

ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

NEW ALRESFORD

1. INTRODUCTION

English Heritage has initiated a national series of Extensive Urban Surveys. Several counties have commenced such projects including Hampshire County Council who are undertaking the survey of the small towns of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The survey is intended to provide an up-to-date view of the archaeological resource in each of the towns building on earlier surveys (e.g. Hughes, 1976; Basford, 1980) and consists of three phases: Data Collection, Data Assessment and Strategy. The first stage, Data Collection, draws together the accessible history of the town, the archaeological knowledge and historic buildings data. The Data Assessment phase of the survey leads to the production of a report which presents a brief history of the town, (this document is not intended as a definitive history) an analysis of the plan of the town, an assessment of the archaeological and buildings data and the state of modern development resulting in the identification of areas of archaeological potential. Information about the development of the town through the ages, including plan-form analysis and the identified areas of archaeological importance, is also presented in cartographic form at the end of the report. The Strategy phase of the survey, uses the information presented in the Data Assessment combined with current statutory and non-statutory constraints, and present and future planning policy to make recommendations for policies regarding the historic environment. The policies may be incorporated into Local and Unitary Development Plans, non-statutory policies, supplementary guidance and for use within development control.

2. LOCATION

New Alresford (NGR SU588328) lies in the upper reaches of the valley of the River Itchen, approximately 11km from Winchester, at a point where two small streams unite in Old Alresford Pond. Another stream flows from Old Alresford and joins the Itchen just below the Great Weir, a causeway that carries the B3046 across the valley. The town is on the southern side of the river valley and stretches from near the river at 70m OD, up the valley side to a little over 80m OD. On either side of the valley the chalk-land rises to over 100m OD.

3. BACKGROUND

ARCHAEOLOGY

Introduction

The information in this section is drawn from the Sites and Monuments Records (SMRs) held in the Planning Department at Hampshire County Council, and the Archaeology Unit, Winchester City Council.

Prehistoric

- A1 There is a group of five Bronze Age bowl barrows on the downs to the north of the town. The barrows have been extensively ploughed and there is little evidence for the mounds at ground level.
- A2 Several Iron Age pits were seen during landscaping in the grounds of Tichbourne Down House to the south of the town.
- A3 Approximately 1km to the south-east of the town evidence for a small Iron Age settlement, including a ring ditch, has been recorded.

Romano-British

A single jar, found behind a property on West Street, is the only Romano-British material from the town recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR).

- A4 To the north-west of the town, on the northern side of the river, is the site of a Romano-British villa lying on the south facing side of the valley. Limited excavations revealed part of a tessellated pavement and finds of box flues, painted plaster, pottery, including Samian ware, and oyster shells were recovered.

Anglo-Saxon

There is no archaeological evidence for settlement in the area of the town recorded in the SMR. A single sherd of grass-tempered ware was found in Old Alresford.

- A2 To the south of the town, on Tichbourne Down, an Anglo-Saxon inhumation burial was discovered in 1948. The body was accompanied by a bone comb. Fragments of a second skull suggests that there may have been a small cemetery on the Down.

Medieval

- A5 To the north of the town is the village of Old Alresford. The town was founded within the parish of Old Alresford and the church of the town was dependent upon the parish church at Old Alresford.
- A6 The Bishops of Winchester had a palace at Bishop's Sutton, approximately 2km to the east of the town. There is a sixteenth-century description of the palace which recorded that it was a very old house but in decay (Page 1908, 41). No upstanding remains of the palace survive and the site is currently under pasture. The site is not a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

HISTORY

Anglo-Saxon

The name Alresford was recorded as early as 701 as *alresforda* from the OE word meaning 'alder ford' (Coates 1993, 23), although the charter from which this reference comes is regarded as spurious (Sawyer 1968, 242). There are several other charters of ninth- and tenth-century date relating to the estate which are also thought to be of doubtful origin, although probably based on authentic, but now lost, charters (*ibid* 284; 375).

Medieval

The Domesday Book recorded that the manor of Alresford had always been a Bishopric estate that had formerly been assessed at 51 hides but in 1086 was assessed at 42 hides. There was a recorded population of 115 people on the manor. There were also nine mills and three churches (Munby 1983 fol 40a). It is probable that the estate centre and a church, possibly a minster church (Hase 1994, 53) was at Old Alresford with chapels at New Alresford and Medstead (Page 1908, 349). The possibility that there was an eleventh-century church on the south bank of the river suggests that there was a settlement at New Alresford before the foundation of the new town (Hughes 1976, 91).

In 1136 the Bishop of Winchester acquired the adjacent manor of Bishop's Sutton which lay close to the Winchester to London road. A palace was built on the manor which provided a convenient stopping point for the bishops travelling between the two cities (Beresford 1959, 190). It was recorded that in 1200 the Bishop of Winchester created a new market place at Alresford and the town was called *Novum Forum* (New Market) although in the early years the town was also called Alresford Forum (Beresford 1959, 191). King John granted the bishop a market charter for the new town in 1200, and a three day fair was obtained in 1202 (Beresford 1959, 191). The first record of the town being called a borough comes from the Bishopric pipe rolls of 1210-11 although the town never seems to have been officially incorporated (Beresford 1967, 442). Two burgesses represented the town at the parliaments

of 1295, 1300-1 and 1306-7, and one representative was sent to the parliament of 1306 (Page 1908, 351).

It has been suggested that the position of the town was dictated by the navigable limit of the Itchen which was supposedly canalised by Bishop Godfrey around the time of the town's foundation, with Alresford Pond providing a sufficient head of water for the canal (Beresford 1959, 191). Recent research has shown that it is unlikely that there was a canal as there are no references to the construction or maintenance of the waterway in Bishopric accounts although other items of expenditure are recorded in detail, including the management of Alresford Pond, which was called *magnum vivarium* - great fish pond (Roberts 1985). Also, none of the references to goods being transported between Alresford and other Bishopric manors or Winchester that record the method of transportation make any reference to the canal. There is one reference to wool being carried between Bishop's Sutton and Beaulieu stated that it was carried *per aquam* 'by water'. It is most likely that the wool was carried overland to the Hamble estuary and then taken along the coast by boat to the River Beaulieu (*ibid.*, 131). The early thirteenth-century charter giving the Bishop the right to collect tolls on the canal, which actually only refers to the stretch of the river between Southampton and Winchester, is thought to be a forgery (*ibid.*, 133).

By 1210-11 there were 90 occupied property plots in the town, not the 45 stated by Beresford (Beresford 1959, 191; Holt 1964, 148; Roberts 1987, 256). In that year's account the reeve recorded that a new fulling mill had been built, an old mill had been pulled down and its pond filled in (Beresford 1959, 191). During the thirteenth century there was a slight increase in the rents from the town suggesting some, moderate, expansion (Roberts 1987, 256). It has been estimated that the population of the borough at its foundation was approximately 430 based on an average of 4.75 people per household (*ibid.*). In the first years of the fourteenth century there were at least eight plots and a forge vacant, four houses and a forge had been pulled down, and three houses had recently fallen down and the plots were vacant (Page 1996, 328-9). The mid-fourteenth-century plagues added to the economic problems of the town and the bishopric pipe roll for 1348-9 specifically stated that the payments from tolls and stallage was small 'because of the pestilence' (Roberts 1987, 255).

There has been a tradition that the Bishops of Winchester and Oxford joined with Henry III to construct a new road to the east from New Alresford to Alton in 1269, crossing the watershed between the Itchen and the Wey and so taking the most direct route between Winchester and London (Page 1908, 350; Beresford 1959, 192-3). However, this belief appears to have stemmed from a mis-reading of a charter of 1269 which referred to the cutting down of trees along the 'pass of Alton', a road that was in existence by 1248 (Roberts 1987, 255).

It has also been argued that the claim that Alresford was one of the ten greatest wool-markets in the country in the fourteenth century, as repeated by many authors including Beresford (1967, 192), is also incorrect (Roberts 1987, 255). Winchester was one of the nine staple towns of the country in the fourteenth century indicating its importance as a collecting centre for wool. Between the years 1271-4 at least 327 Englishmen were licensed to export wool, 40 of which were from Winchester, 19 from Southampton, 15 from Andover and 3 from Alresford (Roberts 1987, 255) which indicates that Alresford was hardly one of the most important wool towns in Hampshire, let alone in the country.

In 1440 there was a fire in the town, and, together with a pestilence in the late fifteenth century, is held responsible for a decline in the fortunes of the town evidenced by the fact that the bailiff was unable to collect rents from holders of properties in the town (Page 1908, 351).

Post-medieval

The apparent decline in the fortunes of the town appear to have been reversed to some extent in the Tudor period (Page 1908, 351). A survey of the town undertaken in the mid-sixteenth century recorded 122 houses which, when multiplied by 4.75, would indicate a population of about 580, an increase of only one third on the population of 1210 (Roberts 1987, 256). The town suffered several fires in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries which would have a serious effect on the economy of the town. In 1644 retreating royalist troops set fire to the town as the inhabitants were known to have republican sympathies but the pursuing Parliamentary troops helped put out the fires before too much damage was done to the town. The most severe fire occurred in 1689 when much of the town,

including the church was badly damaged, and the market house and the council house were destroyed. There was another fire in the town in 1736 (Page 1908, 351).

4. ANALYSIS

TOPOGRAPHY OF NEW ALRESFORD

Market, streets, bridge and causeway

Market B1

Broad Street, a wide street which lies at right angles to the main road, housed the market of the town. Within the market place there were both permanent and semi-permanent stalls.

Streets

The main street of the town is Broad Street which forms the market place. Although the plan of the town seems to conform with the plans of some of the other towns founded by the Bishops of Winchester in the medieval period, with Broad Street lying at right angles to a main through route, West Street and East Street, this does not appear to have been the situation at Alresford. Originally the route between Winchester and Alton ran along West Street, down Broad Street and across the Great Weir, then along Bighton Lane. East Street was, until the creation of a turnpike road in 1753, a small lane leading to Bishop's Sutton. At the northern end of Broad Street are two small lanes. Mill Hill led to the Town Mill and, *via* Lady Well Lane, to the Flax Mill, whilst the second lane crossed the bridge and Great Weir and so to Old Alresford. Mill Hill was formerly known as Tan Yard Hill as there was a tannery in the area (Sanderson 1983, 27) (see B13, below).

Bridge B2

At the southern end of the Great Weir is a small stone bridge. The bridge was mentioned in 1208-9 when it was recorded that repairs had been carried out it (Roberts 1985, 130). The existing bridge incorporates a fourteenth-century stone structure (Hughes 1976, 89) and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 129).

The Great Weir B3

Alresford Pond was created by the construction of a dam across the valley which also carried the road to Old Alresford from the town. The dam is one of the largest secular earthworks surviving from medieval England (Beresford 1959, 191). Within the dam there were sluices which allowed the pond to be periodically drained and which fed leats to mills.

Property plots

Broad Street burgage properties B4

Along both sides of Broad Street, the market area (B1), were blocks of burgage plots. Beresford was able to discern 33 house-and-shop fronts of about 33ft in width (based on the rod module) on either side of Broad Street (Beresford 1959, 192) although Roberts has recorded 25 such units along the western side of Broad Street (Roberts pers comm). Based on existing properties in Broad Street, it would appear that a 33ft wide plot is sometimes divided into three separate units which would make it possible to fit the 90 plots recorded in 1210-11 (see above) into the areas on either side of Broad Street. There is some difference between the blocks of properties on either side of Broad Street. The western block of plots has a rear boundary that lies parallel to the street frontage, creating a rectangular unit which appears much more regular than the block of properties on the eastern side of the market. This block is not rectangular as its rear boundary is not parallel to the street frontage, and the property plots are, in general, longer than those on the western side of Broad Street. Another difference between the two blocks is noticeable where the blocks adjoin West Street and East Street. The properties within the western block appear to be aligned on Broad Street with only a narrow strip with houses facing West Street, but there is no such predominant alignment of the plots within the eastern block. In the mid-sixteenth century there was about 26 tenements of the western side of Broad Street, and about 17 tenements on the eastern side (Roberts pers comm).

The Soke and The Shettles properties B5

Within the area between Mill Hill on the west and the road leading to the Great Weir on the east is an area called The Soke. This area of properties was probably developed in the medieval period, and by 1552 there were three tenements and one cottage in this area. The area on the eastern side of the road to the Great Weir was called The Shettles and in 1552 contained two cottages.

West Street properties B6

On the southern side of West Street, to the west of the church, is a block of properties with long, narrow, plots with a small lane running along the rear boundary which may have been a back-lane (Hughes 1976, 95). This block of properties may represent part of the early thirteenth-century town and was certainly developed by the sixteenth century as shown by a survey of the town taken in 1552 when there were about 15 tenements and a cottage on the north side of the street, and about 16 tenements on the southern side. There was a further three tenements on the northern side of West Side to the west of the junction with The Dean (Roberts pers comm). Such development along the main road also occurred at, another of the bishop's new towns.

On the northern side of West Street there are blocks of properties with smaller plots that may represent late medieval and post-medieval development in the town.

East Street properties B7

Along the southern side of East Street there is a row of properties within plots of irregular length which suggests that they do not represent a single phase of development. It is possible that this area of the town developed in the late medieval or early post-medieval period. In the mid-sixteenth century there were 6 tenements and the residence of Sir Richard Lyster, which stood on the site of Cardew House, on the northern side of the street, and 2 tenements and three cottages on the southern side (Roberts pers comm).

The Dean properties B8

By the mid-sixteenth century there were several cottages and tenements on both sides of The Dean. It is not known at what date this area of the town began to be developed but it is probable that it was always a poorer part of the town (Roberts pers comm). It is not known exactly how far the properties extended along this street towards the river.

Nineteenth-century development B9

There are several areas of nineteenth-century development around the edge of the medieval core of the town including near the station and along Haig Road to the south of the town, and along The Dean to the west of the town centre.

Buildings

There appear to be few buildings of medieval date in New Alresford, probably due to the effects of the several fires that have occurred in the town. It is known that one of the most severe fires experienced in the town, the fire of 1689, destroyed or badly damaged 117 houses (Sanderson n.d. (a), 1). There are, however, some medieval buildings in the town, including a group of late medieval buildings on Mill Hill. One of the buildings, now divided into three, consists of a base cruck hall with two later cross-wings (Lewis *et al* 1988, 41) and is listed as Grade II*. Arle House in Ladywell Lane has a rear wing that may be a mid-seventeenth-century timber-framed house (Roberts pers comm).

Church B10

The church of St John the Baptist was a chapelry of the Church of St Mary at Old Alresford and remained as such until 1850 when the parish of New Alresford was separated (Page 1908, 353). The church stands at the southern end of Broad Street and probably once overlooked the market place but there has been development between the church and the street. The earliest architectural evidence within the church is a thirteenth-century lancet in the south aisle

and there is late thirteenth-century shafting in the window of the north chapel. The tower is mainly of fourteenth-century date with a seventeenth-century brick top. There is a small crucifix built into the west wall of the tower which has been described as Anglo-Saxon (Pevsner and Lloyd 1967, 352-3) but is now thought to be of thirteenth-century date (Roberts pers comm). It may have formed part of a cross shaft. The church was severely damaged in the fire of 1689 which left only the walls of the nave standing. It was rebuilt after the fire, and was extensively re-built in the late nineteenth century (Page 1908, 352).

Other churches and chapels

It is suggested that there was a chantry or oratory of the Order of Jesus, staffed by a warden and five priests, near the entrance to the churchyard, presumably referring to the entrance facing Broad Street. The foundation was seized by Henry VIII at the dissolution and was included in a grant of property made by Elizabeth I in 1589 (Robertson 1969, 23).

On the southern side of West Street there was a Quaker meeting house and burial ground (suggested site marked on Map B). The meeting house was built in 1704 but by 1746 there were so few Quakers in the town the meeting house and burial ground were closed. The meeting house was pulled down in 1750, and the burial ground was leased with a clause that it should be levelled and only used as a garden, and that the burials should be left undisturbed (Sanderson n.d.(a), 3). By the early twentieth century there was no trace of the meeting house or the cemetery, but it is thought that they had been located near a house called St John's or St Joan's (Page 1908, 350; Sanderson n.d.(a), 3) which stands on the southern side of Pound Hill next to the fire station.

The Methodist church in Pound Hill was built in 1825 (Pevsner and Lloyd 1967, 352).

Alresford Pond B11

Alresford Pond is a shallow expanse of water of about 30 acres in extent but it probably covered about 60 acres in the mid-thirteenth century (Roberts 1993, 229) extending further to the east (the area on Map B shows the mid-nineteenth century extent of the pond). There is no documentary evidence to support the suggestion that it once covered an area of about 200 acres (Beresford 1959, 190-1; Roberts 1986, 136). The pond was formed by building a dam, known as the Great Weir, across the valley of the River Itchen. The dam is about 6 - 7m high and around 400m long and also served as a causeway for the Winchester to London road. The dam was carrying the road as early as 1208-9 when it was recorded that repairs had been undertaken on the causeway (Roberts 1985). It has been suggested that the pond was created to provide a head of water for the canal supposedly built by the Bishop of Winchester (Beresford 1959, 190), but it was probably built as a fish-pond and to provide increased power for the mills of the town and Old Alresford. There are detailed accounts of the management of the fish pond in the thirteenth-century accounts of the Bishops which refer to the hiring of fishermen, give details of fishing methods, and to which of the bishop's residences the catches were dispatched. In 1236 fish from the pond supplied a banquet when the king visited Winchester (Roberts 1985). Around and below the pond there were channels allowing the diversion of streams that fed the pond and some would have contained traps for eels and to prevent the fish escaping either upstream or downstream when draining the pond (Roberts 1986).

Mills B12

There were several mills along the stretch of river between the town and Old Alresford in the medieval and post-medieval periods. The Pipe Roll of the Bishop of Winchester for the year 1210-11 recorded that an old mill had been demolished and its mill pond had been filled-in. It is not known where this mill was located. The pipe roll also recorded that a new fulling mill had been built, together with a new pond (Beresford 1959, 191). Other mills included Borrowe Mills, two fulling mills called Andrewes Mills, a fulling mill called Jening's or Jones, or Black Mill, another fulling mill called the New Mill, and a mill called Weir Mill.

Repairs were carried out on one of the fulling mills in the early fourteenth century (Page 1996, 324).

Town Mill

Town Mill was in existence in the early thirteenth century and was also known as Borrowe Mill. The mill had its own sluice gate at an outlet of the pond which was probably the sluice now called 'the Shettles'. There were four mills within the mill building, which was divided between both Old and New Alresford (Robertson 1969, 22). The five-storey mill building still in existence dates from 1892-3.

Weir Mill

Recorded from at least the seventeenth century, the present-day building dates from the nineteenth century.

The Fulling Mill

It is possible that the mill is on the site of one of the medieval mills, possibly the mill called Andrews Mill in medieval documents (Roberts pers comm). The present mill building is a seventeenth-century timber-framed lobby-entrance house.

New Mill

The Pipe Roll of 1301-2 recorded repairs to New Mill included new boards and repairs to the spindle. A new millstone was also provided (Page 1996, 324). It is not known which mill is represented by New Mill.

Jening's, Jones or Black's Mill

A court roll of 1612 recorded the permission granted to a Henry Perrin to destroy 'an old fulling mill called Jening's or Black Mill' and to remove the timbers for his own use (Page 1908, 305). The site of this mill is not known.

Woollen industry

The 1552 survey of the town recorded tenter-racks, areas where cloth was stretched and dried, to the east of the church and in the area behind the properties on the north side of West Street and to the east of The Dene. The survey also recorded a dye house at the end of Lady Well Lane.

Tannery B13

Near Spring House on Mill Hill there was a tannery. The excavation of a driveway to a new bungalow from Lady Well Lane revealed large quantities of animal bones including skulls and horn cores. It is known that a tanner lived at Spring House in the mid-eighteenth century and his will recorded a tanhouse (Sanderson n.d.(a), 23). It is possible that there was a tannery in Alresford in the medieval period and it is probable that any remains of the industry are likely to found along the valley.

Watercress Beds B14

There are extensive watercress beds in the area of the town. It is probable that the coming of the railway opened up markets for the product and stimulated the development of the beds.

Gasworks B15

The town's gasworks were located on the western side of The Dean in the area now occupied by the industrial estate.

Other trades and industries

In the medieval period wool related trades were probably the predominant occupations in the town. There were four flax mills within one mile of the town, indicating the importance of

cloth-working to the town (Robertson 1969, 22). Apart from the flax mills, there may have also been dye houses along the river.

At present there is little available evidence for other trades undertaken in the town during the medieval period.

Detailed study of many of the available deeds of houses in the town and research into the wills of their post-medieval occupants has identified the occupations of many of the inhabitants Alresford from the sixteenth century. Occupations include cordwainers, tanners, curriers, butchers, drapers, ropemakers and collarmakers (Sanderson, n.d.(a); n.d.(b)).

Railway B16

In 1865 the Alton, Alresford and Winchester Railway was opened which linked Alton to Winchester (Body 1984, 32). Alton was already on the main line to London and so the new railway provided access to the capital.

5. RECENT DEVELOPMENT

There has been relatively little modern development within the historic core of the town. The majority of recent development had occurred to the south of the railway line and in the area between the burgage plots on the west side of Broad Street and The Dean. On the western side of The Dean there is a small industrial estate.

6. IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL

CRITERIA FOR THE AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL

Introduction

The primary aim of the Data Collection and Data Assessment phases of the project is to enable the identification of areas of archaeological importance within each town to inform the Strategy phase of the project. Four such areas of importance have been defined, and the criteria for these are briefly described below. Although they are all described in this introduction, not all towns will have areas within each of these categories.

Levels of Archaeological Importance

The levels of importance are Areas Comprising Nationally Important Remains; Areas of High Archaeological Importance; Archaeologically Important Areas; and Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance.

As additional archaeological information becomes available, and a greater understanding of the archaeological resource of the town is achieved, it is possible that some areas will be re-assigned to different levels of importance.

Areas Comprising Nationally Important Remains

Areas of identified nationally important archaeological remains, whose location, character and importance have been demonstrably established. These remains merit physical preservation *in situ*. The criteria used to assess national importance are set out in Annex 4 of the Secretary of State's non-statutory guidance note PPG16, and are briefly noted below.

- Period
- Rarity
- Documentation
- Group Value
- Survival/Condition
- Fragility/Vulnerability
- Diversity

- Potential

This category will include Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

Areas of High Archaeological Importance

Areas considered to include other important archaeological remains, whose location, character and importance are inferred from observation, research and interpretation. Those remains are likely to merit preservation *in situ*. Where preservation is not justified appropriate archaeological recording will be required.

Areas of High Archaeological Importance may:

- Contain well preserved, archaeological deposits which may not be of national importance, but which are of importance to the understanding of the origins and development of the town;
- Be areas where the destruction, without archaeological record, of well preserved archaeological deposits means that the last surviving elements have an increased value for the understanding of the origins and development of the town;
- Have been identified as having significant water-logged deposits;
- Have a high number of existing medieval buildings. The survival of medieval buildings may also indicate that there is well preserved stratigraphy beneath the building;
- Be areas which are thought to have High Archaeological Importance due to their proximity to other, recognised, plan elements even though there is little direct evidence to indicate high importance. For example, the area around an isolated church which may have been the focus for earlier settlement may be defined as an Area of High Archaeological Importance.

It is possible that areas that areas of High Archaeological Importance may, through further archaeological or documentary work, be shown to include Nationally Important Remains.

Archaeologically Important Areas

Areas considered to contain archaeological remains of some importance. Where these remains cannot be preserved *in situ*, they are likely to require appropriate archaeological recording.

Such areas:

- Are significant elements in the plan but where there has been a moderate level of modern development or cellaring;
- Have had little archaeological work undertaken within them but cartographic or documentary sources suggest that they may have been within the historic core of the town or areas of important suburban development.

Surviving archaeological deposits in Archaeologically Important Areas will probably have a relatively high density but, due to pressures of development over many centuries, there may be a high level of fragmentation.

Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance

Areas considered to include archaeological remains of a character unlikely to provide significant information, or archaeological remains whose integrity has been severely compromised by development. These remains may require appropriate archaeological recording if threatened by development.

Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance may:

- Have a good survival of archaeological deposits, but where there is likely to be a low density of archaeological features;
- Be areas with significant modern development resulting in limited archaeological importance, either due to the scale of development or due to the limited nature of the archaeological resource before development;
- Be areas where the current hypothesis supports only a limited possibility of encountering archaeological remains.

THE POTENTIAL OF NEW ALRESFORD

Areas of Archaeological Importance

Areas Comprising Nationally Important Archaeological Remains

The small stone bridge which carries the road from Broad Street to the north across a leat from Old Alresford Pond to the Town Mill is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM Hants 129).

The Great Weir is the dam which was constructed to create the large pond and was certainly in existence in the early thirteenth century. The dam is not a Scheduled Ancient Monument but is an Area Comprising Nationally Important Archaeological Remains.

Although not in the town of New Alresford, the site of the Bishop's Palace at Bishop's Sutton is an Area Comprising Nationally Important Remains. The exact limits of the site are not known at present but surviving earthworks and a geophysical survey could lead to a closer identification of the occupied area. The existence of the palace was probably a major factor in the siting of the new town at Alresford.

Areas of High Archaeological Importance

The church and churchyard is an Area of High Archaeological Importance. Although the church was rebuilt after the seventeenth-century fire, evidence of earlier phases of the church and possibly the original building, may survive. The churchyard will contain evidence for the population of the town. Although there will be fragmentation of some burials through the digging of later graves, excavations within other medieval burial grounds have shown that early burials can survive intact.

There is a small Area of High Archaeological Importance covering the surviving medieval buildings on Mill Hill. These buildings represent the majority of the medieval buildings that survive in the town and so present a limited opportunity to study the buildings of medieval Alresford.

Archaeologically Important Areas

The areas of the burgrave properties along both sides of Broad Street and the possible burgrave and later properties along West Street and East Street are Archaeologically Important Areas. Although a intensive cellar survey has not been undertaken in the town, it appears that many of the buildings along Broad Street have cellars. Their presence will have destroyed or damaged any archaeological deposits on the street frontage. Apart from the group of houses on Mill Hill, there are very few medieval buildings in the town due to the several fires that the town suffered and this also reduces the importance of the areas. The areas behind the street frontage may contain evidence for trades and industries undertaken in the town in the medieval period, and rubbish and cess-pits, which may have also been located behind the houses, could contain pottery and other artefacts used in the town.

The river valley is an Archaeologically Important Area. Within the valley there may be the remains of the mill that was destroyed in the early years of the thirteenth century as well as evidence of various mill leats serving the mills of the town. Evidence for other industries, such as tanning, may also survive.

Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance

There are two Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance which cover the areas of properties on the periphery of the town along West Street and East Street. These areas probably represent phases of later development in the town, probably in the early post-medieval period, but there are several buildings in these areas that have cellars resulting in the area having lower archaeological importance.

There is an Area of Limited Archaeological Importance covering the northern part of Mill Hill and part of the river valley to the west of the Great Weir. Within this area there may be evidence for medieval

settlement along the lower part of Mill Hill and the tannery that stood within this area. There are also three mills which almost certainly have their origins in the medieval period, and the sites of two lost mills may also lie within this area. If the sites of any of the lost mills were to be located, they may be deemed to be of High Archaeological Importance or, depending on the survival and quality of the archaeological deposits, possibly of National Importance.

Research Framework

- Pre-borough settlement including earlier phases of the church

Alresford is one of several new towns in Hampshire which is thought to have been founded on a new site close to an existing manorial centre but at Alresford some authors have suggested that there was already a settlement and church on the southern side of the river.

- The location of the mill destroyed at the time of the creation of the town

It is recorded that a mill was destroyed and its mill pond filled in 1210-11. The site of the mill is now lost.

7. SOURCES

DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

As New Alresford lay within one of the Bishop of Winchester's manors details of its management appear in the Bishopric Pipe Rolls and so a relatively detailed picture of the economy of the manor can be built-up through study of the Winchester archives. Research on the buildings of the town by Sanderson has made use of wills and leases which often contain information about the occupations of the towns-people in the post-medieval period.

MAPS AND PLANS

1805 Map of New Alresford HRO 7M50/13
 1843 Tithe Apportionment map HRO 21M65/F7/167/2
 1873 OS 1st Edition 6" map Sheet 42
 1941 OS 25" map Sheet 42.6

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Basford, H.V.	1980	<i>The Vectis Report</i> Isle of Wight County Council.
Beresford, M.	1959	'The Six New Towns of the Bishops Of Winchester 1200-55' in <i>Medieval Archaeology</i> 3 , 187-215
Beresford, M.	1967	<i>New Towns of the Middle Ages</i> Lutterworth London
Body, G.	1984	<i>Railways of the Southern Region</i> Patrick Stephens Cambridge
Coates, R	1993	<i>The Place-Names of Hampshire</i> Ensign Southampton
Holt, N.R. [Ed]	1964	<i>The Pipe Roll of the Bishopric of Winchester 1210-11</i> Manchester University Press
Hughes, M.F.	1976	<i>The Small Towns of Hampshire. The Archaeological and Historical Implications of Development</i> Hampshire Archaeological Committee
Lewis, E., Roberts, E. & Roberts, K.	1988	<i>Medieval Hall Houses of the Winchester Area</i> Winchester City Museum
Page, W. [Ed]	1908	<i>Victoria History of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight</i> 3 , Archibald Constable London
Page, M. [Ed]	1996	<i>The Pipe Rolls of the Bishopric of Winchester 1301-2</i> Hampshire Record Series 14 , Hampshire County Council Winchester
Pevsner, N & Lloyd, D.	1967	<i>Hampshire and the Isle of Wight</i> The Buildings of England Penguin Harmondsworth

- | | | |
|-----------------|----------|---|
| Roberts, E. | 1985 | ‘Alresford Pond, A medieval canal reservoir: a tradition assessed’ in <i>Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society</i> 41 , 127-138 |
| Roberts, E. | 1987 | ‘Medieval New Alresford Revisited’ in <i>Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society</i> 43 , 255-6 |
| Roberts, E. | 1993 | ‘The Bishop of Winchester’s Fishponds and Deer Parks’ a note in <i>Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society</i> 49 , 229-231 |
| Robertson, A.J. | 1969 | <i>History of Alresford</i> Laurence Oxley, Alresford/ Warren and Son, Winchester |
| Sanderson, I. | n.d. (a) | <i>Dwellings in Alresford</i> 1 , Privately published |
| Sanderson, I. | 1975 | <i>Dwellings in Alresford</i> 2 , Privately published |
| Sanderson, I. | n.d. (b) | <i>Dwellings in Alresford</i> 3 , Privately published |
| Sanderson, I. | 1978 | <i>Dwellings in Alresford</i> 4 , Privately published |
| Sanderson, I. | 1979 | <i>Dwellings in Alresford</i> 5 , Privately published |
| Sanderson, I. | 1980 | <i>Dwellings in Alresford</i> 6 , Privately published |
| Sanderson, I. | 1981 | <i>Dwellings in Alresford</i> 7 , Privately published |
| Sanderson, I. | 1982 | <i>Dwellings in Alresford</i> 8 , Privately published |
| Sanderson, I. | 1983 | <i>Dwellings in Alresford</i> 9 , Privately published |

8. ABBREVIATIONS

<i>c.</i>	<i>circa</i> , about
Ed	Editor
nd	No date of publication given
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	Ordnance Datum
OE	Old English
OS	Ordnance Survey
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record