



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**
Environment

**NOTTINGHAMSHIRE EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT**

SUTTON IN ASHFIELD

**Prepared
for**



ENGLISH HERITAGE
Extensive Urban Survey Programme

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SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD

GILL STROUD, 2000

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. Sutton in Ashfield 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

Sutton in Ashfield is situated on the extreme west of Mid-Nottinghamshire, close to the Nottinghamshire/ Derbyshire border, and is some 3 miles south-west of Mansfield and 14 miles north of Nottingham. The settlement was in existence prior to the Domesday Survey of 1086, when it made up part of a much larger estate which belonged to the king. Despite becoming one of the main framework knitting centres in the East Midlands, the town barely seemed to extend beyond its medieval limits until the later 19th century, when coal-mining became an important source of employment. The town has suffered a decline in recent years, with the closure of the collieries.

2. GEOLOGY AND TOPOGRAPHY

At Sutton-in-Ashfield the Coal Measures, which are exposed further west within Derbyshire, are completely concealed, being overlain by a band of Lower Permian Marl, Lower Magnesian Limestone, Middle Permian Marl and Bunter Sandstone, all of which dip towards the east and are topped by superficial patchy deposits of clay, with gravels and alluvia in the river valleys. The historic core of Sutton itself lies on the limestone, with middle and lower marls exposed to the east and west respectively (Gibson 1913; OS Geol. map sheet 112, 1". 1963).

The area is one of the highest in the county, and the church stands at 171m AOD on one side of the valley which is occupied by the Idle (Clay-Dove, 1978), a stream that flows into the river Maun to the east. Via the Maun this stream is one of the headwaters of the River Idle, the major river of north Nottinghamshire, formed by the confluence of the rivers Maun and Meden south of Retford. Lammas Road and Church Street are on the north-western side of the valley, High Pavement on the south-eastern side.

3. ADMINISTRATIVE UNIT

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Sutton lay in Broxtow wapentake. The town was originally administered by the Parish Vestry, the parish itself consisting of two townships, Sutton and Hucknall-under-Huthwaite. In 1865 Sutton-in-Ashfield Local Board came into being, but was supplanted by the Urban District Council after the adoption of the Local Government Act of 1894. With the reorganisation of local government in 1974, however, the town came under the newly formed Ashfield District Council which included Kirkby-in-Ashfield, Hucknall and the parishes of Annesley and Felley.

4. SOURCES

4.1 Primary sources

Nottinghamshire Archives hold a number of documents relating to Sutton-in-Ashfield, including the parish registers from 1577 to 1959. They also hold the estate papers of the Dukes of Portland, which include some relevant documents. It is possible that further material may be found among the archives held at Chatsworth, the manor having been held by the Cavendish family for over 200 years. Similarly, records may be held at the Public Record Office, as the manor was crown property. Early references could also be included with Mansfield documents, including Mansfield Manor Court Rolls.

4.2 Secondary sources

Lindley (1907) drew on two earlier works to produce his history, one being a 12-page *History of Sutton* by Dr Spencer T Hall written in 1838, the other being written by the Rev. Bellairs in 1873. In 1949, Bonser's *History of Sutton-in-Ashfield* was published, two years after his death at the age of 95. More recently, in 1986, Bill Clay-Dove published a compilation of articles on Sutton which he had written for the Nottinghamshire Free Press.

4.3 Cartographic evidence

Although Sutton-in-Ashfield was surveyed for the Sherwood Forest map of 1609, no bespoke plan is known to have survived for this particular area (Mastoris & Groves 1997). However, a map made by William Senior in 1610, as part of a larger survey of Cavendish estates at that time, still survives. The parish is mapped in two parts, north and south, with the settlement appearing on the northern part. The originals are held privately at Chatsworth; however, Nottinghamshire Archives has black and white photographic copies. Several maps of Sutton-in-Ashfield, thought to have been produced in the last decade of the 18th century and the first decade of the 19th century, are held privately by Welbeck Estates (Nichols 1987), and were not consulted for this report. The Parliamentary Enclosure Map of 1795 is in Nottinghamshire Archives. Since tithes were commuted as part of the Enclosure Award, there is no tithe map of the parish, and consequently the only other pre-Ordnance Survey map to show buildings and plot boundaries is Sanderson's map of 20 Miles around Mansfield, 1835.

4.4 Archaeological evidence

There are 21 entries in the Sites and Monuments Record for the area of modern Sutton-in-Ashfield. No archaeological excavations are known to have taken place in the area under consideration.

5. HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SUMMARY

5.1 Prehistoric

One site of possible prehistoric date comes from the built-up area of Sutton (SMR 2733). According to Bonser (1949, 2)

'In AD 1892 Mr Walter Straw, preparing a foundation at the bottom of St Michael's Street, discovered eight skeletons, one lying E to W, surrounded by seven others with their feet towards him. All were lying on top of the limestone and although the bones triturated on being handled, the skull of the one in the centre was intact and has been preserved by the efforts of the late Dr Mitchell and the writer. It was submitted with a sketch plan of the graves to the authorities of the British Museum who declared it to be of the Neolithic age ..'

It is not known at present whether a copy of the plan has survived or the grounds for thinking the burials to be Neolithic. However, certain evidence of Neolithic activity at Sutton comes from the finding of a stone axe of group one in the northern part of the town, although the exact findspot is unknown (SMR 2426).

Further evidence of prehistoric activity comes from the periphery of the modern town. To the south-west, fieldwalking produced five Mesolithic and two Neolithic retouched flints (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1994; SMR 2536) while to the south-east a Neolithic stone axe was found at Sutton Junction prior to 1973 (SMR 2579).

To the east lies Hamilton Hill, on the top of which lies an earthwork consisting of an irregular D-shaped quarry hollow with an elliptical mound towards the east end. This was described in 1939 as a probable Bronze Age barrow. However there is now some doubt as to this interpretation, although the original function of the earthwork is not known (SMR 2557; Scheduled Ancient Monument Notts 128).

The area to the north of the town has produced a number of prehistoric artefacts. In 1990 a Neolithic flint axe was recovered from a building site on Carsic Road (SMR 5506), while earlier building work on high ground to the north of Quarrydale Comprehensive School in the 1970s turned up a flint button scraper (SMR 3917). A little further north, a flint thumbnail scraper had been found in 1966 (SMR 3965) and a flint core with six waste flakes were recovered during fieldwalking (SMR 4033). In fact, the Meden Valley to the north and north-west of Sutton and Skegby, just beyond the scope of Figure 1, has been extensively fieldwalked since 1969 by the Sherwood Archaeology Society, with over 2000 flints having been collected.

5.2 Roman

Only a small amount of evidence from the Roman period has been recovered from Sutton and its immediate vicinity. The one find to come from within the area of the modern town is a coin of Gaius Claudius Pulcher (consul in 177 BC), found in a garden at the top of Bathwood Drive in 1930 (Bonser 1949, 2; SMR 5308).

In 1849, a hoard of 300-400 Roman silver coins was found in a pot 2ft below the surface when the line of the Mansfield-Pinxton railway was being straightened near the King's Mill to the east of Sutton (SMR 5309). Apparently a piece of marble 1½" x 1¼" and two or three diamond-shaped pieces of red, yellow and white marble were also found near the spot (Birks & Coxon 1949b)

There is a tradition that a Roman road is located in the area around Calladine Lane to the south-west (SMR 2473). A 'definite band of stone' had been identified running east-west across the area in the past; however, recent fieldwalking in the area found no proof of such a road, and it was suggested that the small pieces of Permian sandstone which are found scattered over the area may have been mistaken for the agger of a Roman road. However, seven sherds of Roman pottery were recovered (John Samuels Archaeological Consultants 1994). According to a record in the Doubleday Catalogue at Notts Local Studies Library, on the other hand, there was supposedly a Roman road along Stoneyford Road, north of Sutton. Certainly a Roman road might be expected somewhere in the area running south from Newboundmill towards Broxtowe fort, continuing a road in Derbyshire on the line of the modern A6417. Fieldwalking in the Meden Valley, mentioned above, recovered Roman pottery from various areas, with some concentrations suggesting occupation sites.

5.3 Early Medieval

Nothing is known at present of the early medieval settlement at Sutton. The *tun* element of its name indicates an early origin, however. Similarly, there are no recorded finds of early medieval date from the vicinity of the town.

5.4 Medieval

5.4.1 Place-name evidence

The earliest documentary reference to Sutton-in-Ashfield is found in Domesday Book, where it is written as *Sutone*, meaning 'south farm'. The earliest surviving record of the full name, as *Sutton in Essefeld*, comes from 1276. Ashfield is an old district name, surviving in the two place-names of Kirkby- and Sutton-in-Ashfield, and has the meaning of 'open land with ash trees', presumably referring to the characteristics of the forest in the Magnesian Limestone area (Gover *et al* 1940).

5.4.2 Domesday Book, 1086

Sutton-in-Ashfield does not have a separate entry in Domesday Book, but is included with Mansfield in the lands belonging to the king:

'In Mansfield and the outliers Skegby and SUTTON King Edward had 3 carucats and 6 bovats of land taxable. Land for 9 ploughs. The King has 2 ploughs in lordship. 5 Freemen with 3 bovats of this land; 35 villagers and 20 smallholders with 19½ ploughs. 1 mill and 1 fishery, 21s; meadow, 24 acres; woodland pasture 2 leagues long and 2 wide; 2 churches and 2 priests'

5.4.3 The manor

At the time of the Domesday Survey, Sutton was a berewick or outlier of the manor of Mansfield, under the lordship of the king. From about 1170, if not earlier, the de Sutton family held the manor from the king. Royal interest in Sutton did not cease however, as is shown by a roll of tenants of the manor of Mansfield dating to 1295 that included the tenants at Sutton (Bonser 1949). During the reign of Edward II it was declared that Sutton-in-Ashfield and Hucknall (Huthwaite) were a whole vill and not geldable, being of the ancient demesne of the crown, with the exception of the fourth part which Jordan de Sutton held of the king, together with the advowson of the church. John de Sutton died around 1304, seized of the manor, leaving it to his son John, who had licence in 1322 to alienate two parts of it to his own son, John (Thoroton 1677). The family continued to hold the manor until at least 1332 but appears to have taken up residence in Lincoln at some time, possibly around the end of the 13th century, and to have been breaking up its estate in the 14th century. When Hamo de Sutton of Lincoln died in 1468 he was possessed of six manors and of land at Sutton-in-Ashfield, which suggests that they no longer held the manor there (Bonser 1949).

5.4.4 Communications

According to Crook (1977) the 'great way to Nottingham' must have crossed the Maun in the vicinity of Sutton.

5.4.5 The settlement and its environs

The settlement was at one point considered to be situated within Sherwood Forest. At the conclusion of a perambulation of the forest in 1232 it was stated that all royal demesne in the county north of the Trent was, and was to remain, forest irrespective of whether it lay inside or outside the defined limits. This meant that Sutton-in-Ashfield came under the forest law. It may have been put outside the forest in 1300, when Edward I was in political difficulties, but appears to have been returned to it in 1306 (Crook 1977).

Some indication of new land being taken into cultivation comes from a jury decision of 1332 finding it 'no less' if the king granted John de Sutton permission to give 10½ acres of waste to Robert de Henoure (Thoroton 1677). This land is probably that referred to in a survey of the forest in 1358, when it was reported that Jordan de Sutton had made an assart 'of olde' of 10½ acres at Nether Haie in Sutton Moor, of which John, son of Robert of Henor was tenant. However, by this time the land is referred to as meadow (Bonser 1949).

Seventeenth century maps make it clear that the village cultivated its arable land in strips in several open fields. By that time there were six fields (see 5.5.3 below), although whether all of these were in existence during the medieval period is not known.

Later references suggest there may have been two crosses in the vicinity of Sutton. In the first half of the 18th century there are two records of a close, the name of which implies the existence of a 'Headless' cross (Stapleton 1921), while there was a Newcrosse Close in 1610, which also implies the existence of an old cross. These were most likely boundary crosses.

Virtually nothing is known of the settlement itself, beyond the existence of a church. At least one village green was present from an early date, as indicated by a list of the names of tenants of the manor of Mansfield, dating to 1295, which has survived in the Public Record Office. One roll gives the names of 39 tenants in Sutton, two of which have the epithet 'on the Green'

An inquisition post mortem of 1271 found that Gerard de Sutton held 1 messuage with a dove house in Sutton, as well as the site of a mill, while in 1287 it was found that Jordan de Sutton 'held likewise ten acres where the mill used to be set in *Sutton Sthawe*' (Thoroton 1677). This indicates the mill had been in Sutton wood but was not standing at that time.

There is no evidence of markets being held at Sutton in the medieval period, although being crown property it would not have required a charter and the earliest known layout of the settlement certainly includes areas which could have been used for this purpose. However, the proximity of Sutton to Mansfield, which had a market in 1227 and probably long before, and also to Kirkby, which was granted a market in around 1260, makes it highly unlikely that Sutton ever functioned as a market town.

5.4.6 *The Church of St Mary Magdalene*

It is generally thought that one of the two churches mentioned in Domesday Book was at Sutton (the other being at Mansfield itself). The church was given to Thurgarton Priory, probably in 1189, by Gerard, son of Walter de Sutton, when his mother became a nun. It may have been served from Thurgarton, with a priest possibly lodging at a house on the corner of Forest Street and Priestsic Lane, as no institution of a parson at Sutton is recorded (Bonser 1949). The earliest surviving fabric in the church is 12th century.

5.4.7 *Population*

Using the roll of Sutton tenants in 1295, Bonser (1949) concluded that the population would have been about 400, although he does not explain how he arrived at this figure.

5.4.8 *Trade and industry*

From the list of Sutton tenants in 1295 it is apparent that there was a tailor, a smith and a watchman, in addition to two clerks, one of whom may have been a chantry priest. Other early documents include a reference to a shoemaker in 1316 and a maltster in 1391 (Bonser 1949).

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

5.5.1 *The manor*

In 1562 Roger Greenhaugh of Teversal died seized of the manor, which was inherited by his granddaughters, one of whom was married to Gervase Neville. It passed from Neville to James Hardwick and then to Elizabeth, Countess of Shrewsbury, remaining with the Cavendishes until an exchange of lands took place between the Dukes of Devonshire and Portland towards the end of the 18th century (Bonser 1949). James Hardwick had also purchased the priest's house, the tithe and other property of Sutton Church at the dissolution of the monasteries.

5.5.2 *Communications*

Roads

It is clear from William Senior's map of 1610 that the main roads around Sutton shown on the enclosure map were already in existence by the beginning of the 17th century, although they are not shown where they pass through open fields. However, the only road named in the terrier is 'Hucknall laine'.

In 1687 the inhabitants of Sutton-in-Ashfield were indicted on account of the evil conditions of the road from Sutton to Mansfield, at least a part of which was known as Mirehole Lane (Copnall 1915). In an attempt to improve conditions, the road to Mansfield from Alfreton, passing through Sutton, was turnpiked in 1764.

5.5.3 *The settlement and its environs*

By the 17th century the forest was disintegrating, as indicated by numerous references to assarts and purprestures. The Earl of Newcastle complained in 1640 that the tenants of Sutton and Kirkby-in-Ashfield were easily able to obtain commons of estovers, allowing them to cut and carry off wood, but that he, as owner, was unable to profit from cutting the wood as he was restrained by forest law (Bonser 1949).

Some enclosure of Sutton's common arable fields had also taken place. For example, in 1531 it was reported that three years earlier Thomas Langford had enclosed 'with hedges and ditches a close called Le Wedes containing three acres of arable land in the fields of Sutton-in-Ashfelde .. to the injury of the neighbours of Sutton - also that one of his tenants had made a close in the fields of Sutton 14 years earlier containing lands of 8 different people' (Bonser 1949).

The terrier of 1609 which accompanies the map of Sherwood Forest gives an area of just over 54 acres for the town and town closes, as well as mentioning the following (Mastoris & Groves 1997):

One common arable field ... called Southe Feild	119-0-0
One arable field ... called Greate East Feild, common to Sutton	30-2-5
One common arable field ... called Sutton Little Common Feild	74-0-34
ne other common arable field next thereunto adjoining, called Carr Feild	172-3-0
One common arable field [not named, but clearly near the church]	162-2-33
One common arable field ... lying upon the bound of the Lordship, called the Hayninges, common to Sutton	55-2-34
All the woods in Sutton	1777-0-38
All the waste in the same Sutton	1757-1-23

Senior's terrier of the following year refers to the East Field, West Field, South Field, Kirke Field and Little Field, which suggests that Carr Field of 1609 was an alternative name for the West Field. The Henings and Roughlee were also common land. It is clear that many of the enclosed areas were still being farmed by more than one tenant; for example one tenant has 'a land and a land end in horscrofte', while another has 'the 2.6.7.9.15.16.18 and 19 lands in mean Rise close compted from south the rest the Earles' (Fowkes & Potter 1988).

The process of enclosure clearly continued, since in 1790 Throsby was able to describe Sutton as being 'chiefly enclosed', and four years later an Act of Parliament was obtained for the enclosure of the remainder, the Award being in 1810.

As far as the settlement itself was concerned, the map of 1610 gives a clear picture of its extent at that time. In 1675 there were three licensed alehouses (Copnall 1915) and in 1777 there was a workhouse with accommodation for up to 40 people (Meaby n.d.). A new workhouse appears to have been built in the 1790s, as a close was let in 1791 towards building expenses (Bonser 1949).

5.5.4 Population

A return of 1676 indicated that there were 194 communicants at Sutton-in-Ashfield, no Roman Catholics and 32 dissenters (Guildford 1924). Wood (1942) suggested that an additional 60% should be added to give an estimate of the total population, to take into account that part of the population under 16, giving a figure of 324. Unfortunately no figure appears to be available for Sutton in the 1603 returns, so it is not possible to judge whether the population declined, stagnated or grew over the course of the 17th century. A population estimate in 1700 was 475, derived from church registers, while Archbishop Herring's returns, in 1743, recorded 248 families, 57 dissenters and part-dissenters, and one Quaker in the parish (figures from the Doubleday Catalogue, Nottingham Local Studies Library). This suggests that the population was increasing by this time.

In 1770 a door to door census was taken by Thomas Dove, the parish clerk, and it was found that there were 270 families in Sutton.

5.5.5 Religious buildings

There is an early history of religious dissent at Sutton, with 32 dissenters being recorded in a return of 1676, rising to 57 by 1743 and a chapel in existence by the end of the 17th century.

Independents

The Independent (later Congregational/United Reformed Church) at Sutton is the oldest in the county (Clay-Dove 1987). The church was well established in the commonwealth. The earliest meeting house appears to have been at the junction of Church Street and Market Street in the 17th century. In 1745 they built a chapel in King Street, which was enlarged in 1815 and restored in 1865. It was demolished when the market place was extended, and a new chapel in Victoria Street was opened in 1906 (Bonser 1949).

Baptists

There is a record in 1770 of the Baptists agreeing to 'purchase land to build a Meeting House upon, and for Burying Ground'. This was probably opened in 1774. A register lists 24 burials taking place between 1775 and 1794 in the ground attached to this meeting house in what is now Parliament Street. A Baptist chapel was built at Forest Side and opened in 1832, although there are no records of any burials having been made there. A schoolroom was added in 1839. A new place of worship was opened on Mansfield Road in 1908, and the old chapel was let to the Salvation Army (Bonser 1949).

5.5.6 Trade and industry

Bonser (1949) gives a list of Sutton tradesmen whose wills were proved in the manorial court of Mansfield. In the second half of the 17th century these trades included tailor, maltster, pin maker, cordwainer, tanner, carpenter, confectioner and silk stocking maker; in the 18th century they included Chandler, mason, flax-dresser, framesmith, whipcord maker, potter, dyer and trimmer among others.

Textiles

The framework knitting industry became well established in the East Midlands from the middle of the 17th century and the area began to dominate the British hosiery industry during the 18th century. It tended to become established in 'open' villages, in other words those which were not subject to domination by mahor landowners and where immigration was freely allowed (Palmer & Neaverson 1992). Certainly it was present at Sutton-in-Ashfield by the end of the 17th century, as indicated by the mention of stocking frames in local wills; for example in 1675 Anne Clay left four silk stocking frames to her son William, while in 1689 Nicholas Ward left his son 'All my silk stocking frames' (Clay-Dove 1987). There were said to be more than 40 stocking frames in Sutton by 1727 (Chapman 1965).

The industry tended to be organised on a putting-out system, knitters being dependent on yarn spinners situated in the major towns for their supplies. Consequently, the main knitting centres were usually located six miles or less from a spinning centre, one of which was at Sutton (Palmer & Neaverson 1992). Near the end of the 18th century Lowe (1798) records a mule factory and a cotton mill at Sutton, the latter being Unwin's mill, the former presumably Bacon's mill.

Richard Unwin had settled in Sutton around 1705 and married the daughter of William Clay, who first set up a warehouse in Haslam's Hill (Mount Street). In 1740 he erected Sutton Old Mill and the adjoining mill dam (SMR 2589). It remained in the family until 1840. In 1783 John Bacon opened a water-powered cotton spinning works to the rear of Portland Square, near the River Idle (SMR 2429). However, Bacon went bankrupt in 1801 and the cotton mill was put up for sale by auction.

Other

A record in the vestry book of 1777 notes that every person getting clay 'on the Forest' was to pay a small fine (Bonser 1949). Near the end of the 18th century, Lowe (1798, 139) recorded the fact that at Sutton-in-Ashfield there was 'a considerable pottery of red coarse ware, for garden pots etc.'

Two windmills, for grinding corn, are known to have been erected during this period. One was built in 1761 at the corner of Church Street and West End, with part of it at least still standing in the early 20th century. Another is shown on the enclosure map of 1795 standing on the north side of High Pavement at its junction with Mill Street. This mill went out of use in the early 19th century, either being damaged by a gale in 1818 or collapsing when being moved elsewhere.

In the second half of the 17th century a brook near Carsic Lane was used to supply vats for a tannery. The will of the tanner survives, dated 1696, and indicates that he was a man of some wealth (Clay-Dove 1987).

5.6 19th century

5.6.1 Communications

Roads

By the 19th century there were three toll bars in Sutton-in-Ashfield, one near the present cemetery gates, another at the junction of Forest Street and Station Road and one at the entrance to Stoneyford Lane. They were abolished in 1872 (Clay-Dove 1978).

Railways

Early in the 19th century, the first railway was built in the vicinity of Sutton-in-Ashfield, running well to the east of the town. This was the Mansfield-Pinxton line, which came about as the result of a desire by the coal owners of the Upper Erewash Valley to reach a wider market. The line opened in 1819, with wagons initially being pulled by bullocks and later by horses. The railway was an economic success and was later acquired by the Midland Railway (Birks & Coxon 1949a, 1949b), who opened a station on the Forest Road, some three-quarters of a mile from the centre, in 1849. This was renamed Sutton Junction in 1893 when a branch line was opened up to the town, with the much more convenient Sutton-in-Ashfield station being opened in May of that year.

In 1898 the Great Northern Railway opened an extension running from Nottingham to Langwith via Sutton, with a station in Outram Street (Clay-Dove 1978).

5.6.2 The settlement and its environs

Sutton-in-Ashfield was described in 1844 as a 'very large village ... covering a considerable extent of ground'. In addition to the town plots and surrounding fields, there were also some 500 to 600 allotments on land let by the Duke of Portland. This provision of small gardens for the growing of vegetables was a common practice of the time, and formed part of an attempt in this area to ameliorate the condition of the framework knitters (Felkin 1845).

For the first half of the century the Idle still ran through the centre of the town, flowing along the side of Brook Street and just to the north of Low Street, crossing Forest Street, where there were stepping stones for pedestrians. However, in 1855 a culvert was made from Sampson's Lane to the bottom of Forest Street across the green. In 1877 it was culverted through Brook Street and by 1880 it was entirely hidden from view (Clay-Dove 1978, 1987).

In 1851 a company was formed to supply gas to the town, with gas works being built and opened in 1852 on a site to the west of Outram Street. The gas works were purchased by the Local Board in 1877. In 1880 a scheme for dealing with the town sewage was adopted, as were plans for a public water supply in 1881 (Bonser 1949).

In 1889 the building known as the town hall was opened, although the business of the town was never conducted in it. It was originally approached by a flight of steps from Market Street, but was altered in 1906 (Lindley 1907). A Public Library had already been established in 1857, but acquired its own building in 1898.

Many streets and yards were apparently renamed in 1894 when the affixing of name-plates took place in the parish (Clay-Dove 1987).

It was during the 19th century that settlement began to grow in the area which became known as Forest Side. A building called Red House was already present in the 1770s, and by the end of the century there were a number of buildings along Eastfield Side. By the 1870s Forest Side could be described as 'a hamlet

containing about 1500 people, partly framework knitters, partly colliers and partly engaged in Mr Hardwick's factory' (Bellairs 1873).

5.6.3 Population

The 10-yearly census, which commenced in 1801, provides the following figures for Sutton-in-Ashfield (excluding Huthwaite):

Year	Population
1801	2801
1811	3386
1821	3943
1831	4805
1841	5670
1851	6542
1861	6483
1871	7574
1881	8523
1891	10552
1901	14866

The five-fold increase in population over the course of the century reflects the impact of industrial development on Sutton, in particular the framework knitting industry and, for the last three decades, the coal-mining industry.

5.6.4 Markets and fairs

With the influx of population in the 19th century, it was decided to establish a market in Sutton, with the market day being Saturday. An existing open space was used as a market place, namely the triangular area formed at the junction of King Street, High Street and Albert Square. This lay fairly central to the built-up area of the settlement at that time.

Fairs were also held during the 19th century. These were on the 2nd Tuesday in April and the last Tuesday in September for horses, cattle, sheep, pigs, cheese etc. (White's Directory 1844), although these dates appear to have changed, being recorded as cattle fairs on the Tuesday of Easter week and the 2nd Tuesday in October (Bellairs 1873). Towards the end of the century, the fairs are said to have been 'mostly in abeyance', however (Kelly's Directory, 1895).

5.6.5 Religious buildings

Wesleyan Methodists

The first chapel was built in 1812 in Low Street. This was replaced by a new chapel in Outram Street in 1883. The adjoining schools were commenced in 1889 and opened in 1896. The Outram Street premises were sold in the early 1970s, after the congregation had joined that of St John's Methodist Church on Brook Street. A circular stone with the inscription 'Methodist Chapel 1812' which had been in the gable of the original building, and later in the interior wall of the Outram Street Chapel, is now preserved in St John's (Clay-Dove 1978).

Methodist Free church

The United Methodist Free Church were worshipping in Sutton in the 1840s, and built a chapel in Hardwick Street known as the 'Ebenezer Chapel' although it was only used by them for about 13 years, after which the congregation appears to have dwindled. The building was taken over by the the Church of England for St Modwen's Mission, then abandoned and later reused again. The Free Methodist congregation appears to have revived, building a chapel in Prieststic Road in 1903 of corrugated iron (Lindley 1907).

Primitive Methodists

A chapel was erected in Reform Street by the Primitive Methodists, with a schoolroom being added in 1876. The schoolroom was rebuilt in 1894, and the chapel itself was enlarged in 1902. The Mansfield Road Primitive Methodist Chapel (Forest Side) was built in 1866 (Lindley 1907).

St Modwen's

As mentioned above, St Modwen's Mission was opened in the disused Ebenezer Chapel in Hardwick Street in 1877 and in 1885 acquired its own curate. In 1886 more space was required; consequently an iron church was brought and erected in Hardwick Street. The iron church was finally replaced in 1937 by a new building in Station Road.

St Michael and All Angels

Due to the rapid growth of housing to the north-east of the early town, a new church was commenced in 1886 in Outram Street, the chancel being opened the following year. An iron nave was added in 1890, with a permanent nave being completed in 1909 (Clay-Dove 1987).

5.6.6 Education

In 1669 Anne Mason left land in her will to provide for a school-teacher at Sutton, an endowment which was added to by Elizabeth Boot in the 18th century. However, there was no purpose-built schoolroom, and lessons took place in the chancel in the mid-18th century. In 1818 the school was brought under the National System and held in the old tithe barn, given by the Duke of Portland. This was replaced by a new building erected in 1845 and enlarged in 1882, which continued in use until 1980 when the school moved to a new site off Huthwaite Road. (Clay-Dove 1987). The old school continued in use as a private school.

In 1836 another school was founded on High Pavement, principally by the Congregationalists assisted by a grant from the government. In 1872 this was handed over to the School Board (Bonser 1949).

A number of schools were opened in the last decades of the 19th century, in response to the influx of population. These included Church Street infants school, opened in 1873, and Boys and Girls schools at Forest Side, opened 1888 and 1891 (Bonser 1949).

5.6.7 Trade and industry

Textiles

The framework knitting industry, which had already been present for over a hundred years, continued to develop through the first half of the 19th century, although some trouble was experienced in 1811 when a number of frames were smashed as part of the Luddite disturbances at that time. The figure given for the number of frames affected varies from 54 (Beardsmore 1909) or 70 (Clay-Dove 1978) to as many as 200 frames (Bellairs 1873). In 1844 a study carried out into the state of the framework-knitting trade and the condition of the knitters found that there were 740 framework knitters' shops in Sutton-in-Ashfield, and a total of 1702 frames in employment, with a further 266 unemployed or in smiths' hands. The majority of

these were using cotton, although there were seven using silk (Felkin 1845). In the mid-19th century silk was being produced by what had previously been Unwin's cotton mill.

Other mills associated with the textile industry were also constructed at Sutton over the course of the 19th century, for example there was a cotton mill at Idlewells and a cotton doubling works on Oddicroft Lane in the 1880s.

Coal mining

Although for much of the 19th century the manufacture of cotton hose gave employment to virtually the whole of the labouring population, this situation changed for the last three decades of the 1800s with the development of the concealed coalfield. Several pits were sunk within the radius of one to one and a half miles of Sutton. These included Kirkby Colliery, sunk 1887, to the south-east, New Hucknall, 1878, to the west, Sutton, 1873, to the north-west, and Teversal slightly further away, also to the north-west, sunk in 1872. As a result, coal-mining became an increasingly important source of employment.

Milling

Several windmills were grinding corn in the 19th century. To the south of the church, a four-storey stone tower mill was erected on Prospect Place in around 1820 (SMR 2427) to replace an earlier windmill on Mill Street which had collapsed. Another mill is shown on Sanderson's map of 1836 on the southern side of High Pavement, on the opposite side of the road to a mill shown on the enclosure map of 1795.

A nine-storey brick tower mill was built in 1867 next to the Midland railway station at Sutton Junction, three-quarters of a mile east of the town. A five-storey steam mill was added in 1872. The machinery was removed from the tower mill in 1913 and the building used for storage. It was burned down in 1917 (Morley 1999). There was a private siding at the side of the mill, with stone sleepers from the railway being re-used to make a wall (SMR 2592).

A further mill stood at Sutton Forest Side, just north of the junction between Mansfield Road and Skegby Lane. It was present by 1836 but had been demolished by 1899.

Other

The location of Sutton close to sources of limestone, clays and sandstone allowed the continuation and further development of industries associated with these raw materials. By the middle of the 19th century there were two pottery and earthenware manufactories, as well as brick and tile yards, quarries and sand-pits (Kelly's Post Office Directory, 1855). It was noted that 'Excellent lime is made from the limestone' (Kelly's Directory 1895), and late 19th century Ordnance Survey maps show Sutton surrounded by numerous quarries, several of which have limekilns associated with them. By the end of the century a large quarry to the north-east of the church appears to have been connected by tramway with Sutton Colliery.

By 1879 there was a mineral water factory to the south of the town, using a local spring 'long renowned for its purity' (White's Directory 1894).

5.7 20th century

The 20th century has seen a number of changes to the town, beginning in 1905, when the market place was reorganised, involving the demolition of a number of properties, changing from a triangular area to a square. In the same year a tram service was commenced, to be discontinued in 1932 (Ottewell 1993), while in 1917 Sutton-in-Ashfield Central station was opened by the Great Central Railway, as part of the Mansfield line. It closed completely in 1956.

Two later 20th century developments dominate the town, the first being the Sutton Centre, situated behind the market place on High Pavement, with an aim of providing educational and recreational facilities for the whole community. The other is the Idlewells Shopping Centre, built on a five and a half acre site which had stood derelict for over 30 years. It is now a complex of shops, offices, car-parks, banqueting suites and a public library (Riggott 1976).

6. THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD

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, although these divisions 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

Component 1 Church and churchyard

The oldest parts of the present church date from the 12th century; these include an arch stone with some Norman zigzag ornamentation which was found during the restoration of the church in 1868 and has now been built into the west wall, and a pillar piscina which was unearthed in the churchyard and which may be early 12th century. The oldest part of the fabric is dated to c. 1170-80. The north and south arcades and north door are 13th century, the steeple is 14th century (Pevsner 1979). In 1835 a fire destroyed a great part of the roof and in 1854 the chancel was so dilapidated that it had to be almost entirely rebuilt while in 1867 the aisles were lengthened and widened (Bonser 1949).

The churchyard is that shown on the maps of 1610 and 1795, as the extent of the medieval churchyard is not known.

Component 2 Land to south and west of the church

A building stood immediately to the south of the church in 1610. It is not clear whether this was the tithe barn, as it is drawn in exactly the same way as the houses in the village, with a chimney. It was no longer present in 1795, by which time there was a structure at the south-eastern corner of the area. This presumably was the tithe barn, which was modified for the school and was described in 1823 as being of stone, thatched, with internal measurements of 74 feet in length, 16 feet in width and 12 feet in height (Clay-Dove 1987). It was later demolished and a vicarage built a little further north in 1857. This vicarage in turn has been demolished, and a new one built, together with several other buildings and an access road.

Component 3 Land to the north of Lammas Road

This area was a single close in 1610 with no buildings shown. Its earlier status is unknown, and it may have simply been enclosed from the open field, but it has been included with the medieval components because of its proximity to the church. Much of this area was quarried in the 19th century, and limekilns were present. By the end of the century there was a tramway towards the eastern side, connected with Sutton Colliery.

Component 4 Block bounded by Lammas Road north, Church Street south, Hack Lane west and component 5 east

In 1610 this area was occupied by a single house, and was crossed by a track on the line of the present-day Church Lane. By the 19th century Westfield House had been built here. Skeletons are said to have been found in the 18th century (see 7.2.2 below). The whole area has been built over in the 20th century.

Component 4 Block bounded by Lammas Road north, Church Street south, component 4 west and component 6 east

A number of long plots are depicted on the earliest maps, running between Church Street and Lammas Road, with buildings along the Church Street frontage. Much of this area, with the exception of the easternmost end, remained undeveloped until the 20th century. The lines of the early plot boundaries are still reflected in the lines of streets and back boundaries of the modern housing developments in this area.

Component 6 Devonshire Square area

A single house in a close, and a rectangular green were present here in 1610. The green was known as Top or Upper Green, later renamed Devonshire Square, and was used for bull-baiting until 1832. It included a house known as the 'Manor House' in the 19th century, with a pinfold at its side. The house is said to have been built in c. 1572 and re-fronted about 1600 but was demolished in 1928 or 1930. The whole area has been completely remodelled in the 20th century by the construction of a roundabout, bus station etc.

Component 7 Block bounded by Church Street north, Brook Street south, Church Hill west and component 8 east

This area was not settled in 1610 but has been included with the medieval components because it appears to form an integral part of the settlement as a whole. It remained undeveloped until the 20th century, with the exception of some allotment gardens in the 19th century.

Component 8 Block bounded by Church Street north, Brook Street and component 12 south and Forest Street east

A number of long parallel plots are shown on the earliest map, with buildings mostly along the Church Street frontage. The area was bisected by a lane approximately on the line of modern Market Street (previously Little Lane). The southern boundary of the plots would have been formed by the Idle running towards the north-east. The land to the east of Market Street became densely occupied during the 19th century but has been completely redeveloped in the 20th century to form part of the Idlewells Shopping Centre.

Component 9 Block bounded by Brook Street north, King Street south, Woods Hill west and the market place east

A row of short regular plots are shown on the earliest map, with buildings fronting King Street, with the exception of the westernmost building which lay on Brook Street. The block was bisected by a lane which no longer exists. The plots had become densely occupied by the 19th century. The easternmost end of this block was demolished in 1905 when the market place was enlarged and the area has since been redeveloped.

Component 10 Block bounded by King Street north, High Pavement south and Mill Street west

This was an area of long regular plots in 1610, with buildings along King Street and High Street. A number of new roads with terrace housing were developed within it in the 19th century although a few parts remained open. A windmill stood at the south-western corner in the 18th century, while the Baptist burial ground would have been in the north-eastern corner. The area has been extensively redeveloped in the 20th century.

Component 11 Market Place and Albert Square

The 1610 map shows a marked widening of the road in this area, although the market place only came into being as such in the second half of the 19th century. The village stocks supposedly once stood here. The triangular shape of the market place was reformed into a square in 1905.

Component 12 Area on the northern side of Low Street

Several buildings fronted Low Street in 1610, their boundaries running a short distance northwards to the stream. This area had become densely occupied by the 19th century, and included a cotton mill. It has been redeveloped in the 20th century and now forms part of the Idlewells Shopping Centre.

Component 13 Area on the southern side of Low Street

A number of properties of varying size are shown in this area on the earliest map, with buildings along Low Street. The area had become densely occupied by the 19th century, with terraces in yards and along Parliament Street having since been demolished.

Component 14 Portland Square

This area has also been known as Bottom Green, Swine's Green, and finally Engine Green in the later 19th century when a building was erected on it to house the fire-engine. This building was demolished in 1844 (Lindley 1907). The green was supposedly centred with a circular pond for cattle at one point, as well as having the town pump nearby and troughs supplied with water from a nearby spring. Its north-western end, where Forest Street ran into it, was crossed by the Idle, with stepping stones for pedestrians before the stream was culverted in 1855.

6.2 Post-medieval components

Component 15 Settlement at the corner of Carsick and Priestsic Lanes

Settlement developed in this area after 1610 and before the end of the 18th century.

Component 16 Settlement along the northern side of Forest Street

A number of buildings fronted Forest Street in 1610, set in plots of varying sizes, some of them quite substantial, and many of which ran back to a stream. It was also bisected by the Idle and by Tenter Lane, which became Outram Street.

This area included Bacon's water-powered cotton spinning works on the Idle to the north of Portland Square. When the mill was put up for sale in 1801 the premises included a dye-house and bleaching house, the works being powered by steam by then. The buildings were used as a school, but were later unoccupied for a while, becoming dilapidated until being taken over as a malthouse. Malting was still being carried out there on a small scale in the early 20th century (Lindley 1907). It also include a stone saw mill in the 19th century, and the gas works.

Component 17 Block bounded by Parliament Street north, High Pavement south and Wood Street east

Some settlement had already taken place in this area by 1610, with several houses at the eastern end and a couple along Mount Street (which is no longer present). Considerable development had taken place by the end of the 18th century, particularly along Wood Street and Mount Street, and this continued into the 19th century, when a steam saw mill was also present. The area has been redeveloped to form part of the Sutton Centre.

Component 18 Settlement at the junction of High Pavement and Forest Street

Several buildings were already present here in 1610

Component 19 Unwin's Mill and The Lawn

Unwin's first mill was erected in 1740 and used to drive silk-reeling machines, fulling stocks and 'twisting mills'. Around 1770 he built the first cotton mill, powered by oxen and horses. It was converted to water power, using just a small stream but with a substantial reservoir. An illustration of the mill shows a building four storeys high and castellated. It caught fire in 1784 but was rebuilt. For a period at the end of the 18th century it was simultaneously powered by water, wind and steam power, the windmill being on the roof to pump water back into the mill pond, and as such it was possibly unique (Chapman 1965). By 1842 it had become a silk mill, although in 1869 it was spinning cotton again. It caught fire again in 1875 and was again rebuilt becoming at one time the works of Dobson's Silk Throwsters. Although it is recorded that the last of the buildings were removed in the 1980s and 1990s to make way for residential accommodation, leaving the millpond (Morley 1999), fragments of the original building still stand and are Listed, Grade II.

Unwin erected a house, Sutton Hall, on Forest Lane, set in parkland known as The Lawn. The hall was in ruins by 1873. A new house was built on the site in 1884, the hall's stables being converted to cottages.

Component 20 Settlement near the junction of Forest Street and Oddcroft Lane

This area was part of the open field in 1610, but several buildings are shown on the enclosure map, either being squatter settlement or outbuildings associated with Sutton Hall on the opposite side of the road.

Component 21 Settlement along the southern side of High Pavement

Some development had occurred in this area by the end of the 18th century.

Component 22 Settlement at the north-eastern end of Kirkby Road

This area had already been settled by 1610, and several buildings are shown on the enclosure map.

Component 23 Settlement at the junction of Spring Lane and Willowbridge Lane

Several small buildings are shown on the enclosure map forming a rough triangle at the junction of the roads, possibly representing squatter settlement on the outskirts of the town.

Component 24 Windmill at the corner of Church Street and West End

This mill was erected in 1761. The adjacent inn, the Staff of Life, supposedly derives its name from a baker's shop which adjoined the mill (Clay-Dove 1978). The inn was rebuilt in 1968; however, the earlier building may originally have been the miller's house (Morley 1999). The mill still appears to have been standing in the early 20th century.

Component 25 Settlement in the area of the junction of Lammas Road and Church Street

Development had begun in this area by the end of the 18th century. It included a turnpike cottage and toll bar. There was also a weighing machine here for the convenience of coal traffic (Clay-Dove 1987).

Component 26-28 Settlement at Sutton Forest Side

It is clear from Sutton-in-Ashfield enclosure map that some buildings were already present here at the end of the 18th century, at least some of which are likely to have been associated with the making of pottery, as potteries are shown in components 26 and 28 in the 19th century.

6.3 19th century components

Component 29 Churchyard extensions

The churchyard appears to have been extended to the west by 1836 and further extended by the 1880s, possibly in 1868 when a wall and gates were erected around it (Bellairs 1873). The cemetery adjacent to the churchyard was opened in 1892.

Components 30 & 31 Railways

The Mansfield-Pinxton line (30a) ran to the east of Sutton in 1819. It was taken over by the Midland, who opened a branch line (30b) into Sutton in 1893, which closed in 1951, Sutton Junction closing in 1964. The Great Northern line (31) opened in 1898; however the station at Sutton was closed to passengers in 1931 and the building stood disused for many years before being demolished in 1978 (Clay-Dove 1978).

Component 32 Oddicroft cotton mill

This mill was present in the second half of the 19th century.

Components 33-37 Settlement on the periphery of the old town

By the end of the 19th century settlement was beginning to occur along some of the roads leading out of Sutton, and new roads were being laid out at right angles to these.

Components 38-40 Settlement at New Cross

Outram Street, previously Tenter Lane, developed into a route of greater importance than Priestsic Lane to the north, and a number of roads were constructed leading off it, lined with terrace housing, some of which survives.

Components 41-43 Settlement at Sutton Forest Side

By the end of the 19th century, development was commencing in earnest in this area, with new streets being laid out and terrace housing constructed. Several chapels were also built to serve the new community. There were also brick yards located at Sutton Forest Side.

6.4 20th century development

Twentieth century development is represented by a single un-numbered component. It should be noted that the occasional earlier building, such as an isolated farm which was at a distance from the core of medieval and post-medieval settlement, and therefore not part of it, may occur within this component if it has been engulfed by modern housing development.

6.5 Discussion

Although finds of both prehistoric and Roman date have been found in Sutton and its vicinity, there have been no signs of settlement in the area of the later town and on present evidence it would seem that Sutton's origins lie in the early medieval period.

On the evidence of Domesday Book, Sutton formed part of a multiple estate belonging to the king and centred on Mansfield, an estate which had probably been considerably larger in the Saxon period (Bishop 1978). At present, however, nothing is known of the settlement at Sutton at this time. It has generally been assumed that one of the two churches recorded as being in the manor of Mansfield in 1086 was at Sutton-in-Ashfield. However, in 1093 William Rufus gave the churches of Mansfield and Orston 'with the

chapels which are in the berewicks belonging to the said manors' to Lincoln Cathedral. If there had indeed been a church at Sutton at that date then it should have been part of the gift to Lincoln, and hence could not have been given by Gerard de Sutton to Thurgarton Priory in 1189. There is no evidence for the church ever having belonged to Lincoln, so it follows that the grant of the manor and advowson of the church to the de Sutton family, or their predecessors, happened at some time between 1086 and 1093, or that there was no church at Sutton in 1086.

Within any settlement the street plan is thought to be among the most durable elements, and it is likely that Sutton-in-Ashfield's street plan is no exception, probably having survived virtually unchanged from the medieval period to the end of the 18th century. It consists of several roads running roughly parallel to each other on two sides of a valley. These roads, with the property boundaries running between them, seem to form several distinct blocks, three of which are suggested, on the evidence of their plan form, to be medieval in origin.

On the northern side of the valley, Church Street runs along the spine of one block, formed by components 4-8, with Lammas Road as a back lane to the north, and the stream to the south. The north-eastern end of this block (component 6) included an open area, Top or Upper Green, later Devonshire Square and the site of the pinfold in the 18th and 19th centuries, if not before. This open area may originally have been larger, possibly encompassing the whole of component 6. Both Carsick Lane and Priestsic Lane come into the village at this point, the former probably having originally been much wider, to include the strips of land adjacent to its north-eastern side (including component 15). The western end of the block was barely occupied in 1610, and its status in the medieval period is unclear. In 1610 the tenant of this land was Mason, who also had the land to the east of the church (component 3) and whose house was probably that shown just to the south of the church. This raises the question as to whether these areas formed part of the medieval demesne land. It appears from the map that the western boundary of components 3, 4 and 7 appears to form a fairly continuous curve, but whether this has any significance beyond a topographical one is not known.

On the southern side of the valley lie two further distinct blocks. The first of these is formed by components 9 and 10, and consists of a main road, King Street (once known as Beggar or Begga Street), with Brook Street as a back lane to the north, by the stream, and High Pavement to the south, the latter apparently having been known as Back Lane prior to 1840. Two lanes, Woods Hill and Windmill Lane, separated this block from land to the west, while at the north-eastern end there was an open space which later became the market place and Albert Square, where the village stocks supposedly once stood (Clay-Dove 1978). The other block was formed by Low Street, and was bounded by the stream to the north and by Parliament Street, once known as Waysty or Wayster Lane, to the south (components 12 and 13). Again, this block has an area of open land at its north-eastern end, Bottom Green, today Portland Square (component 14), once with a circular pond for cattle.

While it is not uncommon for a church to be peripheral to a village, the church at Sutton (component 1) appears to be at a slightly greater distance than might be expected, and raises the possibility of a change in the focus of the settlement; indeed the village, as depicted on the 1610 map, appears to have had several foci, none of which was the church. The reasons for this are unlikely to be understood until certain questions have been answered, in particular the date of the earliest church.

Bonser (1949) considered that the de Suttons' manor house stood on the same site as the later 16th century building which stood at Top Green and was known in the 19th century as the Manor House (in component 6). However, there is no evidence for this, and it is possible that the original hall stood near the church.

The map of 1610 shows the area between Parliament Street and High Pavement (component 17) divided into plots, some of which have buildings and others which do not. As far as can be judged, the boundaries are not on the same line as those in component 13, so there is no reason for thinking that crofts in the latter area ever ran all the way back to High Pavement. Mount Street, previously Haslam's Hill, appears to be a later insertion in component 17, running between two long plots, one of which had been divided into three.

Whether the absence of buildings on some plots is a sign of some earlier shrinkage of settlement or is due to the fact that this area was in the process of being settled for the first time is not known.

The map of 1610 shows one or two other areas of settlement which, on the basis of their form, are thought to be post-medieval in date, although this needs to be confirmed by excavation. The most extensive area is that along the northern side of Forest Street (component 16), where a number of buildings are depicted, some of which are set in quite substantial plots. These appear to have been taken in from the open fields, although it is impossible to say when this occurred, as a considerable amount of enclosure had clearly taken place to the east and north-east of the village by 1610. Similarly some settlement was beginning to occur on the southern side of the junction of High Pavement and Forest Street (component 18).

The growth of the town only really began towards the end of the 17th century or the early 18th, as framework knitting started to increase in importance. A further boost was provided by the construction of the two cotton mills in the latter years of the 18th century. Interestingly, a comparison of Senior's map of 1610 and the enclosure map of 1795 shows that the overall extent of the settled area had barely increased. What is clear from the latter map, however, is the degree to which pre-existing plots were becoming built up, particularly those to the south of the Idle, with the areas undergoing most development being components 13 and 17, precisely those which were closest to the mills.

This picture is one that became accentuated during the course of the 19th century, as settlement became increasingly focused towards the eastern and southern areas, away from the church. Density of occupation became particularly intense in the eastern half of component 8, known as Idlewells, and in components 9, 10, 13 and 17, while new streets, lined with terraced housing, were laid out to the south. Reform Street supposedly marked the passing of the Reform Bill of 1832 and Union Street that of the Union Chargeability Bill of 1847; Cursham and Station Streets were made in 1855-60 (Bonser 1949).

The opportunities for work in the surrounding collieries contributed to the marked expansion of the town well beyond its 18th century extent, an expansion which began in the last couple of decades of the 19th century, with the development of the New Cross area and the beginnings of growth at Forest Side. By 1938 Sutton Forest Side had become linked to New Cross, with numerous streets lined with terraced housing having been laid out. The area around the historic core of the town was also in the process of undergoing massive development for housing, extending south as far as the parish boundary with Kirkby-in-Ashfield. At the same time, concern was growing about congested conditions in the centre, in the areas which had become densely occupied over the course of the 19th century, and where buildings had often been hurriedly erected 'regardless of sanitary arrangements, air space or anything else' (Lindley 1907). As a result, large-scale redevelopment of these areas has been undertaken.

7. ARCHAEOLOGICAL ISSUES

7.1 Research questions

1. Do any records of the burials said to be prehistoric survive, either at the British Museum or in Bonser's papers? Given the amount of evidence for prehistoric activity to the north of Sutton, it is possible that further finds, and possibly burials, of this period could occur from the area of the modern town.
2. Where was the course of the Roman road thought to be in this area?
3. Where was the early medieval settlement and what was its extent?
3. What is the date of the earliest church at Sutton? Was it indeed one of the two churches in Mansfield manor recorded in Domesday Book? If so, was it not given to Lincoln in 1093 because the manors of Mansfield and Sutton had been separated? If Sutton was not built at that time, which was the other church referred to in 1086?

4. Did the de Suttons have a manor house at Sutton, and if so, where was it?
5. The chronological development of the village during the medieval period is not clear at present. Its plan form appears to be multi-focal - how did this come about? Why is the church not one of these foci?
6. Was there any impact on the settlement when it came under the control of the Cavendish family in the late 16th century? Bonser (1949) notes that after the de Suttons, no family appears to have made any particular impression for a couple of hundred years. Did becoming part of the estate of a powerful landowner result in any reorganisation?

7.2 Archaeological potential

7.2.1 Existing protection

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Certain nationally important archaeological sites and monuments enjoy special protection as Scheduled Ancient Monuments under the *Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979*. This protection ensures that the case for preservation is fully considered should there be any proposals for development or other work which might damage the monument. Any such proposals are subject to Scheduled Ancient Monument Consent, administered directly by the Secretary of State. They include not only demolition, damage or removal, but also restorative works. There would normally be a presumption in favour of the physical preservation of the monument. However, there are currently no scheduled monuments within the urban area of Sutton-in-Ashfield.

Archaeology in the Local Plan

Ashfield Local Plan, adopted December 1995, contains the following policy relating to ancient monuments and archaeological sites:

- POLICY P16 Development affecting areas of archaeological interest will not be permitted where:-
- a) it would result in any disturbance to a scheduled ancient monument or other nationally important monument and/or its setting, or
 - b) on other sites of archaeological interest, where in-situ preservation is merited, it would involve significant alteration or cause damage or would have a major adverse impact on its setting.

Where in-situ preservation is not merited, a planning condition may be imposed, or section 106 agreement negotiated requiring the site to be surveyed, excavated and recorded prior to development as appropriate.

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 10 listed buildings in the built-up area of Sutton-in-Ashfield. Of these, one is Grade II*, namely the church. The remainder are Grade II, and all can be broken down according to their earliest structural phase as follows:

Earliest structural phase	C16 or earlier	C17	C18	C19	C20
Number of structures	1	2	4	1	2

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 Sutton-in-Ashfield there is currently only one structure considered to be of local interest, namely a headstone of 1704 in the churchyard.

Listed buildings in the Local Plan

Ashfield Local Plan, adopted December 1995, contains the following policies relating to listed buildings:

- POLICY P17 Development involving the alteration, extension or change of use of a listed building will only be permitted where:
- a) they do not have any adverse effect on the architectural and historic character or appearance of the building or its setting,
 - b) they respect the scale, design and materials of the existing building, and
 - c) in the case of demolition or partial demolition, it can be demonstrated that the building is beyond economic repair, viable alternative uses cannot be found or redevelopment would produce substantial planning benefits for the community that would outweigh the building's loss.
- POLICY P18 Development will not be permitted where, through its siting, scale or design, it would have a major adverse impact on the setting of a listed building.

7.2.2 Above ground remains

The main elements of the street pattern survive from at least the beginning of the 17th century, possibly fossilising an even earlier, medieval layout. However, this pattern has not remained untouched. Most of the streets have been widened, several small lanes have been lost and, perhaps most importantly, the open spaces - Devonshire Square, Portland Square, Albert Square and the market place - have been changed so dramatically in the 20th century that none have retained their original shape.

The redevelopment which has taken place has clearly removed a large proportion of earlier buildings from the historic part of the town. However, there are still remnants to be seen here and there, particularly to the rear of the street frontages, although many of these buildings appear to be derelict. The majority are brick, but occasionally there is a stone structure or stone wall. It is not known whether any of these retain features associated with the framework knitting industry which was once so important, or indeed the textile industry in a broader way.

The area which has remained the least altered is that around the church and along Church Street, which Pevsner described in 1979 as being 'quite villagey'. There are also areas of Victorian terrace housing which still stand.

7.2.3 Below ground remains

Given the degree of development over the years, it is difficult to assess the archaeological potential of the town, particularly given the absence of any excavation so far.

There are a couple of references to the finding of skeletal remains in unexpected areas of Sutton. For example:

‘Human remains, bullets etc. have been occasionally discovered in various parts of the parish, but more particularly in the vicinity where [] resides in High Pavement and where many such were exhumed by some labourers about 1830 and where it was almost impossible to dig a few feet below the surface without meeting with them’ (Lindley 1907).

There was a Baptist burial ground near High Pavement, but its site would presumably have been known in 1830. In addition, according to Bellairs:

‘During the past century eleven skeletons were discovered beneath the surface adjoining Westfield House all carefully laid in a row and lying in the same direction ... they were removed into the churchyard and buried there. There are evident relics of a battle having been fought in Stoneyford Lane probably during the Civil War, as bullets, balls and other implements have been dug up there from time to time’ (Bellairs 1873, 11).

Some swords dating from the 17th century were supposedly found at Stoneyford Lane ‘though at the time these were not considered of sufficient importance for preservation’ (Clay Dove 1987, 191). It is not clear exactly when these were found.

It is said that in 1651 a party of Charles II’s soldiers were returning to Scotland and were ambushed in Church Street, Sutton, by a Cromwellian Captain and several troopers, with twelve of the royalists being killed. When a vault at the rear of the church was being made for the funeral of William Unwin of Sutton Hall in 1774, twelve skeletons were discovered and it was assumed that these were the remains of the royalists. Indeed, the churchyard is an area of considerable potential, not only in terms of the remains of the past population of Sutton-in-Ashfield, but also because it was extended over the site of a building shown on the map of 1610. In the same area, the site of the school is also potentially important if there had once been settlement around the church, particularly since the rest of the surrounding area has either been quarried away or developed for modern housing.

Much of the 18th and 19th century housing in the centre may have been fairly cheaply constructed, and as such may not have been cellared or done too much damage to any earlier remains. Many of the more substantial Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian buildings are likely to have cellars, however, although these can be of interest in themselves. During a recent examination of a building at 9/9a King Street, a site which has a building marked on it on the 1610 map, a cellar was discovered with a finely vaulted brick roof and the remnants of a spiral stone staircase, representing a much earlier survival than the house above. A preliminary enquiry found no other cellars to be known on the north side of the street (Peters 1995).

With Sutton being constructed on the sides of a valley, albeit a relatively gentle one, some degree of terracing into the slope has occurred to create level ground. While this may cause the destruction of some earlier features, it may preserve others, in that some areas may have been built up rather than cut away. It is also possible that archaeological features still exist below streets which have been widened or cut through earlier frontages.

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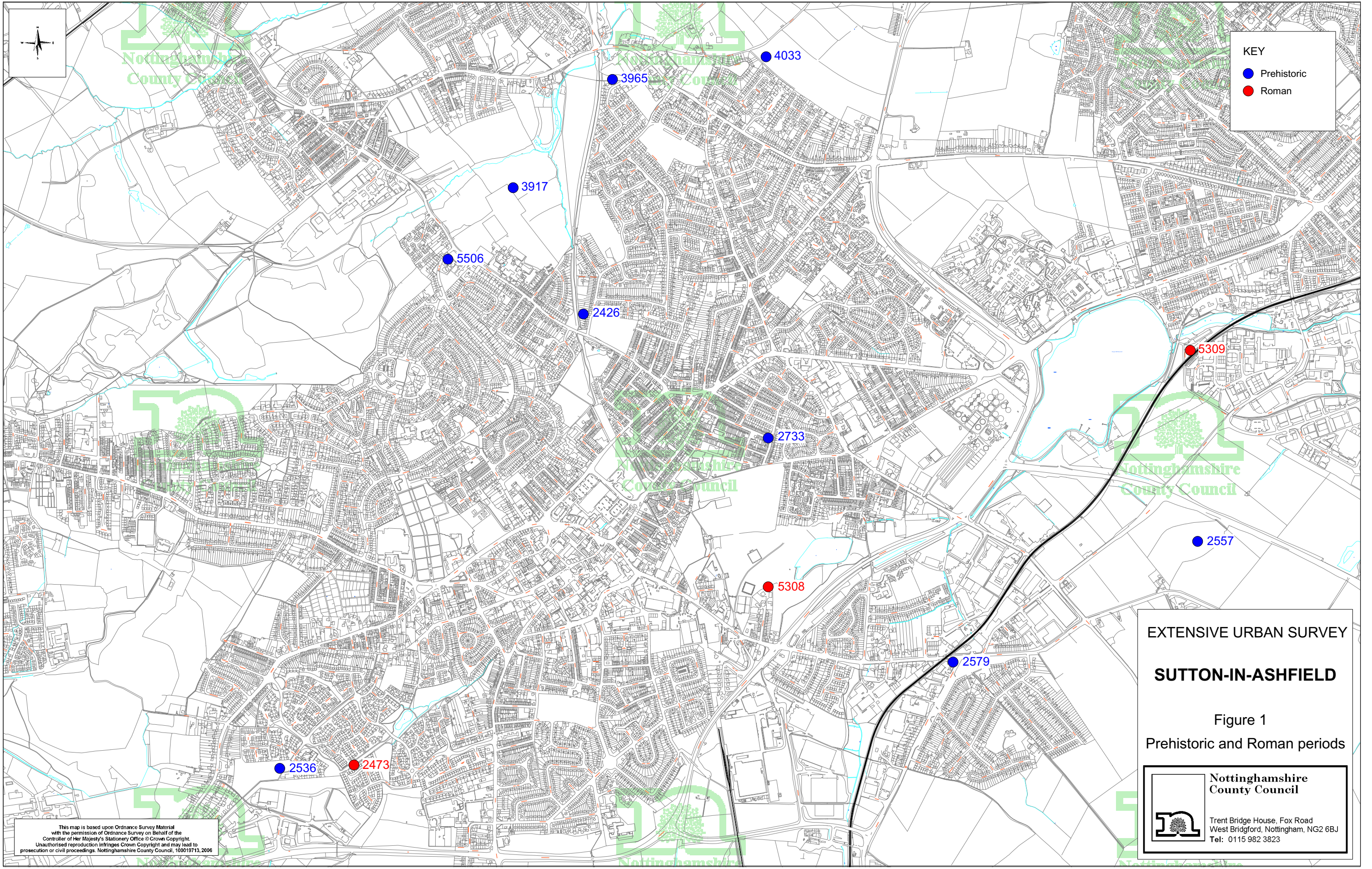
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8.1 Maps and Plans consulted

1610 The platt of ye mannor of Sutton in Ashfeeld, belonginge to the right honnorable William Lord Cavendish. Taken by William Senior. Photographic copies in Notts Archives: SA 5 S and SA 6 S (North and south parts), by permission of the Trustees of the Chatsworth Settlement.

1795 Sutton in Ashfield Parliamentary Enclosure Map. Notts Archives, EA 90

1835 Sanderson. G., 1835, *Map of the Country 20 Miles around Mansfield*.



KEY

- Prehistoric
- Roman

EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD

Figure 1
Prehistoric and Roman periods

Nottinghamshire County Council

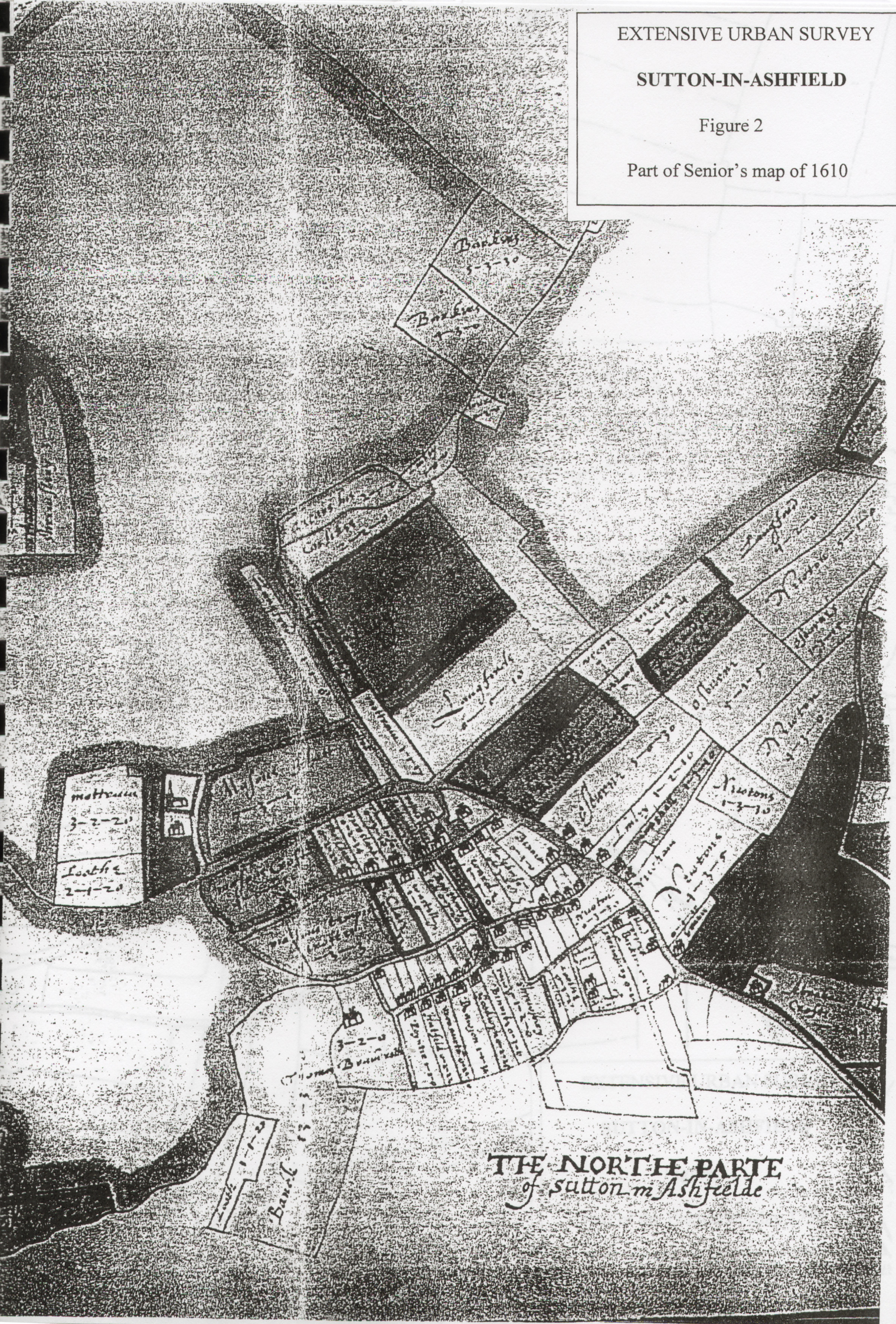
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West Bridgford, Nottingham, NG2 6BJ
Tel: 0115 982 3823

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SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD

Figure 2

Part of Senior's map of 1610





EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD
Figure 3
Part of the Enclosure Map 1795





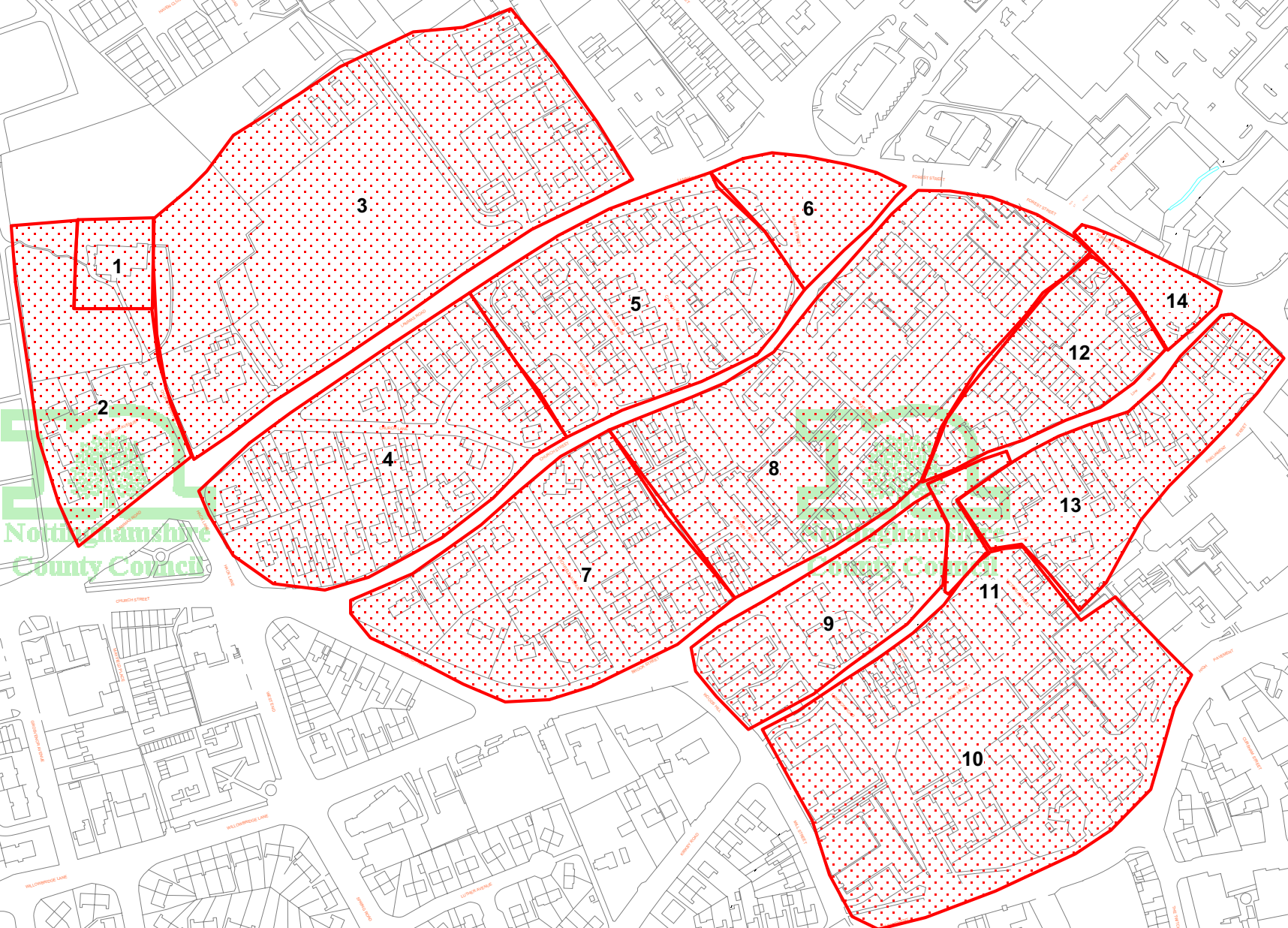
Nottinghamshire
County Council

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KEY

-  Medieval component
-  Area excluded from EUS



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**EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD**

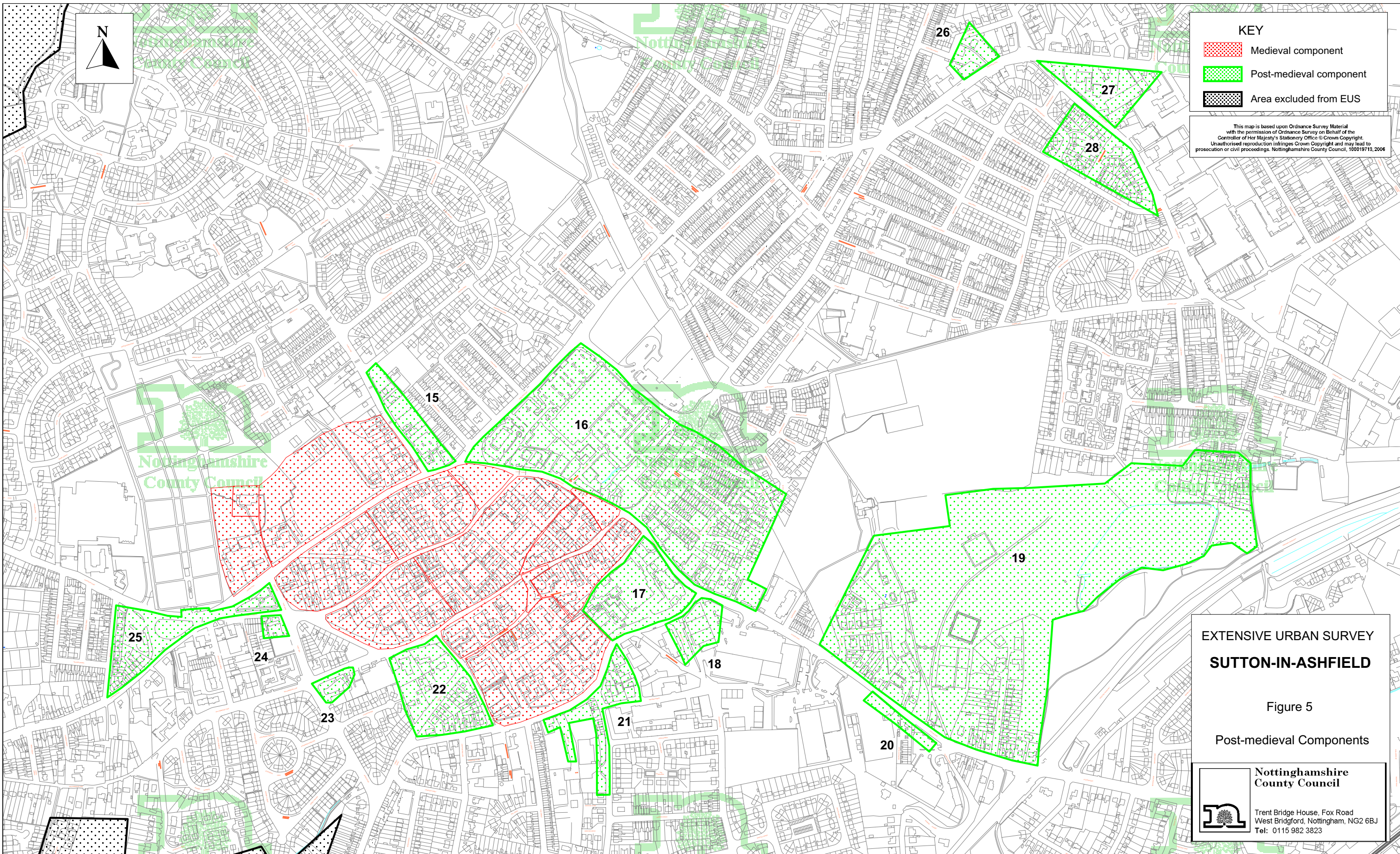
**Figure 4
Medieval Components**

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KEY


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

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EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD

Figure 5
 Post-medieval Components





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Nottinghamshire
County Council


KEY

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

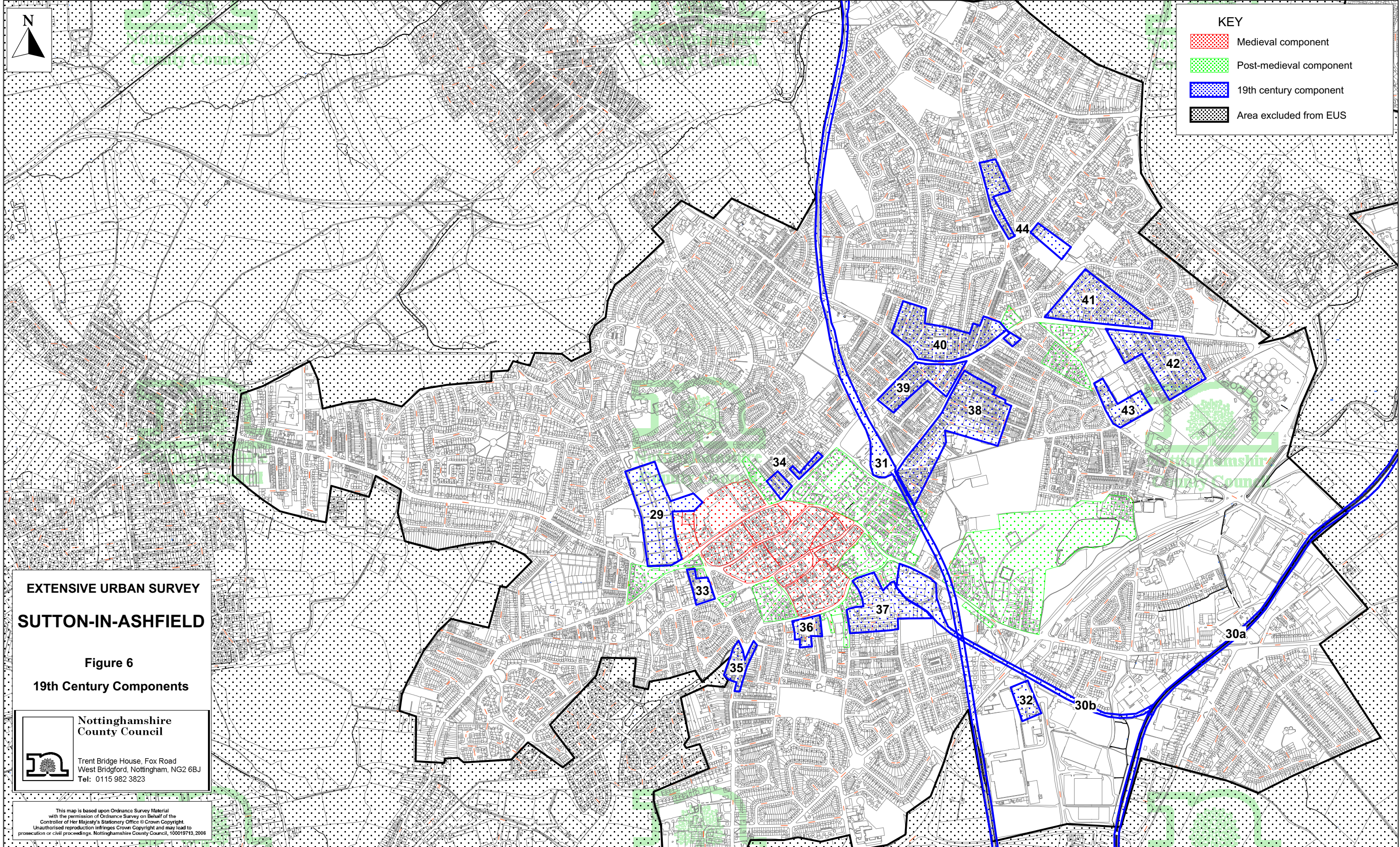
EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD

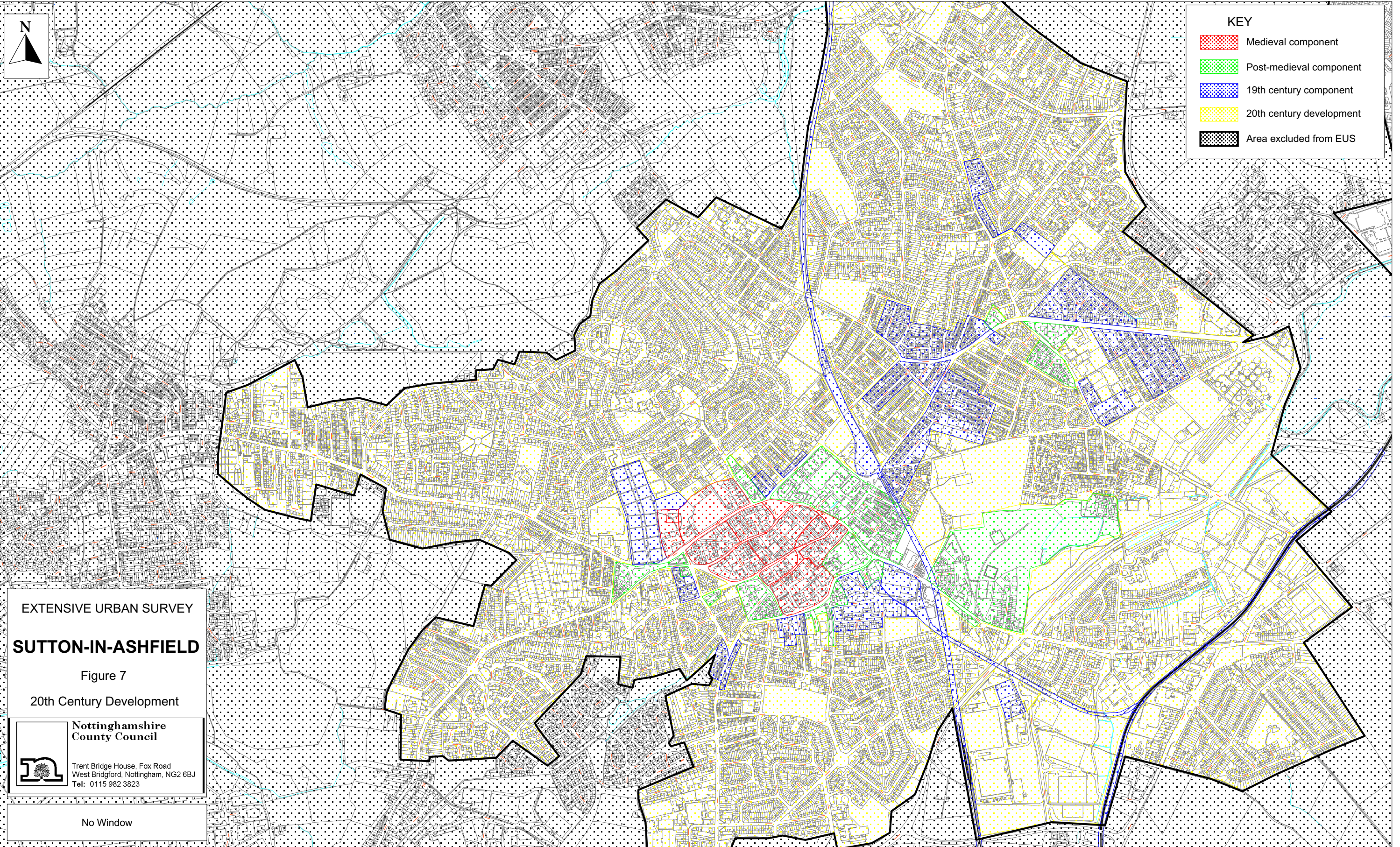
Figure 6
19th Century Components

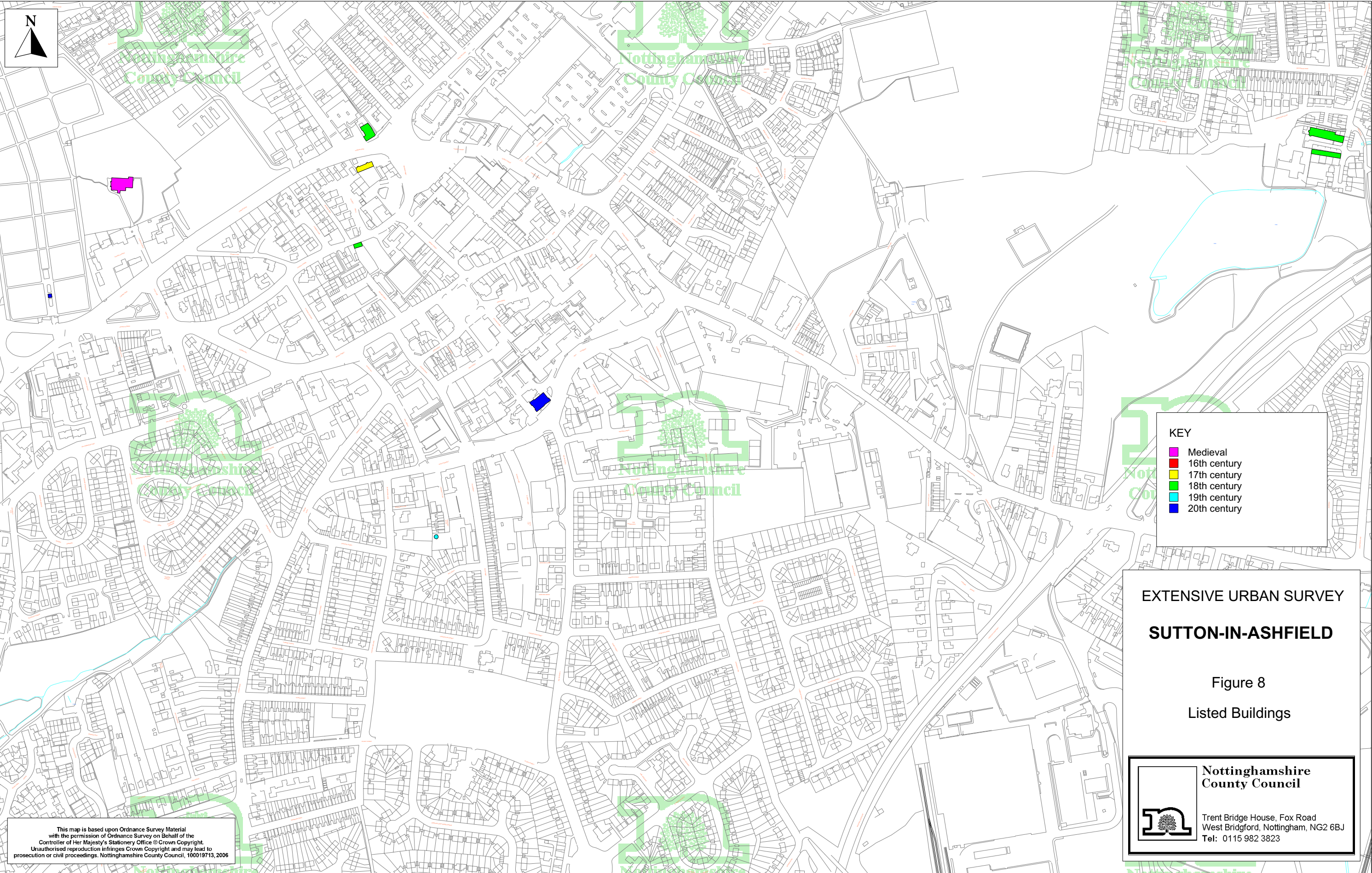
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KEY	
	Medieval
	16th century
	17th century
	18th century
	19th century
	20th century

EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
SUTTON-IN-ASHFIELD

Figure 8
Listed Buildings

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