



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**
Environment

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

COLLINGHAM

**Prepared
for**



ENGLISH HERITAGE
Extensive Urban Survey Programme

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT

COLLINGHAM

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. Collingham 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 town

Collingham is situated towards the eastern edge of Nottinghamshire, bordering Lincolnshire, on the eastern side of the Trent Valley. It is 2 miles from the Trent itself, 11 miles south-west of Lincoln and 6 miles north-east of Newark. The area is one of high prehistoric and Roman activity, with Bronze Age and Roman material having been found at Collingham itself. In addition, it is one of relatively few settlement sites to provide evidence of early medieval occupation which, together with the presence of a possible Mercian bridge across the Trent to the west and a probable pagan Saxon cemetery to the east, suggests the archaeological potential at Collingham for evidence of settlement continuity over a very long period.

By the Norman Conquest there were two churches at the heart of two separate settlements, North and South Collingham. Little is known about these settlements and with only one history of the village having been written, in the 19th century, there is a clear need for new historical research to be undertaken. Overall, Collingham cannot be said ever to have been more than a large village. Despite its apparent lack of urban functions however, it was clearly wealthy with a relatively large medieval population and it is suggested below that North Collingham may in fact represent a deliberate attempt by Peterborough Abbey to create an inland port based on the Fleet. At a later date, Collingham acquired some local importance as a centre for non-conformity during the 17th century. It experienced little post-mediaeval growth until the 20th century, when a considerable amount of new development for housing took place. As much of this was to the east of Collingham proper, however, the village has managed to retain much of its historic street pattern and rural character.

2. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

Collingham lies at the westernmost margin of the river gravels bordering the flood plain of the Trent Valley. The Fleet runs northwards along the western side of the village, its course modified by the cutting of a relatively straight narrow channel. The village itself stands on slightly higher ground, at approximately 9-10m AOD. Collingham railway station lies on older gravels to the east. A large gravel 'island' surrounded by alluvium lies in the flood plain between the village and the river to the west.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

Collingham lay in Newark wapentake in 1086. It is now administered by Newark and Sherwood District Council.

4. SOURCES

4.1 Primary sources

According to Wake (1867) 'many papers of great interest relating to North Collingham parish' were burnt at the time of a cholera outbreak in 1854, in the belief that they might otherwise perpetuate the disease. He also wrote to the Dean of Peterborough to find out whether the library of Peterborough Cathedral contained any documents relevant to Collingham's history. The reply from the librarian was that

'all the old papers belonging to the Dean and Chapter were destroyed during the Civil War; the oldest he could find of any interest being an extract from the monastic accounts of Peterborough, shortly before the dissolution of the Abbey' (Wake 1867, 34).

Wake published extracts from these accounts as his Appendix D. Reference to some earlier documents can be found in Martin's (1978) guide to Peterborough Abbey Cartularies and Registers, from which it appears that there is a survey of North and South Collingham of *c.* 1231, a rental of Collingham and Danethorpe dated 1394-5, together with a survey which is undated, but probably of around the same time, and some notes on Collingham in The Book of Fees of Henry of Pytchley.

The parish registers of baptisms and burials for both North and South Collingham have been transcribed, both commencing in 1558, with the volumes available at Nottinghamshire Archives. The full text of the 1567 enclosure agreement for North Collingham has been published in Volume XI of the Thoroton Society Record Series.

Further material in Nottinghamshire Archives includes the manor court rolls of 1674-1728, extracts from the court rolls of 1744-1892, deeds from the beginning of the 16th century for South Collingham and the 17th century for North Collingham, land tax returns and diocesan terriers, as well as a transcription of tombstones at both South and North Collingham churches. In addition, the Archives hold a range of parish records including settlement certificates, apprenticeship indentures, minutes of the parish council and churchwardens' accounts. There are also minute books and other papers from *c.* 1718-1948 which relate to the Baptists.

A brief search on the Public Record Office's website produced some 30 or so medieval and early post-medieval documents relating to either North or South Collingham. A catalogue of the Rutland manuscripts shows that there are 2 charters for North Collingham at Belvoir.

Primary documentation was not generally used for this report. However, given the paucity of secondary sources, the glebe terriers were consulted and summary information from the Nottinghamshire Archives and Public Record Office catalogues has occasionally been used.

4.2 Secondary sources

There appears to be only one town history of Collingham, that by Wake written in 1867 in typical antiquarian style.

4.3 Cartographic evidence

The earliest available maps of North Collingham are those drawn up upon enclosure in 1790. In addition to the usual enclosure map showing the new allotments, Nottinghamshire Archives has a copy of a map of the old enclosures, in which all the strips are shown, together with the names of the furlongs. Unfortunately there is no equivalent for South Collingham, for which the earliest map is therefore Sanderson's map of 20 Miles around Mansfield, 1835. North Collingham tithes were commuted at enclosure, consequently there is no tithe map. Although there is a tithe map and award

for South Collingham, produced in 1847, it relates to a single field only. The earliest large scale Ordnance Survey map was published in 1884.

4.4 Archaeological evidence

There are presently nine sites recorded on the Nottinghamshire Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) within the area of Collingham under consideration in this report. In addition there have been two small excavations, one in c. 1968 and one in 1989, plus a watching brief in 1999. Material from the 1968 excavation is in Newark Museum. Records on the SMR for the surrounding area are derived from a variety of sources, including documentary evidence, stray finds and, in particular, cropmarks identified from aerial photographs. Since the beginning of the 1990s several areas to the west of Collingham have been more intensively examined in developer-funded archaeological work in advance of proposed or actual gravel quarrying.

5. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

5.1 Prehistoric

A number of objects of prehistoric date have been found in Collingham. A Neolithic polished flint axe (SMR 4314a) and a Bronze Age palstave (SMR 4314) were found at South Collingham some time before 1980, while slightly further north a flake of black flint (SMR 4318) and a Bronze Age perforated stone, probably used as a weight (SMR 4318a), were found before the mid 1960s, and some late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery (SMR 4317) was found sometime before 1980.

These are shown on Figure 1 together with a wide range of prehistoric finds and sites known from the area. The finds from Collingham belong with these others, as witness to a long history of human activity and settlement in the area generally and on the flood plain terrace west of Collingham in particular.

5.2 Roman

There is considerable evidence of the Roman period in the Collingham area, also shown on Figure 1. The Fosse Way (SMR 6000) runs to the east of Collingham, and the Roman town of *Crococalana* (modern Brough) lies to the south-east (just beyond the scope of Figure 1). Another possible Roman road runs westwards from the Fosse Way towards the southern end of Collingham. To the south-west, near Holme, is the site of a possible Roman marching camp (SMR 3600, SAM 29929), while to the west, at Cromwell on the other side of the Trent (beyond Figure 1), there is a major Roman villa).

Elsewhere, cropmarks and finds of Roman pottery and other objects, indicating Roman settlements, farms and field systems, occur widely. These show that the area was well occupied in this period, particularly on the flood plain terrace to the west of Collingham.

This is the context against which the few finds coming from Collingham itself should be seen. Nine sherds of Romano-British pottery were found during excavations at All Saints Church in 1989, although all were residual in later deposits (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1989). This is marked as E on Figure 1. Other unlocated finds (not marked on Figure 1) may have also come from the town, including an amber bead and a stone bead described by Wake (1867) as 'British or Roman' and coming from a field near the High Street (SMR 5851) and Roman pottery from South Collingham, including a few fragments of 'Gaulish ware' and a mortarium (SMR 5852).

It is possible that the pottery from All Saints is indicative of Roman settlement that might be the precursor of North Collingham. However, the significance of this will need to be assessed in the future in the light of on-going research into the sites at Ferry Lane Farm (SMR 4291, 4291a) and Cow Wath Pasture (SMR 5848, 5849) and others in vicinity of Collingham.

5.3 Early Medieval

It is clear both from place-name evidence and from Domesday Book that a settlement existed at Collingham in the early medieval period. Both Thoroton (1677) and Gover *et al* (1940) give the earliest written record as Domesday Book, where the place-name is written as *Colingeham*, meaning ‘the **ham** of the people of *Cola*’. The *-ingaham-* elements of the name indicate an early origin. These elements have been suggested to represent some of the first Anglo-Saxon settlements, being made near convenient communication and access routes, and especially near Roman roads (Kuurman 1974-5). In 1269 there is a reference to the churches of *Northeby* and *Sutheby*, also early forms, in Collingham, meaning north and south in the village (Gover *et al* 1940).

It is not known when Peterborough Abbey acquired the manor of Collingham. The Abbey is mentioned in a charter of AD 664, in which Wulfhere, King of Mercia, confirmed the grant of lands to it (known at that time as *Medeshamstede*); however, this charter is generally believed to be a forgery (Sawyer 1968). The original *Medeshamstede* community was totally destroyed during a Danish raid in 870, with Peterborough Abbey being refounded in 966 by the bishop of Winchester (Martin 1978). A 12th century chronicle by Hugh ‘Candidus’ states that Collingham was given to the Abbey by Turkill Hoche, together with a mint and land in Stamford, although this attribution may be a later addition in the margin of the 2nd edition of the chronicle, as transcribed by Robert de Swaffam in c. 1256 (Mellows 1941).

Domesday Book provides a list of those pre-Conquest lords who had full jurisdiction over their estates, together with market rights and ‘the King’s customary dues of two pence’. This list includes ‘The Abbot of Peterborough over Collingham’. The tradition that Collingham had an early market was certainly present in the early 18th century, when Stukeley (1724) wrote ‘They say Collingham was a mercat town before Newark’. Unfortunately, there is no corroboratory evidence at present for there ever having been a market there.

There is some archaeological evidence for the early medieval period both from Collingham itself and from the surrounding area, as shown on Figure 1. In 1968 the finding of Anglo-Saxon loom-weights on a building site led to a limited rescue excavation in South Collingham (SMR 4316). This revealed a number of pits containing domestic rubbish of late Anglo-Saxon and medieval date. The amount of pottery recovered, which included sherds of Torksey ware, was believed to indicate a settlement in the immediate vicinity, but it was impossible to locate any buildings. Part of another loomweight of the same period was found in a field to the south-west of Collingham sometime before 1977 (SMR 3706).

In about 1840 a number of skeletons were found to the east of Collingham, although the exact site cannot now be identified. Reports of the find are confusing and contradictory, the owner of the property stating that there were some 60 to 70 skeletons, other estimates being much lower. One ‘informant’ stated that nothing else was seen except some nails, a small ring and a copper coin of Charles II, while others asserted that ‘many British and Roman coins lay with the bodies’ (Wake 1867). The description of some of the burials being ‘doubled up into a sitting-posture’ suggests that the site was that of an early medieval cemetery (SMR 4320). A necklace of amber, paste and glass beads in Hull Museum is thought to have come from there. A spearhead originally described as Anglo-Saxon, also in Hull Museum, is labeled “Collingham, Notts 1840”, and has also been linked with the cemetery because of its find date. However, the spearhead is now thought to be Viking and, as all the museum’s accession records were destroyed in the blitz, its findspot is likely to remain unknown. More recently, a 6th or 7th century decorated pyramid stud was found in a field near Langford (*Nottingham Evening Post*, March 29 2000) (not shown on Figure 1).

In the 19th century the piers of a bridge across the river Trent were found at Cromwell Lock. These were lozenge-shaped, of timber infilled with stone. This bridge has always been thought to be Roman, and an inscribed stone marking its location states as much (SMR 4286). However, recent dendrochronological analysis of the only known surviving timber produced a felling date of shortly before the middle of the 8th century, confirmed by radiocarbon dating, indicating that the bridge was built in the mid-Saxon, Mercian, period (Salisbury 1995).

5.4 Medieval

5.4.1 *Domesday Book, 1086.*

There are three separate records of Collingham in Domesday Book. The manor itself formed part of the estates of Peterborough Abbey:

M. In COLLINGHAM Peterborough had 4 c. and ½ b. of land taxable. Land for 14 ploughs. Now in lordship 2 ploughs; 37 Freeman with 2 c. and 3 b. of this land; 8 villagers and 20 smallholders who have 14 ploughs. A priest and 2 churches; 2 mills, 20s; meadow, 200 acres; underwood, 2 furlongs long and 1 furlong wide. Value before 1066 £9; now the same.

Ralph of Limesy also held some land there, soc of his manor of Thorpe by Newark:

S. In Shelton and COLLINGHAM 5½ b. of land taxable. Land for 4 ploughs. 8 Freeman and 5 villagers who have 3 ploughs. Meadow, 60 acres; woodland, not pasture, 2 acres and 1 virgate. Value before 1066 £4; now 40s.

Ralph of Limesy was also lord of Danethorpe, which later became part of South Collingham parish. In addition, seven freemen in Upton and Collingham belonged to Rolleston manor, part of the lands of the Bishop of Bayeux.

5.4.2 *The manor*

In 1086 Peterborough Abbey was the only religious house which held land in chief of the crown in Nottinghamshire, and its holding was restricted to the two manors of Collingham and North Muskham. These would have been leased; for example at one point, North Collingham manor was held of the Abbot by the Leeks of Landforth (Thoroton 1677).

By 1279/80 Thurgarton Priory had acquired land at South Collingham and Danethorpe (Brooke & Postan 1960). This led to an agreement between Thurgarton and the Abbot of Peterborough regarding the services due to the latter by Thurgarton's tenants there, including having to plough for three days in the year and to reap for two and a half days. They were also required to keep their sheep during winter on the lord's demesne land.

In 1285 there was some dispute between the Bishop of Lincoln and the Abbot of Peterborough regarding the full extent of the latter's rights. The Bishop complained that the Abbot had set up a gallows at Collingham and hanged a thief 'to the derogation of the Liberty of his Wapentac of Newark'. The Abbot claimed that he and his successors had been granted 'Infantheft and Uftangtheft in all his Hundreds and Demesnes' by Henry III in 1252. Following further dispute, an agreement was reached in the same year, with the result that the Abbot took down the gallows (Thoroton 1677).

5.4.3 *The settlement and its environs*

Information available for the post-medieval period (see section 5.5.3 below) suggests that medieval Collingham would have been surrounded by open arable fields, with commons to the east and meadows in the Trent floodplain to the west. Some arable land also lay on the gravel island to the west as indicated by the name 'Westfield Lane' in South Collingham and by indications of medieval ploughing on aerial photographs and found in archaeological work. The later history of enclosure indicates that each village had its own separate field system, although given their proximity it is likely that there was a degree of inter-commoning.

In 1250, free warren in both parishes was granted to Peterborough Abbey, while in 1343 the abbey was granted a *fishery called le Flete*. Whether the Fleet also provided the water power for the two mills mentioned in Domesday Book is not known; one or both could equally have been sited on one of the streams running into the river from the east.

A document, probably of the early 14th century, in the Public Record Office records the arrest of Thomas Favell, monk, when holding the abbot's Court Leet at 'Long Collingham', and his subsequent imprisonment at Newark.

A large medieval standing cross which originally stood on the east side of High Street has been suggested by some to be an Eleanor Cross, erected on the route taken by the funeral cortege of Queen Eleanor of Castile (d. 1290), wife of Edward I, although this idea was dismissed by Stapleton (1912).

Some idea of the relative wealth of medieval Collingham can be gained from the Lay Subsidy of 1334. North Collingham was taxed at £5/11/1d and South Collingham at £4/3/4d, respectively the second and third largest amounts in Newark wapentake after Newark itself, which was taxed at £24/0/2d (Glasscock 1975). The same sums were levied in 1438-9 when, of the 32 places taxed, only seven had no deduction made due to impoverishment. Both Collinghams were included in these seven (Brown 1904).

5.4.4 The parish churches

By 1086 there were two churches at Collingham, as indicated in Domesday Book, although only a single priest is recorded at that time. The advowson was with Peterborough Abbey. The continued negligence of many monasteries in the 15th century led to a reduction of income and in 1499 the Abbey petitioned for the appropriation of North Collingham church on the grounds that it was 'reduced to sore straits to obtain fish, through long continued droughts which had dried the fishponds' (Lincs. Record Soc. 21, 1929; information from the Doubleday Index in Notts. Local Studies Library). The following year the rectory of North Collingham was reduced to a vicarage, allowing the Abbey to take greater revenues. The difference in the value of the two livings which is recorded at a later date clearly originates from this act (Wake 1867), with the vicarage living needing to be augmented with Queen Anne's Bounty.

5.4.5 Population

Collingham was surveyed in the *Liber niger* of Peterborough Abbey in the period 1125-8. This records the presence of 50 *sochemanni* and 20 *villani*, compared with the 37 sokemen and 8 villeins recorded in Domesday Book some 40 years earlier. It is not clear what had happened to the 20 bordars or smallholders of 1086, however. Surveys of other estates in the *Liber niger* included figures for *bordarii*, so this class was not being systematically ignored. Either the omission was simply an error or bordars had ceased to exist at Collingham. Assuming the latter, the figures show a slight increase in population from 65 households in the manor in 1086 to 70 households in c. 1125. Of course, if the former were the case, the population increase would be considerably more dramatic.

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

5.5.1 The manor

The lordship of Collingham remained with the Abbey until the dissolution, when the lands at North and South Collingham were surrendered to the king. He, however, regranted them to Peterborough in 1541 as part of the foundation endowment of the new cathedral. The manor was generally leased out. In the mid-16th century, the lessee was Francis Mering (Blagg 1945) while in 1677 it was the Honorable Anchetill Grey, son of the Earl of Stamford (Thoroton 1677).

5.5.2 Communications

Four successive generations of North Collingham husbandmen left small sums of money to Fleet Bridge in their 16th/17th century wills (Freeman 1997). This was presumably located opposite North Collingham church, on the road leading to Carlton Ferry

The road running north from Newark to Gainsborough, which ran through Collingham, was never turnpiked, neither was that section of the Fosse Way from Newark to Potter Hill to the east of

Collingham, although the section from Potter Hill to Lincoln became a turnpike in 1755/6 (Cossons 1934).

At Newark in 1774 it was held that, owing to the state of the roads at the following places, additional horses were required to draw wagons and carts:

‘On the highroad leading from North Collingham to Newark
The highroad leading from North Collingham towards several townships in the county of Lincoln
The highroad leading from North Collingham towards South Scarle
The highroad leading from North Collingham towards the Common Ferry at Carlton on Trent’

Licences for additional horses were also granted in 1776 on highroads in Besthorpe and Girton leading, among other places, to Collingham Wind Mills and Collingham Brick Kilns (Meaby n.d.).

5.5.3 *The settlement and its environs*

As noted previously, the two parishes of South and North Collingham had very different enclosure histories, indicating separate fields, meadows and common. There were certainly two separate pinders, as there is a reference in 1678 to the non-payment of the stipend of the ‘pinder or poundkeeper’ at South Collingham (Copnall 1915) and a record of the pinder of North Collingham in 1711 (Meaby n.d.). Two pinfolds survived into the early 20th century. There may have been some degree of inter-commoning between the two communities; certainly there was a dispute between them at some point in the first half of the 16th century regarding the commons. Documents in the Public Record Office include one summarised as ‘Riot concerning common at North and South Collingham (interrogatory and deposition)’ and another as ‘Forcible dispute as to common between the towns of North and South Collingham’.

Some enclosure was carried out in North Collingham by agreement in 1567, the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough Cathedral agreeing with a number of named tenants that they should pay 2s 6d for ‘everye Acre so taken in and Enclosed’. The document detailing the agreement also includes the various services required from the tenants at that time in addition to their rent:

‘... one Thystle Boune yearlye, Also one grasse boune yearlye in the Medowe ... Also one half day sherynge Boune yearly of Wheatte or Rye, Also one Barlye boune yearlye to Rake, bynd or Stowcke, Also to mawe and make once Readye to the ayne or cartte one Acre of Corne yearlye, Also one wholl day Thrusheyng boune yearlye off Corne ...’ (Blagg 1945, 127).

The remainder of the parish was enclosed by Act of Parliament in 1790, with some 740 acres of open arable land, 160 acres of moors and waste and 340 acres of common meadow to be allotted. The Act was most unusual in that it ordered the pasture to be left open and gave detailed regulations for its stinting and management. However, a deed poll of September the same year authorised its enclosure. The Award of 1798 allotted a total of just over 1590 acres (Tate 1935).

South Collingham, on the other hand, was already completely enclosed by this time. There do not appear to be any documents known at present relating to its enclosure; however, a brief examination of glebe terriers in Nottinghamshire Archives indicates the parish was enclosed in the mid-17th century, as an early 18th century terrier records some parcels of land received in lieu of tithes ‘since ye Inclosure in the Civil War’.

A list of workhouses in the county compiled in 1777 includes one in South Collingham which had accommodation for 10 people (Meaby n.d.).

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, which has resulted in apparent discrepancies between the two, although this is believed to be less of a problem for Newark hundred than for some other Nottinghamshire hundreds. The following figures were returned for Collingham:

No. of hearths	South Collingham		North Collingham	
	1664	1674	1664	1674
>4	2	2	1	1
4	2	3	5	7
3	4	6	12	13
2	22	24	30	24
1	33	20	22	19
Sub-total	63	55	70	64
Non-chargeable	32	16	42	7
TOTAL	95	71	112	71

It can be seen that, while the number of chargeable houses recorded at both places dropped slightly between 1664 and 1674, the number of non-chargeable dwellings dropped markedly, especially at North Collingham. This discrepancy is fairly widespread throughout the county and suggests that the assessors in 1674 were more lax in recording the non-chargeable buildings.

5.5.4 Population

Some estimate of population in the 17th century can be calculated using the Hearth Tax figures (see above) and the returns to visitations, which required the number of recusants and communicants in each parish to be provided. In 1603, there were 271 communicants at South Collingham, with 140 under age, while at North Collingham there were 318 communicants, with 173 under age (Wood 1942). No recusants were recorded at either place. In 1676 there were 180 communicants, no Roman Catholics and 8 dissenters recorded at South Collingham and 300 communicants, no Roman Catholics and 60 dissenters at North Collingham (Guilford 1924).

Further returns were made following Archbishop Herring's visitation of 1743. The return for South Collingham was that there were *c.* 80 families in the parish while at North Collingham there were *c.* 100 families (Ollard & Walker 1930). These figures, while providing a guide, are clearly rounded estimates.

A summary of available information is given below:

	1603	1664 ¹	1676 ²	1743 ³	1801 ⁴
South Collingham	411	380-475	283	320-400	539
North Collingham	491	448-560	554	400-500	504

Notes: ¹: No. of Hearth Tax households multiplied by 4 and 5 for each household, to produce an approximate lower and upper estimate of individuals

²: Assuming the same ratio of under age individuals to communicants as in 1603

³: No. of families multiplied by 4.5 and 5 for each family, as note 1.

⁴: Figures from the census

The population figures for North Collingham are reasonably consistent, albeit showing virtually no growth over a period of two centuries. It is known that the village experienced an outbreak of plague in 1646, which may have contributed to early 17th century stagnation. Those for South Collingham are less straightforward, but suggest a drop in population in the last quarter of the 17th century and the early 18th century, followed by a successful recovery. Population research using baptismal and burial records suggests that many places in Nottinghamshire experienced population stagnation or decrease during the later 17th century (Wood 1937).

5.5.5 Religion

The parish churches

Following the dissolution, the Bishop of Peterborough was patron of the rectory of South Collingham and the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough Cathedral were patrons of the vicarage of North Collingham (Thoroton 1677).

In 1638 a detailed inspection of churches was made in the archdeaconry of Nottingham. A variety of problems were found, including uneven paving, lack of a decent font cover, and the presence of a plough in each church. In addition, it was found that at South Collingham there was no fence at the northern end of the churchyard and the 'Churchstile' was considered to be 'unsufficient'. Similarly at North Collingham the churchyard was found to be 'not sufficiently fenced' (Copnall 1915)

Non-conformity

It is clear from a range of records that non-conformity was well established in Collingham by at least the early 17th century, with the 'clerk' of South Collingham being prosecuted for not using the Book of Common Prayer in 1620 and being fined two years later for 'non-conformity in church'.

In 1676 there were 180 communicants, no Roman Catholics and 8 dissenters recorded at South Collingham, while at North Collingham there were 300 communicants, no Roman Catholics and 60 dissenters (Guilford 1924). The number of dissenters at North Collingham is striking and, when combined with those from South Collingham, made up just over a third of all those enumerated for the Newark deanery. Although the returns of both 1603 and 1676 stated that there were no Roman Catholics, other documents indicate that this was not the case. Between the years 1613 and 1642 as many as 27 individuals were presented as 'Popish Recusants' in North Collingham, and 2 in South Collingham (Copnall 1915). Equally, Blagg (1905) noted the particular 'richness' of South Collingham's parish register in Puritan Christian names, including Lion, Sense, Plenty, Discretion, Consolation, Contrition and Fear-ever. These were most common in the early 17th century - in 1612, for example, of 15 children baptised, 4 girls were named Patience and one Faith, while 2 boys were named Constant and one Lamentation. Such names continue to occur until shortly after the accession of Charles I. Harrison (1970, 6) considered that by the end of the 17th century '... there was not another village in the whole county with such a record of non-conformity', with dissenters there including Roman Catholics, Quakers, Presbyterians, Congregationalists and Baptists.

Many of those recorded in the 1676 returns mentioned above are believed to have been Baptists, with tradition holding that a good number of them had moved to Collingham from Newark, where they had found the situation too oppressive. By 1669 a Baptist Conventicle was in existence at North Collingham, while in 1672 another was registered in South Collingham, although the two seem to have merged soon afterwards to form one group at North Collingham. In the same year, 1672, a building at North Collingham was licensed for worship by the Congregationalists also (Cox 1910).

The first Baptist Meeting House was built in North Collingham in 1705, with a burial ground and a cottage and garden at the northern end of the town (Harrison 1970). This was referred to in 1743, when one of the responses to Archbishop Herring's Visitations of 1743, for North Collingham was as follows:

'There is one Licens'd Meeting House of ye Anabaptists in which they assemble about twenty every Sunday their Preacher is one Lomax an Ignorant illiterate Flax-Dresser' (Ollard & Walker 1930).

5.5.6 Education

In 1699 William Hart left property in Lincolnshire to be used after his wife's death in teaching poor children of North Collingham. His wife, in her will of 1718, added lands in South Collingham and extended the teaching to the children there. The trustees and schoolmaster were required to be Baptists. If at any time the master was unable to carry out his teaching duties due to religious persecution, the endowment was to be used to assist him and fellow-sufferers (Fletcher 1910). It is not

clear whether a purpose-built school was built in the 18th century. The school is referred to in the reply to Archbishop Herring's Visitations of 1743, when it was described by the vicar at North Collingham as teaching about 10 Baptist scholars and 'Some of ye poorer of our Flock' (Ollard & Walker 1930).

5.5.7 Trade and industry

There is very little information available for this period; however, the burial registers occasionally record the occupation of the deceased. These included a wright, a shoemaker, a husbandman and a labourer in the 1560s, a weaver in 1601, a blacksmith, a weaver and a carpenter in the 1640s as well as labourers, husbandmen and yeomen, and a thatcher and a victualler in 1656. The name 'Tenterwong Close' in 1680 also suggests local cloth manufacture. The house of a carpenter was registered as a meeting house in 1689, while there was a tallow chandler at North Collingham in 1748. These records convey the impression of an essentially agricultural community supported by a variety of local tradesmen, one of whom, a mercer called Thomas Ridge, was producing tokens in 1644 (Wake 1867).

Occasional other references confirm this picture. The will of a North Collingham husbandman dated 1581 includes a debt of 53s 4d owed to him by a Lancaster man for 8 stones of wool (Freeman 1997). In 1624 court records show that four women of North Collingham were charged with buying stolen hemp, while in 1636 a labourer of North Collingham was presented for washing hemp in the Fleet. Some husbandmen in North Collingham were presented in 1633-34 for not paying money towards the salary of 'the keeper of Oxon there' and in 1723 a South Collingham farmer was charged with having

'wound five fleeces of wool not sufficiently rivered and containing clay lead stones sand sticks locks of wool cot cals comber or some of them whereby the fleeces became more weighty ...'
(Meaby n.d.).

Apprenticeship indentures of the 18th century, summarised in the catalogue of parish records at Nottinghamshire Archives, show apprentices going to the following individuals in North Collingham: a butcher, a servant, a shoemaker, a scuttlemaker and a 'white tawer' (white leather worker).

By the third quarter of the 18th century, brick kilns were in production, making bricks for local use, as indicated by the licences obtained in 1776 for additional horses to draw wagons and carts on highroads in Besthorpe and Girton leading, among other places, to Collingham Wind Mills and Collingham Brick Kilns (Meaby n.d.).

Some goods for trade were presumably brought in and/or sent out via a wharf on the Trent. Under the terms of the Parliamentary Enclosure Award, owners in the cow pasture were granted the privilege of constructing a wharf for the lading of merchandise, accompanied by the obligation to make a road to it. Both wharf and road were subject to a toll, with the exception of those Collingham inhabitants who could establish their right by a trial at law to a landing place and a road (Wake 1867). This suggests that they had existed previously, and Wake links them to a considerable sum of money given as *tallage* in 16th century Peterborough Abbey accounts for Collingham and described as 'the ancient tallage or toll'. In the 1740s Deering had noted 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'.

However, whether any of this merchandise would have been unloaded at Collingham's wharf is not known at present.

5.6 19th century

5.6.1 Manor

In the 19th century (as previously) the Earl of Stamford was the principal owner and lord of the manor, as lessee of the Dean and Chapter of Peterborough.

5.6.2 Communications

Railway

In 1846 the Midland Railway line between Nottingham and Lincoln opened, having been completed in less than a year. Collingham was classified as a second class station on this line and was the most important station north of Newark, experiencing a rapid rise in passengers as well as in freight; for example it handled on average 3600 tons of coal annually between 1872 and 1896 (Vanns 1999).

5.6.3 The settlement and its environs

Collingham was described in the early 19th century as ‘one of the largest and handsomest villages in the county’ (White’s Directory 1832). In 1858 it was supplied with gas, following the construction of a gas works, with eight retorts, near the railway station.

The only public building to have been construction in the village was the Public Hall, built in 1889 and used for meetings, concerts and other entertainment.

5.6.4 Population

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

Year	Population	
	South	North
1801	539	508
1811	566	660
1821	686	805
1831	727	881
1841	721	911
1851	834	935
1861	863	1010
1871	756	979
1881	776	928
1891	705	875
1901	670	813

These figures show the population of both Collinghams increasing through the first six decades of the 19th century, with North Collingham almost doubling its population, and ending for a time the stagnation of the previous two centuries. After this time, however, numbers began to decrease slowly but steadily.

5.6.5 Religious buildings

In addition to the Baptist Chapel, built in the previous century, a couple of further non-conformist chapels were constructed in the 19th century, although there appears to be little published information about these. A Wesleyan Chapel was built at South Collingham in 1826 while in 1854 or 1855 a Wesleyan Chapel was built on High Street in North Collingham. This underwent ‘a thorough repair and redecoration’ in around 1874. In 1834 the New Connexion Methodists re-opened a small chapel which had previously been held by ‘the Calvinists’ but which had been closed for a while. A Primitive Methodist chapel had been constructed by 1885.

5.6.6 Education

In c. 1811 a school was erected in North Collingham in association with the endowments left in 1699 and 1718 by William Hart and his wife. By 1828, 23 boys between the ages of eight and twelve were being taught there by a Baptist schoolmaster, although only five of the boys were themselves Baptists. In 1865 a new Baptist school was built in what is now Baptist Lane and by 1867 fifteen boys and six girls were being taught there. There was no teacher's residence, and no official inspection of the school (Fletcher 1910). In 1877 the boys at the school were transferred to the Board School (see below), although girls continued to be taught there for a while longer. The school was probably closed by the early 1890s (Anon n.d.).

In 1839 a National School was built at South Collingham, originally designated as a mixed school and in 1867 96 children were in attendance, including infants. The school was transferred to the control of the School Board soon after the Board's formation in 1875, and took in the boys from the Baptist School in 1877, although in 1894 it became a girls' and infants' school (Anon n.d.).

In 1855 the Wesleyan Methodists built a schoolroom behind their chapel, for use as a day school. In 1894 the building was taken over by the Board for a boys school, all the boys moving there from the old National School (Anon n.d.).

An infants' school was built in North Collingham in 1870, together with a house for a teacher, in a corner of the garden of the Old Hall (Anon n.d.).

5.6.7 Trade & industry

Collingham remained an agricultural settlement throughout this period. White's Directory, 1832, for North Collingham lists 12 farmers, 3 blacksmiths, 3 maltsters, 5 shoemakers, 7 shopkeepers and 5 publicans, as well as an assortment of other village trades such as cooper, joiner, wheelwright, saddler, tailor and bricklayer. Fourteen farmers were listed at South Collingham, together with a similar mixture of other trades to that at North Collingham, only in fewer numbers.

The majority of the trades carried out at Collingham probably were for the local market only. These included basket-making, the osiers being grown in beds near the Fleet (Collingham Museum Committee 1985) and corn milling, with two windmills in the area, as well as a steam-powered corn mill at North Collingham. However, the presence of as many as five maltings at North Collingham by the end of the 19th century suggests they may have served a wider market (Patrick 1977).

Sanderson's map of 1835 shows at least three brick kilns to the north of Collingham, approximately halfway between the village and Besthorpe, and another kiln to the south, on Whitemoor Lane. By the last decade of the 19th century the Whitemoor Lane brickyard was disused, but a new brickyard was in use on the northern side of Collingham, next to the Ox Pasture Plantation.

It is not known in what way or to what extent the village benefited from commercial traffic on the Trent via its wharf there. This traffic was extensive in the early 19th century. Some 4800 boats passed through the lock at Newark in 1812, and 6650 in 1818 while in 1815 the wharves at Nottingham were said to be piled high with coal, timber, corn, iron, stone, slate, plaster and manure (Wood 1950). However, Collingham made good use of the railway in the second half of the century for the redistribution of coal (see 5.6.2 above) and for the transport of locally-grown carrots, for which it acquired quite a reputation.

5.7 20th century

The village remained a predominantly agricultural community until the middle of the 20th century when extensive public and private development to the east of the old village changed the overall village function to that of a dormitory settlement for Newark.

6. THE DEVELOPMENT OF COLLINGHAM

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.

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 references and on plan form analysis of North Collingham enclosure map and Sanderson's map of 1835, a copy of part of which is reproduced as figure 2.

Component 1 *The Fleet*

Historic maps show that the Fleet at North Collingham formed a wide pool of water until at least the middle of the 19th century, with a second smaller pool at South Collingham. A document of 1567 refers to 'the severall Waters called Northe and Sowthe Flete' (Blagg 1945). At some period before this it may have formed a continuous wide channel. Sanderson's map of 1835 indicates that the Fleet to the west of South Collingham Manor House had already been straightened by that time, while by the end of the 19th century it had been channeled into a narrow cut, with the reclaimed ground used for pasture or for gardens.

It is not known whether the early Fleet was crossed at the same points as the modern stream, that is on Westfield Lane and Carlton Ferry Lane. The antiquity of the former is suggested by the fact that it forms a hollow way as it runs down towards the modern bridge and old fording point. References in the 16th and 17th century to the repair of the Fleet Bridge are thought to refer to the crossing in North Collingham, opposite the church (Carlton Ferry Lane), where there was also a ford.

A bronze spoon of 12th or 13th century date is said to have been recovered from the Fleet just behind South Collingham churchyard (Wake 1867, 23). Wake also records the following:

'In the year 1863, when the rifle-ground in the Crow-croft was being levelled, foundations of a seemingly large building were found, occupying the spot usually named as the site of the supposed nunnery. The situation was peculiar, inasmuch as it must have been close to a sheet of water, which improved drainage has for many years turned into dry land' (Wake 1867, 12)

Examination of the 1st edition 6" OS map of 1887 indicates that the rifle range at that time lay on the western side of the Fleet, north-west of South Collingham Manor House.

Component 2 *Church of All Saints, North Collingham* (SMR 4342)

Although a church was present at North Collingham in 1086, the earliest fabric in the present church appears to be of the first half of the 13th century, and includes the arcades, tower arch and chancel. Wake (1867) describes the church as being 'built of an inferior limestone, plentifully found in the neighbourhood, and of stone from the Ancaster quarries'. He also refers to the chancel floor at that time being some seven inches higher than the original one.

Limited excavation was carried out in 1989 when drains were being inserted around the whole of the church with the exception of the tower and the vestry. Trenches 1m wide were excavated archaeologically prior to insertion of the drainpipes. It was found that the east wall of the south aisle had been constructed on top of an earlier limestone wall and its foundations. The east wall of the north aisle was also built over an earlier wall which was found to extend northwards beyond the limits of the present aisle. The discovery of further early wall fragments on the north side of the north aisle led to the suggestion that there had been 'a series of porticus along the north side of the church which predated the north aisle' (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1989). Twenty-four unmarked burials were discovered in the drainage trenches, most occurring at a depth of 0.75m below ground level or deeper. These burials were clearly not recent, and it was thought that they were probably all medieval. Basic records were made of the skeletal remains before they were reinterred elsewhere in the churchyard.

The skeletons found in the probable Anglo-Saxon cemetery were also reburied in North Collingham churchyard in the 19th century (Wake 1867, 43). In addition, pottery sherds of Roman date were found during the 1989 excavations. This confirms an earlier, 19th Century record of the finding of fragments of Roman pottery in the churchyard (Kellys Directory).

The extent of the churchyard in the medieval period is not known; consequently the area shown on Figure 3 is its extent in 1790. The churchyard wall includes a large stone which shows the height reached by the flood of 1795. This stone was originally a cross pediment, possibly that of a churchyard cross. A fragment of the cross shaft is said to have been built into the wall close by.

Component 3 *North Collingham cross and adjacent settlement*

North Collingham cross, incorporating part of a decorated cross of probable 14th century date (SMR 4297), stood at the southern end of a widened stretch of High Street, near the junction with Queen Street. This widening would be typical of an earlier green, or even market place, and might be compared to the Green at the southern end of Collingham. Whether this was the original position of the cross not known, but such locations are not unusual for crosses in Nottinghamshire villages. The cross presently consists of a large base of three limestone steps leading to an ornate socket surmounted by the lower portion of a substantial crocketed cross shaft and is both a Grade II listed structure and a scheduled monument (SAM 23368). Speculation that it is an Eleanor Cross appears to be unfounded.

By the end of the 18th century a couple of buildings had been constructed adjacent to the cross, presumably as encroachments onto the open area around it. In 1971 the cross was moved to its present position on the west side of High Street.

Component 4 *Settlement fronting the eastern side of Low Street, North Collingham*

An area of long, narrow and apparently regulated plots on either side of the church. The original frontage is thought to have been along Low Street, with High Street functioning as a back lane. However, development increasingly took place along the latter during the post-medieval period, with standing buildings indicating this had begun by at least as early as the 17th century. A number of east-west lanes connect the two streets. By the end of the 19th century the names of these lanes related to specific buildings which lay along them: the church on Church Street, the White Hart Hotel at the eastern end of White Hart Lane, the Temperance Hall on Temperance Lane and the Baptist Chapel on Baptist Lane.

The first Baptist meeting house was built in the early 18th century, with a new building erected in 1762, probably on the same site. It was demolished in 1955, although it had gone out of use long before that, since the adjacent Baptist School was extended and adapted for the purposes of worship in 1903. A Church Hall of timber and glass was built on the site of the original chapel building in the later 20th century. The burial ground lies to the west of the buildings. A Wesleyan Methodist Church, built in 1855 stands on High Street between Temperance Lane and Baptist Lane. A schoolroom was built behind the chapel, for use as a day school. It closed in 1962 (Anon n.d.).

In the area to the north of Church Street there were two malhouses by 1900 - it is not clear whether either of these has survived in some form. On the southern side of Church Street, a 'huge central chimney' was removed from a farmhouse standing between the churchyard and the High Street in the mid 19th century. During this work, several large pieces of stone were found which were thought to have come from the church, as was a fragment showing perpendicular ornamentation found in the coping of the farmyard wall (Wake 1867). The churchyard was extended into this area either at the end of the 18th century or during the 19th century, and was extended still further in the 20th century. It may have extended onto land once occupied by North Collingham vicarage, as a terrier of the 1680s records a vicarage house containing 3 bays lying to the south of the churchyard. A later terrier refers to the vicarage as being in ruins for many years and by 1743 it had gone.

Wake (1867, 43) refers to the finding of part of a skeleton during the rebuilding of a house 'opposite the end of the Swinderby road'. This would put it somewhere between White Hart and Temperance Lanes, around nos. 107 or 109 High Street. More recently, Late Bronze Age or early Iron Age pottery

was reported as found at Collingham, the grid reference for the findspot putting it at the southern end of this component (SMR 4317).

The area to the south of Baptist Lane saw the greatest degree of development in the 19th century, although this was not extensive. It remained relatively free of 20th century development, however, unlike the rest of the component, within which considerable infilling has occurred. Access is generally via the existing lanes, and there has been some degree of survival of the line of earlier east-west plot boundaries. In the northern third of the area however, a new road and development, Vicarage Close, has been constructed that cuts across this earlier pattern.

Component 5 *Settlement along the north-western side of Low Street, North Collingham*

Area of plots of varying size backing onto the Fleet.

Component 6 *Settlement fronting the northern side of Low Street, North Collingham*

An area of apparently regulated plots with a common rear boundary formed by a small tributary of the Fleet. By the end of the 19th century this area included three malhouses, only one of which is thought to survive, albeit in much altered form (Patrick 1977). The line of several early property boundaries has survived; however, there has been considerable infill of plots in the 20th century through the construction of new buildings to the rear of the street frontage, some of which are reached by a new access road, Brooklands Close.

Medieval stone roof tiles and pottery, including a fragment of a large shallow bowl, came from a building in Low Street (SMR 4319). The grid reference for the findspot puts it within this area.

Component 7 *Settlement between Low Street and Queen Street, North Collingham*

An area of plots of varying size, the original frontage probably having been Low Street, with later development along High Street and the north-eastern end of Queen Street (previously called Common Lane). Standing buildings include The Old Hall, a Grade II listed building of 17th century date which Wake (1867) suggested probably stood on the site of an earlier building connected with North Collingham 'Hall-Mote or Court of the Manor'. At the western end of the Old Hall's garden an infants' school and teacher's house were built in 1870. The school closed some time after 1909 (Anon n.d.). A chapel stood at the south-eastern end of the component at the end of the 19th century. It was demolished in the 20th century and the site later used for the cross, moved there in 1971 (see component 3).

Components 8 and 9 *Settlement on the eastern side of the Low Street/High Street junction*

The northern side was originally a single plot which was divided into several separate plots in the 19th century. On the southern side, a row of long narrow plots front High Street. Unusually, the enclosure map marks the divisions between the plots with a dotted line, suggesting they had no permanent boundaries; indeed this area may be a later addition to the plan in the form of encroachments on an area of common land. By the later 19th century a steam-powered corn mill had been erected to the rear of the frontage, with access via a lane at the southern end of the component. In the 20th century a number of new houses were erected to the rear of the original properties, their alignment cutting across the original east-west line of the earlier plots.

Component 10 *Settlement on the eastern side of the junction of High Street and Queen Street*

This area is assumed to have been settled in the medieval period in view of its proximity to the 14th century cross.

Component 11 *St John the Baptist, South Collingham* (SMR 4341)

Although a church was present at South Collingham in 1086, the earliest feature in the present church is the 12th century north arcade. The south doorway, tower arch and chancel arch are of the 13th century, while the chancel itself is 14th century. The church was restored in 1864 at which time a slab was discovered to Francis Mering, dated 1573 (Blagg 1905). The extent of the churchyard in the medieval period is not known, consequently that marked on Figure 3 is its extent in 1884.

Component 12 *The Green, South Collingham*

Low Street and High Street form an open triangular space at each end of what is today a broad stretch of road, the whole area having presumably once formed the village green. At the western end, leading into Low Street, is a distinct mound, known as 'Stocks Hill', traditionally the site of the stocks in South Collingham and of an elm tree planted in 1746. Sanderson's map of 1835 appears to show a building on either end of The Green, but it is possible that these are depictions of single trees.

Component 13 *Settlement at the south-western end of Low Street, South Collingham*

This component includes South Collingham Manor House, presently an 18th century building but presumed to be on the site of an earlier hall. The western boundary of this area in the medieval period is not known, since the course of the Fleet had clearly been straightened by the time of the earliest map, that of Sanderson in 1835. The southern boundary is formed by Westfield Lane, along which a couple of buildings had been constructed by the early 19th century.

Component 14 *Settlement block bounded by Low Street, High Street, The Green and Bell Lane, South Collingham*

Block of properties fronting Low Street, The Green and High Street and divided by Lunn Lane running east-west through the middle of the block. Much of the land on the northern side of Lunn Lane was developed for housing in the second half of the 20th century, accessed by two short roads, one from Bell Lane and one from Lunn Lane. During the construction of some of these houses, Anglo-Saxon loomweights, together with pits containing domestic rubbish of late Anglo-Saxon and medieval date, were found. The southern side of Lunn Lane was not so intensively developed in the 20th century, and has remained relatively open, with property boundaries essentially those of the 19th century, and possibly earlier. Standing buildings include two of 17th century date, one on Low Street, the other on The Green, while the possibility of the early development of the High Street frontage here is indicated in the following note:

'Mr Sneap's house, a large L-shaped thatched house opposite the King's Head Inn in S. Collingham, was of 14c. type with pargetting work and canopied niches along its inner angle, like the White Hart at Newark ...' (MS note in Blagg's copy of Wake, information from the Doubleday Index, Notts. Local Studies Library).

Surviving buildings include the old National School, built in 1839 and closed in 1962.

Component 15 *Settlement fronting the southern side of The Green and the eastern side of Church Street, South Collingham*

Properties in this area appear to have relatively regulated plots fronting either The Green or Church Street. By the end of the 19th century, much of the land to the rear of the former had been taken in to form gardens for South Collingham House. Some new building took place on rear of several plots in the 20th century, but the component has remained relatively open.

The grid reference for SMR 4314, the find of a Bronze Age palstave, puts it within this area.

Component 16 *Settlement along the western side of South End, South Collingham*

An area of apparently regulated plots, with boundaries running back to the Fleet. The northern side of the graveyard was extended into this area at the very end of the 19th century. A stone house was apparently pulled down in order to clear the ground for the graveyard. It contained a 'gabled over the chimney mantel' with the date 1615, which was removed elsewhere. In addition:

'In the cellar of this house was a blocked-up doorway with arched head, giving rise to a story of a subterranean passage to the church though the doorway was on the N. side of the cellar ... I saw it pulled out when the house was demolished and could not perceive that the ground behind it had ever been disturbed' (Entry in Doubleday Index, Notts. Local Studies Library, quoting an MSS note in Blagg's copy of Wake's history)

Component 17 *Settlement on the eastern side of South End and the south-eastern side of Church Street, South Collingham*

No clear pattern of plot layout is visible in this area on the earliest available map,

Component 18 *Settlement along the western side of Church Street, South Collingham*

Block of land lying between South Collingham church and Church Street, possibly with its origins as a green in front of the church, or even as part of the churchyard (see below). Buildings include the rectory, for which there is very detailed information contained in the diocesan terriers. In 1764 it was described as being built of brick, stone, mud and stud. The roof was oak covered with thatch. The dimensions of each room are given, together with a description of the flooring material (stone, boards or 'plaster'). A single outbuilding was divided into seven parts, which included a stable, a dairy and a brewhouse. Walls and hedges are described, as are the trees in the churchyard.

The rectory was rebuilt in 1865, at which time:

'... a rude box or coffin came to light in the garden. It was made of rough lias stones, fastened at the corners by iron wire, and in length measured about sixteen inches. The stone which formed a cover to it was held down by a circular moulded plate of lead ... The box lay imbedded in gravel five feet from the surface, and about four feet from the south wall of the rectory. It contained nothing but loose soil... (Wake 1867, 22)'.

Wake appears to have considered that the box came from consecrated ground 'judging from its proximity to the churchyard and from other signs'. He doesn't specify what these 'other signs' were, but there are no reports of skeletal remains ever having been recovered from the rectory garden.

6.2 Post-medieval components

Five components have been tentatively as belonging to the post-medieval period and are shown on figure 4. Their identification is based mainly on the dates of standing buildings and on plan form analysis of historic maps.

Component 19 *Settlement along Woodhill Road, North Collingham*

Settlement in this area almost certainly originated as encroachments onto an area of common, although most of the small buildings set in irregular plots shown on the enclosure map no longer survive, the area having been redeveloped for modern housing. The component includes the site of North Collingham pinfold on the northern side of Woodhill Road.

Component 20 *Site of building, North Collingham*

A building is shown here on the enclosure map of 1790. It appears too large to be simply a barn. It had gone by the end of the 19th century.

Component 21 *Settlement along the central eastern side of High Street, North Collingham*

Several buildings had been constructed along High Street in this area by 1790, with further development in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Component 22 *Settlement along the south-eastern side of High Street, South Collingham*

It is clear from surviving buildings that settlement had taken place in this area by at least as early as the 17th century, extending southwards from the Royal Oak, itself a 17th century building, to Dykes End and a little beyond. However, there is a reference to a building at the corner of Dykes End which suggests settlement here was considerably earlier:

‘In the deep thatched roof of Hutchinson’s house which stood at the corner of Dyke’s End and the Newark-road a sword was found hidden when the house was demolished in (sic). The house was very ancient - older than Qn. Elizabeth...’ (MS note in Blagg’s copy of Wake, information from the Doubleday Index, Notts. Local Studies Library).

Buildings along the southern side of Dykes End may have originated as encroachments, given their small plot size. South Collingham pinfold stood at the easternmost end of Dykes End.

Component 23 *Settlement along Cottage Lane, South Collingham*

It is possible that settlement along this lane originated as encroachments; Cottage Lane may also have formed a back lane for properties along the eastern side of South End.

6.3 19th century components

Six components have been identified for the 19th century and are shown on figure 5. Their identification is based on a comparison of early and late 19th century maps.

Component 24 *Midland Railway*

The Midland Railway line through Collingham was opened in 1846. The component includes the station, opened on August 4 1846. It closed for goods traffic in 1964 but remains open as a passenger station.

Component 25 *Development at the eastern end of Station Road, North Collingham*

By the end of the 19th century development in this area included the gas works, erected in 1858. The site of the works was developed for housing in the 20th century.

Component 26 *Settlement along the eastern side of High Street and the western end of Station Road, North Collingham*

By the end of the 19th century a large plot which had been allotted in 1790 had been subdivided and several houses constructed, the majority of which appear to have survived.

Component 27 *Settlement along Swinderby Road, North Collingham*

A number of plots along Swinderby Road, mainly on the north side, had houses constructed on them during the 19th century. Several of these have survived.

Component 28 *Settlement along the north-eastern side of High Street, North Collingham*

A number of plots along the eastern side of High Street had houses constructed on them during the 19th century. These included the vicarage at the northern end.

Component 29 *Settlement along Woodhill Road, North Collingham*

Several plots of land which had probably once formed part of the commons were developed for housing in the 19th century along both sides of Woodhill Road.

6.4 20th century development

Twentieth century development is represented by a single un-numbered component and consists mostly of late 20th century housing with a network of access roads, as well as associated schools and leisure facilities. This development has generally obliterated the pattern of earlier field boundaries, although in a few areas to the east of North Collingham the line of boundaries shown on the enclosure map of 1790 can still be seen dividing one block of housing from another or from a more open area.

6.5 Discussion

Although the prehistoric and Roman finds from Collingham indicate earlier settlement or other activity, the beginnings of the settlement we see today can be placed in the Anglo-Saxon and Early Mediaeval period. It is assumed that this acquired its present form through the gradual coalescence of two original Saxon settlements, a view supported by its plan form which suggests a single long village, consisting in the main of two roughly parallel north-south roads, Low Street and High Street. At the northern end of the settlement, Low Street curves eastwards to join High Street, while to the south they run into either end of The Green at South Collingham. Several short east-west roads and lanes link them along their length. Beyond The Green, the line of High Street continues southwards as the A1133 towards Newark, while the line of Low Street curves south-westwards to become Church Street and South End. Access to the land between the Fleet and the Trent is via Westfield Lane from South Collingham and via Carlton Ferry Lane from North Collingham.

However, this “traditional” view of the settlement’s development has been thrown into question by the finding of evidence of Saxon occupation close to the boundary between the two, and at some distance from either of the churches. This could suggest a single early focus for settlement, which only later developed into two separate foci, possibly accompanied by the abandonment of the original site.

If the plan forms of North and South Collingham are examined in isolation from each other, it becomes clear that they have markedly different layouts. Settlement at South Collingham extends along a number of roads and along either side of the green, giving the village a very irregular, ‘spider-like’ form. The Fleet forms the rear boundary of plots on the western side, with the dwellings turning away from it. North Collingham, on the other hand, has a remarkably regulated plan, with settlement mainly along the two parallel roads of High and Low Street. In addition, this regulated plan extends as far as the boundary between the two villages (assuming the 18th century boundary to reflect an earlier one), suggesting it was laid out as a whole rather than being the result of gradual southward growth.

One important question in this analysis is whether High or Low Street was originally the main road. The map of 1790 shows that the eastern frontage of High Street was virtually undeveloped and this, together with the location of the church and the finding of medieval material from a site on Low Street, suggests that Low Street was originally the main road and thus that the Fleet formed the focus of the original street frontage. Examination of map evidence indicates that North Collingham was unusual in this, as further north, at Girton and Besthorpe, the Fleet runs to the rear of the village plots, as at South Collingham.

This raises the further question of the relationship of North Collingham with the Fleet as well as with South Collingham. As far as the former is concerned, maps of 1790 and 1835 show the Fleet to have broadened out from a stream into a wide pool along the full length of North Collingham, reverting to a stream again at South Collingham. Sanderson’s map of 1835 also shows the Fleet as a wide ‘pool’ along the full length of Girton and Besthorpe, while Senior’s map of Meering in 1630 shows it continuing to the south of Besthorpe at the same width as the Trent. Indeed there is a strong antiquarian tradition that the Trent once followed the present course of the Fleet, only moving to somewhere in the region of its present course either during or soon after the medieval period. The Fleet is referred to in 1335 as *aquam que dicitur Holdetrent* (Gover *et al* 1940) indicating the antiquity of the tradition. Wake (1867) thought that Collingham was established by the Saxons alongside this major river which then deserted them.

More recent studies of the development of the River Trent and its flood plain suggest that the situation was not as simple as this. Nevertheless, the Fleet may still have been a navigable in the early Middle Ages. As Collcutt (1996, 64) notes:

‘medieval boatmen (boats in the sense of flat barges) would almost certainly have used convenient, straighter sections of any available waterway (including the Fleet) for local transport, rather than making the arduous journey across the floodplain and back merely for the privilege of following the Trent around its tiresome meanders’.

A number of interesting features are present, therefore. They include the presence of two early churches at a relatively short distance from each other and in a single manor, apparently served by a single priest (see section 5.4.1 above), located in two settlements with very different layouts, one apparently planned and facing a potentially navigable waterway, the other more haphazard in its plan and turning its back on the water.

One possible interpretation of these features is that North Collingham was deliberately laid out in this way in an attempt to benefit from hoped-for commercial activity based on river trade; in other words that it was either created as a new foundation or that an existing settlement was completely reorganised to function as an inland port. The location of the church in such a prominent position in relation to the waterside suggests this could have begun by 1086, assuming the Domesday church to have been on the same site as the present one.

Plan form analysis suggests, therefore, that much of North Collingham was deliberately planned and laid out as a whole to form one long block of regulated plots (component 4) focused on the Fleet and on the church. Plots at the northern end of the village (components 6-10) may be a later addition to the plan, taken out of an area of common, and with a separate focus formed by a village green and elaborate cross. This area may have developed as High Street began to take precedence over Low Street as the main route through the village and at a time when the Fleet had ceased to be important for anything other than fishing. At South Collingham the church and the green both formed the foci for settlement, which then extended out along the various lanes in somewhat straggling fashion. It appears that the two villages were reasonably continuous by at least as early as the 13th century, since there is a reference in 1280 to *Longa Colingham* - unless, of course, this refers only to North Collingham.

It appears that much of the new post-medieval and 19th century development in Collingham took place along High Street. In North Collingham, this later building could generally be accommodated along the western side of High Street, to the rear of plots which originally fronted Low Street. As a result, the eastern side was not developed until the 18th and 19th centuries. In South Collingham, on the other hand, the western side of the road was probably already built along in the medieval period and consequently development of the eastern side occurred at an earlier date, at least by the 17th century if not before. At the same time, surviving standing buildings indicate that there was some rebuilding in brick of earlier timber-framed houses.

Collingham saw little further development until the second half of the 20th century, during the course of which there was considerable expansion eastwards, any westward expansion being inadvisable due to the low-lying nature of the land.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ISSUES

7.1 Research questions

In view of the extensive evidence of Roman settlement to the west of Collingham, closer to the Trent, it is important to establish the nature of the site indicated by the finding of Roman pottery in the churchyard. With the increased deposition of alluvium in the Trent Valley during the late Roman period, did the inhabitants of the villages/farms on the gravel islands remove to the higher ground upon which Collingham stands? Alternatively, was there a contemporary settlement at, or close to, Collingham? Where does it fit in the wider Romano-British landscape of fields and road patterns?

Currently the only archaeological evidence of Anglo-Saxon settlement at Collingham comes from an area between the two churches. What was the nature and extent of this early settlement, and how does it relate to later foci, as well as to the Mercian bridge found in the Trent at Cromwell Lock to the west and to the cemetery site to the east?

Wake (1867) assumed that both of the Collingham mills mentioned in Domesday Book were windmills. However in the 11th century mills would have been powered by water rather than by wind. The sites of these mills have yet to be established.

Very little is known at present about the extent of North and particularly South Collingham in the medieval period. The hypothesis that North Collingham was deliberately planned and laid out needs testing archaeologically. Did either village experience shrinkage in the 14th century? What was the nature of the area at the northern end of North Collingham in which the cross stood and the reason for its highly decorated form? When did High Street become the main thoroughfare rather than a back lane?

The evidence for the Fleet as a navigable stretch of water needs to be re-evaluated.

What were the effects on the villages' plan forms of the enclosure of part of North Collingham's fields in 1567 and of all of South Collingham's land, probably in the mid 17th century? Is it possible to establish the reasons for enclosure, presumably different in each case, with almost 100 years between them? Was the former carried out in order to profit from sheep, as perhaps indicated in section 5.5.7? Was there a relationship between the enclosure of South Collingham and the apparent dramatic drop in population there between 1603 and 1676 indicated by visitation returns (see section 5.5.4)?

Further research into North Collingham's non-conformist history would be valuable in helping to understand the development of the village at that time, particularly in view of the relatively large percentage of the population who were non-conformist. Did they arrive from elsewhere, such as Newark? If so, was there any impact on the local economy?

When did malting begin as a small scale industry at Collingham and to what extent was it carried out to serve more than purely local needs in the late 19th century, when maps indicate five malthouses towards the northern end of the village. Does only one of these survive?

It appears that very little, if any, new historical research relating to Collingham has been undertaken and published since Wake's history of 1867 and it would clearly be valuable for such research to be carried out to shed light on existing problems and to help formulate further archaeological research questions.

7.2 Archaeological potential

7.2.1 Existing protection

Scheduled monuments

Certain nationally important archaeological sites and monuments enjoy special protection as Scheduled 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 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.

There is a single Scheduled Monument within the area of Collingham under consideration here. This is the medieval standing cross on the west side of High Street at its northern end (Scheduled Monument no. 23368).

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.

Collingham Conservation Area was first designated in 1973. Its present 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 62 listed buildings in the built-up area of Collingham, the majority of which are shown on Figure 7. Of these, two are Grade I, namely the two medieval churches, and one, ‘Thatch Cottage’, is Grade II*. 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	6	14	27	15	0

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. In Collingham there are eight buildings considered to be of local interest, of which two date from the 17th century and six from the 18th century.

7.2.2 Above ground remains

Much of Collingham’s historic street pattern is still visible today, although the visual linearity that led to its being called ‘Long Collingham’ has been lost through extensive modern development on the eastern side of the village. Within the two main north south roads that once defined Collingham, some evidence of the old east-west property divisions remains, as do the narrow lanes running between them, although the impact is lessened by modern infill and access roads.

The standing buildings themselves are generally built of brick with pantile roofs; however, Collingham is notable as one of the few Nottinghamshire villages where local stone forms an important building material.

Some of this stone is traditionally said (for example by Stukeley, according to Wake (1867)) to have come from the Roman site of Brough although this has never yet been shown to be the case. The earliest surviving buildings are of coursed blue lias rubble and brick, while later ones are of brick alone. The stone is generally on the ground floor, with brick first floors replacing timber frames. However, some timber framing survives in at least eight buildings, and it is possible that there may be more behind later brick fronts, as yet unrecognised. Documents indicate that many earlier buildings would have been constructed of mud and stud; for example a labourer’s cottage was described in a glebe terrier of 1817 as being ‘of stud and mud and thatched consisting of 4 rooms floored with brick’. By 1825 it had been rebuilt completely in brick. At least one standing building retains some mud and stud work.

Most buildings in Collingham are domestic and range in type from cottages and larger farmhouses to small country houses such as South Collingham House. Pevsner (1979) noted that the village contained a number of ‘handsome and interesting houses not connected with farming’. There is a good spread of relatively early buildings also, particularly of the 17th century, with an overall range from the medieval churches to the 20th century. A good example of the latter is Thicketts, a small ‘neo-vernacular’ brick and tile house by Brian Elsworth, 1966-7, which was awarded a Civic Trust Award in 1969, as it ‘accurately reflects the traditional village character’. The importance of agriculture to Collingham’s economy is underlined by the absence of industrial buildings, the closest being the 19th century corn mill and one, or possibly two, maltings. A couple of non-conformist chapels survive as a reminder of Collingham’s important history in this respect.

The churches and churchyards are also an important part of the above ground features at Collingham, both visually and in terms of the information they hold. The fabric of the churches can provide information relating to the different phases of their construction, as shown in 1989 when re-rendering of part of North Collingham church revealed previously unseen architectural features (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1989). The tombs and headstones in the graveyards provide details about Collingham's past population as well as evidence from their decorative style of changes in fashion or custom. The inscriptions in both churchyards were transcribed either at the end of the 19th century or in the early 20th century (Blagg 1905).

7.2.3 Below ground remains

Only a very limited amount of archaeological work has been carried out at Collingham, although it has been enough to indicate the potential for survival of archaeological deposits. Most important of these was the finding of Anglo-Saxon material in 1968 (see section 5.3) during the development of the site for housing. Limited excavations in North Collingham churchyard in 1989 also revealed evidence of an earlier church (see component 1). In addition, at least nine fragments of Romano-British pottery were recovered in this work, however, the excavators considered that the numerous graves would probably have destroyed any evidence that might indicate the nature of the Roman use of the site, unless substantial stone buildings of that period were to be present (Lindsey Archaeological Services 1989).

In addition to the above excavations, a geophysical survey was carried out in 1999 on a site on the northern side of Woodhill Road, North Collingham, in an area not known to have been developed until the 20th century. A 'series of faint ditch type responses and negative linear trends' were detected which were thought to reflect former small scale agricultural activity or landscaping, with an area of increased magnetic response at the southern survey edge which was considered more likely to have an archaeological interpretation (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1999).

If there was indeed an attempt to create an inland port at North Collingham, as discussed in section 6.5, the western side of the village is of considerable importance, both immediately adjacent to the Fleet and along the frontage of Low Street. There may have been riverside structures such as wharves and warehouses in response to, or in the hope of, commercial activity. It is worth noting that Wake (1867) recorded the finding of the 'foundations of a seemingly large building' in an area close to the Fleet, apparently on its western side (see component 1).

There may be some potential for environmental work, with the possible survival of organic remains in the area of the Fleet, and along the tributary stream running in at the northern end of Collingham. Features relating to local industries which required water, such as tanning and corn-grinding, could be preserved. The streams and dykes may also have been used as convenient sites for dumping refuse.

The interiors of both churches may contain below ground structures such as vaults, as well as burials and evidence of earlier phases of construction. The churchyards also are important areas of potential, preserving not only some of the past population of Collingham but also the remains of earlier phases of the buildings, as shown at North Collingham, as well as buildings demolished to make way for cemetery extensions, although the degree of preservation will depend on the number and density of burials which have taken place. Buildings demolished in this way include one on the northern side of South Collingham church, and several on the southern side of North Collingham church, including some along White Hart Lane and the site of the 17th century vicarage.

Elsewhere, physical examination of the boundaries of plots, and of the spaces within them, may provide critical evidence for the development of Collingham since the Anglo-Saxon period.

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- | | |
|-------------------|------------------------------------|
| DR/1/3/2/161/1-13 | Glebe terriers of South Collingham |
| DR/1/3/2/127/1-13 | Glebe terriers of North Collingham |

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COLLINGHAM

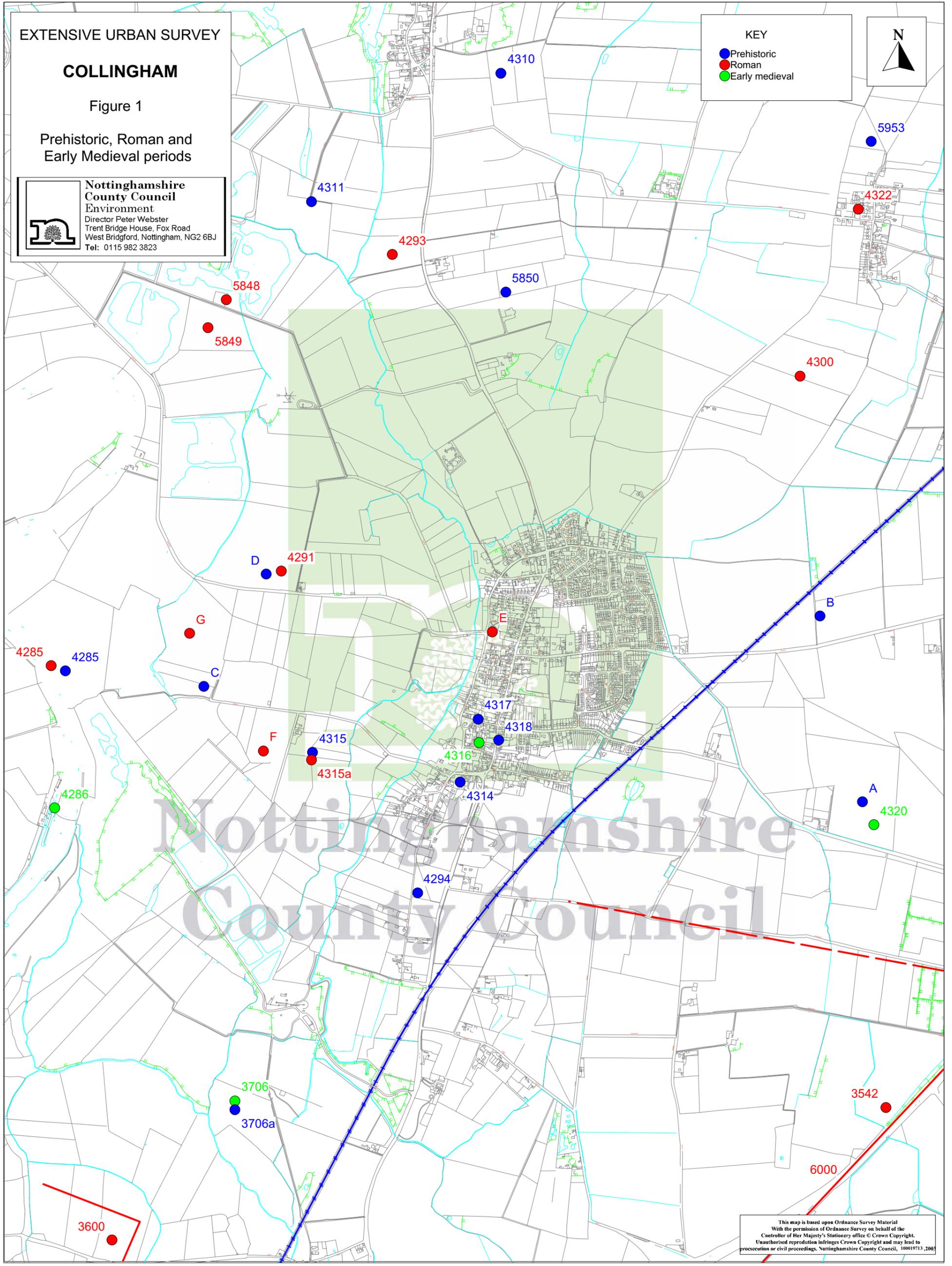
Figure 1

Prehistoric, Roman and
Early Medieval periods

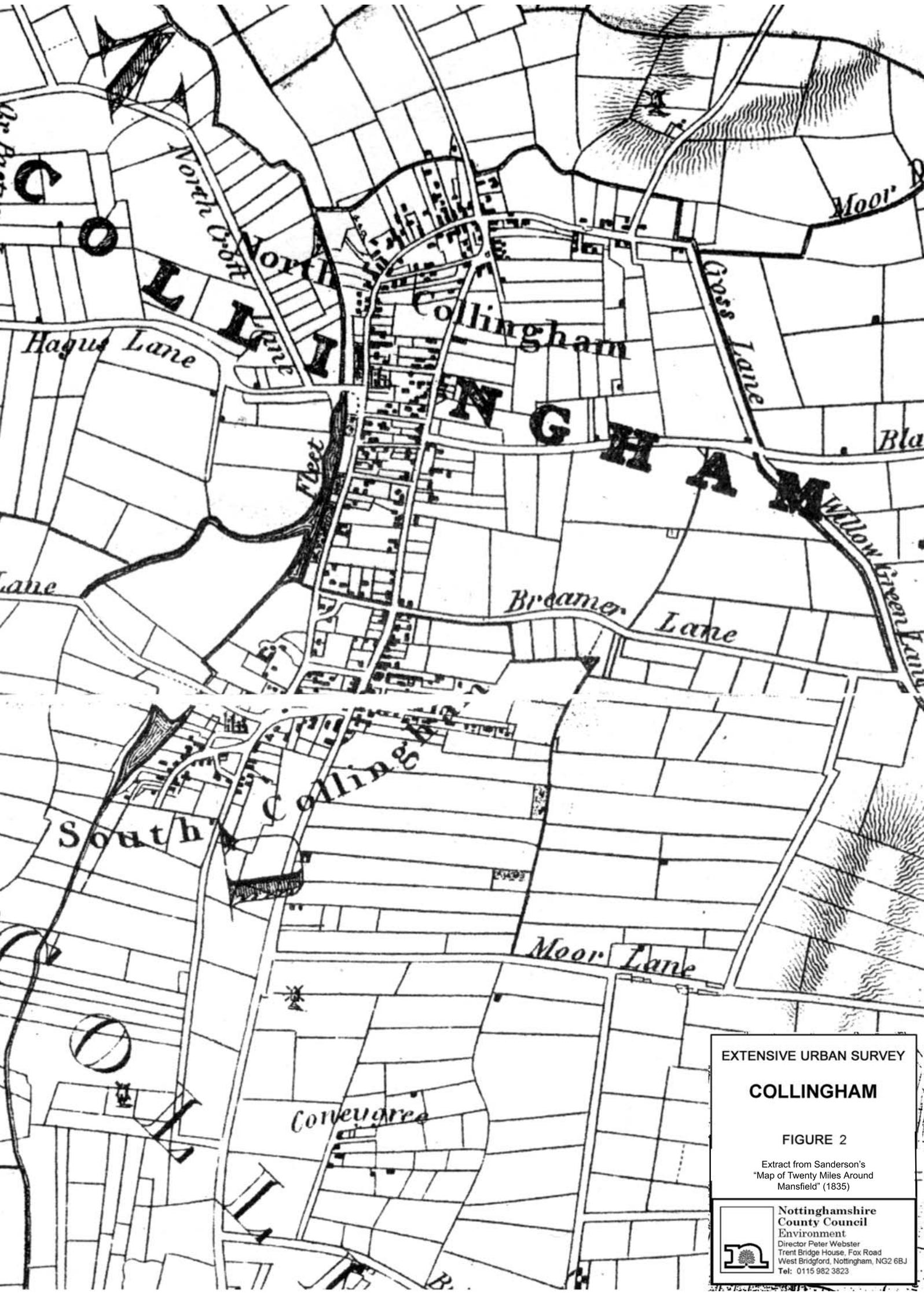
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KEY

- Prehistoric
- Roman
- Early medieval



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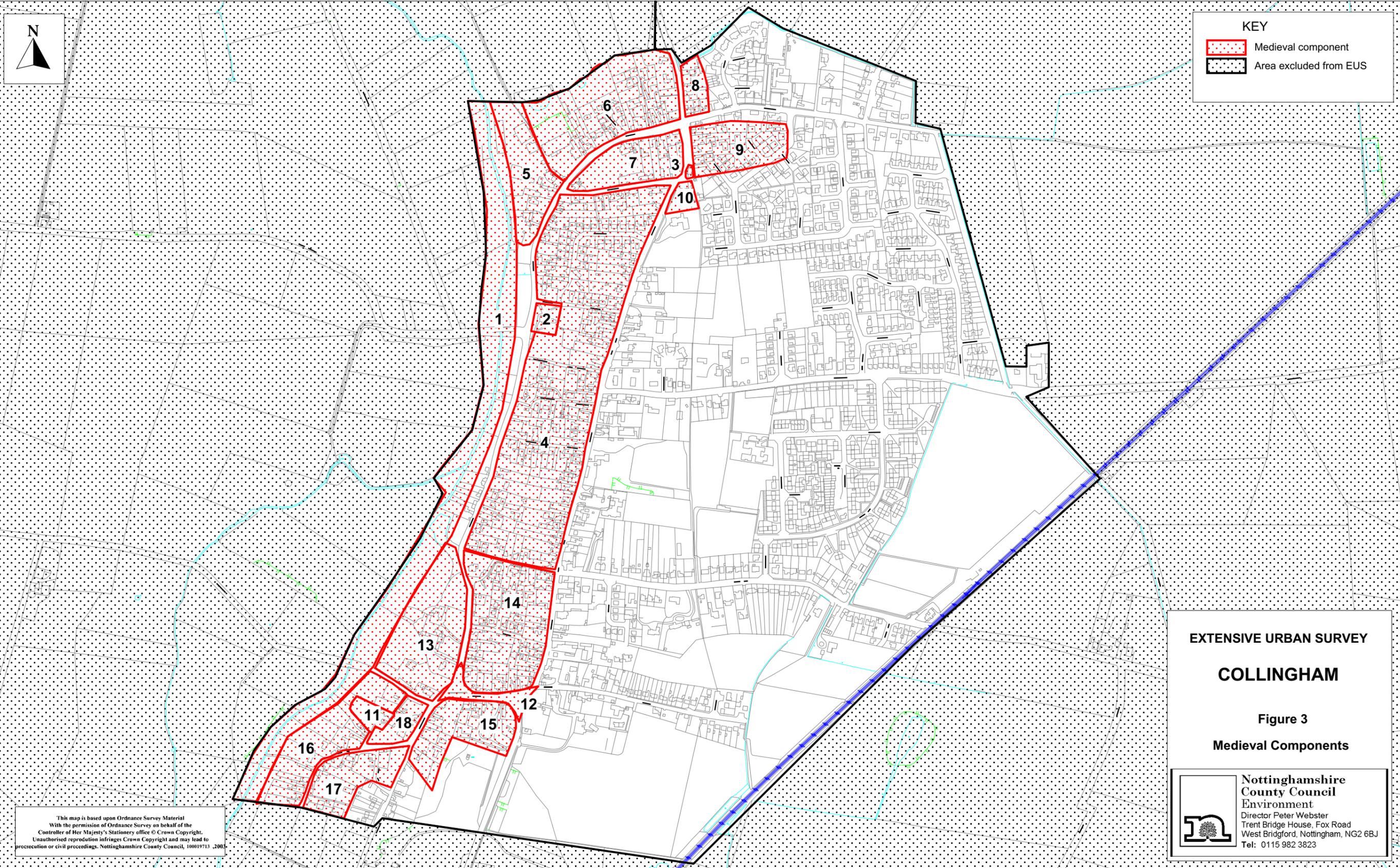
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FIGURE 2

Extract from Sanderson's
"Map of Twenty Miles Around
Mansfield" (1835)



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KEY

-  Medieval component
-  Area excluded from EUS

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Figure 3

Medieval Components



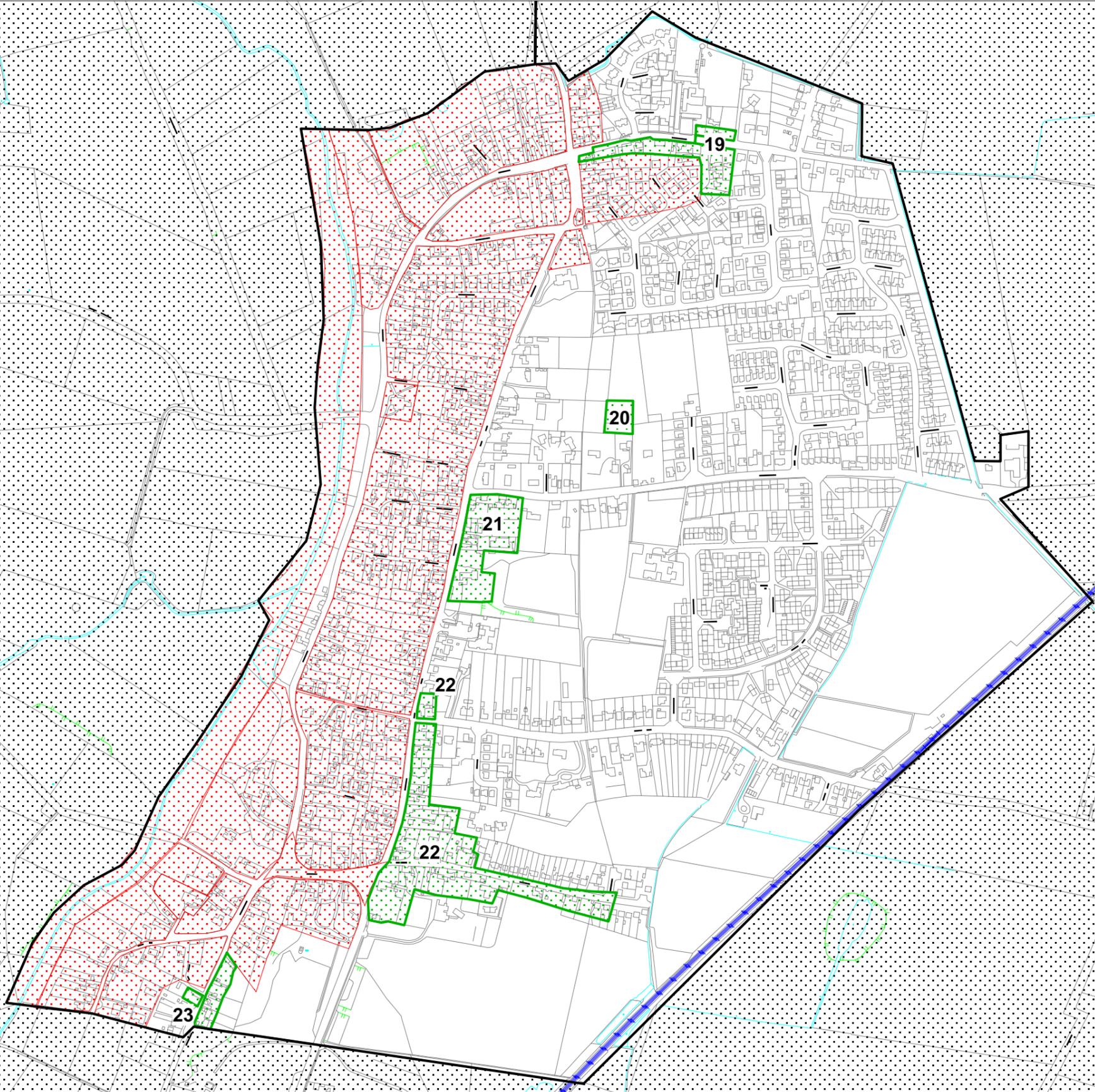
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KEY

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



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Figure 4

Post-medieval Components

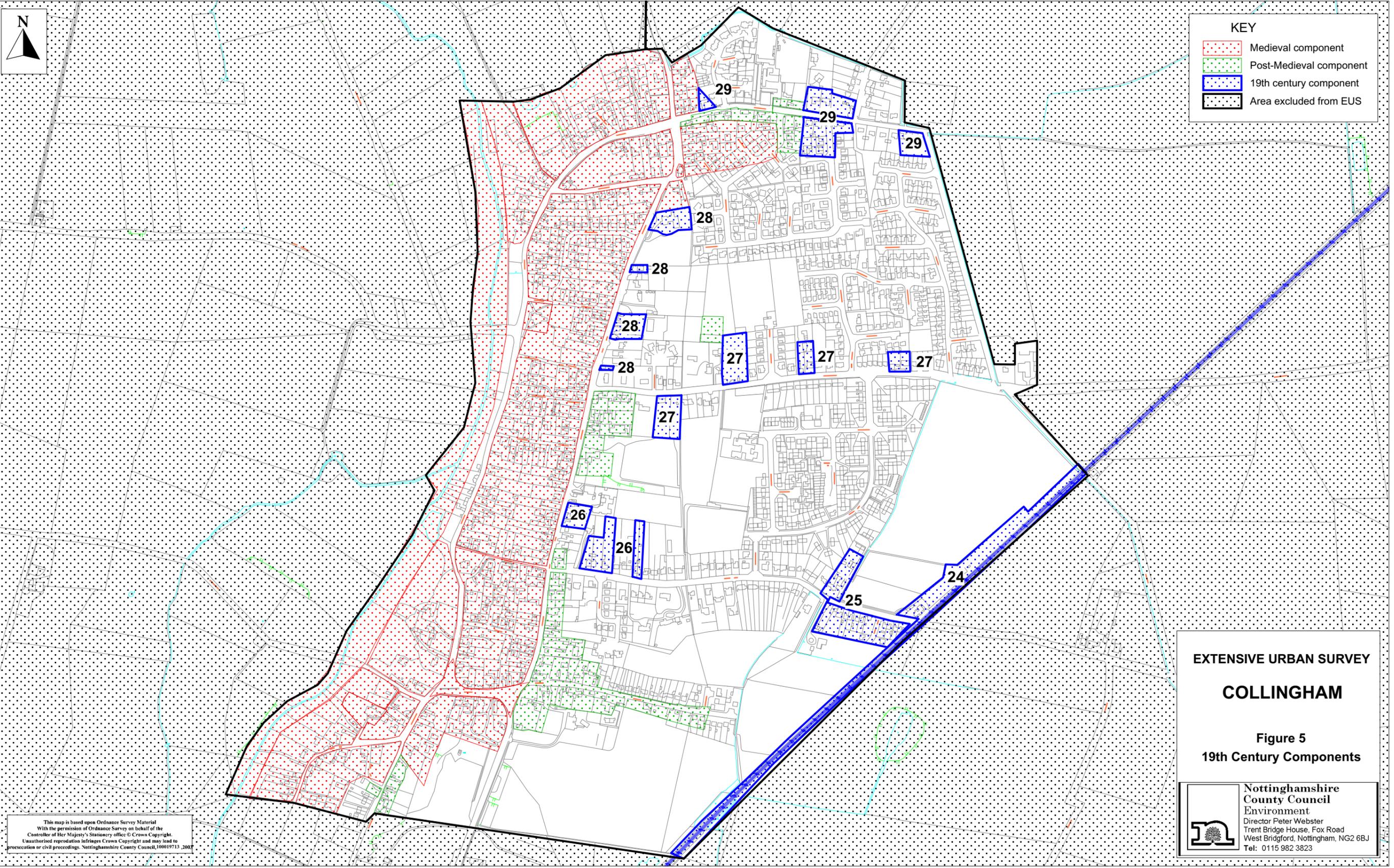
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KEY

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



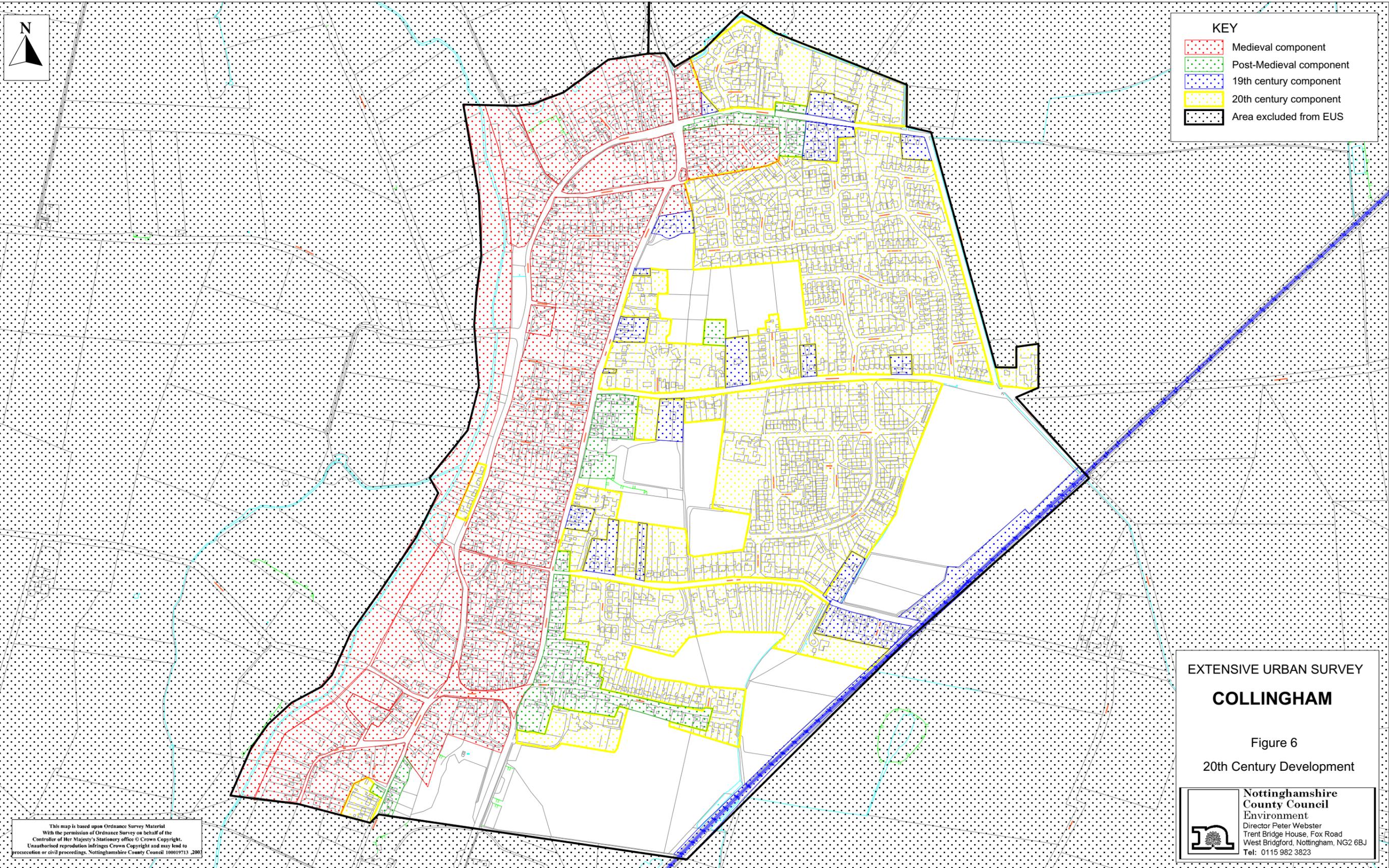
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Figure 5
19th Century Components

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KEY

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



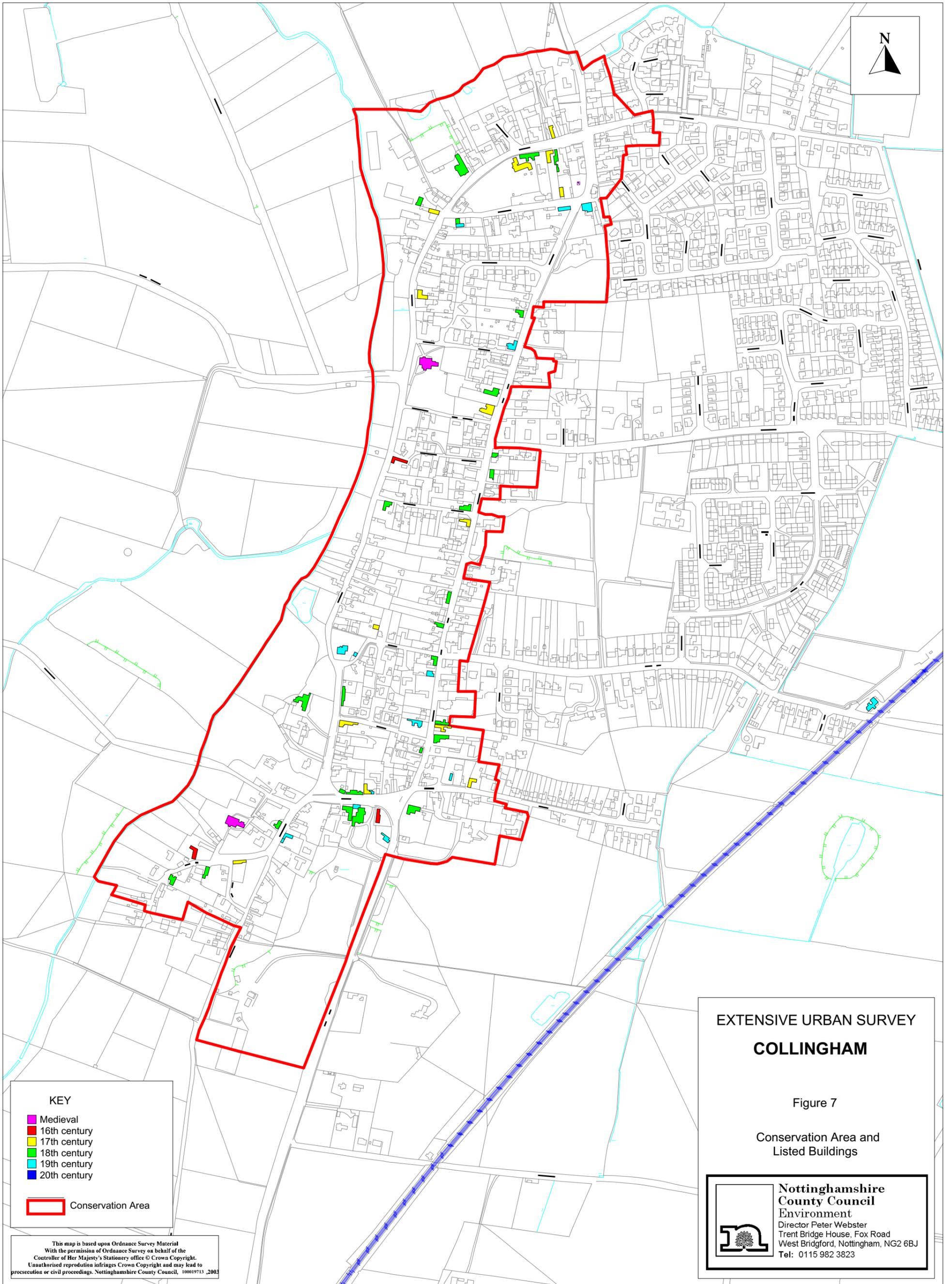
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Figure 6
20th Century Development

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KEY

- Medieval
- 16th century
- 17th century
- 18th century
- 19th century
- 20th century

Conservation Area

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**EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
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Figure 7

Conservation Area and
 Listed Buildings

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