden with merchandize and other saleable things coming to land by water of the Trent' and fourpence for every pair of mill-stones for sale in the town.

5.5 Post-medieval (16th - 18th century)

5.5.1 The manor

One of the moieties of the manor remained with Magdalen College throughout this period. In the mid-17th century Simon Scrope, who had inherited the other moiety, was charged with being a recusant papist and fined by the sequestration of two-thirds of his estate. This portion then appears to have been broken up into several freeholds.

The Sheffield estate, including the house then known as Sheffield Hall, was sold in 1591 by Lord Sheffield to Mr John Hacker who appears to have settled there at that time. The estate at that time consisted of 'the manor of Brydgeforthe alias Sheffield Hall and 2 messuages 7 cottages 7 tofts 1 cottage 8 gardens 8 orchards...' (Du Boulay Hill 1932, 206).

5.5.2 Communications

The Trent between East Bridgford and Gunthorpe could be crossed by both ferry and ford during this period. A small boat representing the ferry is depicted on the 17th century maps of East Bridgford and the ford is marked on Chapman's map of the county in 1774. There had probably been a riverside wharf for a long time, and its continued existence was ensured by the Enclosure Award which set aside an acre of land by the river as a wharf and a 15ft road leading to it for the use of owners, occupiers and parishioners.

The Fosse Way continued in use during the post-medieval period as indicated by numerous maps of the county. The section from Saxondale to Newark was turnpiked in 1772-3. An alternative route led directly from East Bridgford, along Kneeton Road, and running approximately parallel to the Fosse Way as far as East Stoke. Three different open field furlongs along this route were called 'Newwarke way Furlong' in the early 17th century. It is shown as the 'Upper Foss Way' on Chapman's map of Nottinghamshire, 1774.

Throsby (1790) describes the route from the Fosse Way into East Bridgford at the end of the 18th century:

> 'The road from the Fosse to the village, is in a right line, very spacious, at the distance of about half a mile. The village, or rather the lanes leading to it, are a labyrinth, the way I entered it. The numerous passages, open to the more numerous inclosures adjoining the village, misguide you : the trees in the hedge-rows are lofty, many, and meet each other, which make the passages gloomy and miry, and some of them almost impassable' (vol I, p 148).

5.5.3 The settlement and its environs

By the second decade of the 17th century East Bridgford had four open arable fields, Trent, Upper, Middle and Foss Fields. A further field, Burrow Field, had been enclosed in 1605. The enclosure of Burrow Field would have accounted for about a quarter of the total arable area and led to reorganisation of the remaining fields and common rights. An area of pasture called the Burrow was allocated for 'ye 30 cottagers of this manor in consideration their common they had in Burrow Field...' (Ashikaga & Henstock 1996).

A considerable amount of detail regarding the layout of the village and its fields is available from the maps of 1612 and 1614. This includes details of land ownership, of the tenants of both lords of the manor and details of the other freeholders. In addition, there are 'bird's eye' views of the village houses within their house plots and a table on the 1614 map showing, for the Magdalen College tenants only, the number of bays in their houses and barns, as well as the presence or absence of separate kitchens, stables, ox houses, kilnhouses and dovecotes, together with the number of oxgangs farmed by each tenant. The 1612 map includes this information for all tenants, but is apparently 'in a form of code not readily intelligible'.

Various other features are recorded on the map, including archery butts at the side of the road and a tall slender cross in the road near the junction of Walnut Tree Lane and Main Street.

During this period there are several references to two distinct groups in the village, the husbandmen and the cottagers. A record in 1594 states 'to every cottage house half an oxgang', while in 1705 the repair of two portions of the churchyard fence was the duty of the husbandmen and the cottagers respectively. According to Du Boulay Hill (1932), 'the husbandmen were the tenants of the College and other larger holders having arable and common rights in the open fields while the cottagers were holders of half an oxgang attached to certain ancient tofts under copyhold of the manor'.

East Bridgford has become associated with the Civil War by being the birthplace of Colonel Hacker, who was involved in the execution of Charles I. Later, Hacker was also executed and his property in East Bridgford forfeited, but one of his brothers, a royalist, was permitted to buy it back.

Some idea of the size of the settlement in the 17th century can be gained by using the Hearth Tax returns of 1664 and 1674. Each used different administrative procedures, resulting in certain discrepancies between the two when they are compared, however. The results for East Bridgford are as follows:

Number of hearths	**1664**	**1674**
>3	5	6
3	1	6
2	7	10
1	31	26
Not chargeable/discharged	16	15
Total	**60**	**63**

Numbers are very similar between the two dates, a little surprising in view of the discrepancies which are generally found elsewhere. The main difference is in the increased number of two and three-hearth houses in 1674 when compared with 1664, together with a decrease in the number of single-hearth dwellings. This is a widespread feature of the returns. The reasons are uncertain, but probably include both the improvement of assessment, with a decrease in fraud, and the improvement of at least some of the houses, as this was a period of considerable rebuilding (Webster 1988).

5.5.4 Population

Some estimate of population in the 17th century can be calculated using Hearth Tax data and the returns to visitations which required the number of recusants and communicants in each parish to be provided. In 1603, there were 200 communicants at East Bridgford, with no recusants recorded. No figure was provided for non-communicants (ie those under the age of 16). Wood (1942) assumed they would have made up some 60% of the population and consequently estimated that there were approximately 320 inhabitants of the parish at that date (Wood 1942).

In 1676 the then vicar returned the figure of 76 communicants at East Bridgford, with two Papists and one other dissenter (Guilford 1924). Adding an estimated 60% for non-communicants gives a population of 126, a dramatic drop in numbers from the beginning of the 17th century. Population stagnation or decline at that time is not unusual, although not normally as pronounced. Out of 138 parishes where a straight comparison of the 1603 and 1676 figures was possible, only 38 returned a larger number of communicants (and of recusants and non-communicants or dissenters) in 1676 than in 1603 (Wood 1942). The figures for nearby Car Colston and Shelford were also examined to see whether the East Bridgford figures were particularly anomalous. All three showed considerable decline, that at Car Colston being very similar to East Bridgford:

	Communicants in 1603	Communicants in 1676 (and as a percentage of the 1603 figure)
East Bridgford	200	76 (38%)
Car Colston	255	102 (40%)
Shelford	247	171 (69%)

If the dramatic decline is taken at face value, one possible factor is likely to have been plague. Two particularly severe outbreaks are recorded in the parish registers. In 1604, 52 people died, with a further occurrence in 1637, when there were 90 deaths in the parish. These outbreaks must have had a considerable effect on a relatively small community. There may also have been a degree of population migration to the growing urban centre of Nottingham.

Another possibility is that one or both the visitation figures were incorrect - the 1603 figure of 200 communicants, for example, is suspiciously rounded. Alternative estimates, albeit crude, can be derived from other sources also. In 1641 a total of 83 men were required to take the protestation according to a warrant directed to the constables of East Bridgford. Not all of those 83 would necessarily be heads of their own households, but the figure could tie in reasonably well with The Hearth Tax figures, which show 60 households with chargeable hearths in 1664 and 63 in 1674. Assuming an average family size of 4 gives a population estimate of 252 in 1674 which, when compared to the figure of *c.* 126 derived from the visitation figures of 1676, suggests a somewhat less dramatic decline.

Further returns were made following Archbishop Herring's visitation of 1743. Unfortunately, however, East Bridgford made no return to the Archbishop (Ollard & Walker 1930). By the end of the century Lowe recorded 82 births and 44 burials over a five year period, but did not count the number of inhabitants.

5.5.5 Trade and industry

Wills and probate inventories drawn up in the 18th century indicate the essentially agricultural nature of East Bridgford's economy, with the wealth of the community lying in livestock and crops. Dairies, cheese chambers, brewhouses and spinning and weaving equipment were not uncommon, and indicated a degree of self-sufficiency. Inventories studied included those of two carpenters, a shoemaker, a labourer, a bricklayer, a shopkeeper and several farmers (EBLHG 1985).
East Bridgford would have gained some degree of prosperity from boat-traffic on the river. By the end of the 18th century the wharf was in use '... for the landing and shipping of coals, timber, goods, wares and merchandise ...' (EBLHG 1985). It is not known exactly what supplies would have been loaded and unloaded here; certainly a wide range of materials were being carried along the river, as indicated by Deering's comment in the 1740s that Nottingham was

> 'plentifully supplyd by the Trent at a moderate freight with bar iron, block-tin, wines, oyles, grocers' goods, salt, pitch, tar, hops, hemp, flax, dye drugs, deals, Norway oak and all sorts of other foreign wood; whilst Nottingham sends down the river coal, lead, timber, corn, wool, potters-ware and large quantities of Cheshire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire cheese ...'
> (quoted in Wood 1950, 32).

Milling

There is documentary evidence of a water-powered cornmill in East Bridgford parish by the second half of the 16th century, called at that time 'the new mill of Fens'. Du Boulay Hill (1932) argued that this was a building shown on the early 17th century maps, lying on the river bank some way to the north of the village in 'Dell Dale', one dale north of 'Mill Dale' which he suggested may have been the site of an older mill. The building is linked with a smaller one apparently built out over the river, near a line of stakes which run out into the stream. Ashikaga & Henstock (1996) did not consider that the building was a watermill, however, suggesting rather that the stakes may have been intended to define the deep water channel for boat traffic and that the buildings could have been a wharf and warehouse.

A windmill was in existence in the parish by 1703 on a triangular piece of common bordering Middle Field, to the north of East Bridgford.

Gypsum

Magdalen College had a half-share in all 'plester proceeding from ye Cliffe adjoyning and being within ye libertie of Eastbridgford'. This cliff is marked on the 1614 map as common land. Several 'pitts' are shown on the map, but it is not known whether these were for gypsum or marl. Plaster derived from the gypsum beds was widely used in Nottinghamshire during this period for flooring the upper storeys of houses. It was burnt in kilns, which may explain the number of 'kilnhouses' owned by ten of the major farmers, although these could have had other uses, such as drying corn or malting. The plaster may have been quarried for local use only, at least by the end of the 18th century, as Lowe (1798) was only aware of it being 'got for sale' at two places, neither being near East Bridgford.

5.6 19th century

5.6.1 Communications

The ferry across the Trent continued to run through much of this period only becoming redundant towards the end of the century when the first bridge was erected. An Act of Parliament was passed in 1870 enabling its construction by a private company and it opened in June 1875 as a toll bridge. It was built of iron and wood, with one span of 100 feet at the northern end and five smaller spans on piles (Du Boulay Hill 1932).

Although the ford is not marked on 19th century maps, Esdaile (1851) records the fact that 'the Ford is passed over very common by carts and waggons...'. He also refers to Bridgford Street, the possible Roman road, leading to the ford as having been 'reduced by enclosure to a horse road'.

East Bridgford was not served directly by rail, the nearest station being at Bingham to the south. Here there were two stations, one on what became part of the Great Northern Railway, linking Nottingham and Grantham, which opened in 1850, the other on the London and North Western line connecting Nottingham with Melton Mowbray and eventually Market Harborough. This opened in 1879.

5.6.2 The settlement and its environs

At the very beginning of the 19th century, East Bridgford's surviving open fields and commons were enclosed and allotted according to the Parliamentary Enclosure Award.

In 1842, a report investigated waste lands and encroachments in and around the village. Occupiers of houses on Cuttle Hill were required to pay an annual acknowledgement to the parish. Fences and hedges were to be removed from gardens on Kirk Hill by the overseer of the highways, and fences were to be removed from Butt Lane so as to allow the 30ft width as specified in the Enclosure Award (Du Boulay Hill 1932, 159).

A large Temperance Hall was opened in 1883, holding nearly 300 people (Du Boulay Hill 1932).

5.6.3 Religious buildings

The first non-conformist chapel was built in the early 19th century, with White's Directory recording a Methodist chapel there in 1832. They built a new chapel on different site in 1879. The Primitive Methodist Connexion became established in East Bridgford in around the 1840s, worshipping first in a barn and then later building a chapel in Brown's Lane, before taking over the Methodist chapel in 1880 (Du Boulay Hill 1932).

5.6.4 Education

A National School was built in 1829 on glebe land to the north-west of the churchyard. It was replaced by a new school built in Kneeton Road in 1863. In addition to the National School there were at least two private schools at different times in the 19th century (Du Boulay Hill 1932).

5.6.5 Population

The 10-yearly census, which commenced in 1801, provides the following figures for East Bridgford:

Year	Population
1801	526
1811	662
1821	768
1831	938
1841	1110
1851	1155
1861	1078
1871	934
1881	898
1891	866
1901	756

These figures show the population of East Bridgford increasing through the first six decades of the 19th century. After this time, however, numbers began to decrease slowly but steadily, a pattern which is seen in other Nottinghamshire villages also.

5.6.6 Trade and industry

A study of the 1851 and 1861 census returns in terms of the occupations of heads of household found the majority of male heads of households were employed in farming, either as owners of farms or as agricultural labourers. The village appeared to be a relatively self-sufficient community, with maltsters, millers, butchers, blacksmiths, bakers and grocers as well as boatmen on the river, a 'gravel-getter', and a depot at Trentside to which coal was delivered. Other trades included cordwainers, bricklayers, joiners, a builder, and a brazier and tin plate worker (EBLHG 1985). Several brickyards operated in the parish. Framework knitting provided a source of employment also. Eighteen framework knitters shops were present in 1844, with a total of 52 frames (Felkin 1845), while the census of 1851 recorded 47 villagers employed in the industry, although this number had dropped to only 4 by 1861, reflecting the building of textile factories in Nottingham and elsewhere.

Gypsum

Gypsum continued to be quarried in the 19th century, reached either by sinking pits or being obtained in the brick-yards. By this time, in addition to the 'plaster', East Bridgford was the source of a fine form of gypsum called 'satin spar' which was used for making into ornaments, much of it going to Derby for this purpose, a practice which continued into the 20th century (Du Boulay Hill 1932).

5.7 20th century

A new bridge across the Trent opened in 1927, consisting of three spans of reinforced concrete. This was built about 400 yards above the old pile bridge, which was then demolished (Du Boulay Hill 1932). The building of the weir and Gunthorpe Lock two years before, together with the management of the river water level had already considerably changed the appearance of the river bank (EBLHG 2000).

Over the course of the 20th century East Bridgford changed from an agricultural to a suburban village, with the loss of farms and the conversion of farm buildings into residences. In addition, considerable numbers of new houses were constructed, mainly in the second half of the 20th century. Between 1900 and 1950, numbers of dwellings increased from 201 to 250; however, from then until 2000 they increased from 250 to 760.

6. THE DEVELOPMENT OF EAST BRIDGFORD

The town has been divided into plan elements, or components, based on map evidence and documentary sources. These plan elements have been subdivided below according to the earliest date of their assumed occurrence in that form, although some of the area of the medieval settlement was almost certainly occupied in the early medieval period. At present, however, no early medieval components can be defined. All subdivisions are tentative only, and need to be confirmed by further work. Subsequent major changes are briefly summarised, together with the degree of survival of early features to the present day.

The boundaries of the area covered by the assessment report were drawn to include part of the Trent banks to the north-west of the village. This has meant the inclusion of an area of open land. The fact that this open land is shown as blank on the following maps means only that it is not known to have formed part of the built-up area at any time during its history.

6.1 Medieval components

Eighteen components have been tentatively identified as belonging to the medieval period and are shown on Figure 3. Their identification is based mainly on documentary evidence and on plan form analysis of the 1614 map and the enclosure map of 1796. A copy of part of the latter is reproduced as Figure 2.

Component 1 ***Motte & BaileyCastle*** (SMR 1822, SAM 23212)

A Scheduled Ancient Monument, this site is the remains of an 11th or 12th century motte and bailey castle, consisting of an elliptical mound surrounded by a ditch, plus a small oval bailey to the south-east of the mound. There may also have been a second bailey to the west. Standing on an escarpment overlooking the Trent and Gunthorpe Bridge, the castle was presumably built to command the Trent valley at one of the important river crossings.

Component 2 ***Church and churchyard*** (SMR 1897)

The present church probably stands on the same site as a Saxon church, although the earliest surviving fabric is Norman. The church has suffered continuous problems as a result of 'serious settlement of the foundations' and has undergone several periods of repair and restoration. It was rebuilt in the early 13th century and enlarged in the 14th and 15th centuries. It was then considerably altered in the later 17th century, prior to which it may have almost been in ruins, and was again repaired in 1778, at which time the 14th century transepts were demolished and the tower was rebuilt. Following further settlement, complete restoration was again necessary in the early 20th century (Du Boulay Hill 1932).

During restoration work in 1902 and 1914 the foundations of an earlier phase of the church were uncovered. The plan was cruciform with a central tower over the crossing. The foundations were of local 'skerry'. The south wall lay directly below the south arcade of the present church; however, the north wall lay some 12-18 inches inside the line of the present north arcade. The north wall of the early nave was not in alignment with the north wall of the chancel, and Du Boulay Hill (1932) concluded that the chancel foundations were older than those of the nave, the latter representing an 11th century rebuilding of an earlier nave. He also suggested the building may have been destroyed by fire at some time in the past, based on the finding of a fused lump of brass and of several pieces of round shafts and other architectural fragments of Mansfield stone, the outer surface of which was 'reddened as though by the action of fire'. Two fragments of a Saxon cross shaft were found embedded in the church walls during the early 20th century restoration (SMR 1897a).

The extent of the churchyard in the medieval period is not known; consequently that shown on Figure 3 is the approximate extent in the 17th century, based on surviving maps. The northern side appears to follow a slight ridge or break in slope which may be the remains of the 'steep bank' recorded by Du

Boulay Hill in 1932 and which he thought marked the Saxon 'ecclesiastical enclosure'. It was fenced in the 17th and early 18th centuries, when it was the responsibility of the cottagers to repair it, while the husbandmen were responsible for the section running along Trent Lane (Du Boulay Hill 1932). In 1844 the surveyors of the highways were ordered to build a proper wall to support the churchyard fence, following the lowering and widening of Trent Lane (Du Boulay Hill 1932, 159).

A small 13th century cross was found in 1902 buried in a grave in an upright position and taken into the church (Du Boulay Hill 1932). Worked flint flakes were found in the churchyard in *c.* 1978 (SMR 2027) as were two sherds of medieval pottery (SMR 2027a).

According to Du Boulay Hill (1932), the 1612 map shows a cross on a base standing on the south side of the church, although this is difficult to see on the available copies; a churchyard cross was apparently recorded in 1645 but had gone by the 20th century. Several tombs had been 'tumbled into the churchyard' in 1790, according to Throsby. He describes a cross-legged knight among them which was then found in a garden wall at the Hall in 1899 and returned to the interior of the church.

Component 3 ***Settlement along the northern side of Kirk Hill***

The parsonage house stood on the plot immediately to the west of the church, probably with a tithe barn to the rear. The present Old Rectory was built in 1744. A terrier of the rectory in 1770 recorded the new dwelling house, with 4 rooms on each floor, plus garrets, as well as a brewhouse, stables, granary, great barn and white barn. A building was present on the long plot to the west of the rectory in 1614, later replaced by the current building, East Bridgford Hill, a country house built in 1792.

The churchyard was extended north-westwards into this area in 1890, taking in the site of a building, possibly the tithe barn, shown on the maps of 1614 and 1796, and of the old National School, which had been built in 1829. A further extension was made in 1929 (Du Boulay Hill 1932). A pond at the northern end of the component may originally have been a small quarry (SMR 7665).

Component 4 ***Cuttle Hill***

The top of the hill at the south-eastern end of Trent Lane, known as Cuttle Hill, is shown on the early 17th century maps as a triangular area of ground, with a lane running along every side. It probably served as a small village green in the medieval period. Although the 1614 map shows the land as empty, Du Boulay Hill (1932) stated that a building is depicted on the 1612 map (this is difficult to see on the available copy, which is a photograph of the original), and referred to a man called Nicolas Cuttell or Askew, born in 1623, who may have lived there. A cluster of buildings is shown on the enclosure map, and it seems that it was developed with squatters' cottages over the course of the 17th and 18th centuries. Esdaile's history of Bingham of 1851 noted a large space for Poor Houses called Cattle (*sic*) Hill 'occupied by above thirty poor houses now'. Most of the houses were demolished in the early 1960s.

Component 5 ***Probable site of market place***

Seventeenth century maps show a marked broadening of the road in this area, with a cross standing at the junction of Main Street and Walnut Tree Lane. These features, together with the nearby presence of the manor house, suggest the area was the medieval market place. Although its exact size at that time is difficult to estimate, it appears that buildings have encroached onto its southern side. One such was present in 1796 at the north-western end of Walnut Tree Lane. A pinfold was erected on or near the site of the market cross in around 1801 but was removed as an obstruction in 1844. The village stocks also stood there (Du Boulay Hill 1932).

Component 6 ***Settlement along the south-western side of Kneeton Road***

An area of regulated plots sharing a common rear boundary and delimited at its northern end by Green Lane which led down to the Trent but which was stopped up upon enclosure. The southern end runs along the side of Cuttle Hill and was devoid of buildings in 1612; it is possible that it was only developed in the 20th century. A smithy stood on one of the plots at the end of the 19th century. The

line of a couple of early plot boundaries has survived, but the area has suffered a degree of modern infilling, with buildings constructed to the rear of the street frontage.

Component 7 ***Settlement along the south-eastern side of Kneeton Road***

An area of plots of varying size, although the fact that three of them were virtually identical suggests there may have been a process of amalgamation resulting in a couple of large plots. The northern end of this component was the site of Sheffield Hall (see section 5.5.1) in the 16th century. By the early 17th century a large house, depicted on the map of 1614 as a double pile structure, and a number of outbuildings were present. The present Old Hall was constructed in the 18th century. A well in the garden of the Old Hall which had originally served a brickyard was later turned into a 'sham antiquity'; the owner also removed effigies from the churchyard and built them into his brick walls (Stapleton 1903), one of them being the cross-legged knight now in the church. The southern end of the Hall gardens were sold in the 20th century, and several houses were built, together with an access road, Cuttle Hill Gardens. Towards the southern end of the component is St Peters School, originally built in 1863 although it has been enlarged considerably since then. The lines of several early plot boundaries are still visible in the modern plan.

Component 8 ***Settlement along the central western side of Kneeton Road***

An area of long narrow regulated plots bounded at its southern end by Green Lane and on its western side by a common boundary. The 1614 map suggests there may once have been a back lane along this western side, of which a remnant survived at that time. By that date also there had probably been amalgamation of smaller plots into one large one in the centre of the component. There has been a degree of new development along the street frontage; however, land to the rear has remained relatively open.

Component 9 ***Settlement along the north-western side of Kneeton Road***

A block of long narrow plots which may have been taken out of the open arable fields. Plots shared a common rear boundary and were bounded on the northern side by a lane in the early 17th century, at which time there were only two occupied plots. The Manor was built towards the northern end of the component in 1740 and was converted into a residential home for the elderly in 1984. There has been a degree of infill running back from the street frontage in the 20th century.

Component 10 ***Settlement fronting the north-eastern side of Kneeton Road***

A block of long narrow regulated plots sharing a common back boundary. Many of these were virtually identical in size, although a couple appeared to have been amalgamated into larger plots by the time of the earliest maps. The line of only one of the original plots is still visible, the remainder of the component having been developed for modern housing, accessed by new roads from Kneeton Road and Cherryholt Lane.

Component 11 ***Settlement along the north-western side of College Street***

An area of plots of varying size sharing a common rear boundary. A footpath running along the eastern side of this boundary in the 19th century may be a remnant back lane, although nothing is shown on the 1614 map. Gypsum pits are marked towards the southern end of the area on the 1st edition 25" OS map of 1884. With the exception of the south-eastern corner, there has been extensive redevelopment for housing, with two access roads running off College Street.

Component 12 ***Settlement along the north-eastern side of College Street***

An area of large plots fronting College Street and Straw's Lane. Most of the area has been developed for housing, with access via two new roads from Straw's Lane.

Component 13 ***Settlement along the south-western side of College Street***

The original street frontage in this area was probably College Street, with lesser development along Main Street and Brown's Lane. By the time of the earliest maps, housing plots were relatively small, but had large and generally separate crofts to the rear. The Main Street frontage developed over the course of the 19th century, while the Brown's Lane frontage was only built up in the 20th century. Between the two, the land has remained open as a recreation ground, accessed via footpaths from all sides, as indeed it was in the 19th century.

This component includes towards its south-eastern corner the site of East Bridgford manor house. The early 17th century map shows this set back from the road with a 'hemp plott' to the rear; a second large house is also shown next to it. This was known as Burneham House and is now called The Old Manor House. Du Boulay Hill (1932) suggests it was built when the old hall had become too dilapidated for a residence, apparently between 1530 and 1548. It has since been much rebuilt.

Two non-conformist chapels lie within this area. The Primitive Methodist Chapel, on College Street, was converted to a residence in 1985, while the Methodist Chapel is still functioning as a place of worship.

Component 14 ***Settlement along the south-eastern side of Kneeton Road***

Area of plots of fairly regular width; although of different lengths by the early 17th century, it is assumed they would have had a common back boundary in the medieval period which may have altered with the enclosure of Burrow Field in 1605. The Main Street frontage was not developed until the 19th century, and includes the Temperance Hall, completed in 1883 and now the village hall. One of the buildings along Main Street was a smithy at the end of the 19th century. This Main Street frontage has remained relatively unchanged; plots along Kneeton Road, on the other hand, have been filled with modern housing and a new road built to provide access.

Components 15 & 16 ***Settlement along Walnut Tree Lane***

A cluster of irregularly shaped plots on either side of Walnut Tree Lane. Considerable new development has taken place in this area.

Component 17 ***Settlement along the southern side of Main Street***

An area of relatively regular plots fronting Main Street and, to a lesser extent, Kirk Hill. Buildings include a tower mill built in 1828 (SMR 1864), although now converted into a dwelling. A lane was built at the same time to provide access to the windmill. There was also a maltings near the corner of Main Street and Kirk Hill by the 1850s (SMR 1836). The building still stands, although it has been altered, having been taken over by Masons pea factory, then by Batchelors, then by a manufacturer and supplier of laboratory apparatus.

Component 18 ***River crossing***

The point at which the medieval ford and ferry crossed the Trent between East Bridgford and Gunthorpe is not known; indeed, it may have shifted over time. It is possible that a Roman ford lay somewhere within this area also. Several finds of prehistoric material have been made from the Trent (see section 5.1 and Figure 1). In 1875 an iron and wood toll bridge was erected towards the centre of this component (SMR 1961). The southernmost end of the bridge survives and is accessible. A plaque provides information as to its history and construction. It was replaced in 1927 by a new bridge on a different site at the westernmost end of this area. The line of the river bank altered during the 20th century as a result of water level management, with the construction of a weir and Gunthorpe Lock.

6.2 Post-medieval components

Five components have been tentatively identified as belonging to the post-medieval period and are shown on figure 4. Their identification is based mainly on documentary evidence and on plan form analysis of the 1614 map and the enclosure map of 1796.

Component 19 ***Settlement along the western side of Lammas Lane***

Seven buildings are shown towards the eastern end of this area in 1614, presumably representing a farmhouse and outbuildings. The road to Kneeton originally ran immediately to the east of the component, probably being diverted slightly further eastwards on enclosure. There was apparently a pinfold by the road here, indicated on the 1612 map by a small mark. It was removed at enclosure (Du Boulay Hill 1932). The farmhouse was replaced with East Bridgford Hall in 1812; this in turn was demolished in 1971 and replaced by a number of houses set in relatively large gardens and accessed from Cherryholt Lane and from a new cul-de-sac, Lammas Gardens.

Component 20 ***Settlement along the eastern end of Cherryholt Lane***

Plots at the north-eastern edge of the town; those on the northern side of the road lie in a roughly oval block of land which stands out in contrast to the grid-like plan of the rest of the village. The reason for this form is not known; possibly it was an encroachment onto an open area at the edge of the village. New houses have been constructed in this area, but in relatively large gardens.

Component 21 ***Trent Wharf*** (SMR 1879)

On Parliamentary Enclosure at the end of the 18th century one acre was set aside for a wharf, together with a road leading to it; however, this was almost certainly formalising an existing arrangement. A road leads to the site on the 1614 map, although no buildings are shown. Structures shown at the wharf on late 19th century maps are no longer present. Two worked flints were found at the wharf in 1946 (SMR 1879a).

Component 22 ***Site of building***

The photocopy of the 1612 map depicts what may be a building in this approximate area, although it is faded and difficult to make out. It is not clear exactly where it stood in relation to the modern map. Nothing is shown on the enclosure map of 1790.

Component 23 ***Gypsum quarry***

This area is marked on the 1614 map as 'The Cliffe A Common' and is believed to have been quarried for gypsum, as Magdalen College had a half-share in all 'plester proceeding from ye Cliffe adjoyning and being within ye libertie of Eastbridgford' (Ashikaga & Henstock 1996).

6.3 19th century components

Eleven components have been identified for the 19th century and are shown on figure 5. Their identification is based on a comparison of the enclosure map of 1796 and the Ordnance Survey map of 1900.

Component 24 ***Park at East Bridgford Hill***

A number of closes shown on the enclosure map of 1796 were amalgamated in the 19th century to create a small park for the country house which became known as East Bridgford Hill. In 1851 Esdaile recorded

> 'two artificial mounts made opposite the Ford which remain now ... they are in the bottom of Mr Beaumont's Park, there is a hollow road on the north of the Park and one also on the south side ... that on the south is so deep that Mr Beaumont has made it a fish pond'.

One of the 'mounts' is a motte and bailey (component 1), the hollow way on the north is Trent Lane (SMR 1964) while that on the south is a continuation of the 'Streete Way' of 1612, a possible Roman road which still contains two fish ponds shown on the OS map of 1900 (SMR 1962, 1963). Hill Farm was constructed along Kirk Hill in the 20th century.

Component 25 ***Pinfold and adjacent settlement, Kirk Hill***

A couple of buildings and a pinfold (SMR 1955) had been erected here by the later 19th century. The pinfold is no longer present.

Component 26 ***Settlement at the southern end of Mill Gate***

A group of buildings had been erected here by the later 19th century.

Component 27 ***Brickyard***

A brick kiln (SMR 1877), from which Brickyard Lane takes its name, is shown on this site on Sanderson's map of 1835 and on the OS map of 1836. It went out of use in 1880. Du Boulay Hill (1932, 170) implies that gypsum was burnt at the brick kiln here and then 'threshed with flails, like corn, in the old plaster barn still standing in Brickyard Lane'. The area was developed for housing in the 20th century; however the site of the clay quarry for the bricks was not filled in, and survives as a large hollow (SMR 7668) within which lie the gardens of the surrounding houses.

Component 28 ***Settlement along the eastern end of Main Street***

Buildings had been erected along Brickyard Lane and Main Street by 1835. Later 19th century maps show a row of terraced housing at the western end of the component, now demolished, although other buildings appear to have survived. In the 20th century, the eastern end of the area was redeveloped, with housing along a new road, Ludgate Drive.

Component 29 ***Development at the south-eastern corner of Straw's Lane***

A 'plaister pit' (SMR 1878) is marked on Sanderson's map of 1835 to the south-east of Straw's Lane; the first edition OS map of 1836 appears to show it as 'alabaster pit' and 'brick kiln', although it is difficult to tell if the latter is on the same site. It had gone out of use by 1884, by which time there was a smithy just to the north of the earlier 'pit' (SMR 1966)

Component 30 ***Gardens at East Bridgford Hall***

By 1835 some of the land enclosed in 1796 had been added to the grounds to the north of what became known as East Bridgford Hall, with a carriage way providing access from the hall to Kneeton Road, where a lodge was constructed. The whole area has been developed for housing.

At the south-eastern edge of this component a bank, up to 1m high and 5m across, inside the roadside boundary, was noted during an earthwork survey of the village (SMR 7667).

Component 31 ***Lodge***

By the end of the 19th century a lodge had been built on Kneeton Road at the entrance to the drive to The Manor.

Component 32 ***Trent Wharf***

Additional buildings had been constructed at Trent Wharf by the end of the 19th century.

Component 33 ***Boathouse***

A boathouse had been constructed here by 1884.

Component 34 ***'The Potteries'***

This area was known as 'Mantle Dale' in 1614. Brick and malt kilns (SMR 1880) are marked here on Sanderson's map of 1835, with a brick kiln, malt office and alabaster pit shown on the 1836 OS map. Gypsum was apparently burnt at a kiln in this area and then loaded on boats for Nottingham (Du Boulay Hill 1932). On the 1884 OS map the malthouse is marked as disused, with no reference to bricks or alabaster. The area is shown as 'The Potteries' on the 1900 map. At the site of the maltings, there were slight surface remains of stones, bricks and kiln tiles in 1977 (SMR 1834).

6.4 20th century development

Twentieth century development is represented by a single un-numbered component.

6.5 Discussion

Although at first glance it might seem that East Bridgford's origins lie with the establishment of a ford across the Trent, this may not necessarily be the case. If Bridgford Street has been correctly identified as a Roman road leading from *Margidunum* to a ford, a crossing point was already in existence in the Roman period, yet there is currently no evidence for Roman settlement on the site that later became East Bridgford.

On present knowledge, therefore, the site of East Bridgford was settled at some time in the early medieval period and by the time of the Domesday survey, it lay at the heart of one of the most densely settled and cultivated areas of Nottinghamshire, taking advantage both of the meadows and pastures by the Trent and of the fertile clays above the valley. Yet despite this, virtually nothing is known about the settlement prior to the conquest and no Saxon remains have been found within the village apart from the cross shaft at the church.

East Bridgford is fortunate in having two early 17th century maps which show the streets and plot boundaries within the village at that time. The layout of streets is often one of the most durable features of a settlement plan, and at East Bridgford can probably be projected back from the 17th century to the medieval period. The pattern takes the form of a small grid, with two parallel streets (Kneeton Road and College Street) running north-east/south-west, also running parallel to the Trent. They are linked at their southern end by a road (Main Road) which connects with the Fosse Way to the east and runs down to the Trent, as a hollow way, to the west, presumably leading the medieval ford and ferry. They are also connected and crossed further north by two east-west lanes (Brown's Lane and Cherryholt Lane) before converging to form a single road, the medieval 'Newwarke way. The church stands at the southern end of Kneeton Road, while the manor house and a cross, presumed to be a market cross, once stood at the southern end of College Street.

The village properties as seen on the early 17th century maps, and indeed until relatively recently, show a distinct difference in layout between those ranged along Kneeton Road and those fronting College Street. The former consisted almost exclusively of single cottages standing in long narrow plots (components 5-9), while the latter included most of the larger farmhouses, often with several outbuildings, standing in much wider plots (components 10-13). This difference is thought to reflect a social distinction between the inhabitants of the two village streets, one which was openly recognised, since Kneeton Road was recorded as Cottagers' Street in 1662 and College Street was referred to as Husbandmans' Street or Farmers' Street in the early 18th century (Ashikaga & Henstock 1996). Similarly, and as noted above (component 2), the cottagers and the husbandmen were responsible for repairing different sections of the churchyard wall. Such a social division within the settlement plan may also have been present at nearby Bingham, where there was a Husband Street in 1586.

The grid pattern of streets with their regulated plots, together with the distinct groupings of cottagers and husbandmen, all suggest that East Bridgford's layout was the result of a deliberate act of planning or reorganisation rather than of organic growth over a long period. When this happened is not known, nor is it clear whether the planned village replaced an earlier one, perhaps existing as a cluster of houses focused on the church, or as a linear settlement along Main Street and Walnut Tree Lane. It

appears that no attempt was made within the plan to lay out a formal market place, as is thought to have occurred at nearby Bingham; this may suggest a date prior to the establishment of a market at East Bridgford. The 12th and early 13th centuries were a period of pronounced population growth, and reorganisation may have been in response to this, especially since the area is one which was probably relatively densely populated from an early date.

At least two factors are likely to have modified the medieval plan form to produce the layout of properties seen on the 1612/14 maps. The existence of several empty plots along Kneeton Road, often markedly larger than their neighbours, suggests a period of population decline, accompanied by the amalgamation of plots by those able to acquire them. In addition, the maps record the enclosure of Burrow Field in 1605, on the eastern side of East Bridgford, between the village and the Fosse Way. This enclosure, although only taking place a short time prior to the making of the earlier map, may nevertheless have had an impact on the plan, both with the possible creation of new farms on the eastern side of the village (component 20, perhaps components 14 and 15) and with the possible alteration of tracks across the open field into formalised lanes running between the new closes.

Unwin (1981) used Domesday Book, the Lay Subsidies and the Hearth Tax returns to examine the changing importance between the 11th and the 17th centuries of townships which possessed markets. While many townships which acquired markets, particularly the smaller ones, did increase in relative importance in the settlement hierarchy between 1086 and 1334, East Bridgford was not one of these, ranking 33rd in 1086 and only 67th in 1334. Its position had only improved slightly by 1674, when it was 54th, although there is no evidence that markets were still being held there by that time. Unwin also suggests that after 1400 only those markets on main roads tended to survive. East Bridgford's success would not have been helped by its proximity to the market town of Bingham, only two miles away.

Although there is thought to have been little expansion of the village during the post-medieval period, the local economy was successful enough to attract squatters settling on Cuttle Hill and to enable the rebuilding in the 18th century of a number of smaller and larger farmhouses as well as of the church and rectory. Following the 19th century enclosure about four farms were created on the previously open land (EBLHG 1985), accompanied by the construction of new buildings, included some rows of small terraced houses, within the village itself, particularly in the southern half generally and along Main Street in particular. The process of infilling continued throughout the 20th century, accompanied by the beginnings of peripheral development to the east of the original village bounds.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ISSUES

7.1 Research questions

Settlement and agricultural exploitation in the region was already extensive in the Roman period and probably well before, as evidenced both by artefacts and by extensive cropmarks. However, the pattern of early roads, settlements and associated field systems in the area needs to be better understood, in order to see to what extent the Saxon settlement at East Bridgford related to what went before, with possible continued use into the Saxon period of *Margidunum*, the 'Street Way' and the crossing point on the Trent.

The date of construction of the motte and bailey, and the duration of its use, need to be established so that it can be understood within the terms of the political situation at that time and also so that its relationship with the development of the village can be determined.

The dating of the planned elements so clearly visible in the plan form of East Bridgford needs to be established. Was the layout planned as a whole, or were some parts added later? Assuming the layout to be the product of the medieval period, what was the extent of the pre-conquest village?

The Trent was extensively used for transport throughout the medieval period, and there are 14th century references to vessels 'laden with merchandize and other saleable things' landing at East Bridgford. How important was river transport to East Bridgford's economy and did it have a bearing on the establishment of a market there? There are a number of questions relating to the market,

including the identification of the market place in the plan, the date at which it was established (is the reference to 1203 correct?) and its relationship with the markets of nearby Bingham and Shelford. Was it accompanied by a period of growth? Was it never anything more than a small rural market?

Du Boulay Hill suggested that the contrast between the north and south arcades could indicate that work on the 14th century enlargement of the church was interrupted by the Black Death, with the south arcade and aisle completed later with inferior workmanship. Is there any other evidence for a crisis at East Bridgford at this time, either documentary or archaeological, such as settlement shrinkage?

Was there any effect on the layout of the village (or on its economy) following the division of the manor into two, or following the acquisition of one of the moieties by Magdalen College?

What were the implications of the enclosure of Burrow Field in 1605 on the plan-form of the village? This presumably lay on the eastern side - were some of the farms on the eastern side of College Street only laid out at that time rather than having medieval origins? Was there any alteration of the road pattern leading into the settlement?

A brief analysis of population figures suggest a marked decline in the 17th century, possibly at least in part as a consequence of a couple of outbreaks of plague. What were the implications for the settlement? Was there any shrinkage or engrossing of holdings?

Although East Bridgford was never an industrial settlement, the remains of such local industries as did occur should be recorded, such as the survival of any of the 18 framework knitters' shops recorded in 1845, or of buildings associated with the brickyard.

7.2 Archaeological potential

7.2.1 Existing protection

Scheduled monuments

Certain nationally important archaeological sites and monuments enjoy special protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act* 1979. This protection ensures that the case for preservation is fully considered should there be any proposals for development or other work which might damage the monument. Any such proposals are subject to Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent, administered directly by the Secretary of State. They include not only demolition, damage or removal, but also restorative works. There would normally be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of the monument.

One Scheduled Ancient Monument is included in the area under consideration here, namely the motte and bailey castle to the north-west of East Bridgford (SAM 23212). Its site is shown on Figure 7.

Conservation areas

The *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* 1990 required all Local Planning Authorities to determine which parts of their areas were of special architectural or historic interest and to designate them as conservation areas, in order to preserve or enhance the character and appearance of the area. It is also their duty to review them from time to time, and to determine whether any further parts of their areas should also be designated as conservation areas.

East Bridgford conservation area was designated in December 1973; its extent is shown on Figure 7.

Listed buildings

A listed building is one recognised by the government as being of special architectural or historic interest, as specified by the *Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act* 1990. Listing is made at three levels of importance, Grade II, Grade II* and the most important, Grade I, and listed building consent is required, in addition to normal planning consent, before any alterations, extensions or demolitions can be made to a listed structure which might affect its character.

There are 18 listed buildings in the built-up area of East Bridgford. Of these, one is Grade I, namely the parish church. The remainder are Grade II, and all can be broken down according to their earliest structural phase as follows:

Earliest structural phase	**C16 or earlier**	**C17**	**C18**	**C19**	**C20**
Number of structures	2		9	8	

The majority of listed buildings are shown on Figure 7, with the exception of structures such as a water pump, several boundary walls and three headstones in the churchyard.

Planning Policy Guidance 15 allows the creation and maintenance of a list of buildings of local historic/architectural interest, although this does not confer a statutory obligation. There is currently no local list for East Bridgford.

7.2.2 Above ground remains

The street pattern is often one of the most durable features of a settlement, and this appears to be the case at East Bridgford, where early 17th century maps show a pattern which remained virtually unchanged until the 20th century and which can probably be projected back into the medieval period. One lane has been lost since the end of the 18th century, namely Green Lane which ran westwards from the junction of Kneeton Road and Browns Lane. This was stopped at the time of Parliamentary Enclosure, as it was considered to be unnecessary. The main new intrusions into the historic plan are the short roads constructed to provide access to new housing development in the northern half of the village, such as Croft Rise, Cherryhold Close, Orchard Close and Moss Close. The curving line of the latter in particular is at odds with the earlier grid pattern of streets and plots, a pattern which can still be picked out in some parts of the village.

The traditional building materials at East Bridgford would have been timber, mud and stud, and thatch, with brick becoming economical and fashionable in the 18th century. The characteristic building materials of East Bridgford today are either red brick and slate or red brick and pantiles, with boundary walls of brick or stone. Some of the traditional materials have survived, however, with timber framing in several buildings and mud walls in a couple more. It is possible that earlier structures lie hidden behind the later brick facades of other houses, as yet unrecognised.

Most buildings in East Bridgford are domestic, and range in type from cottages and farmhouses, often set gable end on to the street, to country houses set in relatively spacious grounds, screened from the road by walls and trees. They also range in date from at least as early as the 16th century (excluding the church, which is earlier) to the 20th century. The importance of agriculture to East Bridgford's economy is underlined by the virtual absence of industrial structures, what there is generally relating to local trade, such as the remains of the windmill and the maltings. One surviving cottage is said to have been built in the late 18th century as a framework knitters' shop and later used for bead carving from the local gypsum (EBLHG 2000). The village's two non-conformist chapels of the 19th century both survive, although one has been converted into a dwelling.

The church and churchyard are also an important part of the above ground features of East Bridgford, lying as they do in a prominent position in relation to the village and to the Trent. The fabric of the church holds information relating to the different phases of its construction, while the headstones in the churchyard provide information about the past population as well as evidence, in their decorative style, of changes in fashion or custom. Many of these headstones are slate and of 18th century date, some having been carved by Thomas Wood of nearby Bingham. Several monumental masons, of whom Wood was the best known, worked in Bingham during the second half of the 18th century producing slate headstones with fine lettering and occasionally with illustrations (Henstock 1981).

7.2.3 Below ground remains

In the almost complete absence of any archaeological work having been carried out at East Bridgford, it is difficult to assess the degree of survival of any below ground remains, particularly given the extensive development which has taken place in the village in recent years.
Although the street pattern is believed to have remained relatively unchanged since at least the 17th century, and probably longer, activities such as road surfacing, widening and the insertion of services are likely to have caused damage to archaeological deposits relating to earlier street frontages. For example, it appears that Trent Lane was lowered and widened in the first half of the 19th century (Du Boulay Hill 1932). The course of what may have been one of the earliest roads in the area, the 'Street Way', may have been preserved in the grounds of The Hill during the 19th century, although it is not known to what extent it was altered during the making of fish ponds at that time, nor whether it has been affected by changes in the 20th century with the construction of the Hill Farm.

In the same area, to the north west of the village, are the earthworks of the motte and bailey, a scheduled monument. Scheduling has probably preserved the below ground remains of both the castle keep and its ancillary buildings. Outside the scheduled area there may be a second bailey to the west, the extent and above ground survival of which was too poorly understood to allow its inclusion, but which may contain better preserved below ground deposits.

During the period when East Bridgford was a small market town, the market area would be expected to be one of the more intensively occupied parts of the town, although there is no evidence of this from the 17th century maps. Plots in this area, now generally domestic, could contain sequences of commercial buildings along their frontages, with outhouses, workshops and rubbish pits to the rear. Other areas away from the market may also have once been more intensively occupied prior to the population crises of the 14th and 17th centuries. This early occupation is likely to have been located on the street front, whereas more recent houses tend to be set back from the street, so allowing for the possibility of survival of archaeological deposits below front gardens.

One area which was once intensively occupied and is now relatively open is Cuttle Hill. Archaeological investigation of this area could shed light on the period at which the earliest encroachments took place on this site, and on the living conditions of what was probably the poorest section of East Bridgford's community.

The only known archaeological work at East Bridgford was carried out within the church during its restoration in the early 20th century (see component 2). This confirmed the survival of material relating to an earlier church. The churchyard is also an important area of potential, preserving not only the remains of some of the past population of East Bridgford but also possibly the below-ground remains of buildings in areas into which the churchyard extended in the 19th century. These include a building shown on the maps of 1612 and 1796 (possibly a tithe barn) and the first National School, although construction of the latter may itself have destroyed much of the remains of the former.

The digging of marl and gypsum is known to have been carried out in East Bridgford from the medieval period and some evidence may survive both within the village and in the surrounding area.

There may be some potential for environmental work along the banks of the Trent, with the possible survival of well preserved organic remains in wet deposits. These could include riverside structures such as wharves and warehouses, features relating to the earlier fords and ferries, and to small-scale industrial use of the river margins.

8. REFERENCES

Ashikaga, K & Henstock, A (1996) 'A Nottinghamshire village in the Jacobean period', *Transactions of the Thoroton Society of Nottinghamshire* **100**, 77-93

Du Boulay Hill, A (1903) 'St Peter's Church, East Bridgford, Notts.', *Transactions of the Thoroton Society* **7**, 99-118.

Du Boulay Hill, A (1932) *East Bridgford*. Oxford University Press.

East Bridgford Local History Group (1985) *Life and Landscape in East Bridgford, 1600-1900.* Nottingham: WEA.

East Bridgford Local History Group (2000) *Images of East Bridgford*.

Esdaile, A (1851) *Historical Account of Bingham*

Felkin, W (1845) *An Account of the Machine-Wrought Hosiery Trade*. London: W Strange

Glasscock, R E (ed.) (1975) *The Lay Subsidy of 1334*. Records of Social and Economic History, New Series II. London: The British Academy.

Guilford, E L (1924) 'Nottinghamshire in 1676', *Transactions of the Thoroton Society* **28**, 106-113.

Henstock, A (1981) 'A parish divided: Bingham and the Rev. John Walter, 1764-1810', *Transactions of the Thoroton Society* **85**, 90-101.

Knight, D (1994) *Archaeological Assessment of Crown Estate Lands near Bingham, Nottinghamshire*. Trent & Peak Archaeological Trust. SMR Document No. 202.

Lowe, R (1798) *General View of the Agriculture of the County of Nottingham*. London: Phillips.

Patrick, A (1977) *Maltings in Nottinghamshire*. Nottingham: Nottinghamshire County Council.

Thoroton, R (1677) *The Antiquities of Nottinghamshire*. Edited and enlarged by John Throsby in 1790. Vol. II. Republished 1972, Wakefield: EP Publishing Ltd.

Throsby, J (1790) See Thoroton, R (1677)

Todd, M (1969) 'The Roman Settlement at Margidunum: the excavations of 1966-8', *TTS* 73, 7-82.

Unwin, T (1981) 'Rural marketing in medieval Nottinghamshire', *Journal of Historical Geography* **7**, 231-251.

Webster, W F (1988) *Nottinghamshire Hearth Tax 1664 : 1674*. Thoroton Society Record Series Vol. 37. Nottingham.

Wood, A C (1942) 'An archiepiscopal visitation of 1603', *Transactions of the Thoroton Society* **46**, 3-14

Wood, A C (1950) 'The history of trade and transport on the River Trent', *Transactions of the Thoroton Society* **54**, 1-44.

8.1 Maps and plans consulted

1612 (Manor of East Bridgford). Photograph of original, Nottinghamshire Archives, EB1R

1614 (Manor of East Bridgford). Photocopy of original, coloured map. Nottinghamshire Archives, EB 2 L

1796 Enclosure map, Nottinghamshire Archives, EA 46/2/1-2

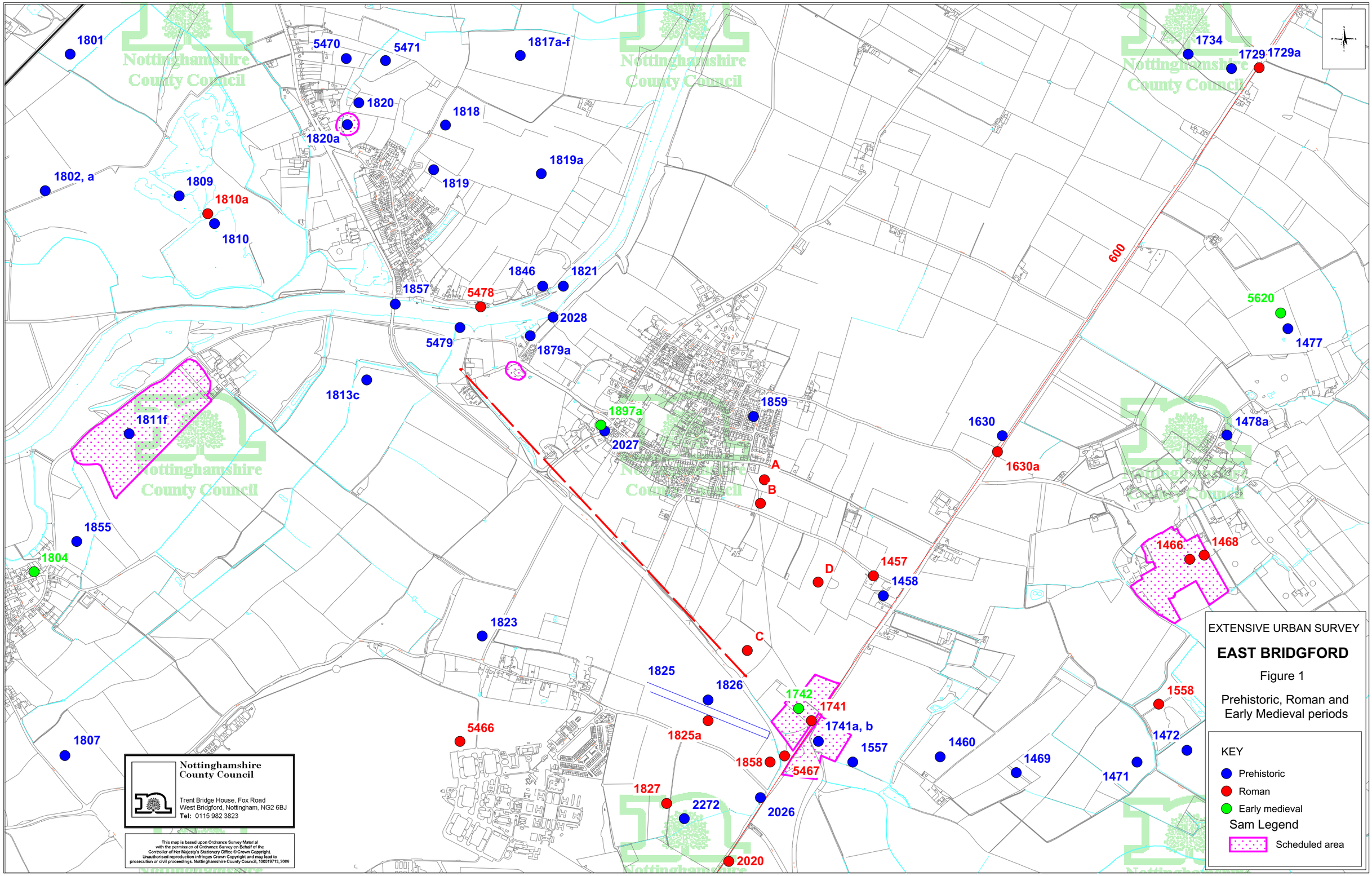
1835 Sanderson, G. Map of the Country Twenty Miles around Mansfield.

1836 Ordnance Survey, first edition 1" (with railways added in 1891)

1884 1st ed. 25" OS maps, consulted via www.old-maps.co.uk.

1900 2nd ed. 25” OS map, sheets 39.11 and 39.15

1901 2nd ed. 6” OS map, sheet 39 SE
1914 Sketch map of 1914 marking earlier features remembered by the compiler in his youth, Nottinghamshire Archives, EB 3 L.



EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
EAST BRIDGFORD
Figure 1
Prehistoric, Roman and Early Medieval periods
KEY
Prehistoric
Roman
Early medieval
Sam Legend
Scheduled area
Nottinghamshire County Council
Trent Bridge House, Fox Road
West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6BJ
Tel: 0115 982 3823
This map is based upon Ordnance Survey Material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on Behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Nottinghamshire County Council, 100019713, 2006
1801
5470
5471
1817a-f
1820
1820a
1818
1819
1819a
1802, a
1809
1810a
1810
1846
1821
1857
5478
2028
5479
1879a
1813c
1811f
1897a
2027
1859
1630
1630a
1734
1729
1729a
600
5620
1477
1478a
A
B
1855
1804
1457
1458
D
1466
1468
1823
C
1825
1826
1742
1741
1741a, b
1825a
1858
5467
1557
1460
1469
1471
1472
1558
5466
1807
1827
2272
2026
2020

Figure 2

Part of Parliamentary Enclosure Map
1796

N

KEY

Medieval component

Area excluded from EUS

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

EAST BRIDGFORD

Figure 3

Medieval Components

Nottinghamshire County Council

Trent Bridge House, Fox Road
West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6BJ
Tel: 0115 982 3823

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey Material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on Behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Nottinghamshire County Council, 100019713, 2006

N

KEY

- Medieval component
- Post-medieval component
- Area excluded from EUS

23

22

21

19

20

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey Material
with the permission of Ordnance Survey on Behalf of the
Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.
Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to
prosecution or civil proceedings. Nottinghamshire County Council, 100019713, 2006

EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

EAST BRIDGFORD

Figure 4

Post-medieval Components

Nottinghamshire
County Council

Trent Bridge House, Fox Road
West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6BJ
Tel: 0115 982 3823

N

KEY

- Medieval component
- Post-medieval component
- 19th century component
- Area excluded from EUS

34

33

31

30

32

24

29

29

28

27

26

25

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey Material
with the permission of Ordnance Survey on Behalf of the
Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.
Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to
prosecution or civil proceedings. Nottinghamshire County Council, 100019713, 2006

EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

EAST BRIDGFORD

Figure 5

19th Century Components

Nottinghamshire
County Council

Trent Bridge House, Fox Road
West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6BJ
Tel: 0115 982 3823

N

KEY

- Medieval component
- Post-medieval component
- 19th century component
- 20th century component
- Area excluded from EUS

This map is based upon Ordnance Survey Material
with the permission of Ordnance Survey on Behalf of the
Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright.
Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to
prosecution or civil proceedings. Nottinghamshire County Council, 100019713, 2006

EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

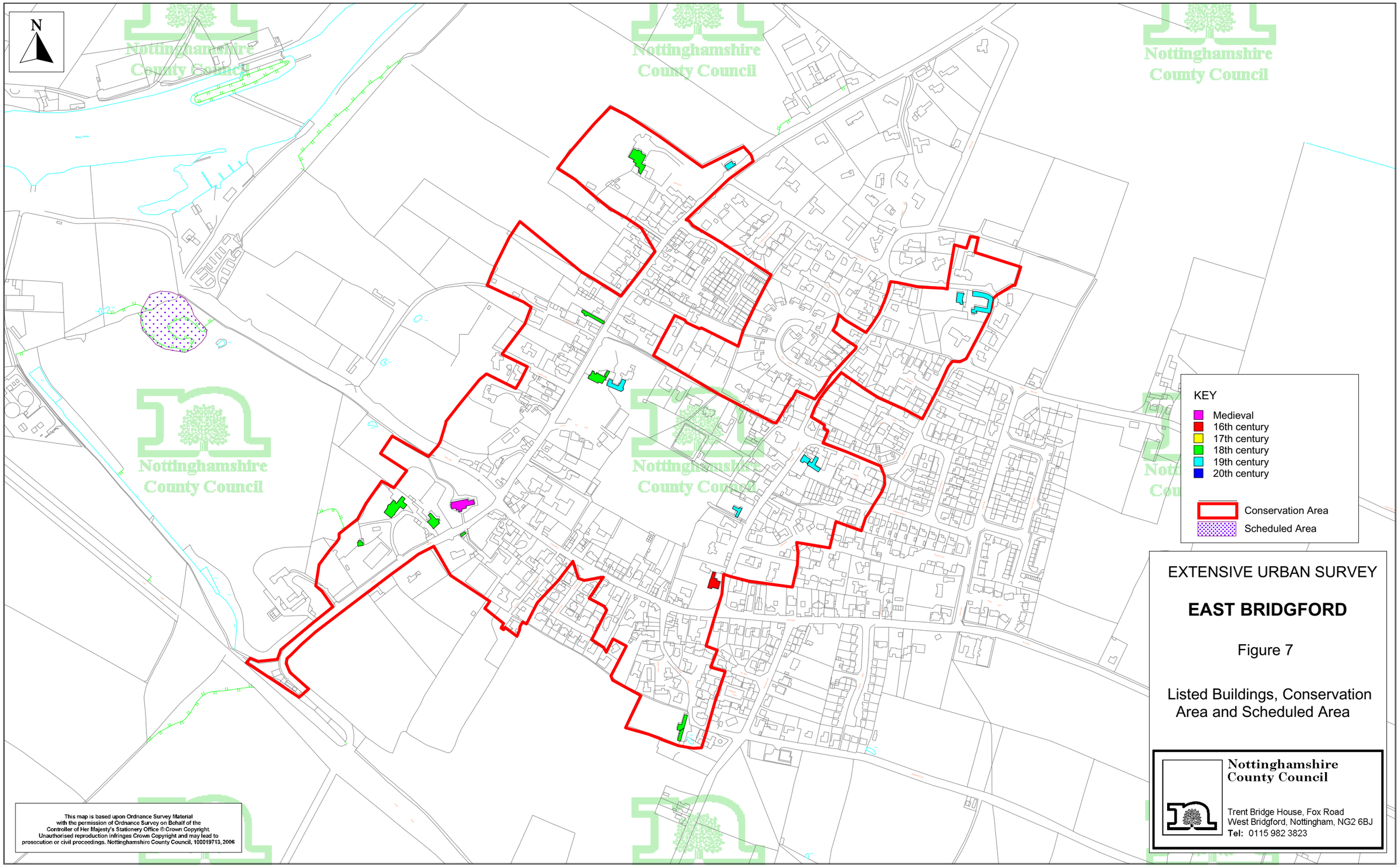
EAST BRIDGFORD

Figure 6

20th Century Development

Nottinghamshire
County Council

Trent Bridge House, Fox Road
West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6BJ
Tel: 0115 982 3823


N
KEY
Medieval
16th century
17th century
18th century
19th century
20th century
Conservation Area
Scheduled Area
EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
EAST BRIDGFORD
Figure 7
Listed Buildings, Conservation Area and Scheduled Area
Nottinghamshire County Council
Trent Bridge House, Fox Road
West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6BJ
Tel: 0115 982 3823
This map is based upon Ordnance Survey Material with the permission of Ordnance Survey on Behalf of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Nottinghamshire County Council, 100019713, 2006