

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE
EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

FINEDON

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CONTENTS

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.....	3
BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT.....	4
SUMMARY	5
I DESCRIPTION.....	6
1.0 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT	6
2.0 TOPOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT.....	8
3.0 THEMATIC ANALYSIS	9
3.1 Industrial	9
3.2 Agricultural	10
3.3 Housing	10
3.4 Commerce	10
3.5 Utilities	11
3.6 Health and Welfare	11
3.7 Transport and Communications.....	12
3.8 Religion.....	12
3.9 Education	12
3.10 Recreation	12
3.11 Other	13
II ASSESSMENT	14
ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE & SURVIVAL.....	14
1.0 Documentary	14
2.0 Standing Buildings	15
3.0 Archaeological	15
4.0 Topography	15
III RESEARCH AGENDA.....	16
IV STRATEGY.....	17
1.0 EXISTING DESIGNATIONS.....	17
2.0 MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES	17
BIBLIOGRAPHY	19

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

- Figure 1 Location of Finedon
- Figure 2 Location of Finedon Showing Historic Transport Routes
- Figure 3 Population Graph of Finedon in the Industrial Period
- Figure 4 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map of Finedon
- Figure 5 Growth of Finedon in the Industrial period
- Figure 6 Existing Designations in Finedon
- Figure 7 Finedon Strategy

BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT

This report is based on a survey conducted between June 1998 and December 1999. It is one of a series of reports compiled by Northamptonshire Heritage, as part of the Industrial period element, of the English Heritage funded Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) of Northamptonshire, which is intended to provide an effective information base and research framework to guide the management of the county's urban archaeological resource. The survey encompasses all urban settlements and others that may have had some urban attributes, from the Roman period to the 1930s. The only exception is Northampton, which is the subject of an Intensive Urban Survey in its own right.

Each report comprises three distinct sections: a detailed description of the town in each major period; an assessment of potential and definition of a research agenda; and a strategy for future management. A consistent approach has been taken in the presentation of the description in each report with detail being presented under each standard category even where this has no direct or obvious relevance to the urban aspects. This section has however been presented in the form of a gazetteer with standard headings so enabling the reader to identify those sections of particular interest. The Finedon report is presented in a single part covering the industrial period, from 1750 to the 1930s, by Jennifer Ballinger. The report has benefited from the specialist advice of Dr Barrie Trinder on the industrial period. Other contributions to the EUS on digital mapping, database input and related work have been made by various individuals including Christine Addison, Chris Jones, Paul Thompson, Rob Atkins, Phil Markham and especially Tracey Britnell and Abi Kennedy.

The vast quantity of documentation for the industrial period has meant that a comprehensive documentary assessment of each of the towns within the survey has been impossible, within the time period. A standard approach has been adopted with attention focussed on those sources that might contribute significantly to the reconstruction of the historical topography of the town and to the broader characterisation of the various monuments within the town. Trade directories of 1849, 1894, 1924 (and 1830 when in existence) have been assessed and all early maps (including Ordnance Survey maps of 1880s, 1900s and 1920s) were utilised. An index has been compiled of all records for the period in Northamptonshire Record Office and Northamptonshire Local Studies Library. Key secondary sources including books, journals and local pamphlets have been consulted and in a minority of cases original records have been used. The survey has relied heavily on a field visit to assess the physical growth and development of the settlement and the survival of monuments within the town. The reports have been produced in a standardised format to allow direct comparison between towns in the county.

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SUMMARY

This report focuses on the archaeological development of Finedon in the period following 1750. There has been no attempt made to discuss any earlier archaeology in the context of this report, but this does not mean that there are no significant archaeological remains in the area.

The settlement of Finedon went through a process of industrialisation during the course of the 18th and 19th centuries. Substantial boot and shoe and ironstone quarrying and smelting industries were established in the settlement. Finedon had characteristics of both a village and a small town by the end of the 19th century. The Mackworth-Dolben family (the lords of the manor) had a significant impact on the social, economic and physical development of the settlement.

Finedon has been substantially re-developed in modern times and a large number of buildings in the core of the settlement have been demolished. There is the potential for below ground investigation of some elements of the original settlement.

I DESCRIPTION

1.0 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT

Finedon was described by John Bridges in the early 18th century as ‘*A large village of one hundred and eighty families or upwards*’ and this categorisation would appear to hold true until at least the late 18th century. The Militia List of 1777 indicated that there were 88 men between the ages of 18 and 45 living in the settlement. There were fourteen farmers, 2 shepherds and a large numbers of labourers (23) indicating a strong agricultural focus; however other trades were represented with the usual occupations of blacksmith, carpenter, miller, butcher, baker, draper, tailor etc being mentioned. The presence of 5 shoemakers, 5 weavers, four mat makers and a ‘dealer in lace’ indicates that there was some organised industry in the settlement even though this was spread between various occupations. In the 1930's the settlement of Finedon was described as ‘*The large village lies at the intersection of the roads from Wellingborough to Thrapston and from Higham Ferrers to Kettering. It is a somewhat uninteresting looking town of red brick houses, a red brick water tower on the Irthlingborough Road being a prominent landmark*’¹. Reginald Underwood writing about the physical changes which had occurred in the settlement declared ‘*Indeed, a utilitarian ugliness seems to have been aimed at, and by no stretch of imagination can modern Finedon be called a beautiful village - or town*’. This confusion about whether the settlement was operating as a large village or as a town appears to be valid as Finedon displayed aspects of both.

In 1801 Finedon was clearly a large village with a population of 886; the population of the settlement rose steadily in the early 19th century and then dramatically in the late 19th century peaking at 4129 in 1901. In relative terms this provided the town with a population comparable with other ‘new’ towns such as Desborough (3573), Irthlingborough (4314) and Raunds (3811) and a larger population than many of the traditional market towns such as Daventry (3780), Higham Ferrers (2540), Oundle (2614) and Towcester (2371). The population fell slightly during the early decades of the twentieth century.

A substantial industrial basis was established in the settlement in the latter part of the 19th century. The chief industries for the town were boot and shoe manufacturing and the ironstone quarries and furnaces. The boot and shoe industry in Finedon was clearly a 19th century development, despite the five boot and shoe makers recorded in the militia lists of 1777. Figures for the mid-19th century indicate that the industry was rapidly developing with 61 people employed in 1841, 204 in 1851 and 330 in 1861. By the end of the 19th century the trade was substantial with 11 wholesale boot and shoe manufacturers, 9 closers, five makers and a boot upper and legging and gaiter manufacturer listed in Kelly Leather Trades Directory for 1893. By 1920 this had risen to 15 boot and shoe wholesale manufacturers, 2 boot upper manufacturers, 4 closers, 5 makers, 3 legging manufacturers and a cricket and tennis shoe manufacturer in addition to the supporting leather trades of 4 curriers, 3 leather dressers and a leather merchant. There were a large number of factories in the settlement as well as what would appear to have been boot and shoe makers garden workshops located throughout Finedon.²

Ironstone quarrying, mining and smelting was a substantial industry in Finedon in the late 19th and early twentieth centuries. Land on all sides of the settlement was quarried at some time by a substantial number of companies including Glendon Iron Company, Rixon and Company, Stanton Ironworks Company Limited and Wellingborough Iron Company. Ironstone quarrying was carried out from 1860's onwards in the area with the last quarries closing in the 1960's. In many areas all the ironstone from the

¹Victoria County History, The Victoria County History of Northamptonshire, Vol 3

²It was not possible to verify how many of these were garden workshop as many have disappeared in the clearance of the settlement in the 1950's and 1960's; a number do survive but other small buildings behind houses were outbuildings for other purposes.

surface had been extracted by the early twentieth century and in the 1910's and 1920's there were a number of ironstone mines established by Stanton Ironworks, Thingdon quarries and mines and Wellingborough Ironworks Company. In addition one of the twelve iron smelting sites in the county was located in Finedon - there were two blast furnaces (one erected in 1884 and the other in 1886); the plant which was initially operated by Rixon and Co and later by Wellingborough Iron Company. During the 1920's only one furnace was in operation and during the 1930's the ironworks were re-organised on modern lines. Ironworking ceased in the area in 1962 and by 1964 demolition of the works had been completed.³ The ironstone industry was responsible for employing a large proportion of the population of Finedon in the 19th and presumably 20th centuries - analysis of the census information for 1891 indicates that a large number of ironstone labourers were located in Stanton=s Row. Limestone was also quarried in the area and John LH Bailey claims that there was a lime kiln between Station Road and Burton Road.⁴

In terms of facilities Finedon can be regarded as a town by the early 20th century- the settlement had a number of utilities buildings including a water tower, pumping station and gas works and had facilities such as a town hall and a newly laid out cemetery. A number of other primarily urban buildings such as non-conformist chapels, schools and social clubs were erected in the course of the 19th century. In 1894 the parish of Finedon was formed into an Urban District Council.

There was a substantial retail industry in Finedon based essentially on the size of the settlement - trade directories indicate that the largest number of retailers were general 'shopkeepers' with 6 listed in 1849, 10 in 1894 and 19 in 1924. The usual range of retail outlets to be found in any settlement of a substantial settlement are found including bakers, butchers, drapers, green grocers, grocers and beer retailers. A number of more specialist retailers such as a clothes dealer (1924), confectioner (1894, 1924), cycle agent (1924), fishmonger (1894) and furniture dealer (1924) were located in the settlement, but Finedon would not appear to be a settlement which was drawing in custom from a wide surrounding area. The trade directory for 1924 indicates that the largest number of these shops were located in High Street (20), but there were clearly individual shops located throughout the settlement in Regent Street (3), Mulso Road (1), Dolben Square(2), Waterloo Bridge (1), Irthlingborough Road (3), Church Street (3), Wellingborough Road (6), Allen Road (1), Well Street (2) and Obelisk Hill (2). A Co-operative Society was formed in Finedon in 1868 which had both a retail element - a bakehouse was opened in 1874, a butchery in 1882 and a general store in 1902- and an industrial section, which was set up by two men with the help of the Mackworth-Dolben family. They established a factory on the junction of Obelisk Road and Mulso Road and later a larger enterprise on Wellingborough Road. In 1902 the society merged with Wellingborough Co-operative Society.⁵

In other respects, however, Finedon remained a village - the strong agricultural focus to the settlement noted in the Militia Lists of 1777 was retained throughout the 19th century. In 1831 approximately half the population of Finedon was employed in agriculture either as farmers (24) or agricultural labourers (148) and a number of farms were located either in close proximity to or directly within the settlement; many of these can still be discerned today. Agriculture would appear to have declined throughout the period as 21 farmers were listed in 1849, 12 in 1894 and only 8 in 1924, although other linked professions such as dairymen, gardeners, seedsmen and yeomen were also noted.

One of the key aspects of the settlement which was most 'village-like' was the strong link between the

³ Tonks E, *The Ironstone Quarries of the Midlands. History, Operation and Railways Part 4 The Wellingborough Area*, 1990.

⁴ Bailey JLH, *Finedon Otherwise Thingdon*, 1975

⁵ NRO, ROP 1442; Bailey JLH, *Finedon Otherwise Thingdon*, 1974

lords of the manor - the Mackworth-Dolbens of Finedon Hall - with the settlement of Finedon⁶. In the 19th century the Mackworth-Dolben family were noted for their social links with the village in terms of taking an active role in the church and temperance movement (which focused on the Star Coffee House) and with the poor. William Mackworth-Dolben also had a substantial impact on the physical development of the settlement. He was responsible for commissioning the building or alteration of a large number of structures in Finedon. These included Finedon Hall, the Bell Inn, Volta Towers, Debdale House, Thingdon Cottage, the Ice Tower, Ise Brook Cottage, Bell House Cottage, Star Hall House, Mannings Yard, Pytchley Row, Mackworth Green, the gatehouse, a barn at Burton Mill, Windmill Cottage, Mulso Arms and Grove Cottage⁷. The architect for a large number of these projects was E. L. Law and many were erected in an elaborate mock-gothic style. The family were also partially responsible for the development of the ironstone industry in the settlement as much of the stone was quarried on land which was owned by them and leased to various ironstone companies. The link between the family and the village ended in 1912 with the death of Miss Ellen Mackworth-Dolben, the last lady of the manor. The hall, land and a large number of properties in the area were sold off - much of it being purchased by the ironstone companies.

The layout of the settlement would also indicate that Finedon retained its village character into the 19th century with a large number of small ad-hoc buildings located in the centre of the settlement; although there was a clear outward expansion of the settlement to the north and south east in the latter decades of the 19th century (see section on Urban topography for details).

2.0 TOPOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT

The study of the development of the urban topography of Finedon is facilitated by the survival of pre and post enclosure maps for the Parliamentary Enclosure Award of 1806. This clearly brought about a substantial change to the layout of the settlement. There were however earlier events that had an effect on the development of Finedon.

The fire at Finedon in 1739 would clearly have had an immediate impact on the nature of the settlement. The event was recorded in the Northampton Mercury 12th March 1739 '*On Friday a Fire broke out at Finedon near Wellingborough, in this County, which in the space of 4 hours burnt down and consumed 16 houses with great quantities of corn, hay, implements of husbandry etc. The fire was so sudden and fierce that scarce any goods could be save*' and the building which served as the local post office for many years has an inscription on the front 'Here endeth the fire after spreading 214 yards 1739'. It is believed that the fire started at Affleck Bridge.⁸ Although the fire was a dramatic event at the time, the relatively small area involved means that it would be unlikely to have had a dramatic long term effect on the development of the settlement, unlike at neighbouring Wellingborough where a large fire of approximately the same date led to large scale re-building of the town. It is likely that the properties in the area effected by the fire would have been re-built along similar lines and in similar locations to the buildings which preceded them.

The next event which would have had a far greater impact on the urban topography of the town was the small, private Enclosure Act of 1765 for Sir William Dolben.⁹ This resulted in the closure of Vicarage Lane, Place Green, Long Lane, Church Lane and part of Bell Lane West and the south of Avenue Road and the creation of Church Hill. This would appear to have been linked to the creation of Finedon Hall

⁶ In 'Finedon Otherwise Thingdon' John Bailey describes in detail the genealogy of the Mackworth and Dolben families and their links with Finedon.

⁷ Bailey JHL, Finedon Otherwise Thingdon, 1975

⁸ Bailey JHL, Finedon Otherwise Thingdon, 1975

⁹ This is mentioned in Finedon Otherwise Thingdon, JHL Bailey - uncertain what it refers to in terms of documents. NRO D(F) 177 - Inclosure of Highway Act 1770? NRO Map 1011 pedigree of Dolben, 1779?

Park, although it wasn't until nearly 30 years later that Humphrey Repton was asked to provide advice about proposed new schemes for the parkland. The pre-enclosure map of 1805 indicates that the settlement continued further to the west than is the case now (or in 1885). Streets and houses continued past the junction between Bell Hill and Ivy Lane in an area which by 1885 was clearly part of Finedon Hall Park.

The layout of Finedon remained remarkably consistent between 1805 and 1885, other than the small change to the west of the settlement described above. The core of the settlement was located on the parcels of land between Orchard Road, Berry Green Road, Avenue Road, Church Hill, Bell Hill, Ivy Lane, Wellingborough Road and Banks Road¹⁰. Analysis of the maps of 1805 and 1885 indicates that a large number of individual buildings were replaced in the course of the 19th century, but there was no substantial re-development of the central area of the settlement. Unlike many of the other boot and shoe towns the essence of this central area of the settlement remained unchanged and was filled with small cottages, barns, garden workshops and possibly small scale industrial buildings. Only a very small minority of later urban buildings such as Rose Hill Works on Well Street, the Independent Wesleyan Chapel on Affleck Bridge and the town (or temperance) hall were inserted into this topography. Although a large proportion of the settlement was demolished in the 1950's and 1960's¹¹ map evidence and the remaining buildings and walls indicate that this area was of village character with a considerable proportion of the buildings being of stone.

In the period between 1885 and 1900 the town expanded rapidly, the major focus for development was to the south and east of the core settlement with a large number of small streets with 19th century terraces and associated workshops / factories being erected. One of the key developments was the use of roads (now Orchard Road and Wellingborough Road) which had previously been back lanes to the main streets in the settlement - High Street, Church Street, Regent Street and Well Street. A number of small streets such as Albert Street and Victoria Road (off Orchard Road) and Ewenfield Road, Cromer Road, Milner Road, Summerlee Road Mulso Road (off Wellingborough Road) were developed off these roads. In contrast there was relatively little development between 1900 and 1926 probably due to the retraction in the population during this period. Modern developments around the extremities of the town have occurred, but have been far less extensive than in other settlements. The wide-scale demolition of properties in the central area of Finedon has, however, had a very dramatic and irreversible impact on the urban topography of the town.

3.0 THEMATIC ANALYSIS

3.1 INDUSTRIAL

There are unlikely to be any surviving, identifiable remains for the early industries of weaving, mat making or lace making in the town.

There were two main focuses for industry in the parish of Finedon during the 19th and 20th centuries - the ironstone quarries, mines and iron smelting works and the boot and shoe industry. The remains of the former have not been surveyed for the purposes of the project, but Eric Tonks working in the 1980's has discussed the physical surviving remains of the industry¹². As a general rule the remains of the iron smelting works and mines have largely been obliterated, but there are surviving structures for some of the quarries (including the actual quarry face and the tunnels and alignments for the ironstone railways. The furnaces associated with iron smelting works were used for a time for glass blowing and for

¹⁰ Street names taken from map of 1926.

¹¹ This will be discussed in greater detail below.

¹² Tonks E, The ironstone quarries of the Midlands History, Operation and Railways Part 4 The Wellingborough Area, 1990

manufacturing paving slabs.¹³

There was a substantial boot and shoe industry in Finedon in the 19th and early 20th centuries; eleven (pre-1926) factories have been positively identified through mapping and the field visit of which eight are marked on maps as boot and shoe factories. Six of these factories are still standing and in industrial usage, three have been demolished and two have been converted for alternative uses (one for flats and the other as a shop). Rockleigh Works and the Boot and Shoe factory on Burton Road are currently boot and shoe factories owned by 'Loake Shoe Makers', however local knowledge informs that the business is due to close. There were clearly a large number of garden workshops in Finedon particularly in the central area of the town. It is very difficult to estimate how many as structures in the surviving area of the town, which appeared from maps to be garden workshops, were in actual fact outbuildings for other purposes. There are also a number of medium scale industrial buildings in the settlement which have not been identified to a particular industry, but are likely to be linked with the boot and shoe industry in some way. In addition to the boot and shoe industry there is just one 'clothing factory' to the south eastern extreme of the town - this building is still standing, but is out of use.

3.2 AGRICULTURAL

As discussed above agriculture was a major element of the economic life of Finedon - it is reported that the drying of apples was an element of this with apple orchards reportedly located around the area of Orchard Avenue.¹⁴ The parish was enclosed by an Act of Parliament in 1806, but there had been a previous private act in 1765 for the benefit of Sir William Dolben.

There were several farms located in close proximity to or within the settlement of which five have been identified as part of mapping and the field visit; two of these are still working farms, but the rest have been converted for alternative uses. There was also both a windmill and a watermill in the parish - the former has been converted into a domestic house, but the mill has been demolished along with a number of other buildings dating from the 19th century, although it was used as a factory for some time prior to demolition.¹⁵

3.3 HOUSING

A wide range of housing survives in Finedon including stone cottages, higher status houses such as Finedon Hall and the Vicarage, 19th century red brick terraces and larger villa style houses. There are a total of 17 houses that are listed buildings. The housing range is however clearly unrepresentative of the full range of houses originally in the settlement due to the large scale demolitions in the settlement in the 1950's and 1960's, which appears to have swept away the majority of small, lower status structures in the centre of Finedon. Map analysis¹⁶ indicates that many of these buildings were shown on the enclosure map of 1805 and were therefore of 18th century date or earlier. There was also some late 19th century re-development.

There are some remaining stone cottages of varying dates in the central part of the village. 19th century terraced houses were located in new streets primarily to the east and south of the original settlement and the large 19th century villa style houses were concentrated on the major routes out of the settlement.

3.4 COMMERCE

There are a number of surviving commercial buildings and shops in Finedon. The majority of these are

¹³ Bailey JHL, Finedon Otherwise Thingdon, 1975

¹⁴ Underwood R, The Pageant of Finedon, The Fortune Press; Bailey JLH, Finedon Otherwise Thingdon, 1975

¹⁵ Bailey JHL, Finedon Otherwise Thingdon, 1975

¹⁶ Comparing enclosure map of 1805 with the early editions of the Ordnance Survey maps (1885, 1900, 1926)

large 19th century structures clearly purpose built as shops - these are primarily located in the new 19th century streets to the extremities of the town and many have had new shop frontages inserted at ground floor level. Many of these buildings appear to have small garden workshops behind suggesting that the occupiers were involved in more than one trade. There are a number of early 20th century shop frontages inserted into earlier cottages on High Street. The most elaborate of these is the building which now houses 'Finedon Antiques' - local knowledge informs that this building was once used as one of the Co-operative stores in the town. The Post Office which was clearly indicated on early Ordnance Survey maps of 1885, 1900 and 1926 is still in existence and is a listed building (the list description indicates that it was once a farm house) and is currently used as a domestic residence. The building is of stone with a slate roof and is clearly of some status. There is an inscription on the frontage 'Here endeth the fire after spreading 214 yards 1739'. There are just three public houses mentioned in trade directories of the 19th century - The Bell, The Gate and Mulso Arms. Of these the former (which has claims to be the oldest public house in England) is still in use as a public house having been altered considerably in the 19th century by William Macksworth-Dolben. The Gate is now in use as a hotel and the original Mulso Arms, which was located on the corner of High Street and Affleck Bridge has been demolished, there is however a public house called Mulso Arms in the settlement on the former Elm Grange site. Other sources have identified additional public houses including the Masons Arms¹⁷, the Prince of Wales¹⁸ (there is currently a public house of this name in the settlement in Well Street) and the Six Ringers Public House in Berry Green Road¹⁹. The Dolben Arms on Irthlingborough Road is located in a building of two phases (1899 and 1938) local knowledge informs that the structure was originally a shop and converted into a public house in 1938.

3.5 UTILITIES

The gas works for Finedon was established in 1867 and is shown on all three early Ordnance Survey maps of 1885, 1900 and 1926. The works have now been demolished although John Bailey claims that the original showroom remains in existence and has been converted to a domestic residence. In terms of the provision of water and sewage for the town there was a pumping station located to the north of the town which has now been demolished, but the elaborate octagonal 1904 water tower of red, yellow and blue brick on the Irthlingborough Road is still in existence (and is a grade 2 listed building). It is in some form of usage, but it was not possible to determine what. Prior to this large scale provision of water there was a parish pump which has now been demolished.

3.6 HEALTH AND WELFARE

The Town Hall located on Berry Green Road is a stone building constructed in 1868 as a Temperance Hall. The building was a Town Hall for Finedon Urban District Council between 1895 and 1935 and is now used as a library and community hall. The settlement originally had houses for paupers located in both Berry Green and in Barker's Square opposite The Gate Inn²⁰. In 1834 Finedon became part of the Wellingborough Union Poor Law authority and the 'workhouses' closed down. The building in Barker's Square was demolished in 1955 and it is likely that the other building has also been demolished as there are very few surviving buildings in Berry Green Road.²¹

There was an extension to the graveyard of the church in 1862 - by 1900 this was marked on the Ordnance Survey map as 'disused' and remains in this state today. The new cemetery on station Road opened in 1892 and contains two chapels of mixed stone (linked by a central roofed space) one for Non-

¹⁷ Brown M, Brewed in Northants, 1998 and local knowledge

¹⁸ Brown M, Brewed in Northants, 1998

¹⁹ Bailey JLH, Finedon Otherwise Thingdon, 1975

²⁰ Bailey JLH, Finedon Otherwise Thingdon, 1975

²¹ Bailey JLH, Finedon Otherwise Thingdon, 1975

conformists and the other for the Church of England; this cemetery is still in use today.

3.7 TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS

The main communication link for the town was the London Midland and Scottish Railway with a station which is located two miles from the centre of the settlement in Isham parish. The line was constructed in 1857 and the station was erected a few months later. The station was closed to passenger traffic in 1940, but remained open for goods traffic until about 1960; the line is still in operation, but the station building has now been demolished.

3.8 RELIGION

There are a number of religious buildings in Finedon - in addition to the parish church of St Mary the Virgin there is a Mission Room on Well Street which is a small stone building for 'Finedon Parish Church St Michael=s Mission Room'. The Friends Meeting House on High Street, which was erected in 1699, is still in existence (and is a grade 2 listed building). It is now out of use and boarded up. There was a large Methodist presence in the settlement - the first Methodist Chapel was erected in Regent Street in 1822, but this has not been located as part of the field visit or mapping. The Independent Wesleyan congregation erected a chapel on Allfleck Bridge in 1874 which is still in use today - a manse house was located next to it which has been either replaced with a more modern building or substantially altered. The elaborate gothic chapel erected in 1904 on the corner of Wellingborough Road and Summerlee Road is now in use as Finedon Community Sports and Leisure Centre. The Primitive Methodist Chapel which was erected in the 1870's and located on Turn-again Lane (between High Street and Well Street) is not marked on the map and has probably been demolished along with the vast majority of structures in that area. The Independent Chapel was erected in 1695 on High Street the building was marked as a chapel on Ordnance Survey maps of 1885 and 1900, but not 1926 and has since been demolished.

3.9 EDUCATION

There were a number of schools established in Finedon in the medieval and post medieval periods - these included the Chantry School established in the 13th century and an Elementary School which was founded on February 16th, 1455 and became extinct in 1548.²² The Boys School was established by Richard Walter in 1595, it became the 'National School' after 1871 and was enlarged with an extra class room in 1874 and an east wing in 1895. The building is still in existence today and is the oldest school building in Northamptonshire, it is a listed structure and currently used as a domestic house. The Charity School for Girls was established in 1712 by Sir Gilbert Dolben for the education and maintenance of poor girls. The building is still in existence on Church Street and is now in use as a domestic residence. The 'infants school' which was adjacent to this building on early Ordnance Survey maps has now gone. Mulso School was erected on Wellingborough Road in 1900 on land given by Miss Mackworth-Dolben. The sign on the front indicates 'Finedon Mulso Church of England (voluntary aided) Junior School. Endowed 1593 and 1712'. The building is still in use as a school today. The final school to be opened in the village was the Council School in 1931, this is located between Orchard Road and High Street and is still in use as a school today.

3.10 RECREATION

There were a large number of recreational or social facilities in Finedon during the 19th and early 20th centuries. A number of these were erected by the Mackworth-Dolben family for Temperance purposes - this included the Temperance Hall (later to become the Town Hall) and the Star Cafe. The latter complex was utilised for a number of different recreational uses over time. There were two buildings the first of which was erected in 1853 as a Coffee House and the second was erected later and originally

²²Underwood R, The Pageant of Finedon, The Fortune Press

used as a mens temperance institute and later became a picture house. Both buildings have now been converted to domestic residences. The Gatehouse on Station Road (built on the entrance way to Finedon Hall) was also erected by Mr Mackworth-Dolben in the 19th century for use as a parish hall. The building bears the legend '*Bear Ye One Another's Burdens and So Fulfil the Law of Christ*'. In addition to these buildings there were five social clubs in the town - the Working Men=s Club, Allen Road; Finedon Old Band Club, Orchard Road; Conservative Club, High Street / Waterloo Bridge; Gladstone Club, Wellingborough Road / Cromer Road and the War Memorial Hall, Summerlee Road. The first four are all still in existence for their original purpose and the War Memorial Hall has been demolished and replaced with a modern building.

3.11 OTHER

There are also a number of monuments and buildings located around the parish including the Obelisk (a small stone built pyramid which was erected by Sir English Dolben in 1789) and the war memorial on Wellingborough Road. Volta Towers on Station road was erected in 1863 in memory of William Mackworth-Dolben=s son, but the structure collapsed in 1951 killing one of the people in the building who was resident at the time. There were a number of almshouses located throughout the settlement including some opposite the Bell Inn, an Almshouse or Old Maid=s Cottage opposite the old cemetery (which has now been demolished) and a row of small stone cottages on Church Street which were erected in 1847 and are still in existence.

II ASSESSMENT

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE & SURVIVAL

The settlement of Finedon developed from a large village into a small town during the course of the 19th century, as a result of the boot and shoe and ironstone quarrying industries. This form of expansion is unremarkable in Northamptonshire, as it is mirrored in a substantial number of settlements around the county. The settlement was, however, the only one in the survey to have been substantially influenced by a major landed family. This aspect of the development of the settlement needs to be assessed against other villages in the county.

The central area of Finedon has been largely re-developed in the latter part of the 20th century. Therefore there is little potential for further analysis on the remaining urban topography of the settlement, although there may be individual buildings which are worthy of more detailed analysis. There is, however, potential for below ground archaeological work in some sectors of the settlement relating to an understanding of the 18th and 19th century urban topography. The survival of documents for Finedon is average, but the existence of the pre and post enclosure maps of 1805 and 1810 respectively are particularly valuable in understanding the physical development of the settlement.

1.0 DOCUMENTARY

1.1 Documents

There are a number of surviving sources which provide information about particular elements of the settlement including the enclosure of 1805, the Co-operative Society and the sale of Finedon Hall. In terms of the industrial development of the settlement there are several sources relating to the ironstone works and furnaces and one of the boot and shoe works - Tower Boot Company. Extracts from a personal diary may be of limited use in considering particular monuments in the town.

1.2 Maps

The main maps which are of significance in understanding the development of Finedon in the period following 1750 are the pre and post enclosure maps of 1805²³ and 1810²⁴ these show the town prior to the 19th century development and allow for an analysis of any small scale changes to the settlement between 1810 and 1885. The only other pre 19th century map was the pedifile of Dolben of 1779²⁵, which has not been looked at. There are a number of 19th and early 20th century maps including estate maps and maps relating to ironstone quarrying which will provide an understanding of the nature of land ownership in the parish.

1.3 Photographs

There are a large number of photographs and pictorial depictions of the settlement of Finedon; particularly for the early 20th century. These include significant individual buildings and street scenes at Northamptonshire Record Office, Northamptonshire Local Studies Library and Northamptonshire Heritage in addition to a book of photographs 'Finedon Revealed' by John LH Bailey. By far the most significant photographs for developing an understanding of the nature of the settlement in the period following 1750 will be any photographs relating to the large areas of demolition in the town.

²³NRO Map 625; NRO map 1080

²⁴NRO Map 2798

²⁵NRO Map 1011

Photographs demonstrating changes to surviving individual buildings will also be of importance.

2.0 STANDING BUILDINGS

As discussed above a large number of buildings in the town have been demolished, however others have survived intact and on an individual basis have a great deal to contribute to an understanding of the development of the town.

There are a total of 53 listed buildings for Finedon - 30 of these buildings originate in the 18th century and include houses / cottages, farm houses and barns, almshouse, walls and monuments and the girls school. Important buildings from the 19th century include the Star Hall Coffee House and Institute, Town (or Temperance) Hall and the significant number of buildings commissioned by William Mackworth-Dolben. The only 20th century listed building is the 1904 water tower which is a highly decorative structure clearly designed to demonstrate a sense of pride in a utilities structure of this nature in the settlement.

There are a number of surviving chapels, social clubs and boot and shoe factories in the town which can be seen as symbols of 19th century urban development, however their significance is diminished by the lack of surrounding urban topography.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL

There is possibly the potential for below ground archaeological investigation of the settlement of Finedon for the period following 1750. The demolition of large areas of buildings in the centre of the settlement during the 1950's and 1960's has provided the potential for the investigation of various issues relating to settlement development in the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Large sections of the former settlement have been substantially re-developed and are therefore unlikely to be worthy of archaeological investigation. There are, however, some areas including the east end of High Street and Well Street and part of Finedon Park which have not been subject to recent redevelopment and may therefore have surviving archaeological remains.

4.0 TOPOGRAPHY

Very large elements of the urban topography of Finedon have been demolished and therefore analysis of the settlement development based on a study of the surviving buildings is unlikely to be rewarding, as only a very selective and probably highly unrepresentative sample of the structures survive. There is some evidence of the former layout of the settlement in the few surviving buildings and walls in the centre of Finedon - there appears to have been a considerable use of different types of stone. The areas outside the centre of the town have a far better survival rate, but even here a substantial number of buildings have been demolished.

There is a Conservation Area to the western extremity of the settlement which incorporates Finedon Hall, Church Hill, the western part of Church Street, Stocks Hill and Bell Hill. Although this incorporates a number of buildings in use in the period following 1750 (church, vicarage, Finedon Hall, Bell Inn and both boys and girls schools) the character of this area is clearly based around former village nature of the settlement as opposed to the developing town of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

III RESEARCH AGENDA

Development of urban topography in 18th and 19th centuries

There were several phases of change in the urban topography of Finedon in the period following 1750. The core area of the town has been largely re-developed with the demolition of a substantial number of buildings, but there are two areas in particular where below ground archaeological investigation may provide information about the development of the settlement. The area to the west of the settlement which was enclosed by a private act in 1765 now lies in Finedon Park and is therefore not likely to be have been subject to substantial disturbance. Similarly there is an area between High Street and Well Street that has not been built upon.

Buildings which were demolished in the late 20th century are likely to contain valuable information about working class lifestyles in the 18th and 19th centuries which tends to be lost in standing buildings that have been subsequently modernised. There is also the potential for looking at settlement change over a longer period of time - comparison of maps for 1806 and 1885 indicates that there were a large number of buildings were demolished and others erected during the course of the 19th century. Was this done as a large scale clearance, or on an ad-hoc basis? What were the former buildings constructed of - stone? Brick? Wood? What size / quality were they? What function did they have? Were industrial, agricultural and domestic structures inter-mixed or were they separated out into separate elements of the settlement.

Role of Mackworth-Dolben family in Finedon

The Mackworth-Dolben family had a considerable influence on the development of Finedon in the 18th and 19th centuries. Research needs to be carried out to determine the effect this had on the physical development of the settlement. William Mackworth-Dolben in particular was responsible for the erection of a large number of buildings in Finedon. Need to determine whether the influence the family had in the town was entirely positive or whether development was also restricted or constrained by their control.

IV STRATEGY

The assessment of the management and conservation priorities for the pre-industrial period within the Extensive Urban Survey have been based around an assessment of levels of importance previously applied elsewhere in the county for management purposes. The grading falls into six categories:

Scheduled: nationally important remains that have statutory protection.

Unscheduled national importance: in some cases statutory protection is suggested while in others recording action may prove to be the appropriate response to threats.

County importance: Where significant archaeology is known or where it is likely but confirmation is required. Normally recording rather than preservation would be the appropriate mitigation strategy.

Historic buildings: Buildings known or which have the potential to contain significant pre 19th century structural remains.

Local importance: where archaeology may survive but where, on present evidence investigation does not appear appropriate.

Destroyed: where the archaeology has been wholly destroyed.

White Land: Archaeology not assessed for his report.

In addition in some cases recommendations have been made for the designation of new or the extension of existing Conservation Areas and for the listing of specific buildings.

This approach has not been possible for the industrial period, as further work on the period is needed at a county, regional and national level before a definitive assessment can be made. The town has been divided up into zones and priorities for additional research, recording and conservation measures have been assigned to each individual area.

1.0 EXISTING DESIGNATIONS

1.1 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in the immediate vicinity of Finedon.

1.2 Listed Buildings

There are 54 listed buildings in the settlement of Finedon.

1.3 Conservation Area

There is a conservation area (designated November 1980) for the west end of the settlement incorporating part of the landscape surrounding Finedon Hall.

2.0 MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES

2.1 Zone 1 - Core area of the settlement

The core area of the settlement has been substantially re-developed in modern times. A small area to the west around the entrance to Finedon Hall has been designated as a conservation area. There are no

further conservation priorities for the area as a whole, but buildings erected by William Mackworth-Dolben should be considered for the contribution they make to the area as a whole.

Any areas of the settlement which were demolished in the late 20th century, but have not been subject to substantial ground disturbance should be recorded archaeologically if the area is to be re-developed.

2.1.2 Zone 2 - Late 18th-century retraction of the settlement.

There may be the potential for below ground investigation in the area of settlement which was demolished in relation to the enclosure act of 1765, however any recording would have to be in line with research priorities for earlier periods.

2.1.3 Zone 3 - 19th and early 20th century development

The 19th and early 20th century development around the periphery of the settlement has survived far better than the core area of the town, however there are still a number of buildings which have been demolished. There are no recording or conservation priorities for the area as a whole. There may, however, be individual buildings which are worthy of further study in relation to particular research issues in a county-wide context, for example the clothing factory, boot and shoe factories and the water tower.

ABBREVIATIONS

NRO Northamptonshire Record Office

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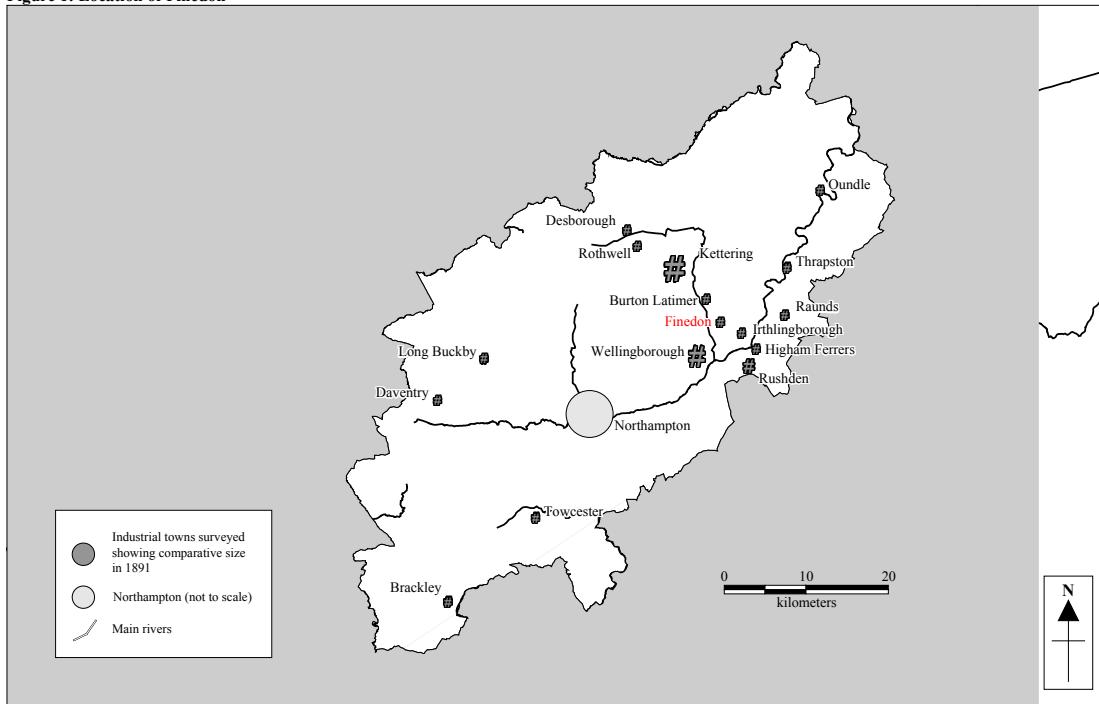
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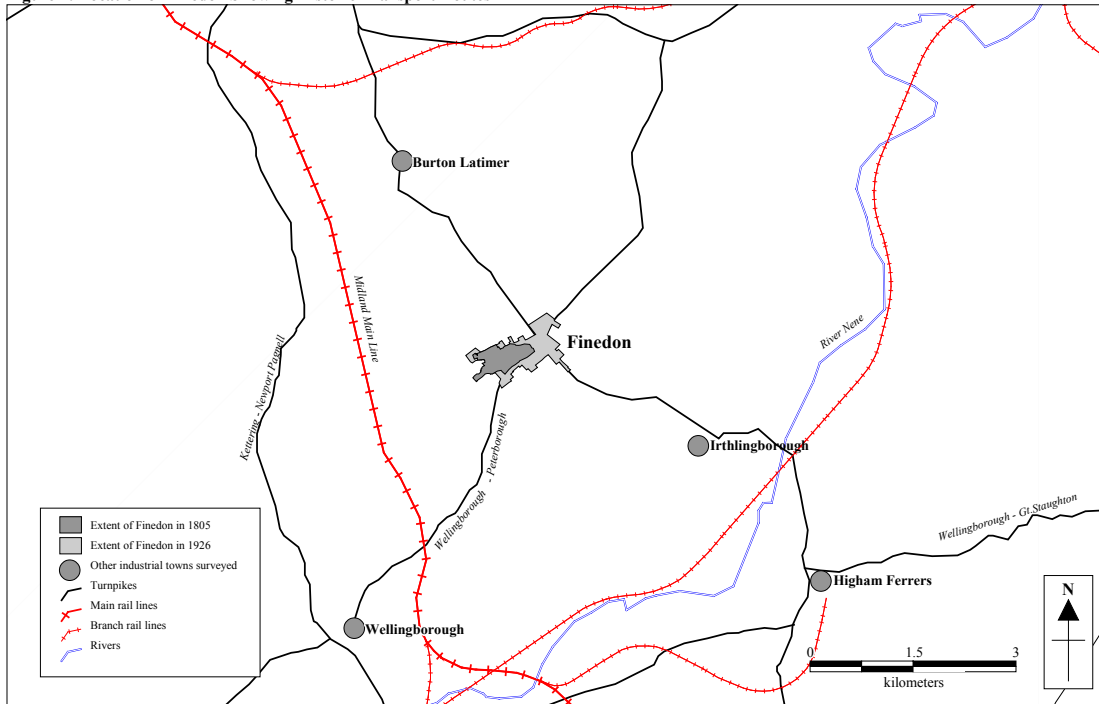
Figure 1: Location of Finedon



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Figure 2: Location of Finedon Showing Historic Transport Routes



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