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# HATFIELD

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 The Aim of the Report

This report has been produced as one of a series of 25 archaeological surveys of historic urban areas in Hertfordshire as part of the English Heritage Extensive Urban Survey Programme. All the places surveyed were either urban districts by 1900, or had urban characteristics in the past. The project is being carried out by Hertfordshire County Council's Archaeology Section in conjunction with English Heritage, who are also funding the project.

The aim of the report is to provide a framework from which decisions can be made about the management of the archaeological resource of Hatfield. The report is divided into three parts:

1. A summary of what is known of the archaeological and historical development of the town using the evidence from archaeology, buildings, old maps and documents, and surviving physical elements of the historic townscape such as ancient property boundaries. The evidence is presented as a series of thematic and period maps generated by GIS, accompanied by a brief explanatory text.
2. An assessment of priorities for the management of the archaeological resource of the town, including academic research priorities.
3. A strategy which aims to take forward the research and management priorities.

### 1.2 The Sources Used

The evidence for the report has been compiled from the following primary sources:

- The Hertfordshire County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)
- The Statutory List of Buildings of Historical and Architectural Interest
- Maps and documents held in the Hertfordshire County Record Office
- Archaeological excavation and survey reports held in the Hertfordshire SMR

In addition, numerous articles, both published and unpublished, have been used; a bibliography is included at the end of the report.

### **1.3 Geography**

The modern town of Hatfield is bounded on the east by the park of Hatfield House, on the north by the river Lea, and on the west by the A1(M). It is this area which is the subject of the survey, together with the land west of the A1(M) which until recently was Hatfield Aerodrome. The north-west and east of the parish are not considered in detail. The south of the parish lies on a broad belt of London Clay, comparatively high ground more suited to woodland than arable. The town grew up at the edge of the clay, on a slope where one of several streams flows down onto the flatter low-lying chalk and into the river Lea. The modern town lies largely on this lower ground. Both old and new Hatfield lie on the south side of the river.

## **2.0 AN OUTLINE OF THE HISTORY AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE SETTLEMENT**

### **2.1 Prehistory: Palaeolithic to Iron Age (c10,000 BC to c100 BC) (Figure 1)**

Until recently very little evidence was recorded of any prehistoric occupation in Hatfield. Palaeolithic tools came from the large gravel-pit that once existed on the north side of the Hertford Road, in gravels laid down by the river Lea when it was part of the proto-Thames in the last glaciation, and attractive to Palaeolithic hunters (SMR 0266, 1157). Large numbers of worked flints have also been found along the banks of the stream and between the wood and the railway in Howe Dell (SMR 1847; *Herts Archaeol Review* 6 (1972), 116). At least some of these are Mesolithic. In Hertfordshire a great many tools of this date are known along the river systems, relics of human exploitation along the riverbanks. Three Neolithic flint tools in Verulamium Museum are said to be from Hatfield but nothing is known of where they were found; late Neolithic/Bronze Age flints were recorded at Sutton's Farm (Guttmann 1996, 5). Cropmarks of probable Bronze Age ring ditches (SMR 10584), and of field systems which may or may not be prehistoric (SMR 2241, 2244, 2251, 2268), are known on open land near Lemsford and Stanborough, but not close to the town. Excavation in 1999-2002 of part of Hatfield Aerodrome, however, uncovered the truncated but notable remains of a mid-late Bronze Age landscape (Cotswold Archaeological Trust 1999; Davis 2001b). It is certain that there was prehistoric occupation in the Hatfield area; much may have been destroyed but it is likely that more will be found.

### **2.2 Late Iron Age and Roman (c100 BC to cAD 450)**

In the late Iron Age Hertfordshire was characterised by a great many farmsteads as well as the well-known larger settlements. The Hatfield area is likely to have had several, lying as it does between St Albans and Welwyn. This will have been an organised landscape, but as yet little is clear about it. No details have survived of a site which produced a small amount of late Iron Age pottery in 1938-9 at Hatfield Aerodrome, and excavation in 1998-2000 found only disturbance (SMR 0125; Murray 1998). Another farmstead is known at Sutton Farm, further west (off the map), where a ditch system was excavated in 1996 (SMR 9927; Guttmann 1996, 11).

Little is known of the Roman period in Hatfield apart from scattered finds, and single fragments of tile from east of Hatfield Park, but as elsewhere late Iron Age farmsteads may have been succeeded by Roman farms. Roman pottery was found during the partial backfilling of the medieval moat at Astwick, on the north side of the aerodrome, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Kenyon 1999, 9). Construction of the aerodrome, and later works, have damaged the archaeology to a considerable extent, but it seems clear that there was occupation here. Recent finds on the aerodrome of a first century cremation (Cotswold Archaeological Trust 1999) and a single unstratified potsherd (Davis 2001a, 43), taken in conjunction with the 1938-9 finds of late Iron Age pottery, imply the presence here of a late Iron Age farm which lasted into the Roman period, but has been largely destroyed.

In old Hatfield itself there are indications of a possible 2<sup>nd</sup> century building in the area between Park Street and the Great North Road. Two potsherds, one of them samian, were associated with a robbed flint wall in drainage works on the site of Priory House in 1969, and a mortarium sherd was found in a builders' trench to the west in 1973 (Hilton 1974). The site lies near the upper end of the valley running north to the river Lea. Another samian sherd 'found in the stream that rises and disappears in Howe Dell' may have arrived in soil imported for landscaping. Two later 3<sup>rd</sup> century coins are recorded from Stonecross Road (SMR 1849; *Herts Archaeol Review* 2, 1970, 32; Hilton 1974); a coin of Nero came from a garden in St Albans Road East (*Herts Archaeol Review* 4, 1971, 72; SMR 2933). Seven coins of Diocletian, reputed to have been found in Lane End, Roestock (SMR 2934; *E Herts Archaeol Soc Trans* 7, 1923-7, 388), were apparently acquired by the owner from elsewhere.

Two putative Roman roads (Viatores 1964) have little evidence to support their existence as long-distance routes. Road 213 is supposed to have run from Cheshunt to Dunstable, and 214 from St Albans to Ware via Welwyn. Neither route has been confirmed by excavation at any point, and at Suttons Farm, the site of a Roman farmstead to the west of Hatfield, the supposed line of 214 was surveyed and excavated in 1996 and 1998. No trace of it was found (Guttmann 1996; BCAS 1998). There was a road running east of Hatfield Park through Newgate Street (part of the suggested line of 213), but its date, and how far it ran, are unknown. A slight linear earthwork at the west end of the recreation ground there was seen by the Viatores (1964, 170) and is still visible (SMR 10419). This road appears to have followed the slightly higher ground from Hatfield to the Great Wood.

### **2.3 Saxon and Medieval**

'Hatfield' means a tract of open heathy ground (Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938, 126). No archaeological finds of Saxon date were recorded until recently, when sherds of pottery dating to somewhere in the period AD 400-750 were found on Hatfield Aerodrome (Davis 1999a, 43-4). They were unstratified and nothing is yet known of the context from which they came, but they indicate settlement on the same flat arable land which had been well settled throughout prehistory. By the 11<sup>th</sup> century Domesday Book reveals a lack of settlement and extensive woodland across south-west Hertfordshire, in plain contrast with the north-eastern half of the county. Hatfield was part of this comparatively unpopulated region. In 1086 (Morris 1976) it was a single very large estate, coterminous with the medieval ecclesiastical parish.

This estate had been granted c970 by king Edgar to the new Benedictine foundation at Ely, as a source of timber and other wood products for the construction of the abbey buildings. In 1107 the monastery of Ely became a bishopric, and so the full name became Bishop's Hatfield (to distinguish it from Hatfield Broadoak in Essex). It included Lemsford, made a separate parish in 1858, and Handside, sold to Ebenezer Howard for the new Welwyn Garden City in 1919. From north-west of Lemsford it ran beyond Newgate Street to the south-east. The medieval demesne house, and the township itself, lay in the centre of the parish. It did not include the area that became Hatfield aerodrome until 1935.

The description of Hatfield's resources in 1086 shows that it was a valuable property. There were large tracts of woodland suitable for pigs, but less than half of the acreage that was later ploughed for arable was being cultivated in 1086 (Munby 1977, 85). There was a priest, so there may already have been a proprietary church in the same position as the medieval parish church just outside the bishops' gatehouse. Along the river Lea were four watermills. These may have been in the same positions as the later mills at Lemsford, Mill Green, Bush Mill Lane and the Cecil sawmill, although no late Saxon or medieval remains have been recorded.

Hatfield did not emerge as a market town at an early date. It took time for the ecclesiastical owners to exploit its potential, and it was not until the 13<sup>th</sup> century that Ely encouraged the development of the township which had grown up on the slope down from the church and the demesne house. In 1226 the Bishop of Ely was granted a weekly market and annual fair (VCH 1912, 99). The bishops also rebuilt the church, and in 1292 diverted a path from the churchyard to enlarge the courtyard of the manor house (*ibid.*, 94).

The market was held at the bottom of Fore Street and Church Street; on the 1608 plan of the Old Palace both these streets as marked as 'the way to the market place'. It does not appear to have been a planned space, and had little room. By the end of the medieval period a Market House had been built (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.61), which took up a good deal of what space there was. As the name indicates, Fore or Front Street was the main street, while 'Church Street' (its official name only since 1931; Richardson 1988, 17) was Back Street, providing rear access to the Fore Street properties. Many of the property boundaries survive at least in part. Park Street, where boundaries also survive, was Duck Lane, leading into the road to Hertford. The stream which ran across here north of the market place is still occasionally seen in building work, in a red brick conduit (Brown n.d., 15). Excavations at nos.1-5 Park Street, at the foot of Fore Street, and at 27-39 Park Street (SMR 6561) found no remains earlier than the 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> century (Harrison 1974b). A silver gilt ring found in Park Street in 1977 is apparently late 14<sup>th</sup> century (SMR 9266). A Hertfordshire Grey Ware jug handle and other medieval potsherds, some thought to be 'late Norman', were found in a large pit on the site of Priory House in 1968 (Fletcher 1969; SMR 1852). Close to the pit was found an early 14<sup>th</sup> century copper plaque from a horse harness, engraved with royal arms. Edward III's second son, William, was born in Hatfield in 1336.

Industry was confined to the area at the foot of the hill, where a brick-built pottery kiln was found during the construction of Batterdale Crescent in 1971, with a good

deal of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery (SMR 1851; *HADAS Journal* July 1971, 8-12). The name Batterdale comes from a marlpit, recorded in 1221, from which chalk and flints were dug and which had become a pond (Preston 1961, 9).

It also may not have been before the 13<sup>th</sup> century that the parkland was first enclosed. These were the Great Park, or Hatfield Wood, in the south-eastern projection of the parish, and Middle Park (Millwards), both recorded in 1277. The Middle Park was private, the tenants having no rights in it. It may be this one which was mentioned in 1252 (VCH 1912, 99-100). The Innings Park was later. This became the Home or Little Park, and had a rabbit warren and great oaks. A road ran on the south side of the river, to the Withy Mill and beyond. The rest of what is now Hatfield Park was cultivated in open fields (Hutton 1959, 13). During the 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> centuries much of the manor was gradually brought into cultivation by leasing out assarts of a hide (c120-150 acres), hence the many Hyde placenames (Munby 1977, 85, 110).

The sparsely inhabited land outside the town was not unexploited. Hatfield was one of the towns supplying charcoal to London in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, when local 'colliers' organized the transport by packhorse of charcoal produced in the area (Galloway 1999, 93). Many of the deneholes and dells in the New Town are chalk pits, some of medieval origin (SMR 0465, Chantry Wood; also Brown 1960, 21).

### *Surviving elements of medieval Hatfield*

#### **Bishop's Palace**

During the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries the king stayed several times at the bishops' manor house of Hatfield (see above). By 1396, when it was surveyed, the demesne was leased to tenant farmers and the house was in poor condition. It was evidently a large timber-framed building, with a grange, garner, dovehouse, and vines in a 'little garden'. Repairs with timber are recorded in 1291 and 1396 (Hutton 1959, 19; 1963, 6). What survives today is part of the new residence put up by Bishop John Morton in the 1480s. This is 'the foremost monument of medieval domestic architecture in the county and one of the foremost monuments of medieval brickwork in the country' (Pevsner 1977, 164-5). In 1538 it was described as 'a very goodly and stately manor place... constructed alle of brykke' (VCH 1912, 94-5). But what survives is only one wing, a long hall range with projecting porches near the centres of the east and west sides, with a tall bay window at the south end which is blocked. This was the dais end in the hall itself, which extended as far as the porches. Beyond these were the kitchens and offices. The fine timber roof of the hall survives. The west porch has a stair turret. The full plan of John Morton's building is uncertain, and no excavation has taken place. By 1607, when the house came into the hands of the Cecils, the hall was the western range of a palace built around a courtyard. A surviving plan made in 1608 (VCH 1912, 92; Cecil 1984, 16) indicates that the north, south, and east ranges, visibly added on to the older building, had exterior details and internal arrangements of Elizabethan date (Pevsner 1977, 165). It has been argued that the courtyard plan was never in fact built, but Smith (1993, 75) thinks that this is unlikely, and agrees with the later 16<sup>th</sup> century date. In 1912 traces of these ranges were discernible in the sunk garden east of the Bishop's Palace (VCH 1912, 95). They were all swept away in 1608, their bricks being re-used in the new house. In 1628-9 the hall range was converted into a stable block, and served this function until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Gatehouse**

To the west of the Bishop's Palace is what survives of the late 15<sup>th</sup>-century gatehouse range, less elaborately built but in similar style, with some diaperwork, and mostly original windows similar to those in the hall range. Near the north end is a four-centre arched coach entrance. The crow-stepped end-gables are early 17<sup>th</sup> century, and the door dates to the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Inside is a wall painting of a lion hunt (covered over).

### **Great Stables**

The long range facing the Palace is late 15<sup>th</sup> century, with a crown post roof, and a central archway. This utility range, single storey with attics, is also in red brick. The cross wing at the left has contemporary brickwork at the rear, but the frontage is late 19<sup>th</sup> century imitation half-timbering. To the right the range forms a shallow courtyard; the block at the right is 18<sup>th</sup> century, with a chequered red brick gable end. The long central extension at the rear is in a similar style to the front.

### **Parish church of St Etheldreda**

St Etheldreda is the patron saint of Ely. Nothing is known earlier than the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The effigy of a knight in armour in the Salisbury chapel is contemporary with the new building, according to Pevsner (1977, 163), although elsewhere he is dated to c1190 (Preston 1961, 6-7). The new church, of flint rubble (from the Batterdale pit) and stone dressings, was a fairly expensive structure. It is cruciform, with a broad nave, slightly off-centre chancel, transepts, and western chapels in each transept; 'architecturally very remarkable' (*ibid.*, 162-3). This was built at the period when the bishops of Ely were encouraging the growth of Hatfield as a market town. It may have had a central tower (VCH 1912, 107). A chapel on the south side of the chancel may have been built during the 14<sup>th</sup> century, but was swept away during a second period of improvements during the following century, the last flourish of monastic patronage. A tower was built at the west end, closing the view from the town below, and the south chapel was rebuilt with an ornate arcade into the chancel. From 1598 this became the Brocket chapel, for the owners of Brocket Hall. The Salisbury chapel on the north side of the chancel dates to 1618, to hold the tombs of the earls of Salisbury who now owned Hatfield House. The body of the church was altered for Lord Salisbury by David Brandon in 1872, when the chancel arch was narrowed, the roof raised, the furnishings and all the windows replaced. In 1871 the Salisbury chapel was given lavish marble, alabaster and mosaic adornments by Italian workmen, and early 18<sup>th</sup> century wrought iron gates from Amiens Cathedral.

### **Rose & Crown, 40-42 Fore Street**

This pair of timber-framed houses is probably 15<sup>th</sup>-century in date, and in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century was the Rose & Crown; in 1756 it may have been known as the Mitre (Gray 1964, 27). Thereafter it was occupied by tailors. The upper floors are jettied. The framing is roughcast, the ground floor partly weatherboarded; the gable-ended roofs have plain tiles, the eastern end at a slightly higher level than the west. The chimney-stacks in the centre and to the rear are later. No.40 has a 19<sup>th</sup>-century shop window; the windows of no.42 are 20<sup>th</sup> century.

### **7-11 Park Street**

These three properties were a timber-framed hall house built in the 15<sup>th</sup> century, with a south cross-wing which has a gable end oversailing the ground floor. The framing has brick infill, roughcast and plastered; the rectangular bay window under the overhang is original. Also original are the crown post trusses. The north cross-wing dates to the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and in the same century the upper floor was inserted in the hall and an axial chimney-stack added to the hall against the south wing. The north gable end has a small early-mid 19<sup>th</sup>-century shop window; the roofs are steep pitched but covered in machine tiles. The 'Old Coach House' was a bakery from at least 1715 until the 1940s (Gray 1964, 33; Brown n.d., 16).

### **The Old Rectory (Howe Dell School)**

This is a large timber-framed house of two storeys and attics, presumably replacing an earlier parsonage house on the same site and built by the bishops of Ely for the rector. It was a well-appointed property. Surviving documents describe it when it was repaired c1534, and surveyed in 1606-7. Originally it had a hall open to the roof, and a parlour, kitchen, bake-house, malt-house, oat barn and other outbuildings (VCH 1912, 111). Most of the building by then was of two storeys, and may have had rooms north of the hall. In 1607 the 'stone parlour' was to the south. It was then a large and complex house with buildings arranged around three small courtyards (Preston 1961, 10-11; Smith 1993, 75). Part was pulled down in 1788, and alterations were made in 1911-13 (Preston 1961, 12; Hutton 1963, 10-11; Pevsner 1977, 175); the exterior is now largely roughcast with some brickwork. After the construction of a new rectory for Lord William Cecil in Church Street in 1888 the old rectory was sold. The alterations made by Archdeacon Gibbs in 1911-13 included the addition of the staircase, two small rear wings, and a porch; an oak beam removed during the work, and made into a new front door, was found to have the date 1412 cut into it (Preston 1961, 12). The house has been a school since 1947. Hutton (1963, 9) reproduces both the 1607 plan and another made in 1962.

### **The watermills**

None of these buildings have any standing medieval remains, and they are not certainly on the same sites as the Domesday mills. Medieval timberwork, as yet unobserved, may survive in the mill leats.

#### *The papermill (The Cottage, Chequers, Mill Green)*

This may not be medieval in origin, as it may have been the fulling mill which was set up in 1608 by Walter Morrell to provide employment for the poor of Hatfield, on land provided by the Earl of Salisbury (Brown 1961, 11). As it was not far upstream from the Mill Green mill (complaints came from the Mill Green miller about the reduction in the head of water), it was on or close to the site of the paper mill marked on John Seller's map of 1676. It is easier to convert a fulling mill than a corn mill to the manufacture of paper, as both processes involve the use of hammers (Munby 1977, 196). By 1788, when it was rebuilt after a fire, Thomas Vallance was making paper at Mill Green. It continued to be used as a paper mill until c1838, when it became an oil mill. The mill itself burnt down again in 1883 and was not rebuilt (Branch Johnson 1970, 166), but the early 19<sup>th</sup> century red brick mill house survives. It is of three storeys with central door, flanked by panel pilasters and with a flat hood on fluted brackets. The sash windows have iron bars below the sills to strengthen them. The plain tile hipped roof has left and right centre chimney stacks. On the north side is a

canted three-storey bay window, and a mid 19<sup>th</sup> century porch. The rear extension and single storey outbuilding on the south side are also mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Mill Green Mill (Bush Hall Lane)*

This was the manorial mill in 1277; it needed repairs in 1358 and 1436 (Kirby 1990; Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.46). The surviving buildings, the mill over the millstream and the miller's house at the left end, are a patchwork of different dates. The earliest part is in the miller's house, which was originally two small houses, one behind the other. These were 16<sup>th</sup>-century timber-framed cottages; parts of the framework are still visible. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century they were extended slightly to the west, and at the same time or a little later the front and side walls were rebuilt in brick. The earliest surviving part of the mill itself is oak framing of the late 17<sup>th</sup> or early 18<sup>th</sup> century, butting onto the later brickwork on the west. In 1762 Joseph Bigg became the new miller, and repaired the mill. He rebuilt the front wall of the mill in brick (hence the dated brick with his initials, *17 IB 62*); established the present position of the waterwheel and the machinery shafts; and possibly raised the late 17<sup>th</sup>-early 18<sup>th</sup> century roof timbers to give more space. The Bigg family lost the mill in 1824. The new miller made some alterations and replaced some of the machinery, but thereafter no real attempt was made to update the mill. The last miller, Sidney Lawrance, retired in 1911 and the mill ceased operating. The house was let to employees of the new sewage works nearby. The mill was restored to regular working as a corn mill in 1986. The building has housed the Welwyn-Hatfield District Museum since 1973.

#### *Withy Mill (Cecil Saw Mill)*

This may have been the site of another Domesday watermill, and now stands at the edge of Hatfield Park. This was the Withy Mill in historical records (Hutton 1959, 13). After a fire c1830 the mill was rebuilt in yellow brick, on four floors with a timber wheelhouse. It continued as a corn mill until c1884, when it became a sawmill for the Hatfield estate (Branch Johnson 1970, 166). It ceased working some time after 1960, but stands in a working timberyard.

## **2.4 Hatfield in the coaching era**

In 1514 Henry VIII's farrier, Hannibal Zenzano, leased the manor of Hatfield from Ely and became keeper of the parks (VCH 1912, 92). Although the king did not seize the estate until the Dissolution, he made considerable use of it. Hatfield was no longer the manor house of absentee ecclesiastical lords, but a royal palace for almost the entire 16<sup>th</sup> century. Queen Elizabeth spent much of her early life there, and later appears to have greatly extended it. The town, therefore, was increasingly dominated by its position at the gates long before the Cecils received the estate from James I in exchange for Theobalds in 1607. The town prospered from the Great North Road running through it, although it did not grow. The late medieval Market House, timber-framed, with open arcades on the ground floor and rooms above, is shown on the 1607 map in its original position at the foot of Fore Street. Increasing traffic on the highway led to its removal in the 1760s. It was moved to the top of Fore Street where it stood until c1850 (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.61). The land tax returns show that although the Cecils owned much of the surrounding land, only a few of the buildings in the town were their property before the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Gray 1964, 7). The

town had several coaching inns, and some brewing, malting and tanning as well as tradesmen, but it did not attract professional men such as lawyers and doctors. The many surviving buildings reflect this.

### **Hatfield House**

Following his exchange with the king in 1607 Robert Cecil, earl of Salisbury, built a new house which was meant to accommodate royal visits, and survives as one of the grandest houses of the 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is well documented (Pevsner 1977, 165-70; Smith 1993, 70-75) and is not discussed in detail here. It did not live up to Cecil's hopes, as he died in 1612 before it was finished, and the royal visitors never came.

The old park was also altered, to give the house more privacy. Part of the open fields of Hatfield lay north of Fore Street and came up close to the Bishop's Palace (Munby 1977, 151). Cecil bought out the copyhold tenants at considerable expense and took the arable into the park. Further changes were made to the east, where the hunting park of Hatfield Wood was partly enclosed (James 1966, 8-9), and Millwards (Middle) Park and New Park were defined. A new house for the Ranger was built (the Lodge House, below). At the same time the gardens, including a vineyard with walls and pavilions, were laid out to complement the house, with planting by John Tradescant the elder. The fountain and waterworks are original; the garden on the east side of the house was redone in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, in Jacobean style (Pevsner 1977, 170). The Hatfield House gardens were in the forefront of new design in the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

Travellers visiting the house in the 18<sup>th</sup> century observed the fine gardens, and the ancient oaks in the park. In the 1760s they also noted that nothing had been updated for a long time, and the inside of the house was 'extremely out of repair'. It seems to have been much as Robert Cecil left it in 1612, apart from some renovation after a fire in 1666 (Smith 1993, 71). The sixth earl (1734-80) spent no money at all on the house. From 1780 the interior of the house, and the gardens, were transformed by the first Marquess (Smith 1993, 73; Tomkins 1998, 45, 47, 68). An early 19<sup>th</sup> century Gothick range was built north of the Bishop's Palace (Pevsner 1977, 165). Also part of the improvements was the diversion in 1784 of the Great North Road between Woodside and Church Street, so that it no longer crossed the main private drive to the house (Lynch 2000, 9-10).

In the 1820s the second Marquess altered the north and east wings again, restoring a Jacobean appearance, and in 1835 the centre of the west wing was gutted by fire and reconstructed. The third Marquess, Robert Salisbury, installed gas and electricity but the house has not since been materially altered.

### **The Great North Road**

The road past the Palace gate became part of one of the main coaching routes of the post-medieval period. This route was pieced together from existing roads during the 16<sup>th</sup> century, before the alterations to the boundaries of Hatfield Park. The road to Hatfield ran from Potters Bar via Bell Bar to Woodside, along the lanes through the open fields north of Middle Park (Hutton 1959, 13), past the Bishop's Palace and down Fore Street. The section through Hatfield Park from Woodside was not diverted until 1783. Throughout the 17<sup>th</sup> century it was in poor condition, and

although in 1722 the stretch from Galley Corner (Potters Bar) to Hatfield was taken into the care of the Galley Corner Turnpike Trust, and toll gates and milestones erected, in 1724 Daniel Defoe could still describe the stretch north from 'the park corner of Hatfield House' as 'a most frightful way' (Tomkins 1998, 41). In 1762 William Toldervy (*ibid.*, 59) found the road north from Gobions greatly improved, and the town 'pretty large, and not ill-built', with a good market. A gate with a tollhouse was erected north of the town at what came to be Oldings Corner, where Tescos was later built (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl. 44).

In 1757 a separate trust turnpiked the Hertford-Reading road, which became the A414. A surviving milestone opposite the Comet is one of the cast iron replacements put up by the Trust c1820, when improvements were made to the road.

### **Inn buildings**

The coaching inns in the old town prospered until the arrival of the railways. The earliest were already in existence in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The Rose & Crown in Fore Street is described above. The main inns lined Fore Street and the market place; Back (Church) Street was the wagon route of the Great North Road, and had beerhouses rather than inns. Other inns have disappeared. Priory House, which stood on the Great North Road beyond the Brewery, was a mainly 17<sup>th</sup> century house which had been the White Horse from at least 1605, and the Green Man in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1788 it became the home of the Searancke brewing family. The kitchens at least were earlier than the main part of the house, and excavations after demolition in 1968 in the kitchen area recorded a cobbled yard bedded on sand over Tudor tiles, which in turn covered a rammed pebble floor which was apparently also 16<sup>th</sup> century. This had sunk into a medieval pit (Fletcher 1969). In the sand bedding beneath the yard was debris which had clearly come from the inn: over 200 clay pipe bowls covering the period 1680-1720, contemporary pottery and a stirrup.

#### *Salisbury Arms (2-4 Fore Street)*

A large 18<sup>th</sup> century building of 15 bays, at the top of Fore Street and immediately outside the courtyard entrance to Hatfield House. The chequered red brick centre, two storeys with central door, low parapet and three box dormers, probably dates to c1725-30, according to Pevsner (1977, 171). Newspaper notices in 1730 refer to the building having been repaired after a period of disuse, and stables newly built. The plainer brickwork of the end projections, with attic windows in tall parapets, is late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century. It appears to have become an inn during the earlier 17<sup>th</sup> century, although the standing building is apparently later. Documentary records indicate that a brewhouse stood on the site in the medieval period, replaced by 'bedehouses' in the time of Bishop Alcock (1486-1501). In the 1520s these came into private hands; in 1618 the building was leased as Lord Salisbury's Arms. From then until 1780 it was known as the *White Lion*, the image on the Salisbury coat of arms (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 11-12). It was one of the largest inns in the town, with 12 hearths in 1663, and with beds for 11 and stabling for 40 horses in the 1756 victuallers' billeting return. Adjacent was a house known as the Horse & Groom, which in 1756 had no stabling. In 1764 a post chaise service between London and Stamford was set up from the Horse & Groom, but lasted only three years (Branch Johnson 1962, 61). In 1821 it became the Salisbury Arms Tap. They both closed c1879, and the building is now converted into town houses. At the east end is an

early 19<sup>th</sup> century crenellated wall with coach entrance. The two-storey extension at the west end is 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*East Indian Chief (10 Fore Street)*

An early 18<sup>th</sup> century red brick house, five bays, two storeys and attic, under plain tile hipped roof. The south end faces the street; the main face with central door is the west front, with five windows. The door has a fanlight; the cornice hood and the windows are 20<sup>th</sup> century. The house was new in 1715, but was not apparently an inn until after the compilation of the victuallers' billeting returns for 1756. In 1776 it was open as the *Roebuck alias the Nags Head*, and in the 1780s was the *Marquis of Granby*. In the early 1850s it was the *Full Measure*, and was the *East Indian Chief* by 1855 (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 30). The inn closed in the early 1960s (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 62).

*Eight Bells (46 Fore Street and 2 Park Street)*

In 1728 the house, straggling round the corner from Fore Street, was bought by John Searancke, who owned the brewery across the street (below; Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 63). It is not known if this was already an inn, but by 1732 it was known as the Five Bells. The victuallers' billeting returns, 1756, list it as the Eight Bells, with three beds and stabling for four horses (Branch Johnson n.d.). Cockfighting was held here during the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Branch Johnson 1962, 61). No.2 Park Street is timber-framed and was probably built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. It is a three-sided building of one storey and attics, a tall rebuilt chimney stack, and a plain tile roof. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was given a painted stucco and plaster front. Outside on the pavement is a free-standing chamfered oak post supporting a wrought iron bracketed frame for the painted wood inn sign. The post dates to the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. 44 and 46 Fore Street are a house pair but only no.46 is part of the public house; no.44 has a late 19<sup>th</sup> century shop fascia. They are three storeys high, timber framing visible on the gable end of no.44, with a late 18<sup>th</sup> century red brick front and slate roof. Hutton (1963, 25) describes 44-46 as in origin three small timber-framed houses put up in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century, with three rooms on each floor and a chimney-stack common to two of the houses. Fireplaces were on the upper floor, suggesting that the ground floor was from the first intended for business use. The inn premises were extended to include no.46, previously also a shop, in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. It is this inn which has an association with Charles Dickens.

*Green Man (5 Fore Street)*

Listed as a late 18<sup>th</sup>-century three-storey town house, this was originally part of a single building, divided into three, built in 1737 on the site of an earlier timber-framed hall house (Gray 1964, 13). In 1777 two of the tenements were sold and rebuilt as no.7 Fore Street (below). No. 5 was later converted into a coach-house for no.7, and after the property's sale to Nathaniel Cheek in 1823 the coach-house was converted into the Green Man beerhouse. It is a tall and narrow building, with a slate roof. The upper floors are painted brick, the ground floor painted and banded stucco with a shallow entablature course. The door, at the left, has plain side pilasters and a thin hood on shaped brackets. To its right is only one window. The façade has a projecting sign holder of wrought iron, left behind after the inn closed in 1956.

*King's Head (21-25 Fore Street)*

A large early 18<sup>th</sup> century house on the corner with Church Street, altered in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century into three shops, and again c1980 into a house and office. The construction is timber framing, with plastered walls, two storeys and attics under a single plain tile roof. At the west end are two red brick square chimney-stacks, and at the east end is a single similar stack. No.21, still a house, has an 18<sup>th</sup> century door frame and a 20<sup>th</sup> century bow window; the office windows (nos.23-5) are recent imitations. First mentioned in 1697, this was the King's Head inn, with an archway into the stableyard. In 1756 it had nine beds and stabling for 14 horses. The three 19<sup>th</sup> century shops were known collectively as Waterloo House, a name presumably acquired in 1815 or soon after; the conversion had taken place by 1838 (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 14, 31).

#### *Chequers (1-3 Park Street)*

Only part of the structure survives, within nos.1-3 Park Street. It is a long timber-framed 17<sup>th</sup>-century range with a cross wing on the south, two storeys, and with tiled roof. The tall red brick axial chimney stack, with six square joined shafts, is early-mid 17<sup>th</sup> century. The building was once longer on the south side, and foundations have apparently been seen beneath the road surface (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 14; Harrison 1974b). A reference in the manor court rolls to the stream between 'Le Cheker' and Lesers (Lizard) Lane dates to 1490, but there is no indication that it was already an inn. By the early 17<sup>th</sup> century it belonged to the Searancke family who built their brewery on the land behind, and later issued tokens from the Chequers. In 1756 it was the largest coaching inn in Hatfield, with beds for 15 and stabling for 40 horses (Branch Johnson n.d.). By 1802 the inn had closed, the building continuing in use as the brewer's house. The door at the left has an early 19<sup>th</sup> century bracketed hood, belonging to this period. No.5 has been rebuilt (Harrison 1974b).

#### *Horse & Groom (21 Park Street)*

This may originally have been the Arm & Sword, recorded from 1692. At some time between 1705 and 1722 the inn closed, remaining a private house until after 1771 when it was bought by the Searanckes of Hatfield Brewery. The current name appeared in 1806 (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 65). It is not to be confused with the other Horse & Groom which became the Salisbury Arms Tap (above). The building is timber-framed, 17<sup>th</sup> century or earlier, two storeys; in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the red brick casing was added, and is now painted. On the north side is a one-bay extension added in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, when a chimney-stack was added where the roof line changes. The ground floor windows and door are also 19<sup>th</sup> century. At the rear is a square outbuilding, partly timber framed and partly red brick, with machine tile roof.

#### *Travellers' Rest (24 Church Street)*

A later 18<sup>th</sup> century house of chequered red brick, two storeys and attics over the cellar, and steep plain tile roof with two dormers. The door has a cornice hood on scrolled wooden brackets. The two-storey extension to the right is timber-framed and brick. This was a beerhouse and cheap lodging-house, first mentioned in 1845, and one of several recommended for closure by County Magistrates in 1904; it closed in 1906 (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 15, 31-2; Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 62).

#### *Red Lion (Great North Road)*

The Red Lion, first mentioned in 1723, originally stood on the old line of the Great North Road before it passed the gate of Hatfield House and turned down Fore Street (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 65). Its exact position has not been established, but it was near the George (below), across a piece of waste ground (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 10, 31). In 1756 it had beds for six, and stabling for 20 horses (Branch Johnson n.d.). When the road was diverted in 1784 the inn was bought by the Marquess of Salisbury and closed. By 1794 the new inn was open, at the point where the new line crossed the St Albans-Hertford road. It is a three-storey building of red brick with slate roof, and slightly projecting pedimented centre with a blank roundel at the top. The porch and the two-storey canted bay window were added in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as was the single storey extension on the right. It was the inn's good fortune to be close to the new railway station from 1850, as well as the 1877 entrance to Hatfield House. It survived the end of the coaching era as the most important public house in the town, including an assembly room. The premises were extended to the rear in the 1950s (Branch Johnson 1962, 61), replacing the stables.

Also on the Great North Road before its diversion was the *George*, at the top of Church Street. This was already in existence in the 1540s (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 10, 30; Harrison 1974a, 1) and is shown on the 1608 plan, with an elevated signboard across the width of the street outside (Cecil 1984, 16). The building then had a centre range of three bays, the entrance at the right, with cross-wings projecting forwards; it looks somewhat different, with outbuildings around a rear yard, in a view done in 1723 with a survey of its extensive property (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 10). It was sold to the Marquess in 1790 and demolished. Excavation in George's Field in Hatfield Park in 1973 found a large amount of post-medieval debris and signs of a roadway, adjacent to the site of the inn itself (*ibid.*, 5-6).

#### *Wrestlers (Great North Road)*

This was an alehouse first mentioned in 1733 as the Two Wrestlers (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 65; Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.45). The building, of one storey and attics, was apparently built in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and given a chequered red brick front in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. In 1792 it was bought by the Hatfield Brewery. It had no cellar, the beer being stored in an outhouse kept cool by a bank of earth. In 1836, by which time it had the modern name, it had a double coach house and stabling for 12 horses. The house was restored in 1968, after the collapse of the Wrestlers Bridge in 1966 and the diversion of the Great North Road left it in a cul-de-sac. The rear central projection of the T-plan largely dates to the restoration, but within it is part of a substantial two-bay timber-framed structure.

#### *Fiddle (St Albans Road)*

The original Fiddle was an alehouse half a mile along Roe Green Lane (College Lane), in existence by 1758 but possibly 17<sup>th</sup> century (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 63; Brown 1960, 27). In 1819 this alehouse was bought by Joseph Field, the Hatfield brewer. In 1822 he built a new house at the corner of Roe Green Lane and the turnpike road to St Albans, where a tollgate stood. It may have doubled as the tollgate keeper's house. The two alehouses became known as the Old Fiddle and the New Fiddle, and remained the property of the Hatfield Brewery until taken over by Benskins in 1920. The Old Fiddle was closed in 1956. The New Fiddle, altered in the 1930s, was refurbished in 1984 and renamed the Cat & Fiddle.

*Green Man (Mill Green Lane)*

A 17<sup>th</sup>-century timber-framed building near the two watermills, with plaster ground floor and contemporary brick upper floor, both now painted. The chimney-stack is central; the gable-ended roof is of plain tile. The lean-to rear extension is later; the gabled porch is 19<sup>th</sup> century. It is not mentioned as a public house before 1850 (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 30).

*Greyhound (Woodside)*

This was a coaching inn at the south-east corner of Hatfield Park, converted c1870 into a private house (St Michael's). An inn called the *Royal Oak formerly the Rose & Crown* is recorded here in 1679, when Searancke's sold it; in 1756 it was the *Green Man*, with three beds and stabling for four horses. It was sold in 1779 to John Church, who renamed it the *Greyhound* after the image on his coat of arms (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 30). The date of the standing building is early 18<sup>th</sup> century, in chequered red brick, with two ridge chimney stacks to the left, and an external stack against the front wall with diagonal mullioned shafts. The canted bay window at left centre blocks the former coach entrance. In the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, after the Great North Road had been diverted, the house was altered and the windows added.

**Brewing, malting and industry**

At the same time as the development of the Great North Road and its inns, and the rebuilding of Hatfield House, the town developed its brewing trade. As in former periods, industry was at the foot of the hill; in addition to the breweries there were at one time four maltings and a tannery (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 8-9; Gray 1964, 37-8; Brown n.d., 15, 20), by the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> century belonging to an interrelated group of families who between them owned much of the town (Gray 1964, 9). Three of the maltings and the tannery lay along Batterdale, a lane which ran west from the lower end of Church Street, past the pond, into French Horn Lane. Batterdale and its buildings disappeared during redevelopment in the late 1960s and 1970s, when the new railway bridge and roundabout were constructed. The maltings largely closed in the 1830s (Gray 1964, 38). The two breweries (below) came into existence in the earlier 18<sup>th</sup> century. One of them developed from a malting built c1700 in what was then Duck Lane; another malting on the south side of Batterdale was conveyed by the Searanckes to the Hare family in 1716, and sold to Lord Salisbury in 1807. The Hares lived in a fine late 17<sup>th</sup> century house in Batterdale which was later called the Colonel's House (a misnomer), and was demolished in the 1970s (Richardson 1988, 99; Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.172).

The tanyard is known from at least 1553, when Henry Oliver or Glover was ordered by the manor court 'not to throw his skins or hides into the common watercourse of Battersdell, nor commit any other nuisance on account of his occupation' (Gray 1964, 38-9). William Walby the butcher bought the tannery in 1724 and rented it out. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century a substantial brick house was built for the tanner near the junction with French Horn Lane (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.90); after the tanyard closed in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century it became a doctor's surgery (and was demolished c1970). On the west side of Park Street was the butcher's yard, giving a name to Blood & Guts Alley. These all made use of the water available here.

### ***The Hatfield Brewery***

At the beginning of the 17<sup>th</sup> century a branch of the Searancke family of Essendon moved to the Chequers in Park Street. It was the brewhouse behind this inn which developed into the Hatfield Brewery during the 18<sup>th</sup> century. When Francis Carter Searancke sold his interest to his partner Joseph Bigg c1815 the brewery owned twelve public houses in Hatfield parish, as well as others in the area (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 6; Harrison 1974b). After various sales it was bought by the Pryor brothers, brewers of Baldock, and in the late 1870s the company became Pryor, Reid & Co. A perspective view of the brewery was published c1907 (Gray 1964, 47).

### ***The Park Street Brewery***

This was further north along Park Street, north of the Horse & Groom, and filling the block back to the Great Northern hotel. Its origins were in a malting built in Park Street c1700 by John Harrow (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 8-9). It developed as a brewery during the 18<sup>th</sup> century, devolving through various people until it was leased in 1872 by A J Sherriff. Pryor, Reid acquired from A J Sherriff his brewing interests, thus combining the two breweries. It also bought the Newtown Brewery (below).

In March 1920, when the Hatfield Brewery was closed, its 98 public houses were sold to Benskins of Watford (*ibid.*). The brewery site became a garage, the curving street past its site continuing to be known as Brewery Hill until the Salisbury Square development altered the layout in the 1970s. Richardson (1988, 80) shows the filling in of the brewery cellars.

### **The Workhouse**

The original 18<sup>th</sup> century parish workhouse was in what came to be called Old Workhouse Yard at the foot of Church Street, next to the parish cage (hence 'Cage Hill' for the sloping corner leading into Batterdale). In 1789 a new purpose-built workhouse was put up some distance from the town, in what was later known as Union Lane (now Wellfield Road). This was a long way from the town, and possibly originated in a parish pesthouse for the isolation of those with infectious diseases. It could house more than twice as many inmates as the old workhouse (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.119). It is a double pile structure of red brick, two storeys and attics, with internal end chimney stacks. The front has a central triangular-headed slight projection, with pedimented wooden door surround, and restored pilasters. Each gable end has two small attic windows. The roof, and the single storey extensions on three sides, are 20<sup>th</sup> century. After the 1834 Poor Law Act this became the workhouse for Hatfield Union, and served a large area. The original New Town was laid out adjacent to it in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. The workhouse closed in 1929 and the building became a home and hospital for the elderly.

### ***Surviving 16<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> century Listed Buildings***

There are many Listed Buildings in the three main streets of Old Hatfield. Some of them were inns, and are described above. Others include comparatively humble timber-framed buildings, and several of the '18<sup>th</sup>-century' buildings described below, which are likely to be earlier in origin but later given a fashionable brick front.

### *Church Street*

*Nos.2-6:* a group of three two-storey houses in a U-plan, the two gable ends facing north, and probably dating from the 16<sup>th</sup> century. The north side is red brick, the east side timber framing and cement, the south side facing the street painted brick and stucco, with a projecting bay. The roofs are steep-pitched plain tile. On the north projections are external chimney stacks and lean-to outshuts. This group stands at the corner of the churchyard. From 1850 part of this building was the *Bakers' Arms* beerhouse, which lost its licence in 1928. The house was owned by the Bradshaws who opened the Newtown Brewery in the 1850s, and were bakers (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 17-18, 29). The building was restored by F W Speaight (see below). Since the 1920s Church Cottage has housed senior curates.

### *Fore Street*

*No.1 (The Rectory):* a timber-framed lobby entrance plan house built in the late 16<sup>th</sup> or early 17<sup>th</sup> century. It is of two bays, one on either side of the stack, in two storeys, now roughcast with stuccoed north gable end facing the street, and plain tile roof. A porch-bay was added to the north side in the early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the gabled ground floor window bay in the place of the original porch is 20<sup>th</sup> century. The house was occupied by the 'inferior clergy', the parish curates; the rector himself lived at Howe Dell (above). In 1606 it was described as a 'little house' belonging to the parsonage, 'newly re-edified' with hall, kitchen and buttery on the ground floor, three lodging-rooms above, and a vaulted cellar under the buttery (Hutton 1963, 15).

*No.9:* probably timber framed, with a late 17<sup>th</sup> century painted brick front; plain tile roof, two storeys and two bays wide. The windows and doors are early-mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, the canted shop window having a cast iron cresting.

*No.17:* this house was once a pair, nos.15-17. It has an earlier core behind the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and 20<sup>th</sup> century painted brick front. It has two storeys, a painted cornice and a slate roof behind the tall parapet. The right-hand canted bay window is 19<sup>th</sup> century but the left-hand bay window was added c1980, apparently replacing an older one (Gray 1964, fig.5). The property, traceable from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century, belonged to one family from 1749 to 1847, when it was sold as 'a capital brick-built sash-fronted freehold dwelling house.... Containing 4 airy bed rooms, parlour kitchen and other offices; also a spacious and old-established grocer's and tallow chandler's shop, with counting house, 3 warehouses, and large dry cellar' as well as outhouses (Gray 1964, 17). The brick front dates from when William Beard, the grocer at no.15, took over the tenancy of no.17 at the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The grocery business continued until c1930.

*No.19:* only one bay wide and two bays deep, with a 17<sup>th</sup> century and earlier timber frame behind a painted brick front added in the 18<sup>th</sup> century; three storeys, under a plain tile hipped roof. The bow window and the upper windows are 19<sup>th</sup> century. Also 19<sup>th</sup> century is a single storey outbuilding at the back which links the house with a late 17<sup>th</sup> century barn, partly weatherboarded and part red brick. This is of one storey and attic over a deep cellar, and with a steep plain tile roof.

*Nos.26-28*: a house pair, with a 17<sup>th</sup> century timber frame and a red brick front probably added in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Two storeys, central doors, and 20<sup>th</sup> century plain tile roof.

*No.38*: a house and shop with timber frame construction, probably 17<sup>th</sup> century, behind a late 19<sup>th</sup> century front with black tile ground floor and roughcast upper floor. The steep roof has plain tiles and a plastered gable end. Over the door is a canted oriel window. On the west is a one-bay extension.

*Nos.44-6*: these are a house pair, but as no.46 is now part of the Eight Bells they are described above.

#### *Park Street*

*No.44*: a small timber-framed house of probably 16<sup>th</sup> century date, one storey and attics. The walls are partly plastered, and partly chequered red brick added in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. On the north gable end is a large 17<sup>th</sup> century red brick oven and chimney stack. The sloping sides of the stack are partly tiled and partly enclosed in a 20<sup>th</sup> century weatherboarded shed. The dormers and the single storey south extension are also 20<sup>th</sup> century; the glazed front porch is 19<sup>th</sup> century.

*North Place (82 Great North Road)*: a double-pile house of the late 17<sup>th</sup> century, in red brick, two storeys and attics. The plain tile roof has a wooden eaves cornice. To the south is a late 19<sup>th</sup> century extension; the two-storey recessed extension on the north side was built c1977. Both extensions were designed to match the detail of the original house. The porch is late 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century the house was home to several doctors (Brown n.d., 19).

#### *Bush Hall, Chequers, Mill Green*

A double-pile house of 17<sup>th</sup> century red brick, two storeys and attics, with a red brick front added in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. The roofs are plain tile, with external gable end chimney-stacks. The front has canted bays to right and left, and a parapet (with modern coping). The house was originally a farmhouse near the watermill, and belonged to the Marquess of Salisbury. It has been leased since the 1840s, and is now a hotel and country club (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.24). In the 1970s an extension was added to the north-east.

#### *Mill Cottages, 3-5 Bush Hall Lane, Mill Green*

The three cottages have a timber frame which is 16<sup>th</sup>-century or possibly earlier, with heavy axial floor beams, inside a casing of late 19<sup>th</sup> century red brick and 20<sup>th</sup> century tile. The building has two storeys, with a ridge chimney stack south of centre, under a steep plain tile roof; and a lower gabled cross wing on the north side.

#### *The Lodge House, Home Park*

The house was built for the Ranger of Hatfield Park, in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century. At a later date it was converted into two cottages, and more recently back into a single house. The original building was timber framed, two storeys and attics. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century it was cased in red brick, and given a good dog leg staircase. In the early-mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, possibly 1738 (the date on a lead drainpipe), the house was altered and updated. The front is symmetrical with two projecting gabled wings, and

chimney stacks at either end of the roof, with joined square shafts. At the west end is an early 18<sup>th</sup> century gabled stair turret. Attached to the rear of the house is a brick corridor leading to a single-storey red brick range added in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. This has two chimney stacks and two small gables on the west side, partly weatherboarded. This structure is known as the Deer Larder.

### *Surviving 18<sup>th</sup> century Listed Buildings*

The 18<sup>th</sup>-century appearance of buildings in the Old Town is misleading. As so often happened, here as elsewhere fashionable brick fronts were added in the 18<sup>th</sup> century to older timber-framed buildings, and not all of these have been recognised. This is compounded by the presence in Fore Street c1910-30 of F W Speaight, an antique dealer. 'We do not know which houses Speaight successively owned, improved and re-sold, or even restored for their owners' (Hutton 1963, 27), but he was certainly responsible for the appearance of Morton House, no.3, and Goodrich House (no. 12), which was his shop. He also reconstructed Church Cottage and the Bakers Arms. The windows, doorcases and other details of several houses in Fore Street, while genuinely 18<sup>th</sup> century, may not have been in their present facades until the 20<sup>th</sup> century (compare Kirby & Busby 1995, pls.73 and 76). The actual date of these houses has not been ascertained. Gray (1964, 11ff.) points out that in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century most of the Fore Street buildings housed tradesmen, not professional men requiring fashionable houses.

#### *30 Church Street*

This has an 18<sup>th</sup>-century chequered red brick front, but is of earlier timber-framed construction. It has two storeys and attics, with a gabled dormer, under a steep-pitched plain tile mansard roof.

#### *Fore Street*

*No.3 (Morton House):* a timber-framed house, two storeys and attics, the rear range probably earlier than its early-mid 18<sup>th</sup> century appearance. This is given by the seven-bay red brick front, with parapet and box dormers. The basement windows have 18<sup>th</sup> century wrought iron grilles. In c1911 the house was 'improved' by A Winter Rose for the owner, F W Speaight; the staircase probably came from elsewhere. At the rear of the house is the stable block, in chequered red brick, under a plain tile roof with a weathervane. The east face has three relieving arches and a wooden square projecting pigeon loft. In the late 17<sup>th</sup> century the property belonged to a member of the Searancke family. The stable block was a separate house until its conversion in the 1780s (Gray 1964, 11).

*No.7:* 'a good example of late Palladian domestic' architecture, but the rear is timber-framed and earlier than the late 18<sup>th</sup> century red brick front. A timber-framed hall house on the site of nos.5-7 Fore Street was 'lately rebuilt' in 1737, and divided into three tenements; in 1777 the lower two properties were sold and rebuilt as the present house, by John Darby, a surgeon (Gray 1964, 13). Like no.5 this is a three-storey house, but wider, with cornice and parapet, under a plain tile roof. The doorcase is of Adam design, with semicircular fanlight and Doric columns. At the back of the house is a rainwater head dated 1826. In the rear garden is a weatherboarded barn of 17<sup>th</sup> century timber framing, two bays, with steep-pitched plain tile roof. The west side

has a wide plank door on the upper floor, and a modern garage extension to the south. No.5 became first the coach-house for no.7, and later the *Green Man* beerhouse (above).

*No.13*: a mid-late 18<sup>th</sup>-century house, two storeys and attics, in painted brick with slate mansard roof and two dormers. The doorcase at the left is good, with wooden Doric columns, entablature and cornice. At the left is an early lead drainpipe and fire insurance marks.

*No.12 (Goodrich House)*: a smart town house built of red brick in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, two storeys with basement and attic, under plain tile gable end roof. Nos.12-14 Fore Street were previously the site of the *Cock* or *Cockhouse* inn, acquired by the Searanckes in the later 17<sup>th</sup> century. By 1725 four houses stood on the site, sold then by John Searancke to his brother-in-law (Gray 1964, 24-5). By 1792 two of these four houses had been rebuilt as the present no.12. It has an Adam-style doorcase with double doors and ornate fanlight, and original shutters on the sash windows and iron grilles on the basement windows. A long rear extension on the west side ends in a square block with pyramid roof, next to a wrought iron gate flanked by original gate piers with stone finials of bishop's mitres. A good many of these details were introduced by Speaight when the house served as his antique shop.

*No.14*: the other two houses built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century on the site of the Cockhouse inn (see no.12) are in red brick, two storeys and attics with a slate mansard roof behind a parapet. It is not clear at what date they were turned into one property, but documentation suggests that this may not have been until they became the *Compasses* public house for a few years in the 1850s (Gray 1964, 25). The *Compasses* closed in 1859. The door at the left has a doorcase with columns and cornice.

*No.16 (The Garden House)*: apparently mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, of chequered red brick on a rendered base, two storeys and attics; a deep wooden cornice below a parapet, and steep slate roof with three dormers. The door has a wooden porch with free-standing columns and pilasters, and a narrow fanlight. In the garden 30m north-west of the house is a two-storey square pavilion, of red brick, under a pyramid plain tile roof. This is used as a garage. The property was bought in 1715 by Samuel Atkinson, who carried on his business as an apothecary from the house until his death in 1767. From the 1780s until c1820 it was a baker's shop (Gray 1964, 25).

*Nos.18-20*: apparently built as one house in the later 18<sup>th</sup> century, in chequered red brick on a rendered base, under a steep tiled roof with dormers. At the west end gable is a twin-shaft chimney stack. The house is documented from 1698; it was divided into two tenements in 1774 (Gray 1964, 25).

*Nos.22-24*: a house pair which appear to date to c1800, although documented from 1705. The property was sold in 1764, then in 1791 to the Marquess of Salisbury, who converted it into two (Gray 1964, 27). They are of red brick, two storeys and attics, with plain tile roofs and a pair of dormer windows. The two doors are matching, with thin hoods on shaped brackets.

No.32: a two-storey house with a late 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century red brick front, plain tile roof, and central door. This and its neighbouring properties were bought by the Searanckes in 1728 and sold in 1816, and no.32 was tenanted by cordwainers and shoemakers from the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century until after 1851 (Gray 1964, 27).

#### *Park Street*

Nos.4-10: a terrace with 18<sup>th</sup> century red brick casing but probably of earlier timber-framed construction, two storeys, with four ridge chimney stacks. The roof is plain tile. No.10 has a 19<sup>th</sup> century shop window and door. No.4 belonged to a blacksmith in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and became the Waters garage business in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century (Brown n.d., 16).

No.38 (*Hill House*): a substantial double-pile house of c1800, built on a rise on the edge of the old town and now in the shadow of the Hatfield House viaduct. It is assumed that it was built by William Hall the younger (d.1845), as his father lived at Church Cottage until his death in 1794 (Gray 1964, 84). Both were carpenters and builders in Hatfield, the younger William Hall becoming a principal owner of town property. Hill House is of red brick, three storeys, with basement and attic. The roofs are plain tile, behind front and gable-end parapets, and in the centre front the parapet forms a small pediment with oculus. The central door has a pedimented Doric porch of wood, a semicircular fanlight, and steps down either side with plain iron railings.

No.40: another house with a probably earlier core behind a chequered red brick front of the early-mid 18<sup>th</sup> century; the external chimney stack at the north gable end is probably 17<sup>th</sup> century in its lower half. Two storeys, with plain tile roof and central 19<sup>th</sup> century door with latticed porch. The single storey lean-to at the north end is also 19<sup>th</sup> century.

#### *Holly Cottage, Chantry Lane*

A house which apparently dates to the early-mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, but with chamfered floor beams inside which may be earlier. It has two storeys, with a chequered red brick front and roughcast gable ends under a plain tile roof with end chimney-stacks. Hutton (1963, 22-3) shows the plan and a photograph of it as originally a pair of cottages, with one large and one small room on each floor and a lean-to at each end. The windows are 19<sup>th</sup> century; the porch was added c1970. Chantry Lane led to land which provided an endowment for a chantry in Hatfield parish church, founded in 1333 (Brown 1960, 8). Holly Cottages were built on the smallholding known as Pepper Alley or Pepper Hall, taken from the waste in 1607 (*ibid.*, 13-14).

#### *1-6 Mill Green Lane*

An 18<sup>th</sup>-century cottage terrace of chequered red brick, two storeys, under an old tile roof with ridge chimney stacks, and five windows. No.1 has painted brickwork and a 20<sup>th</sup> century extension; the front extension to no.2 was built in 1982.

#### *Orchard House, Hatfield Park*

This was built as the farmhouse of the Home Farm in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is one storey and attics, in chequered red brick, with a long west front with five gabled dormers. The chimney stack is close to the north gable end, which has the main door with bracketed hood and moulded pilasters. The east front has two dormers. The

south end of the range is a barn. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century a centre extension was built on the east side forming a T plan.

## **2.5 The nineteenth century**

Two major developments in the 19<sup>th</sup> century brought changes to the town. The original new town dates not to the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but to the 1850s. This was a comparatively small but significant development, which a century later became the core of modern Hatfield. It happened at the same time as, but independently of, the arrival of the railways. The population of the parish as a whole remained small: from 3,862 people in 1851 it rose only to 4,754 by 1901 (Kirby & Busby 1995).

In 1784 the Marquess of Salisbury had diverted the portion of the Great North Road running through his park into a new line about 100 yards south of his private drive from Woodside (Lynch 2000, 10). It still led through the park, and complaints continued to be made about its muddy condition. During the 1830s, when improvements were being carried out by Thomas Telford, the trustees made attempts to deal with this stretch. Nothing came of them until the 1840s, when Lord Salisbury, anticipating the effects of the planned new railway, negotiated an agreement with them and with the railway companies. The road was given a radical new route from the north of Potters Bar, sweeping south of Millwards Park and just east of the railway line, into Hatfield to the foot of Church Street and continuing via Brewery Hill past the station. The railway opened in 1850, the new road in 1851. The main result of all this effort was that long-distance traffic went by train and the Great North Road lost its trade.

### **The New Town**

In 1841 seven acres of land adjacent to Stockbreach Common, which had been apparently used for grazing by the town butchers, were sold to Benjamin Young of Fore Street. In 1848 his nephew sold the land in plots to speculative builders. This was the original New Town, and by 1861 it was covered in houses. It appears to have been a successful venture from the start, even before the opening of Hatfield railway station. It covered a triangular area west of the Union Workhouse, and south of what had been common land; hence Union (Wellfield) Lane and Common Road. This original development has been entirely replaced by the centre of Hatfield New Town.

The *Newtown Brewery* was established in the 1850s by George and Charles Bradshaw behind their public house, the White Lion. It was acquired by Pryor, Reid & Co. at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 7-8).

### **The Great Northern Railway**

The main line from London to York opened in 1850, with a station at Hatfield. Unlike many landowners, the Marquess of Salisbury encouraged the building of the railway line through his property. He insisted on a station adjacent to his park, with fast access to and from London for himself and many distinguished visitors. A cast iron screen and gates were erected at the entrance to a private drive from the station, on a viaduct over Park Street (built in 1877). The original station (Kirby & Busby

1995, pl.103) was demolished in 1972 and a new one built on the other side of the line. Housing now occupies the site of the 1850 station.

### **The Hatfield & St Albans Railway**

This was a single-track line which opened in 1865 and ran from Hatfield main line station to St Albans Abbey station, where it connected with the LNWR branch from Watford Junction (Taylor & Anderson 1988). In 1883 it was taken over by the Great Northern. It ran through a level crossing at Ellenbrook Lane, and the crossing-keeper's house, built in 1865, survives on the east side of the road. A halt opened west of the crossing in 1910, with a platform on the south side of the track. The waiting room was demolished after the closure of passenger services in 1951, but the platform remains. Another halt was opened in 1942 at Lemsford Road to serve the airfield. The line closed in 1968 and the track-bed has been cut by the A1(M), but much of it survives as a public footpath and cycle track.

From 1860 Hatfield Station was a junction. Passengers had to change here for two other branch lines, which turned east and west from the main line in the area of what is now Welwyn Garden City: the Hatfield, Luton & Dunstable Railway, opened in 1860, and the Hertford & Welwyn Junction branch to Hertford, opened in 1858 and taken over by the GNR in 1861 (Hutton 1960, 16-18).

### **The Hertfordshire Militia**

In 1853 the headquarters of the Herts Militia moved to Hatfield. The Marquess of Salisbury, as Colonel, built a double row of cottages for the sergeants in what had been Old Workhouse Yard, at the foot of Jacobs Steps up to Church Street (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.87). These cottages, with a communal pump, were rented out after the return of the Militia HQ to Hertford in 1873, and were known as Salisbury Square. They were demolished in 1972.

### **Chapels and schools**

In 1847 Upton (Burg 1995, 35) reported that the parish clergy were 'rigidly high church' and 'very active, in every practicable way imitating and neutralizing the movements of Dissenters'. Until 1851 the Wesleyan and Primitive Methodists avoided the proximity of Hatfield House in chapels at Lemsford and Newgate Street.

### ***The Park Street Chapel***

This was built in 1823, set back from the east side of Park Street, by the Union of Independents and Baptists (Preston 1961, 23-5). It was a brick building in classical style with a pediment and columned porch (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.88). In 1932 the congregation, by now belonging to the Congregational church, moved to a new building, Christ Church in St Albans Road. The Park Street chapel was demolished the same year. Some of the tombstones from its burial ground remain, leaning against the wall by the new housing in Park Close (Brown n.d., 16); 30 coffins were re-interred 'beneath the wall of Hatfield Park, which bounds part of the Close' (Richardson 1988, 17).

### ***Wesleyan Methodist Chapel*** (Church Street)

In 1851 a Wesleyan chapel opened in one end of a stable belonging to the Two Brewers public house, near the top of Church Street (Gray & Pinhorn 1960, 19). As

the chapel end was reputed to have been a cowshed, it was known as the Moo Cow Chapel. The Two Brewers closed in 1888, and was demolished to build the new rectory known as St Audrey's. In 1889 a Methodist church was built in French Horn Lane, on the site of one half of a pair of villas near the railway bridge (Preston 1961, 26-7). It was sold in 1938 when a new church was built in Birchwood Avenue. The 1889 building was used as a furniture store until its demolition in 1968 to make way for the new railway bridge (Kirby & Busby 1995, pls. 89, 171).

#### ***St Luke's Church*** (St Albans Road East)

This was built as a chapel for the New Town cemetery in 1877. It soon came to provide regular services for the inhabitants of the New Town, and was extended into a cruciform church in 1893 by H T Shillito. The style is Early English Gothic, rockface limestone with ashlar dressings, and has an open stone belfry on the west gable. The cemetery wall and timber porch date to 1893. The font came from the Methodist Church in French Horn Lane after its closure in 1938 (Preston 1961, 17).

#### ***Roe Green Mission Room*** (Roe Green Lane)

This was a 'tin tabernacle' opened in December 1888 to serve an outlying part of the parish, and was known as the Iron Room (Preston 1961, 17). It was replaced in 1958 by St John's church, at the highest point in the New Town. After continued parochial use the old mission room was demolished in 1994 (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.49).

#### ***National School***

Most of the children attended the National School, run on Church of England principles. Before the school in London Road was built in 1850 the boys, girls and infants were taught in separate buildings (Padget 1962, 11). In 1839 the boys were in Fore Street, probably in the room over the Market House. On the tithe map of 1838 a school house belonging to the curate is shown at Puttocks Oak, by the road to St Albans, and the boys appear to have moved to this building in the 1840s. The London Road school was built by public subscription, for 105 infants and 130 juveniles, and used materials from older buildings (these included the Hare Malting, and possibly the old Market House). The new school was a small building of red brick, with a bell turret. In 1854 it was extended to accommodate the boys, until then still at Puttocks Oak (Padget 1962, 12). With the passing of the 1870 Education Act it became the C. of E. School. Overcrowding led to the building of a new school (St Audreys) for the senior boys in Endymion Road (School Lane) in 1904. The girls followed in 1924, the 1850 building now considered unhygienic. St Audreys was destroyed by a flying bomb in 1944. The London Road building was demolished in the 1960s.

#### ***Countess Anne's School, Church Street***

Upton also notes a Female School of Industry, for 40 girls. This was originally a Charity School set up in 1732 by the Countess of Salisbury for clothing and teaching twenty girls (VCH 1912, 111). The schoolhouse was a brick building with accommodation for the Mistress, a yard and a garden, on the old line of the Great North Road and apparently somewhere near Lawn House (Padget 1962, 5). This has gone; after a period in the Town Lodge at the top of Fore Street the school moved into a building in Church Street which had been built in 1869 and used as a temporary church during the restoration of the parish church in 1871-2. It is in Tudor style red brick, under a plain and fish-scale tile roof, with parapeted gable ends, and details

copied from the Old Palace. There are large stepped buttresses between the windows, which have moulded brick mullions and surrounds, but casements made of cast iron. On the right is a Dutch-gabled porch with 4-centre arched doorway and panelled door. The charity school closed in 1912, but the building was used by the infants of the National School in London Road from 1913, and the 'Countess Anne' name persisted. In 1962 a new 'Countess Anne' school opened in Endymion Road and since then the Church Street building has been used as St Etheldreda's church hall.

### **Utilities**

These began to appear after 1850, to serve both the old and new towns and situated along the old route of French Horn Lane, connecting the two settlements. The *Gasworks* were built just west of the railway bridge; further along the lane was the *police station*. This was an 18<sup>th</sup> century farmhouse called Goldings, which was leased by Lord Salisbury to Hertfordshire County Police from 1856 to 1883 (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.109). The first police station had been a cottage next to the Gun public house in Newtown (Brown 1961, 24). In 1883 a new Headquarters was built in St Albans Road (School Lane; demolished 1994-5); Goldings was replaced in 1968 by a block of flats. An Engine House for the voluntary *Fire Brigade*'s equipment was built in Batterdale in 1899 (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.113-14). This building was used until a new fire station was opened in Wellfield Road in 1966.

### *19<sup>th</sup> century Listed Buildings*

#### *Real Tennis Court & Riding School*

This building was erected in 1840 by the second Marquess of Salisbury. The façade facing the late medieval palace courtyard is of Tudor style, red brick, in two storeys and attics but with imitation windows, gabled towers, and moulded brick doorways. The rear elevations are of plain brick. The sloping roofs cover three colonnaded viewing galleries overlooking the real tennis court. The riding school is now used as the exhibition centre.

#### *Church Street*

*No.5*: a 'rustic' cottage, presumably designed to look picturesque next to Countess Anne's School. It has one storey and attics, random red brick walls with dressed brick angles under a plain tile roof with a chimney-stack which has three diagonal shafts. On the left is a gabled projection with four-centre arch door and canted bay window; on the right is a single-storey projection. The casement windows have lozenge-pattern cast iron bars.

*Nos.8-10*: an early 19<sup>th</sup>-century semi-detached pair, two storeys, in yellow stock brick with hipped slate roof and tall central chimney-stack, and semicircular fanlights over the doors.

#### *Fore Street*

*No.11*: a three-storey building, once a butcher's shop, dating to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century; painted brick with slate roof. The ground floor double shop front was converted into a house c1970, but the canopy hood with iron hooks on bracketed rails, and the double door, were kept.

No.34: the red brick front dates to the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, but the timber frame of the building is apparently earlier. This was one of the houses in Fore Street bought by the Searanckes in 1728 and sold in 1816 (Gray 1964, 27), so the alterations may date to the period of its sale. Two storeys, slate roof with chimneys at each end, central door. The brickwork of the ground floor is now largely 20<sup>th</sup> century.

## 2.6 Twentieth century change

Early expansion of the town came with new council housing under the Municipal Housing Acts, 1919 and 1923 (Hutton 1959, 6). In 1927 the Barnet by-pass opened, carrying the Great North Road away from the old town. Shortly afterwards Harpsfield Hall Farm, west of the by-pass, was put up for sale, and land was bought by the London Aeroplane Club for a small grass airfield, which opened in 1930 (Brown 1960, 12). In 1933 the de Havilland Aircraft Co moved from Edgware to establish their new aerodrome and factory (Branch Johnson 1970, 166; Kirby & Busby 1995, introduction). Also in 1933 the Rural District Council began to build new housing at Birchwood Farm to house the necessary workers; Hatfield Garden Village was built in 1935 (Hutton 1959, 6). The land bought by de Havilland was not in Hatfield parish until the necessary boundary changes were made in 1935, but thereafter the focus of the town was irrevocably altered. The factory employed 3,500 local people, and produced the Mosquito, Comet, and Trident here. As British Aerospace it diversified into rocketry, missiles and avionics.

In 1948 Hatfield and Welwyn Garden City were designated New Towns, each with its own Development Corporation (although the membership of each corporation was the same) (Munby 1977, 240). Until the mid 1950s only part of the area between the A1 and the old Great North Road was built over, and it was only thereafter that the infill was completed. Even so, the New Town centred on the seven acres which had been the original New Town in the 1850s, and which were now comprehensively rebuilt.

In 1993 British Aerospace closed the Hatfield site and it is in process of being redeveloped. Several noteworthy buildings of the de Havilland era survive and are listed.

### ***20<sup>th</sup>-century Listed Buildings:***

#### *British Aerospace Offices, Staff Mess, and Gatehouse, Comet Way*

The offices were built in 1934 by Geoffrey Monro as the administration and design block of the de Havilland Aviation Company, in white-painted reinforced concrete (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.126). The style is International Modern/Moderne. It was here that the Mosquito, Comet, and other aeroplanes were designed. The adjacent Staff Mess and Gatehouse are in matching style and by the same architect.

#### *Flight test hangar, offices, fire station and control tower, Comet Way*

These buildings were put up in 1952-4 for the construction of the de Havilland Comet aeroplane, and were designed by James M Monro & Son and others. The hangar is notable partly for its historical associations with the development and testing of the first passenger jet, and its subsequent safety modifications; and partly for its innovative aluminium structure. The office block is partly steel framed, with

aluminium window frames. The six-storey control tower is noted for its early use of non-reflective plate glass and air conditioning, and has curved balconies on the front of each floor. Inside, the staircase with its distinctive 1950s styling, and the original desk and controls, survive. The fire station building has a curved front wall similar to the design of the control tower, and double doors.

#### *Comet public house*

'A pioneer hotel in the modern style', opened in 1936 on the west side of the new Barnet by-pass and inspired by the shape of a famous aeroplane, a de Havilland Comet Racer which flew in record time from London to Melbourne in 1934 (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.129). The architect was E B Musman, for Benskins Brewery. The centre projecting section has a rounded end, the ground floor projecting further forward than the upper floor. The single-storey side wings are also half round. The construction is red brick with stone dressings on a steel frame. The roofs are flat and not visible, although there was originally a lantern. The original steel window frames also survive, with the addition of two new ones in the front elevation. The interior has been altered.

#### *St John the Evangelist church, Highview*

Designed by Peter Bosanquet and opened in 1960 to replace the old Roe Green Mission Room (above). It has yellow brick end walls, and low banded pink and brown side walls, under a deep and steeply pitched roof. It stands on the highest ground in Hatfield New Town and forms a distinctive landmark (Kirby & Busby 1995, pl.165).

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