[Hoddesdon]

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EusHoddesdon

HODDESDON

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 Hoddesdon. 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In addition, numerous articles, both published and unpublished, have been used; a bibliography is included at the end of the report.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 town of Hoddesdon, in the civil parish of Broxbourne & Hoddesdon, lies to the north of Broxbourne itself on the west side of the river Lea, which here bends from the north-west to meet the river Stort flowing from the north-east. The Lea here forms the county boundary between Hertfordshire and Essex. The flood plain is wide and marshy, with peat deposits. Settlement has grown up along a major north-south route, once the main highway between London and Cambridge. This runs along the slightly higher ground west of the alluvium of the flood plain, and across the various streams which flow east into the river. The higher ground is mainly London Clay over chalk. Gravels and sands of the Woolwich and Reading beds lie below the alluvium.

2 OUTLINE OF THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE SETTLEMENT

2.1 Prehistory (c20,000 BC to c50 BC) (Figure 1)

It is clear from the figure that the Lea valley has produced much evidence for exploitation during prehistory, although this evidence consists of casual finds made during gravel digging and other extraction processes. River valleys and their floodplains appear to have been particularly exploited by hunter-gatherers during the Mesolithic, as they offered a variety of food resources as well as water transport. 'The evidence from Three Ways Wharf, Uxbridge, would suggest that islands and bars in braided river systems were locations used for animal butchery during hunting expeditions, and possibly for temporary encampments. Other sites recorded in the Colne Valley and at Broxbourne in the Lea Valley share similar topographic and stratigraphic positions. It is likely, therefore, that alluvial areas will be especially important for Mesolithic studies in the future' (Lewis 2000, 55). The same is true for the Palaeolithic (*ibid*., 54). From c8000 BC rising relative sea level led to 'increased sedimentation…., followed by peat formation along the major tributaries of the Thames. This process is clearly evident at sites in the Lea and Colne Valleys' (*ibid.*, 56). The alluvium and peat deposits of the Lea valley obscure a great deal of evidence for human activity, from the earliest periods. Gravel and other workings have uncovered artefacts, but no systematic work on the Late Glacial and early post-glacial landscapes here has been carried out and much has been destroyed. Lewis (*ibid*., 57-8) suggests a programme for future study. The recorded finds, below, need to be considered as part of the above.

The earliest known human debris in the Hoddesdon area consists of a few ***Palaeolithic*** tools. An Acheulian handaxe, the butt of another handaxe and two flakes were found by Hazzledine Warren in Cillock's Brickfield at the north end of the town itself c1895 (SMR 1216; Wymer 1985, 244; Oakley 1947, 251; OS 25" plan 1879). Most of these were unworn. An Upper Palaeolithic broken leaf point also in fresh condition was found in Rikof's Pit in the flood plain (SMR 1108; Warren 1938; Wymer 1985, 244, 379). It lay

above the 'Arctic Plant Bed', peat full of mosses, birch and willows from a period of arctic temperatures, noted by Warren at several places in the Lea Valley and radiocarbon dated to 21,530-28,000 bp (Warren 1938; Wymer 1985, 301-2).

***Mesolithic*:** four occupation sites, with a range of worked flints, have been identified in the flood plain at Dobbs Weir, on the county boundary (SMR 6567-8; inf. R Jacobi, 1972; Wymer 1977, 129). At least two of these sites consisted of butchery debris from wild cattle and red deer. One yielded a radiocarbon date of 9350 before present, another a date of 6895 bp. Many more worked flints were found with what appeared to be a working area at Rikof's Pit in 1932, together with hundreds more worked flints in dumped overburden nearby (SMR 0234; Wymer 1977, 129**)**. A two-pronged rake of red-deer antler, found in 1956 in mud dredged from the Lea, is also likely to reflect early prehistoric use of the river valley (SMR 2108; Holmes 1961). In the Lowewood Museum is a tranchet axe found in 'Broxbourne' (Wymer 1977, 129).

Neolithic: occupation at the edge of water, with an area of early Neolithic flints, was recorded in 1987 in a quarry face at Rye Meads (SMR 6660; Herts Archaeol Trust 1989). Both worked and burnt flints were found, in peat and in black silty clay beneath the peat. These layers were beneath post-medieval clay and loam. Another early Neolithic site has recently been found at Hailey Hall, on the slope above the horticultural research station. A greenstone axehead (SMR 2101) from 'Hoddesdon' given to Hertford Museum in 1914 is possibly the same as the 'roughly finished' axe, 'not of a local stone', from Upper Racketts at the north end of the town (Tregelles 1908, 18). A polished stone axehead is known from 'Wormley Hill' (SMR 0653; Oakley 1947, 255); the grid reference may indicate that it came from the disused quarry pit north of Wormleybury.

Bronze Age: Late Bronze Age occupation was found in 1997 at John Warner School on the first gravel terrace above the river. This consisted of a pit containing flint knapping debris, as well as potsherds and the plan of a semi-circular building (SMR 9619; Humphrey & Murray 1997; McDonald & Murray 1997). The nearest ring-ditches, cropmarks which are often ploughed-out Bronze Age burial mounds, are some distance to the south at Wormley (SMR 7991-2). There are also some finds of metalwork although these are not well recorded: a side-looped Middle Bronze Age spearhead from gravel works in the Lea valley, not certainly within Hertfordshire (SMR 2099; Herts Archaeol Council Newsletter 2 (1968), 8); another spearhead found at 'Broxbourne' in the 19th century (SMR 2266); and a socketed and looped axehead also from the Lea valley gravel works in 1962 (SMR 4903; E Herts Archaeol Soc Newsletter 13).

The 'fragments of rough pottery, attributed to a purely British origin' (Tregelles 1908, 13; SMR 0184) from Yewlands, opposite the museum, are lost and their age is unknown. A few sherds of prehistoric pottery were found at Broxbournebury Mansion before new housing was built (SMR 9632; Murray 1993), and cropmarks of a single-ditched circular enclosure and adjacent linear ditches near Baas (SMR 2212, 2671) are further signs of prehistoric occupation in the vicinity. Ditches and a watercourse of unknown date were recorded beneath alluvial clays at Rye House power station in 1992 (SMR 6957; Hunn 1992).

Also of unknown date, but apparently prehistoric or Roman, is an extensive landscape of co-axial boundaries covering about 20 square kilometres in the vicinity of Hoddesdon, Cheshunt and Brickendon (SMR 9224). Many of the boundaries survive in use as field boundaries and roads, while others are visible within Wormley Wood and Bencroft Wood. As these are ancient woodlands the system must pre-date them, and it is also disrupted by the layout of Cheshunt Park. Ermine Street appears to divert to follow the system at one point, which suggests a prehistoric date.

The map indicates intensive use of the flood plain and also of the higher ground where the medieval manors were centred. The abundance of fresh water from the many springs must always have attracted people. The riverbank strip where more recent settlement has concentrated has yielded less evidence, although the impression this gives may be misleading.

2.2 Late Iron Age and Roman (c50 BC – cAD 450) (Figure 2)

Until recently no systematic excavation of a site of this period had been carried out at Hoddesdon, although finds of pottery and coins were made during the 19th century. In the Late Iron Age Hertfordshire was densely populated, in a pattern of major settlements and rural farmsteads which remained largely similar throughout the Roman period. The centres of this population, however, were well to the north and west of Hoddesdon. The south-east of the county appears sparsely populated on the map (Niblett 1995, 8), in line with a scarcity of settlement on the London Clay over much of the London Basin and its surroundings. Hoddesdon appears to lie on the fringe, and its character in the Roman period is hard to discern. It may have been a landscape of rural farmsteads. It is possible to speculate, however, from its geographical position. Even before the construction of Ermine Street Hoddesdon lay by a long-distance route, the river Lea, which provided access to the power bases of Late Iron Age Hertfordshire for foreign merchants long before AD 43. During the last two decades of the 1st century BC large amounts of Italian and Gaulish pottery, and other goods, were reaching an entrepot at Braughing via the Thames and the Lea (Niblett 1995, 16; Partridge 1981, 351-2). Nothing is yet known about how the inhabitants of the Hoddesdon area might have been able to exploit this traffic, but it needs to be borne in mind.

The figure gives the position of all the known finds in the vicinity of Hoddesdon. These appear to show that settlement concentrated along the edge where clay soils give way to gravels, and able to exploit the streams and the Lea valley. This pattern contrasts with the lack of recorded remains in the Broxbourne area to the south. Most recorded discoveries were made during exploitation of the gravels in the 19th century, and during the construction of new streets in the town. The nature of what was found is not always clear from the scanty written sources, and the predominance of reported burial pots may be misleading. Lowewood Museum holds no burial pots; instead, its collections include settlement debris found at several places in the town in the later 19th century. Some of these can be matched to contemporary reports, and some appear to be otherwise

unrecorded. Debris has been found in Roman Street in 1874 and 1884 (SMR 1217; hence the street name), at the foot of Amwell Street; at Upper Racketts in 1882; near Rawdon House in 1884; and in the Lodge Hollow gravel pit in Cock Lane in 1882 (SMR 0183). The finds from these sites are consistently 1st century in date, with some probably pre-conquest pottery (much of it is Late Iron Age in type but evidently made after the conquest), and also probably continuing into the 2nd century. Significantly, among the 1874 finds from Roman Street are fragments of Roman building materials including patterned flue tiles from a heating system; a roof tile came from Upper Racketts. Body sherds and plain fragments of building materials appear to have been discarded at the time of discovery. The finds were abandoned rubbish, but they imply the presence of a high-status Roman building on the banks of the Woollens Brook, near where the fords lay in the medieval period. Also at Roman Street, in 1874, the workmen found several vessels containing cremated bones, in a ditch, and an iron spearhead nearby (Tregelles 1908, 13-14). A contemporary account referred also to a Roman bronze coin, and another found when the sewer was dug; a bronze brooch was found nearby in 1901 (SMR 1218; *Trans East Herts Arch Soc* 1/3, 363). Tregelles (1908, 14) also states that 'a few coins, one being of Vespasian, have been discovered here and there', but gives no further information. Two sherds from the bank of the Woollens Brook near the town centre (SMR 10956) may also be Roman.

Not all the occupation was concentrated near the present town centre. At the Lodge Hollow pit, ditches and pits were seen in the 19th century (SMR 0183), and one ditch in particular produced Samian and other Roman pottery (Tregelles 1908, 14); several pits with charcoal in their bases were also seen. The redeposited debris found within the Cock Lane motte consisted of a few Roman potsherds and part of a quernstone (Evans 1902).

'Some larger vases' with barbotine decoration, and other vessels, came from the Westfield at intervals between 1862 and 1908 (SMR 1220). The Westfield, on the north side of Woollens Brook, was one of the town's large open fields; after enclosure in 1855 a gravel pit was dug at the edge of the Hertford Road, disclosing what appear to have been burial pots. The earliest of the extant vessels, found in the 1890s, date to the mid 1st century AD although they are not certainly pre-conquest (Tregelles 1908, 14; Thompson 1982, 736-7). In 1908 a Samian cup was recovered, certainly Roman. Tregelles has five separate findspots marked across Westfield on his map, but little is known in detail; one of them may represent the occupation debris from Upper Racketts, which was at the corner of Westfield.

More burials have been recorded further downstream in what is now central Hoddesdon. Tregelles makes brief reference to 'small burial vases dug up near Boxfield Lane at the High Leigh homestead, also in Brocket Road, in Pauls Lane, and in the lower part of Hoddesdon' (1908, 13). Only one of these discoveries, in Pauls Lane by the church in 1861, is further described (SMR 1225). No details are known of the others, although Tregelles' map gives approximate positions, and vessels in Hertford Museum are apparently from Rose Vale (Morris Gazetteer, original card). These scattered discoveries were all thought to represent burials. A cemetery (SMR 4413; Andrews & Hulbert 1926) was found north of the brook in 1927, in a field east of Beckwith's Nursery. It was much

damaged by ploughing, but several graves were noted, each with one large vessel containing cremated bones and several smaller vessels; some were imported samian wares.

At the north end of the town is a group of finds on the wide gravel terrace between the 30m and 40m contours, overlooking the river Lea, and on the slope to the west. A coin of the late Iron Age chieftain Cunobelinus was found at the horticultural research station at Hailey Hall c1961, and this can now be related to the ditches of a late Iron Age settlement at the top of the hill, excavated in 2002. After the Roman conquest this farmstead was abandoned and its site used for cremation burials. Those being buried here appear to have moved their settlement downhill. In 1899 a gravel pit near the river, in what used to be Amwell parish, produced 'extensive remains of urns, amphorae, etc., together with some of the moulds used', and to observers these 'moulds', and at least two pits, suggested pottery kilns and clay pits (Gerish 1900; SMR 4018). No structural remains of kilns were seen, however, and the nature of the occupation is obscure. A bronze coin of Antoninus Pius, from the description a sestertius dating to AD 140-141, was found in 1899 near Rye House station (SMR 1219; *Trans EHAS* 1 pt 2, 186). More recently, a silver coin of Gordian III (AD 238-44) was picked up in Nursery Road close by (SMR 4120). Ditches and pits excavated at the John Warner School in 1997 (SMR 9620; McDonald & Murray 1997) appear to represent a rural farmstead of the 2nd-3rd century.

Ermine Street

This was the long-distance highway from Londinium to York, and was one of the main routes of Roman Britain. It was a major piece of engineering, constructed in the mid 1st century across the landscape some distance west of the river, ignoring local settlement and heading directly towards the crossing of the Lea at Ware. Its line south of White Stubbs Lane has disappeared, and its exact course is uncertain. North of the lane, however, it survives in remarkable condition, in part as a bridleway, for a distance of about two miles (Niblett 1995, fig.12). At the north end of Hoddesdonpark Wood it is so well preserved that it is possible to see that it was built at two levels (SMR 11354). The lower level is engineered to run at a relatively gentle incline, presumably for official long-distance fast traffic. A higher level is also provided, apparently for heavier or local traffic. Gravel pits adjacent to the road are likely to have been used for maintenance of the road surface.

These finds show that Hoddesdon was well settled in the first and second centuries AD, apparently a region of farmsteads centred on a higher-status building at a crossing of the Woollens Brook. Second to third century finds lie slightly further north on the gravel terrace. It is not yet possible to discern how this settlement pattern changed, and when and why it disappeared. It is many centuries before anything more is known.

2.3 Saxon (Figure 3)

It is not known when Ermine Street disappeared south of White Stubbs Lane. It may have been deliberately cut at some time in the later Saxon period, when new estates were

established; alternatively, it may be that as the track along the west bank of the river Lea (which conceivably had its origins in prehistory) was the preferred route for local traffic, Ermine Street fell out of use. New settlements grew up along the edge of the river, while settlement of the land to the west was comparatively sparse, and remains so today. The establishment of Hoddesdonpark Wood as a private hunting park ensured that here Ermine Street remained undisturbed.

No finds of the period have been recognised. The spearhead illustrated by Tregelles (1908, 14) is not of a distinct type and its date is unknown. The land holdings recorded in 1086, however, are essentially late Saxon estates (see below).

2.4 Medieval (1066-1500) (Figures 3, 4)

By the late 11th century, when Domesday Book was compiled, Hoddesdon was once again a place of scattered settlement. Its lands were divided into six different properties, one of which was an outlier of the large and valuable manor of Cheshunt (Morris 1976). This outlier was occupied by two villagers, eight smallholders and a slave, and their households; one of the other properties housed four villagers, two smallholders, five cottagers and two slaves. The other holdings were smaller. None had a priest or a watermill, but four of them had weirs and a fishery producing eels. These weirs were presumably along the river Lea. One holding was an outlier of Great Amwell, which itself was a berewick of Hatfield Broadoak in Essex; later this holding apparently became the manor of Geddings (VCH 1912, 415). Hailey was yet another property within Amwell (Morris 1976; VCH 1912, 418).

This fragmentation of landholding is in contrast with Broxbourne to the south, which in 1086 consisted of a single manor and had a manorial watermill (but no fishery), as well as a priest which implies the possible existence of a church. No landlord founded a manorial church on any of the Hoddesdon manors, with the result that Hoddesdon lay largely in the parish of Broxbourne until 1844 (VCH 1912, 439), but with parts of the north end of the town belonging to the parish of Great Amwell (Tregelles 1908, plan). The distribution of ancient woodland and chief manor houses on the figure shows a presumably 11th century landscape, of manors lying between woodland on the higher ground to the west and the edge of the marsh and river to the east. The woodland formed a belt ten miles long and up to five miles wide, and a good deal of it survives (although replanted). Each of the manors comprised a strip of land providing woodland, arable, meadow, and riverside. The motte at Hoddesdonbury (below) belongs to this period.

Hoddesdon's emergence as a distinct place on the Cambridge road, providing roadside facilities, only began after the construction of a bridge across the river Lea at Ware towards the end of the 12th century. Despite the efforts of rival Hertford, Ware became the favoured crossing point and the road along the west bank of the Lea the main route between London and Cambridge (Tregelles 1908, 101). As a market town Hoddesdon was a late starter. Many markets were founded in England from the 10th to the 13th centuries, providing rights to the burgesses and tolls to the landlord, but in competition

with neighbouring markets. It was not until 1253 that Richard de Boxe, who held one of the smaller Hoddesdon manors, was granted a weekly market and annual fair at Hoddesdon (VCH 1912, 435). This grant must have recognised settlement which already existed here; Tregelles (1908, 74, 244) says that Richard's original manor house was by the fork in the highway.

The town had a simple one-street plan, without even the usual 'Back Street' providing rear access to properties. It lay at a fork south of the Woollens Brook, where the road divided. The market place was on the south side of the fork where the High Street widens into a triangle, and occupies the brow of the hill; the two roads into which the highway divides run down the slope to the brook. By 1256 a market cross had been built, and Richard de Boxe was adding to the layout, being given licence to 'inclose and build on a space of ground between the two high roads and the cross of Hoddesdon' (VCH 1912, 435). The court rolls mention a drainage ditch running down the east side of the road, and discharging into the marsh via cross-ditches (Tregelles 1908, 155). Few other facilities appear to have been provided, and the town remained small and unremarkable. In essence it was a road town. The court rolls from the mid 13th century onwards reveal a steady influx of people from elsewhere, although no increase in population; there were always a few tradesmen and two or three fishermen, as well as 'colliers' (charcoal-burners) from the 14th century (Tregelles 1908, 257, 294). The fish trade was not restricted to the adjacent river and its ancient eel-traps. In 1323 Richard de Hoddesdon, a fishmonger, held the eel-fishery at Dobbs Weir and also property at Great Yarmouth on the east coast, and the highway was used by carriers of fish from Great Yarmouth to London. Later in the 14th century the Dobbs Weir fishery was held by the Sewell family, one of whom was a London fishmonger with property in Hoddesdon (Tregelles 1908, 302, 305). By the 15th century London's expanding population raised the demand for meat, and drove traffic regularly came through Hoddesdon. Inns were already established (*ibid.,* 309). In 1469 Richard Rich, a London silk mercer with a Hoddesdon property, left money for gravelling the entire High Street (Tregelles 1908, 269). The market cross was also rebuilt in the 15th century; it had a brick foundation, hexagonal in plan with a timber superstructure, and is shown on the 1573 map in the Hatfield House archives (Tregelles 1908, 245). The brick base was seen in 1826 when the level of the roadway was slightly lowered. In 1440 Rich had endowed five almshouses for the poor of the town. These stood just behind the block which juts into the east side of the marketplace and which represents the position of some of the market stalls (Tregelles 1908, 268; see nos.116-18 High Street, below).

St Katherine's Chapel

The parish church for much of Hoddesdon (St Augustine's, Broxbourne) was over a mile to the south (Andrews 1929; it is doubtful whether the church ever had an earlier site, despite Tregelles (1908, 202); see below), and Great Amwell church was even further away. In 1336 William de la Marche was granted a licence to build a chapel on a vacant space in the town, measuring 30 x 20 feet (VCH 1912, 439). This was St Katherine's Chapel (SMR 2951) which stood at the north end of the market place. It was closed in 1657, during the Commonwealth. Thereafter it fell into disrepair, the last record of its use being in 1706 for a Vestry meeting. In 1705 one of the chapel bells was sold to buy a

town clock, and later prints show the clock attached to the south face of the chapel tower, over the blocked remains of a window (Dent 1992, 98-9). At the foot of the rendered and battlemented stone tower a small weatherboarded structure, adapted from the remains of the chapel itself, housed the town bellringer who rang the curfew. In 1836 the last remains were swept away and a new Clock Tower and a building known as the 'town hall' were erected on the site (below). Right of burial was never granted to the chapel; the inhabitants of the town continued to be buried in Broxbourne and Great Amwell churchyards.

'Hoddesdon Chapel'

A legal agreement recorded in 1242-3 refers to a chapel at Hoddesdon (VCH 1912, 439). This is a century earlier than the foundation of St Katherine's, and must refer to a different chapel. The dispute was between the owners of the manor of Hoddesdonbury, who claimed right of presentment, and another landowner, and refers to the chapel having been moved from its original position 'by the side of the road which led to the court of Alexander de Swereford'. In the agreement Alexander acknowledged that Hoddesdonbury had the right of presentment; in return Humphrey and John de Bassingbourn of Hoddesdonbury agreed that the chapel should return to its former position, confirmed all lands belonging to it, and also agreed to supply a chaplain to pray daily for the souls of all parties concerned. No indication is given as to where the chapel stood, but it appears to have been a wayside chapel belonging to the manor of Hoddesdonbury (and was not connected with the foundation of the market by Richard de Boxe). Many such chapels were provided along highways during the 12th century, often near river crossings. It might therefore be identified with the foundations of a chapel still visible in 1517 near where the highway crosses the Spital Brook (Tregelles (1908, 194). Tregelles confused the issue by suggesting that the disputed chapel had really been Broxbourne parish church, on a different site from that of the early 16th century church, but there is no reason to connect the two foundations. A wayside chapel had no parochial function; and the 1242 agreement was that it should henceforth serve as a private chantry chapel.

Hospital of St Laud and St Anthony, Spitalbrook

This is often called a leper hospital, although the earliest record of it was in 1390 (VCH 4 (1914), 461-2). Most leper hospitals dated to the 12th century and were going out of use during the 13th and 14th centuries (Doggett 1995, 8, 11). By the 16th century it was an almshouse for the poor, and all its documentation was lost. Tregelles (1908, 229) expressed doubt about the 'leper hospital' origin, and indeed the 1390 record is of indulgences granted by the Bishop of Ely to the *poor and lepers* of the Hospital. The implication is that the foundation was made (perhaps not earlier than the 14th century) for the poor and sick, use of the term 'lepers' having become broad and imprecise by 1390. The Hospital's position is known from documents in the Hatfield House archives (Tregelles, *ibid*.). It stood on the east side of the highway on 'Spital Hill' with nearly 40 acres of land attached, held from the manor of Hoddesdonbury. In 1568 the new lord of the manor, Sir William Cecil, heard that the foundation's assets were too scanty to support the eight inmates, who had to go out begging, and the two small rooms they occupied at night let in the rain. The foundation closed in 1573 and the building was used

by a free grammar school founded at Broxbourne by Queen Elizabeth in 1560. The school had disappeared by 1595 (VCH 1912, 431); in 1624 the building was licensed as a tavern (Tregelles 1908, 266).

The Lynch Mill

In 1323 the manor of Hoddesdonbury possessed a watermill 'which it was hardly possible to use except in winter' (VCH 1912, 435), presumably because the flow of water was insufficient in the summer. Its location is not stated, but in 1569 Hoddesdonbury's watermill was 'now built' at a pond anciently called 'le Lince'. It is possible that the Lynch Mill (SMR 2030) may have medieval origins, although on present evidence it is no earlier than the 16th century. It remained the manorial corn mill throughout the 17th and early 18th centuries. From 1740 it was held by John Borham, who developed a thriving business in malt, coal, and other products, and carried goods to and from London by barge (Garside 1988, 42). In the 1790s a short-lived attempt was made to convert it to a cotton mill, until the water was found to be unsuitable. It reverted to a flour mill and was bought in 1803 by James and Edward Manser (Hayllar 1948, 124). Corn milling ceased during the 1870s; it was found more profitable to use the spring water for the growing of watercress from 1885 (see below). The mill itself (Dent 1992, 82) was demolished in 1892; the mill pond survives, surrounded by modern houses. The Lynch itself was the slope above one of three springs named in medieval court rolls, the Chaldwell (Tregelles 1908, 99-100), which was a deep funnel-shaped natural hole carrying water up from the chalk. The slope was destroyed by the New River (*ibid*., 375).

Surviving elements of medieval Hoddesdon

Hogges Hall (64 High Street)

This is the only building in the town which certainly dates from before 1500 (Dent 1992, 58, 70, 96). Other houses may contain medieval timber framing as yet unrecognised; nos.88-90 High Street, below, are pre-Dissolution, and some of the many other '16th century' buildings may be at least as old. Hogges Hall was originally a three-bay timber-framed house, the two bays to the north dating to the 15th century. The middle bay has an ogee-headed door on the north wall. Inside is a substantial floor beam carried on timber brackets carved in the form of jesters. The house was altered and extended with a new range in the mid 19th century, with plaster facing and a slate roof, and was subsequently divided into shops. The canted staircase oriel with leaded lights at the rear dates to the late 19th century. In the 19th century the house was occupied by J A Hunt, who took over the family building firm in 1869 and became a major employer in the town (Garside 1988, 43).

88 High Street

Originally a timber-framed house of c1500 or earlier, with some Wealden framing surviving in the lower part of the upper floor, which is jettied, and a crown-post roof in the north bay attic. This suggests it was built as a Wealden hall house, but was given an upper floor in the later 16th century. It has been much altered; it now has two storeys and

attic, with 20th century windows, pargetting and imitation half-timbering on the frontage, and a slate roof continuous with no.90.

90 High Street

Like no.88, this was built as a hall house c1500, but had an upper floor inserted in the 16th or 17th century. It is thought to have a crown post in the south end wall. The double doors on the north side are 19th century, and a large sash window is early-mid 19th century, but the other windows, the ground floor shop, and the roughcast and imitation half-timbered front are all 20th century. The slate roof is shared with no.88.

St Augustine's parish church, Broxbourne (SMR 1910)

Tregelles (1908, 202) considered the position of Broxbourne parish church to be unlikely for a medieval foundation, as it lies east of the highway and the village and close to the edge of the marsh. He suggested that the original site must have been elsewhere, and has been followed by later writers (Andrews 1929, 117). It does stand, however, adjacent to the site of the manorial mill, and there is no good reason for supposing that the present structure was built on a new site. Domesday records the presence of a priest in the manor of Broxbourne, and a timber church may have already existed here. The font is Norman. The standing building is a large late 15th to early 16th century church, of flint with stone quoins and dressings, and an embattled roof of old tile. Andrews (1929, 118) suggests that it was built by Sir John Say and his son William. The plan is of nave and aisles, in six bays; there is no arch between the nave and the chancel with its two chapels (Pevsner 1977, 113-14). At the west end is a tower with polygonal stair turret. The crown post roof of the nave, and the panelled chancel ceiling, are both original. The south chancel chapel was built in 1476, and the north chapel in 1522. Tregelles (1908, 204) notes that a map made in 1573 of the Cecil family estates shows a drawing of the church, 'much as it is now, except that the tower has a low-pitched tiled roof'; it also shows the original south porch. This was replaced by a new porch with classical surround, perhaps c1650. In 1856-7 the church was restored by Joseph Clarke. Adjoining on the south side is a 1970s church hall.

Hoddesdonbury motte, Cock Lane (SMR 1110)

On the south side of Cock Lane opposite Hoddesdonbury, this mound is a Scheduled Monument. The mound is 20m across and about 3m high, and is surrounded by a dry ditch and a slight outer bank. In 1901 Sir John Evans dug into the mound itself and found a small amount of redeposited debris which appeared to be Roman, demonstrating that the mound was later (Evans 1902). In form it is a motte castle, typical of many built soon after the Norman conquest. It would have had a palisade on top, enclosing a timber tower. In more settled times the motte was abandoned, presumably for the new manor house of Hoddesdonbury.

Hoddesdonpark Wood and moated site (SMR 0730, 6547)

In 1277 Stephen de Bassingbourn, of Hoddesdonbury, 'claimed a park in Hoddesdon of ancient custom' (VCH 1912, 435), and it is assumed that this was Hoddesdonpark Wood. It was the ancient establishment of this enclosed deer park, perhaps long before 1277, that preserved the Roman highway. It may have been after this date, however, that a moat was

constructed on its southern edge, and which may have surrounded a house for the park keeper. The land enclosed is about 60m by 55m; the well-preserved and partially waterfilled moat is 10m wide and up to 3m deep, with low outer banks, and is fed by the stream. It is a Scheduled Monument, 'an above average example of a small rectangular Hertfordshire moat' (SM description).

Other moated enclosures no doubt existed at the various manorial sites: they are suspected at The Baas, close to the surviving fishponds which are documented in 1275 (SMR 2032) and at Hailey Hall (SMR 2222). Geddings, which is first recorded as a manor in 1327 and by the end of the 14th century was the chief holding in Hoddesdon (Tregelles 1908, 70), was also moated. The rectangular island enclosed within the moat was another detached portion of Great Amwell parish. The site is now occupied by commercial buildings.

2.5 The Post-Medieval Town (Figures 5-7)

During the 17th century the town acquired much of its present character, despite 20th century alterations. It prospered with the increased importance of the Cambridge road. The highway became part of what came to be called the Old North Road, which ran from London via Edmonton, Ware, Wadesmill and Royston to Huntingdon, near where it merged with the Great North Road. It was turnpiked between Enfield and Ware in the 1720s (Albert 1972, 33-4). Toll gates were in various positions at different dates; by the 19th century there was a toll house at Spitalbrook, and a gate in Amwell Street is on the 1836 tithe map (SMR 6845). The Spitalbrook toll house was demolished after the toll system was abolished in 1872 (Garside 1988, 35). At Hoddesdon a route diverged north-east across the Lea and past Rye House, crossing the river on a bridge built by Sir Andrew Ogard in 1443. This road avoided the dangers of Epping Forest on the east side of the Lea valley, and was favoured by Charles II for his visits to the races at Newmarket.

Hoddesdon still consisted of little more than one street, in which there was much new building of inns and private houses. Some of the private houses were comparatively grand. Seller's map published in 1676 shows the town, the largest place between London and Ware, extending from the Duke Street-Hertford Road junction all the way south to the Spital Brook (although in reality the south end was by no means built up). Access to the town to north and south was by the fords across the Spital Brook and the Woollens Brook; there were presumably timber bridges for foot passengers, and Tregelles (1908, 101) noted an arched (stone) bridge across the Spital Brook on the 1573 map in the Cecil archives at Hatfield.

Much of the area belonged to the Cecils by this date. Sir William Cecil acquired the manor of Hoddesdonbury in 1566, and Baas in 1570, as well as Geddings (which had absorbed many of the smaller manors); with the exchange of Theobalds for Hatfield in 1607 and the aggrandisement of William's son Robert as Earl of Salisbury the Cecils became remote aristocratic landlords. Although they by no means ignored their local duties they were not resident. Hoddesdon was one of the towns around London which

during the 16th century attracted wealthy city merchants, a trend which had begun in the town long before (above).

The Conduit

Marmaduke Rawdon (1582-1646) was such a merchant, who had a house at Hoddesdon from at least 1618, and who regularly entertained the king and others there (Smith 1993, 96). He was knighted by Charles I during the Civil War, for his defence of Basing House (Tregelles 1908, 389). In 1665 it was written that the town had been 'much adorned of late by the fameley of the Rawdons, who have built here tow faire bricke howses, and Sir Marmaduke Rawdon did, att his owne proper cost and charges, much beautifie it with a conduit of water' (Smith 1993, 97). Tregelles (1908, 378) suggested that this was partly in response to the outbreaks of plague in the town in the 17th century, brought by travellers. Sir Marmaduke enclosed the spring in Godes Well Acre and ran a heavy lead pipe 'across Lords Lane, behind the cottages on the south side, then diagonally to the back of the White Hind, now the Golden Lion, through the adjoining ground, and across the High Street to Rawdon House' (Tregelles 1908, 284ff). Godes Well, named after one of the late Saxon landholders, was one of the three springs mentioned in the medieval court rolls. The flow was so abundant that the pipe was extended up the High Street to the south end of the market place. At the corner of what came to be called Conduit Lane Sir Marmaduke erected a stone figure of a woman holding a pitcher (the Samaritan Woman), from which the water flowed into a pond for the use of the townsfolk. Another branch supplied the Grange and its fountain, and by the early 18th century the High Street conduit had been carried further north to the Thatched House, and other properties owned by the Thurgoods and inherited from the Rawdons. Its maintenance was written into marriage contracts (Tregelles 1908, 263). Another pipe may have run to 'Tinkers Well' at the edge of the Southfield; Tregelles (1908, 149) noted its 17th century brickwork. The site of this well is now occupied by Old Well House in Yewlands Drive. Godes Well itself continued to flow strongly; in 1804 the owner of Rawdon House rebuilt the wellhouse at the spring, in a brick enclosure. By the beginning of the 20th century it was leaking badly; Tregelles saw much water wasted (1908, 285). The pipe had been patched but not replaced, and in the early 19th century the Samaritan Woman was cut off at the knees to lower the outlet and restore the flow. She stood in the market place until 1826, when she and the pond were replaced by an iron pump and an underground tank (Dent 1992, 12). The Samaritan Woman now stands beside Lowewood in the museum garden.

A second 'adornment' paid for by the Rawdons was the construction in 1634 of a ***Market House*** opposite the Bull in the High Street. This was timber framed, 50 x 40 feet, with rooms above an arcaded ground floor, and a staircase at the north-east corner (Tregelles 1908, 248-9; Dent 1992, 35). It was more expensive than many such buildings, with elaborately carved oak arcading. The Marquess of Salisbury removed it in 1833, after complaints that it took up too much of the space, and used the carved oak to embellish the chapel at Hatfield House. Also taking up the north end of the market place in front of St Katherine's chapel was a group of timber-framed cottages known as Middle Row, which were infill built in the place of temporary stalls. The jutting line of the building frontage on the east side of the market place reflects the position of other medieval stalls; until the

late 19th century there was still an alley between what is now the front portion of nos.116-18 High Street and the 15th century almshouses which stood on the original frontage.

The New River

This watercourse is an entirely artificial canal, built by Sir Hugh Myddelton to bring fresh water to London from springs at Amwell and Chadwell, near Ware. Dug ten feet wide and four feet deep, and lined with puddled clay, it opened in September 1613 (Essex-Lopresti 1986, 3). In order to deliver the water by gravity at its destination the channel was cut along the 100 ft contour, so it ran around the head of the various streams flowing into the river Lea. An Act of 1852 allowed for the elimination of these loops (Trueman 1998, 8). One of the smaller original loops, at Spitalbrook, was cut off by an aqueduct (*ibid*., 35-6); another is still visible at Geddings. The canal was subsequently updated; Tregelles (1908, 376) recalled what it looked like before it was widened and fenced. To increase the supply pumping stations at Hoddesdon and Broxbourne (as well as elsewhere) were built to bring water up from the chalk. The Hoddesdon pumping station was built in 1866; its well is 385ft deep (Essex-Lopresti 1986, 11). The New River still provides a backup supply for the London Ring Main.

The River Lea

The river formed a major obstacle to communication east and west throughout the medieval period, owing to the extent of the marsh and the absence of bridges. There was no all-weather crossing between Sir Andrew Ogard's private toll bridge at Rye House, and Waltham Abbey. By the end of the 16th century gates preventing access to the marsh began to be erected (Tregelles 1908, 93): landowners were reluctant to allow free passage along the unfenced tracks that did exist, although there was access to the meads, strips of meadow allotted to tenants in the same way as strips of arable. A ford existed at Dobbs Weir, and the valley was already used for recreational purposes by some: in 1604 James I ordered bridges to be built between Hackney and Hoddesdon 'for the greater convenience of the King when hawking' (Tregelles 1908, 104; Dent 1992, 32). A bridge at Dobbs Weir was one of those built, but it was not for public use. In 1618 complaints were made that 'rude country people' were attempting 'common passage' with carts and the gated bridge was being damaged. It seems to have disappeared. An Act of 1571 led to the first limited attempts to improve use of the river itself; a more effective Lea Navigation Act was passed in 1739 (Albert 1972, 11, 200). The aim of this Act was to bring the river under one control. It was scoured and obstacles were removed. Locks were built at Ware, Stanstead and Broxbourne. In 1765 John Smeaton was employed to make new cuts, more locks, and a continuous towpath (Munby 1977, 206).

Malt

'The region centred upon Ware, Hoddesdon and Stanstead Abbots was the oldest and most mature malting area in the country' (Mathias 1959, 437, quoted by Munby 1977, 198). The occupation of maltman appears in Hoddesdon records by 1460 (Tregelles 1908, 259). By the end of the 16th century Hoddesdon was famous for the malt sold there, and in 1585 there were 14 'malt shops' in the market (*ibid*., 247); the trade remained important to the town until at least 1820 (*ibid*., 260). Richard Rumbold, the conspirator of Rye House, was a maltster (*ibid*., 400). In 1596, however, 'there was much complaint that

with the improved navigation of the Lee, malt was carried past the town by barges' (*ibid*., 247). This was presumably a result of the Act of 1571 (Albert 1972, 11). Trade on the river, bypassing Hoddesdon, was to increase: 'within a few years of the passing of the [1739] Lea Navigation Act no less than 5000 quarters of malt and corn a week were being sent by barge from Ware to London' (Munby 1977, 207). Some malt was being processed locally as well; in 1573 a windmill in Southfield (one of the common fields, each of which had a windmill) was being used as a malt-mill (Tregelles 1908, 253). Some commercial maltings were built in the town at a later date; the evidence for these is 19th century (see below) but they may have earlier origins.

Inns

Each inn brewed its own beer until the development of commercial breweries in the town in the 1730s, and had extensive stables to service the coaching trade. Surviving inn buildings are described here.

Thatched House (124-8 High Street)

Now three shops, originally a 17th-century timber-framed house under a steep tiled roof with gables and two dormers, and chimney stacks against the rear and south end walls. The eaves cornice was added in the early 18th century, and a rear wing behind no.124 in the early 19th century. The upper floor front is roughcast with applied timbering, and a painted relief showing children with bunches of hops. By c1700 the Thatched House inn was owned by William Plomer and was where his son Robert developed his brewery from 1728 (Garside 1988, 40). When Christie's rebuilt the brewery in the 19th century the building was used as the office.

White Swan (102-4 High Street)

This is not to be confused with the Swan on the other side of the street. It is a three-bay house with an early 17th century timber frame, refronted c1820, and with a carriage entrance at the south end. The two-bay rear extension at the north end has a Jacobean fireplace and figured panels. The early 19th century frontage has a doorcase and windows with contemporary detailing at the north end. The ground floor is now divided into shops. The roof is 20th century.

Griffin (100 High Street)

Another inn name applied to more than one building, it was used here in the 18th century (Tregelles 1908, 265). It is a two storey house, timber-framed with old tile roof and dormers, and dating to the early 17th century or possibly earlier, but altered. The frontage has cement pargetting and imitation half-timbering; the shop is 20th century. In 1756 the Griffin had stabling for 30 horses (Branch Johnson n.d.).

Crown & Mitre (66 High Street)

A late 18th century house, two storeys and attics; yellow stock brick casing, with early-mid 19th century painted stone and stucco details. The pedimented doorcase is in the centre of the symmetrical front. On the south wall are blind windows and a large square Tuscan porch. The slate roof and rear extension on the north are later 19th century.

Cross Keys (58 High Street)
A later 18th century house which in the 18th century was the Cross Keys inn; it is not clear if the standing building is the inn itself or a new house on the old site. The house is of yellow stock brick with rubbed brick lintels and quoins, and old tile roof; two storeys and attics with dormers, with late 19th century and 20th century alterations. The symmetrical front has an open-pedimental Doric doorcase, a band between the floors, and a moulded cornice below the parapet. The shops on the ground floor are 20th century.

Harteshorne (32 High Street)
This is a timber-framed building of the 16th or 17th century, given a fashionable stucco front and doorcase in the early 19th century and altered in the late 19th century. The house has an L plan, two storeys and attics, with a staircase from the upper floor to the attic added c1730. The north wall is of yellow stock brick; the south wall has a canted two-storey bay window on the west, a square bay on the east, and imitation half-timbering; the roof is of machine tiles. The garden wall on the south side, however, is only partly of yellow stock brick; the rest dates to the 17th or 18th century. In 1575 it was Lez Harteshorne, although it is not certain if it was already an inn. By 1680 it was the Five Bells. After passing into private hands it was known as South End House (the name used on the 1850 tithe map), and eventually reverted to its original name (Garside 1988, 40).

Golden Lion (23 High Street)
The date of the inn's first license is obscure; this may be the house called in 1591 the White Hind (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 86). In 1667 the White Hind was bequeathed by Lady Rawdon of Rawdon House, opposite, to her grandson. Its timber frame probably dates to the 16th century, although it has been altered; the south bay is later than the rest. Hayllar (1948, 80) noted that 'until recently' there was an outside staircase leading to the ostlers' room. The street frontage has a jettied upper floor at the north end. The ground floor is now plastered, with a canted sash window bay beneath the jetty, the upper floor is roughcast, and the north gable end weatherboarded. The two doors date to the early-mid 19th century. Still licensed.

Griffin (83-5 High Street)
A 17th century Griffin inn stood at the entrance to Fawkon Walk, and was a medieval building originally called the Falcon on the Hoop (Hayllar 1948, 82). The name was transferred later to nos.83-5, and this is the Griffin on the 1879 OS 25" plan. The house was built in the 17th century with a timber frame, and a carriage arch at the north end. Some internal timbering is visible. In the mid 19th century the building was altered into a three-storey five-window range, and given a yellow stock brick casing with stucco dressings, under a low slate roof, and segmental arch to the carriage entrance. Hayllar (1948, 82) says that it remained an inn until 'fairly recently'. The shops now on the ground floor are 20th century.

Checkers (87 High Street)
A timber-framed house built in the 16th or 17th century, two storeys and attics, three bays, under a steep roof now of slate. Some of the timber frame is visible in the upper floors. The inn closed at some time in the 18th century (Tregelles 1908, 263). The house was

altered in the 19th century, with a rear extension of brick, roughcast and old tile, and in the late 19th century given a new frontage of red brick ground floor and roughcast upper floor, with crocketed bargeboards.

Swan (between 95 and 97 High Street)
The earliest record of the Swan, sometimes the White Swan, was in 1595. This is 'visually the most striking timberframed inn in the district'; mainly of 16th century timber framing, five to six bays, with plastered ground floor and exposed timber and plaster upper floor, with a jetty at the south end on a moulded bressumer. The roof is of slate at the front, and mostly old tile at the rear. At the south end is a rear wing, 16th-17th century, with a single-storey weatherboarded extension added at its west end in the 19th century. In the centre of the frontage is a canted window bay, and a late 19th century multi-pane shop front on the north. In 1756 the Victuallers' Billetting Returns (Branch Johnson n.d.) showed that the house could accommodate 16 men and 60 horses, the largest stabling in the county. At this date it had a sign spanning the High Street, like the Bull and the Salisbury Arms. Next door at no.97 (below) was a smithy, as was common at inns; in the inn yard was a cattle pound and slaughterhouse (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 89). Still licensed.

Salisbury Arms (105 High Street)
Built in timber in the 16th century, with three timber-framed bays concealed inside, and a later bay on the south end; two storeys, with red brick chimney stacks at the north and south ends. The inn was refronted in red brick in the 18th century, with a parapet in front of the old tile roof. All the ground floor details including the central door date to c1820. In 1530 this was the Star, and from the 1560s the Black Lion. This name was used until the signboard collapsed in a storm in 1828, and the name changed in honour of the lord of the manor of Hoddesdonbury, the Earl of Salisbury (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 87). Presumably it was at this date that the ground floor frontage was altered. The new sign was suspended from a beam spanning the High Street, and hung there until 1875. The Salisbury Arms was one of the major coaching inns (with stables for 26 horses in 1756), and also provided a cockpit and bowling green, and rooms in which manorial courts for the manors of Geddings, Baas and Hoddesdonbury were held until 1890. At the rear is also a one-and-a-half storey extension built in the early 19th century as a brewery for the inn. This is on a T-plan, in painted brick with machine tile roof, and a weatherboarded sack hoist. During the earlier 19th century the inn and brewhouse were run by the Batty family, who were famous for their ales, until the inn was acquired by Christies in the 1840s (Hayllar 1948, 83). Still licensed.

Queen's Head (Myddleton House, 113-17 High Street)
A late 17th or early 18th century house, two storeys and with three gabled attics, under a steep pitched old tile roof. The entrance hall dates to the early 18th century; in 1756 the inn had beds for ten and the stables could accommodate 24 horses. The house was refaced in the mid 19th century, and has a wood modillioned cornice and three upper floor canted windows with cusp-headed imitation Tudor panels. The shops are 20th century.

Bell (1 Burford Street)
A 16th century building, extended to the south in the mid-late 17th century and altered in the mid 19th century. Two storeys, six bays, the upper floor jettied, with some exposed framing and brick nogging at the south end. The exterior is plastered with scalloped pargeting under a steep slate roof; the interior has exposed ceiling beams, and the ceiling in two bays at the north end has classical cornice mouldings forming rectangular fields around plaster armorial bearings. These apparently match others in a house in Ware (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 86). In 1546 the Bell was a private house owned by John Conysby, the rector of Great Amwell. By c1660 it became an inn, the name supposedly relating to the bell in St Katherine's chapel close by, dating to 1511 and used as the curfew bell. In 1756 the inn had six beds and stabling for 20 horses. Still licensed.

Boar's Head (112 Burford Street)
The first record of this inn is as the Boar's Head in 1756, although it was also known as the Blue Boar. This is the badge of the de Vere family, who owned the manor of Hailey as well as lands further up the Old North Road in Northamptonshire (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 86). William Whittingstall acquired the Boar's Head during the period 1781-1803 when he lived across the road at Burford House, and owned the Hoddesdon Brewery. Part of the building, which is not Listed, carries the date 1799. A fire in 1852 destroyed the stables, and two barns, one of which was used as a skittle alley. Still licensed.

King William IV (197 Lord Street)
The earliest reference is 1830, but the license appears to be much older than this; it was then 'late the Six Bells' (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 87). The change of name, at the accession of William IV, coincides with the sale of the inn to a new owner. The 17th century timber-framed inn, of two storeys, comprises the two western bays of the present public house; the two eastern bays were cottages. The two chimney stacks, at the east and west ends, were rebuilt in 19th century yellow stock brick, although the original 17th century red brick survives in the lower half of the east stack. The lean-to additions on the west and at the rear, the windows, and the brick and roughcast walls, are all 20th century. Still licensed.

Former inns, now demolished, notably include the **Bull** (89 High Street). Like the Swan and the Salisbury Arms, the Bull had its sign hanging from a beam spanning the width of the High Street to the Market House, until complaints about the obstruction it caused to traffic led to its removal in 1833. The building was demolished in 1964 (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 85). Another vanished coaching inn was the **George**, which appears in records of Hoddesdon from 1464; its documentary history is continuous until 1756, when it could accommodate four men and 10 horses (Jolliffe & Jones 1995, 86). In 1826 the George was at the south end of the market, opposite Conduit Lane, and was evidently then an ancient structure (brewing its own ale from a well on the property). The implication is that this was indeed the medieval inn building. In 1846 the George was sold for the erection of an Independent Chapel on the site, and by 1860 the name was applied to a new public house at Spitalbrook, nearly a mile to the south. The **Maidenhead** stood at the top of the market place and was demolished in 1964 to make way for redevelopment.

Surviving (Listed) domestic buildings, 16th-17th century

High Street, east side

Rawdon House: this is the house supposed to have been built by Sir Marmaduke Rawdon in 1622, a date it bears on the exterior. Smith (1992, 8; 1993, 96-7) disposes of this date as a product of the restoration by Ernest George & Peto in 1879, and sets out the scanty evidence for the association with the Rawdon family. The 1665 record quoted above, which states that the Rawdons built two fair brick houses in the town, is usually assumed to refer to Rawdon House and The Grange (15 High Street, below); but in 1673 Lady Rawdon paid tax on 27 hearths, and 'clearly neither Rawdon House nor The Grange corresponds' to such a large property (Smith 1993, 99). Nor can either house be related to Sir Marmaduke himself. The oldest part of this building (which was first called Rawdon House on a map of 1830) is a five-bay, three storey block in red brick, now forming the east wing. Its double depth form 'puts it in the middle of the 17th century rather than earlier' (Smith 1993, 98; 1992, 76-7), and all the surviving original details support a date of c1630-50. These include the newel posts and finials on the staircase, which are similar to those in Stanborough House (below) dating to 1637. A small two-storey projection was added at the north end c1700. In 1842-3 the house was given an antiquarian restoration, and a much more drastic overhaul in 1879-80 for Henry Ricardo. Ernest George & Peto built a new wing at the northwest forming an L plan, restored the exterior (adding the 1622 date), built new chimney-stacks, and inside added new ceilings, fireplaces, panelling and pilasters. In 1897 the house became St Monica's Priory. The Augustinian canonesses sold many of the internal fittings, but these appear to have largely consisted of reproduction 'Jacobean' work. In 1971 the house was converted to flats and offices. Dent (1992, 84-7) reproduces several old photographs of the house, including the interior.

No.76 (Stanborough House): Thomas Stanborowe had a house here in 1363 (Hayllar 1948, 87). The present house is of two storeys with an attic gable and dates originally to the 16th century, with Tudor hood moulds to the casement windows and an ornamental bargeboard to the gable. On the north is a large chimney-stack with three conjoined shafts. Inside is a large mid-17th century staircase and re-used 17th century panelling. These refurbishments may have been carried out at about the same time as the rear wing was built in red brick in 1637. This is a larger structure, six bays and three storeys, with plain Doric pilasters and pediments, and diagonal chimney-stacks. In the mid 19th century the street elevation was plastered; the imitation half-timbering and pargetting were added later. The red brick boundary wall on the south side of the property dates to the 17th and 18th centuries; at the change to the lower (18th-century) section are two bricks inscribed RP (presumably for Robert Plomer). The north boundary has a similar stretch of 17th century red brick wall.

No.78: a 16th-century timber-framed house, two storeys, with old tiled roof. The two gable ends facing the street have pierced, cusped bargeboards, and the casement windows have Tudor hood moulds. The larger north gable has a blocked attic window. At the north end is a brick and timber-framed extension added in the 17th century. The frontage was refaced and plastered in the mid 19th century; the chimneys are of 19th century stock brick and the shop is 20th century.

Nos.94-6: now a house and shop. Two storeys with two gabled attics, timber-framed, and dating to the early 17th century. In the early 18th century it was altered and given a red brick front. The house door on the north is early 19th century; the parapet and dormers have been rebuilt and the ground floor shop is 20th century.

No.116: this house and no. 118 were permanent structures built in the place of temporary market stalls, in front of the medieval street line. No.116 is a 17th century timber-framed house, two storeys and attic, one bay on the west front having a jettied upper floor on curved brackets. The roof is of old tiles and the remains of a red brick chimney stack survive at the north end. At the front, stuccoed in the 19th century, is a canted shop bay window. In the late 19th century a weatherboarded extension was added at the rear across the site of the almshouses. The ornamental bargeboard on the south gable end is early 20th century.

No.118: behind the canted shop window bays and the plaster and cement rendering is a substantial two-bay timber-framed house dating to the 16th century, with cross-passage at the south end, over a deep cellar with arch-headed recesses in its brick walls. The roof is of old tiles. This house, like no.116, was put up in place of temporary market stalls.

High Street, west side

No.15 (The Grange): the house is supposed to have been built in 1657 for the Rawdon family, on the site of the Cock Inn. Smith (1993, 96-9) outlines the confused history of this house and that of Rawdon House (above), and concludes that while it may be the house built in 1657 this is by no means certain. The structure of the Grange is of red brick walls over a timber frame, but 'a drastic late 19th century restoration in the style of [the early 18th century] has obscured the date and development of the house'. Some of the brickwork and the two parallel roofs may be later 17th century, and the plan may be also. It represents an early form of the double-pile house, with two staircases and a compact outline (Smith 1992, 78, 80, 86). However, the house also contains some reset early 17th century panelling, and when it was converted into offices in 1979 many of the timbers in the first floor, attics and roof were found to have been re-used from a substantial late medieval house (Smith 1993, 99). This was possibly the Cock Inn; or it might have been the house where Sir Marmaduke Rawdon (d.1646) entertained the king, and which does not seem to have been Rawdon House. Some of the foundations of the Grange are also suggestive. The standing building may have been altered in the early 18th century, when the wrought iron gates (now in Oxenden Drive) were added, bearing the date 1725 and the initials A O for Lady Arabella Oxenden who lived here 1725-35. Later in the 18th century the house was lived in by William Christie (d.1811) who bought the Hoddesdon Brewery in 1803 (Garside 1988, 49). From 1854 to 1905 the house was leased as a school. The red brick boundary wall of the grounds survives on the south side of no.17 High Street, in Oxenden Drive, in Taylors Avenue, and along the north side of Cock Lane. An avenue ran to the west front from the gates (Dent 1992, 90).

Nos.47-9: originally a two-bay, two-and-a-half storey timber-framed house built in the 16th century, with old tile roof, and half bay extension at the south end. The timbering on

the north gable end is imitation, with a rectangular inscription panel in a moulded surround. Some of the interior timber is well preserved; the house is offices.

Nos.53, 53a, 55, 55a: a single timber-framed building of the early to mid 16th century, altered in the 17th century; two storeys and attic, and steep pitched old tile roof with three dormers. Inside the modern facing the timber structure is four bays long with a jettied upper floor, now concealed, and a large window in the original rear wall with diamond set oak mullions. The attics were probably inserted in the late 17th century, and the two-storey gabled rear wing is probably also 17th century. The house was refaced in the late 18th century, and extensions added at the rear in the 19th century. The shop front is 20th century.

Nos.61-3: a timber-framed structure which is certainly at least as old as the 16th or 17th century and suspected of being older. On the street frontage it is of three bays in two storeys, with a taller gabled and slightly projecting cross wing with may have a king-post roof structure; the front was probably originally jettied. A tall timber-framed wing projecting to the rear of the main front may have been a hall range; the heavy framing is concealed. The extension at the rear of the cross wing is in brick and probably early 18th century. At the side is an external brick chimney stack. The roofs are of old tile, but the ground floor shop and the windows are 20th century.

Nos.79-81: in origin a 17th century timber-framed structure, with a 17th century brick cellar beneath no.81. In 1735 the house was apparently altered, presumably then given the red brick casing including a dated brick with the initials I.L., and plain pilasters. In 1842 a third storey was added, with a second dated brick (J.H.), and given a low slate roof . The first floor windows have been cut off by 20th century shop fronts.

No.91a: another 17th century timber-framed house, drastically altered in appearance in the early-mid 19th century. It now has a red brick east face and yellow stock brick north face, with contemporary doors and windows, and a slate roof. The shop is 20th century.

Nos.97-103: a timber-framed range built in the 16th century, altered in the 17th century; two storeys. In the early 19th century it was plastered and given a slate roof. The shops are 20th century. No.97 was a smithy (next door to the Swan Inn) from c1700 until the 1920s (Dent 1992, 69).

Burford Street

Burford House: in 1575 this property at the north end of the town, known as Hopkins, belonged to William Frankland of Rye manor (Garside 1988, 13). The structure was recently examined while vacant (Garwood 2001) and found to date to the late 17th-early 18th century. The original block was a good-sized brick house with a south wing, and a stair tower at the rear. In the early 18th century a north wing was built. In 1792 the house was bought by W Whittingstall, owner of the Hoddesdon Brewery. He gave it a new front, remodelled the south wing and raised the level of the north wing. After his death in 1803 his widow lived in the house until 1830, when it was bought by E Waller of Broxbourne Mill, and named Burford House. In appearance it is a large early 19th century

house with slate hipped roof. The front is of yellow stock brick with segmental window arches; the rear is of red brick. It is five bays wide and three storeys high; the middle bay projects slightly, with a Tuscan doorcase and semi-circular fanlight. At the rear is the three-bay south range with good early 19th century internal detail, and a full-height canted window bay. An 'Agricultural & Scientific Training School' was run by William Haslewood at Burford House in the mid 19th century (Garside 1988, 51); the two-storey infill between the wings was added in the period 1842-80. In the 1880s tennis rackets and cricket bats were made on the premises. The house suffered a major fire some years after the brewery fire of 1905 (Hayllar 1948, 85); in the 20th century it was first converted into apartments, and then offices, with further additions.

Lord Street

Hoddesdon Lodge: a mid 17th century timber-framed and weatherboarded two-storey house on a T-plan with a central red brick chimney stack of conjoined diagonal-set shafts, and old tile roof. The small pane casement windows were added in the 19th century.

Hoddesdonbury

The standing building has a 16th and 17th century timber frame, on an L-plan, with a 16th century red brick chimney stack at the rear; the lean-to rear extension is later. The south side is plastered, the others weatherboarded; the south front, early 19th century, has sash windows and a fielded-panel door with hood. The roof is of old tiles (Dent 1992, 93). This house may have been built by Sir William Cecil after he acquired the manor in 1566. In 1800 it was sold to Jacob Bosanquet of Broxbournebury. South of the house is a five-bay 17th century barn, timber-framed and weatherboarded on a base of red brick. The lower extension on the north side is 18th century. At the east side of the main barn is an unusual round-headed entrance with double doors; the west entrance is 20th century, replacing the original cart entrance. Another barn stands north of the house; five bays, timber-framed with weatherboarding, three bays open on the west side. The date is 17th or 18th century. This barn has a lean-to extension on the east, of 19th century yellow stock brick. Adjacent is a mid-19th century granary which has been converted into a cottage; two storeys, weatherboarded with an old tile roof, but on a cement base and with 20th century windows and porch. The gabled south side of the Granary has an external covered staircase with a sack-hoist door on the upper floor.

2.6 Hoddesdon in the 18th century (Figures 5-7)

During the 18th century the town was run by local businessmen such as Robert Plomer, who developed the brewery and built what was later to become the parish church. These men had less wealth and influence than Sir Marmaduke Rawdon, and built smaller houses. Brewing and malting were prominent; the coaching trade increased its importance to the town's economy and was near its peak by 1800. In 1722 the vestry ordered the construction of a parish cage, which was attached to the remains of St Katherine's chapel (Tregelles 1908, 409, 415); other outward signs of local government, the workhouse, almshouses and pesthouse, are noted below.

The Town Chapel

The town had been without its chapel of ease since the Commonwealth. In 1732 Robert Plomer, husband of Hester Rawdon and the owner of the brewery (below), built a new chapel. This was a plain box of local bricks made at High Leigh (Tregelles 1908, 215; Dent 1992, 99). It remained in private hands until 1822, when it was bought by public subscription and consecrated in 1823 as a chapel of ease for the parishes of Broxbourne and Great Amwell (*ibid*., 216; Dent 1992, 101). In 1844 a new ecclesiastical district was formed and a burial ground consecrated. The chapel then rapidly became too small, and the lower gallery was enlarged in 1849. Money was raised for a new church in the 1860s. It was not enough for complete rebuilding, but paid for a new chancel with north and south aisles in early 13th century French Gothic style by Joseph Clarke. The 1732 chapel with its Doric pilasters and west gallery became the nave. The enlarged church of the new parish of Hoddesdon opened in 1865. It is in red brick with stone dressings and machine tile roofs. The west end exterior still has its 18th century form, steeply gabled with a restored belfry. The campanile tower at the centre of the south side, attributed to A Blomfield, was added in 1888 (Pevsner 1977, 205-6).

The Workhouse and poor relief

At the start of the 18th century the 15th century almshouses were still used (Tregelles 1908, 403). In 1737 the vestry took a lease on a rambling timber-framed house in Burford Street, owned by Robert Plomer, for use as a parish workhouse. It had been recorded as an inn c1570 (Garside 1988, 39-40). In 1745 the vestry bought the workhouse building and refitted the old almshouses (Tregelles 1908, 409). The workhouse closed in 1834, when Hoddesdon joined the Ware Union, and the building became the Five Horseshoes public house. Early photographs (Hayllar 1948, 70; Dent 1992, 24) show it before it was rebuilt in 1866 (*ibid*., 54). The site was cleared during the Dinant Relief Road development in the 1970s. The almshouses were sold by the vestry in 1841, the money going in part towards the cost of the lock-up and engine-house at the new 'Town Hall' (Tregelles 1908, 268). The almshouses were reported to be in good repair, and were not demolished until later in the 19th century. The medieval manor house of Geddings was taken over by the vestry for use as a parish pesthouse, until vaccination made smallpox a rarity after c1800. A new house was built on the site c1819 (Tregelles 1908, 70, 428).

Brewing and malting

In 1728 Robert Plomer inherited a brewhouse in Hoddesdon from his father William, and developed it into a thriving brewery (SMR 5446; Dent 1992, 40-1; see the Thatched House inn, above). Water came at first from the 17th century conduit, but eventually the brewery had its own well, providing pure water from the chalk (Tregelles 1908, 262; Dent 1992, 47). After subsequent owners (Allied Breweries 1988, 7-8; Garside 1988, 41), including William Whittingstall of Burford House, the brewery was bought by William Christie and George Cathrow in 1803; Christie died in 1811 but it remained Christie & Cathrow's Brewery. After Cathrow's death in 1842 it was sold, and the new owners took into partnership William Christie's nephew Peter; they also bought the Carter brewery in Hertford and its public houses, and completely rebuilt the Hoddesdon premises (Hayllar 1948, 129). From at least 1862 it was C P Christie & Co, and became one of the largest breweries in Hertfordshire. It owned sixteen public houses in the town and many

elsewhere. The malting was seriously damaged in a fire in 1905. In 1928 it was sold to the Cannon Brewery of Clerkenwell and was promptly closed. The buildings were either demolished or altered and sold; two yellow brick buildings remain, as well as the ***malting*** (SMR 5385). This is a three-storey building in yellow brick, nine bays long. The tall double kiln has a slate roof with the date 1905 on the hopper heads. The barley store, at the road end, has been rebuilt and converted into a shop; the malt store, also in yellow brick, has large round-headed windows with stone sills.

The tithe maps for Hoddesdon (1841) and Amwell (1839) show three other malthouses (SMR 6846-8) along the banks of the Woollens Brook, all belonging to Christie & Cathrow. They have disappeared, although the boundaries of the malthouse north of the church survive. The early 19th century Batty brewhouse survives behind the Salisbury Arms (see above).

Surviving 18th century Listed Buildings

These are not many in number, and are town houses for prosperous businessmen. They cluster south of the market place; this was always the smarter end of the town.

High Street (east side)

No.56 (Rathmore House): built by John Borham in 1746, in red brick with rubbed brick dressings, three storeys and cellar. Dent (1992, 14) shows the house, with its ornate Doric doorcase. At the rear is a central staircase tower, and two-storey additions at the north and south ends, put up in the early 19th century. John Borham (b.1684) was tenant of the Lynch Mill, and a prosperous farmer, maltster and merchant (Garside 1988, 47). He leased the plot of no.56 in 1743, the previous house on the site having collapsed in 1739 (Hayllar 1948, 88).

No.68 (Montague House), and no.70: a three-storey house built in the earlier 18th century in red brick, with painted stone pilasters, quoins, keystones and entablature. The double hipped roofs are of old tile; no.70 was part of the original house, and has the same materials and details. No.68's doorcase is 20th century. This was where the road engineer John Loudon McAdam lived from 1827 until just before his death in 1836.

High Street (west side):

Lowewood: built in 1760, but possibly incorporating part of an earlier house built in the later 17th century by Jasper Garnett (Garside 1988, 15; Dent 1992, 97). It is in red brick with rubbed brick lintels and stucco dressings; two storeys over a cellar, and with three attic dormers; mansard roof with machine tiles. In the centre front is a wooden Ionic doorcase. There is an extension at the rear. The house was bought by John Warner (of Woodlands next door) and his son in 1835 (Garside 1988, 55), and members of the family lived there until 1936. John Warner (1776-1852), a wealthy Quaker, owned the Crescent Bell Foundry in London and moved to Hoddesdon in 1830. In 1936 Lowewood was given to the town to house a public library, and now serves as the district museum and arts centre.

2.7 Hoddesdon in the 19th century (Figures 8, 9)

Change in the town's character came only from the later 1830s, and was slow. Until the opening of the railway, four mail coaches and 27 other services came through Hoddesdon every day, keeping the inns busy. The steep slope of Amwell Street was lowered by McAdam c1818, leaving the pavement at the old higher level (Hayllar 1948, 84). In 1826 the market place was levelled. In the 1830s came the removal of obstacles, notably the market house in 1833; Middle Row, condemned as insanitary, went in 1857. The market itself was in decline and once the market house had gone it came to an end. A new cattle market was started in 1886 by a local auctioneer, but this was held south of the old market cross which had marked the south end of the medieval market place (Tregelles 1908, 249). In the early 1840s the opening of the railway brought the collapse of the coaching trade, and from the middle of the century until 1928 the Brewery was the town's largest employer (Dent 1992, 68). The pace of change is reflected in the population figures (Tregelles 1908, 444). The first sudden increase came during the 1820s, when the coaching trade was at its peak. In 1831 the town housed 1,990 people. Only a gradual rise in population took place over the next forty years, and in 1871 the total was still only 2,594. By 1881 it was 3,186, in 1891 4,053 people, and in 1901 it was 4,781. The concomitant growth of housing is described below. These figures partly reflect enclosure in 1855, changes in employment, and the establishment at last of the town as a separate parish.

The railway

It did not take long after the opening of the first long-distance main line, from London to Birmingham in 1837, for a rival railway company to plan a line from London to Cambridge and East Anglia. The Northern & Eastern Railway Company opened the first section, from Stratford to Broxbourne, in September 1840; it reached Harlow in August 1841, and Bishop's Stortford in May 1842. By 1845 it ran to Ely and Norwich (Cockman 1978, 3; Davies & Grant 1983, 52-3). In 1862 the company, with its main rival the Eastern Counties Railway and others, formed the Great Eastern Railway Company. The line runs between the Cambridge Road and the river Lea past Broxbourne, effectively forming a boundary between settlement and flood plain. It curves to the north-east away from Hoddesdon and crosses the river close to Rye House. The branch from here to Ware and Hertford East opened in October 1843 (Cockman 1978, 3-4). No station was built to serve Hoddesdon itself; the nearest are still Rye House and Broxbourne.

The river Lea

In 1839 the first attempt was made to improve passage across the river at Dobbs Weir. The owner of the Lynch Mill, J P Manser, had bought the site of the decayed Nazeing Mill at the weir in 1830 and built the new Charlton Mill (Hayllar 1948, 126). After losing a team of horses in a sudden flood at the ford he dredged it out and built a timber bridge (Tregelles 1908, 105; Hayllar 1948, 6). By 1864 this was unsafe, but it was not until 1878 that the vestry and the Lee Conservancy built a new one. At enclosure in 1855 the roadway had at last been properly defined and made up, and in 1883 the county authorities took over both the road and the bridge. Charlton Mill was worked by steam power from 1856 and burnt down in 1868 (Garside 1988, 42).

Growth of the town

No expansion took place until after enclosure of the common fields in 1855, and in the absence of a railway station there was no significant increase in population for another twenty years. Tregelles (1908, 443) notes that as the land on the west side of the town was owned by Mr Barclay of High Leigh, and Mr Smith-Bosanquet of both Broxbournebury and Hoddesdonbury, it was not available for building. The 1879 OS 25" map shows the first new roads, but as yet few buildings, laid out on what had been Rye Common, north-east of the town and reasonably close to Rye House Station. A mission church, St Cuthbert's, was built in 1880 in Old Highway, and rebuilt in 1908 by Robert Barclay of High Leigh (Garside 1988, 20). The second edition of the 6" map, published in 1899, shows new features: the waterworks, the cemetery, and new streets with a few houses at the north end of the town, and some infill at what was now called Rye Park. The first nursery business has appeared, Beckwith's opposite the cemetery. To the south, St Catherine's Estate was built on the east side of the High Road at Spitalbrook by J A Hunt, a major local building firm, in the 1880s (Garside 1988, 43). This was 'one of the best speculative states of the period in this part of the country' (Curl 1977), and included several houses, now Listed, designed by the architect Reginald Blomfield. 'Middle class estates, of all kinds, began to be quite common in the county in the quarter century before the First World War…. The long string of houses, which parallels the lower Lea from Hoddesdon to Cheshunt and Waltham Cross, contains a great many examples of this process' (Munby 1977, 227). Other new facilities included the Queen Victoria Cottage Homes, three dwellings for aged women, built in 1897 to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee and opened in 1898. The land was given by Mr Barclay of High Leigh. A few years later a fourth house was added by the Warner family for an aged married couple (Tregelles 1908, 282-3).

Large houses

Most of these clustered at the south end of the town, in the vicinity of Rawdon House, The Grange, and Lowewood. They included ***Woodlands*** built by John Warner when he moved to Hoddesdon in 1830 (demolished 1967) and ***Yew House*** (17th century, demolished 1963). Ancillary structures survive from these two properties, and are Listed Buildings (below). The Knowle was another property. All of them had extensive grounds, and remained comparatively untouched until the 1960s. The 1960 6" OS map shows only a strip of land from the edge of Yew House grounds, sold in 1904 and developed as a smart estate called Yewlands.

High Leigh was built in 1851 and given its name in 1871 when it was bought and enlarged by Robert Barclay (Garside 1988, 15; Dent 1992, 88-9). He laid out the grounds, including a lake and avenues, a formal parterre, and 'a rocky valley complete with grotto and waterfalls, a characteristic piece of Pulham landscape' (Rowe n.d., 29). This refers to the artificial rockwork, which looks natural but is in fact of 'Pulhamite', made in Broxbourne. In the centre is a covered well, from which water was drawn by a donkey. In 1935 the grounds were presented to the town as a public park by the Barclay family. At Robert Barclay's death in 1921 the house was sold to First Conference Estates. The grotto in its artificial valley survives, and is Listed; the ornamental bridge in the park is of the same material (Garside 1988, 43). Pulhamite was an artificial stone made by the firm

of J Pulham, and was used widely in the grandest Victorian and later gardens. The factory closed in 1938 (SMR 5709; Hayllar 1948, 131-2).

Lampits, in extensive grounds, was built on Lampits Common Field between the brewery and the New River, after enclosure and sale to J P Manser in 1841 (VCH 1912, 432). It was demolished when industrial works and housing were built in the 1950s and 1960s. Another new house on the east side of the town, ***The Lynch***, survives and is described below.

19th century Listed Buildings

The Clock Tower
Designed by T Smith, this is the remnant of the building which replaced the old tower of St Katherine's chapel in 1836. The 1705 clock was installed in the new tower, being replaced in 1871 (Tregelles 1908, 199). It was called the 'Town Hall', but the single-storey structure with pedimented faces at its base (built with 50,000 bricks donated by Peter Christie of the Brewery; Garside 1988, 49) was very small (Dent 1992, 17). It did serve a variety of civic purposes: there was a vestry room at the front, and at the back a room for the town fire-engine, accommodation for the constable, and cells for prisoners. Until 1857 it lay behind a block of dilapidated and ancient timber-framed houses known as Middle Row. The surviving tower itself, now marooned in the pedestrianised market place, is square, of yellow stock brick with stucco dressings, in three diminishing stages. The middle stage has louvred belfry openings in recessed panels, and the top stage has clock faces. Those on the east and west are the originals.

Brocket Road chapel
This was originally Nazeing Chapel, built in 1816. In 1876 it became a shop and was later a bicycle-making workshop (Dent 1992, 64). It is still commercial premises. It is a two-storey weatherboarded range with the gable end facing the road, and a sack-hoist door on the upper floor east side. This end has a pair of Gothic-arched windows, now in poor condition, on the upper floor, and an ornamental bargeboard. Inside is an 8-bay open-truss roof.

1a-1b Brocket Road: a two-storey three-bay house built in the 1820s, with a low slate roof and original central door.

38 High Street: a two-storey house set back from the road, built c1830 in yellow stock brick with a hipped slate roof. The central porch with cornice is square and has cement render.

74 High Street: the early 19th century yellow stock brick front possibly obscures an older timber-framed building; two storeys, with parapet, and old tile roof. The shop is 20th century.

86 High Street: a three-storey early-mid 19th century building on the street corner, in yellow stock brick with gault brick dressings. The front is only one window wide, and two windows wide on the south side. The roof and the ground floor shop are 20th century.

57-9 High Street: 'behind the façade the structure is entirely timberframed with brick infill, an interesting late example of this technique' (Listed Building description). The building dates to c1820-30, now restored. It is of three storeys, in a yellow brick shell and with a hipped slate roof. The symmetrical front has plain pilasters with raised brick capitals and a central narrow recess on the upper floors; the ground floor has a central arched door and flat-arched shop windows on either side. The top floor at the rear is tile hung.

Spinning Wheel, High Street: a house built in 1870 for Septimus Warner, in elaborate 'Swiss Cottage' style (the original name was *Italian Cottage*; Dent 1992, 92). It has a two-storey T-plan with deep bracketed eaves and gables, with a projecting gabled centre in the north front and pairs of round-headed windows. On the west side is a canted ground floor bay and an oriel on the upper floor. The walls are finished in stucco and roughcast, with machine tiled roof. At the rear is a projecting square tower with a sack hoist on the upper floor.

Yew House:
North House & South House: built as the stable block for Yew House in the early 19th century, when the house itself was altered. The stable block is in red brick, two storeys with old tile hipped roof. The ground floors are now partly covered in cement render. The north front has a slightly projecting pedimented centre and rubbed brick relieving arches.

Woodlands:
Little Woodlands, Woodlands Close
This was built as the stables to John Warner's house in 1833. It is in white brick with stucco details. The slightly projecting centre has a clock on the pediment; above is a square central bell turret with Tuscan pilasters and entablature (Dent 1992, 95). The extension on the north side is weatherboarded, with a pigeon loft over double doors. In the front garden is a second Listed Building, a square single-storey granary also built for John Warner. This is stuccoed with rusticated quoin blocks, and has a pyramid roof of old tiles, and a ball finial. The saddleback stone piers are 20th century.

The Orangery, Woodlands Close
Now a house, this was built by JohnWarner as an orangery in the elaborate grounds of his new house (Dent 1992, 94), and presumably dates to the 1830s. It is in yellow stock brick with a machine tile roof. The east face is stuccoed, with composite columns, entablature, and raised central attic with Corinthian pilasters and arched centre. Between the columns are relieving arches, and a door at the south with curved steps and wrought iron railings.

St Catherine's Estate:
Nos.9, 11, 20, 22 and 24 St Catherine's Road were designed by the architect Reginald Blomfield between 1887 and 1894 (Curl 1977). They are in red brick and roughcast, with

tile-hung gables, imitation timbering, porches and oriels. Nos.20-22 are designed as a single block in 17th century country house style, with rubbed brick and stone dressings. No.24 has several gables, Venetian attic window, and a Chinese-style staircase.

The Lynch, Conduit Lane
In 1803 James and Edward Manser bought the Lynch Mill, and shortly afterwards Edward Manser built this house, where he lived until his death in 1856 (Hayllar 1948, 124). It is a three-storey villa in yellow stock brick with stucco dressings and slate hipped roof. The symmetrical front has a deep Tuscan porch and a panelled door with rectangular fanlight. On the northwest side is a canted window bay on the ground floor. The loggia and balustraded terraces to the lake are 20th century.

Schools and chapels
Independent Chapel
The first independent meeting was set up c1780 behind Fourways House at the corner of Ware and Hertford Roads by a Mr Gridley of Ware. This was a Baptist congregation. By c1800 the group was 'somewhat dispersed' (Tregelles 1908, 226) and its affairs were reconstituted in 1810-11 under the supervision of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connection. Various alterations were made to the meeting-house, until 1845 when the pastor, William Ellis, raised money to buy the George Inn in the High Street. The inn was demolished and a new Congregational Chapel was built, opening in 1847 (Dent 1992, 102). In 1868 the chapel was 'improved' and a schoolroom built (Tregelles 1908, 227). In 1967 it was demolished and replaced by the Fawkon Walk development.

Plymouth Brethren
In 1847 the old Ware Road chapel was taken down, leaving a small building in the attached burial ground. In 1863 it began to be used as a chapel by the Plymouth Brethren; it was enlarged in 1865 and rebuilt in 1869 (Tregelles 1908, 228; Dent 1992, 107). This was the Gospel Hall, demolished in 1974 (*Hoddesdon Mercury* 19 July 1974, 7); the burial ground had been emptied in 1972.

Society of Friends
Meetings of local Quakers are recorded from 1683. After the Act of Toleration came into force a brick meeting-house was built in 1697 in Marsh Lane (Essex Road). This remained in use until the new house was built in Lords Lane (Lord Street) in 1829 (Dent 1992, 106). The original house was sold and turned into two cottages (Tregelles 1908, 225), and survived, within the wall of its burial ground, until 1956 (Hayllar 1948, 126; *Hoddesdon Journal* April 1959); the outline of the plot survives. The 1829 Friends' Meeting House is still in use and is a Listed Building. It is of yellow-grey brick with stucco dressings, and a slate roof. The front is pedimented, with the date inscribed on a stone, and has a central two-fold door with fanlight, architrave and cornice. At each side are single-storey bays with recessed panels. The doorway is equipped with cast iron foot-scrapers.

Methodists and Baptists used the Coffee Tavern (built in 1882 by the Warner family at 95 High Street) for services, and had no purpose-built churches until the 20th century (Garside 1988, 20, 40).

National School
In 1844 a National School was opened in Paul's Lane, near the chapel; in 1846 a separate school for girls was built on a piece of land in Paul's Lane by Robert Hunt, part owner of the Hoddesdon Brewery (Garside 1988, 31-2). Infants were housed in a third building, extended in 1875. New buildings for boys and girls were erected in 1858 (Dent 1992, 135), and at the same time the National School incorporated a charity school for girls set up in Amwell Street by the Woollens Brook in 1818. The seniors transferred to new premises in 1930, and the juniors in 1953. The old buildings in Paul's Lane were used by the infants until 1971, and were then demolished to enable the street to be widened.

British School
John Warner, of Woodlands, founded a school for the sons of nonconformists in Esdale Lane in 1841 (Dent 1992, 133); this closed when the Boys' National School opened in 1844, although the building survived as Esdale Hall. A British School for girls (later boys as well) was opened next to the new Congregational Chapel in the High Street in 1847, and remained until the new senior school was built in 1930 (Garside 1988, 32).

Utilities
Police: in 1835 the town complained to Hertford Justices that a night patrol and a special constable had become necessary, but there was nowhere to keep those arrested (Tregelles 1908, 434). As a result the single-storey building around the Clock Tower, built in 1837 and known as the 'Town Hall', included living and sleeping room for the town constable (part of the County force after its formation in 1841) and cells for prisoners (Dent 1992, 17). In 1883 a purpose-built police station was opened in Lord Street (Dent 1992, 27). In 1969 this was superseded by new and larger premises on the site of Woodlands at the south end of the town.

Fire: the first record of the town's own horse-drawn fire engine dates to c1710 (Garside 1988, 27). A second engine was bought c1835. A new engine, housed in the 'Town Hall', was bought by public subscription in 1853. Christie's Brewery had its own fire brigade and engine (Dent 1992, 42, 46).

Gas: The Hoddesdon Gas Company was set up in 1847, and installed street lighting in the town in 1848. The original premises were at Spitalbrook by the main road; when the St Catherine's Estate was laid out a new gasworks was constructed in 1886 near the railway line. The company was eventually absorbed by the Tottenham Gas Company (Tregelles 1908, 440; Garside 1988, 27).

Sewage, Water: in 1871 the Lee Conservancy issued Hoddesdon with 'peremptory notices' about its sewage being drained into the river, and by 1874 a scheme had been agreed whereby most of the town's sewage went to a new treatment works at Rye Park, the rest becoming part of the Broxbourne system (Tregelles 1908, 156). The Hoddesdon

Water Works (SMR 6843) was founded in 1886 with a reservoir (SMR 6844) on the the top of Westhill (Garside 1988, 28-9). The pumping station and the reservoir are still in use.

Diversity in the later 19th century

In 1908 Tregelles (p261) noted that milling had now disappeared from Hoddesdon; the malt trade, so important since the 15th century, had also gone. These had been replaced by brewing, building, the manufacture of sporting equipment, the growing of watercress, and market gardening.

Watercress

The extensive beds at the Lynch, seen on the early OS plans, were set up in 1885 by A Hughes (Dent 1992, 82). It was more profitable to use the Lynch water, the speed and temperature of which could be exactly controlled, for growing watercress than to operate the mill (Garside 1988, 42). The business, part of an extensive industry in Hertfordshire taking advantage of the chalk streams and proximity to London markets, carried on until 1961. Also on the early plans are beds on the river Lea near Rye House, started by James Welch (Dent 1992, 82-3). This firm also grew willows for the manufacture of tennis rackets and cricket bats at Burford House. During the Second World War the water level in the river fell and the business ended.

Market gardening

By 1899 the first of many market gardens and nurseries were set up at the north end of Hoddesdon (Dent 1992, 68). One was Beckwith's, opposite the cemetery; another lay further north towards Hailey. Since 1970 much of this land has been built over.

Leisure

In 1864 the Rye House estate (in Stanstead Abbots parish) was bought by W H Teale, who laid out the grounds as pleasure gardens and opened a hotel. The gardens became extremely popular, particular with Londoners who came by train and in great numbers by horse-drawn coach through Hoddesdon (Hayllar 1948, 100). The estate was bought by Christies in 1904 and the pleasure gardens were run until the 1930s (Garside 1988, 17).

2.8 20th century change

The 1960 6" OS map shows essentially the same town as at the turn of the century. In the 1960s all the buildings at the north end of the market place between Amwell and Burford Streets were swept away. The new block of flats and shopping precinct built in 1964-5 are described by Pevsner (1977, 206) as 'undoubtedly the most unappealing example in the county of the 1960s craze for remodelling town centres', and it has not been a success. Other ancient buildings in the High Street, notably the Bull inn, also went. A few years later the Dinant Relief Road cut through the north end of the town to connect with the bypass, opened in 1975. The large grounds of private houses have since 1960 all been built over, although they have left traces behind them. It remains to be seen how

Hoddesdon will adapt in the future, since it is a town which 'owes its existence to being on a main road' (*ibid*., 207).

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