

Contents

Introduction

The Aim of the Report	1
The Sources Used	1
Geography	2
Geology	2
Early Settlement	2
History of the Manor	2

The Medieval Borough

The Town Plan	3
Wealth of the Borough	3
Agriculture	4
Early Industry	4
The Decline of the Borough	4
Principal Manors	5
Manor House Standon Lordship	5
Standon Friars	6
The Economy of the Town	7
Mills	7
Inns	8
The Townscape	10
Religious buildings and institutions	10
Non-conformism	12
Other significant surviving buildings	12

Post-medieval Expansion of the Town **13**

Agricultural buildings	15
Communications: roads and turnpikes	16
Bridge	16
Railway	17

Bibliography **17**

List of Figures

- Fig. 1: Standon medieval borough
- Fig. 2: Standon medieval borough: surviving features
- Fig. 3: Medieval borough and manors
- Fig. 4: Post-medieval development of the town
- Fig. 5: Growth of Standon in the 19th century
- Fig. 6: The nineteenth century town

STANDON

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 could be characterised as urban in the historic 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 Standon town. 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 SMR

In addition, numerous articles, both published and unpublished have been used and a bibliography of these is included at the end of the report.

Geography

The parish of Standon is situated in the district of east Hertfordshire. The town of Standon is situated in the north of the parish on the River Rib, approximately half a mile east of the Roman road, Ermine Street (now the A10). The town is relatively low-lying and fairly level at approximately 70m above ordnance datum. Until relatively recently the town formed a relatively discreet settlement, however development in the area between Standon and Puckeridge has caused some blurring of boundaries.

Geology

The parish of Standon is sited in the centre of the East Hertfordshire Plateau and features a subsoil of chalk and clay (Page 1912, 347). The surface includes a complex mix of soils, of flint, chalk, gravels, sand and clay.

Early Settlement

There is evidence of early human activity in the vicinity of Standon and archaeological remains of various periods, including the Mesolithic, the Late Iron Age, Roman and Medieval have been found in the vicinity of the town. Aerial photography indicate further potential sites. However, the nature of these settlements is presently unclear.

The name 'Standon' is thought to be derived from the Old English 'Stan' meaning stone and 'dun' meaning hill (Gover et al. 1938, 197). Some antiquarians believe the name referred to the stony hill above Puckeridge (Salmon 1728, 235).

History of the Manor

The first documentary references to Standon are somewhat unreliable, the earliest apparently dating to a Saxon charter of AD c.851 in which the Countess Sigburg gave 5 hides of land in Standon to the Abbey of Croyland in Lincolnshire (Gelling 1979, 82). However, research has been unable to identify the existence of Sigburg (Page 1936, 266), and the existence of a 12th century copy of what purports to be a charter of AD 944-6 granting Standon to the Abbey of St Albans (Gover et al., 197) casts doubt on the origin of these charters. The first reliable reference is most likely to be that found in a will of c. AD 980, in which Standon is mentioned several times (Gelling, 85).

Standon is also mentioned several times in The *Historia Croylandensis*, a text reputedly written by Ingulph (1085-6), the first Norman Abbot at Crowland Abbey. This work records that c.1030 Abbot Brithmere built a Stately House at Standon, near Ermine Street, "with fine Apartments and Out-Offices convenient for the Reception and Entertainment of Himself and his Retinue in his Way to London, when affairs of his Convent requires his Attendance there" (Salmon, 238). However, whilst the scholarship of Ingulph has been considered dubious, it is possible that Standon did maintain such a property, and may have originated as an ecclesiastical manor. Prior to the Norman invasion the manor was held by Stigand, the last Saxon Archbishop of Canterbury (Munby n.d., 56). In addition, Crowland Abbey account rolls for 1296 and 1304 indicate that the Abbey did hold an isolated property of c.600 acres in Standon, and suggest that this area was used as a dairy farm (Page 1936, 267).

The Domesday Book provides evidence for the importance of the late Saxon manor and refers to a large settlement called 'Standone'. The Domesday manor had land for 24 ploughs and a sizeable population including a priest. In addition, the settlement contained 5 mills, 2 arpents (c. 6 acres) of vineyard, and large areas of woodland which are implied by a reference to pannage for 600 hogs (Page 1912, 352).

The Medieval Borough

Standon is known to have been a borough governed by a reeve by 1262, and was probably created in the early 13th century by the Clare family from their rural manor of Standon (Bailey 1993, 366) in an effort to profit from the growing use of the Roman road, Ermine Street (now the A10).

The borough market was held in Standon High Street, the main thoroughfare through the settlement, and documents record the conversion of a few plots of land surrounding the 'new' market place to burgage tenure in the early 13th century (Bailey, 366). In addition, a 'New Street' (now Kents Lane) was constructed which linked the northern end of the town to Ermine Street, enabling easier access to the borough market (Page 1912, 349).

The early wealth and success of the medieval borough town is reflected in the size, quality and status of the parish church of St Mary. Although potentially of Saxon origin, the earliest above-ground remains of the present church can be stylistically dated to the early 13th century (see below) and suggest that this phase was constructed at the foundation of the borough.

The Town Plan (figure 2)

The medieval borough of Standon would therefore have consisted of a series of properties, or burgages, which ran at right angles to the High Street. The building, or 'tenement' in which the merchant or burgess lived were adjacent to the street, the rear of the plot being used for ancillary, non-domestic buildings and for the disposal of rubbish.

The analysis of the layout of surviving burgage plots, when taken in conjunction with the other features of the town, such as the street layout and the distribution of early buildings, can provide important clues for charting the development of the town, which are not available from other sources. In Standon this evidence indicates that the early medieval borough was linear in plan, and settlement was initially focused around the market place and church. Expansion of the town in the 14th century apparently took place further along the High Street and into Kents Lane, in which it is recorded that John Atte Felde held a messuage by 1378 (Cussans 1881, 178).

However, an examination of the distribution of historic buildings suggests that few late medieval buildings have survived, as most of the early buildings apparently date to the 17th century. Their distribution, in combination with the survival of fossilised property boundaries, may indicate that Standon underwent a period of rebuilding or renovation of existing buildings in the 17th century, and further investigation of the buildings may reveal earlier origins.

Wealth of the Borough

Various sources provide indications of the considerable wealth of the town in the later 13th and early 14th century. In particular, the lay subsidy returns, a tax on moveable wealth and goods, principally on crops and stocks, indicate that in 1334 Standon was the 11th wealthiest town in Hertfordshire (Bailey, 366). The Borough was clearly a large and wealthy settlement in which 107 taxpayers contributed a total of £9 13s 8d. This is comparable with other prosperous medieval settlements including that of Stortford, valued at £9.9s.10½d., and Ware at £12.17s.4½d. (Glasscock 1975, 130).

Agriculture

During the early 14th century, Standon apparently existed primarily for local consumption rather than export (Page 1912, 349), although the town is known to have been involved in the London malt trade by at least 1388-92 (Page 1912, 349). Nevertheless, trade was, in the main, dependant upon produce from the agricultural hinterland, although wills, inventories and court rolls provide some evidence for the types of urban industries undertaken in the town during this period (see below). However, the agrarian recession of the 1330s and 40s affected the local economy, and it is significant that during this period a property in Standon market place had fallen down and its empty plot rented out as 'wasteland' (Bailey, 366).

Early Industry

Evidence provided by contemporary surnames suggests that a typical range of urban industries were being undertaken in the 14th century. Examples of craftsmen and trades include smiths and tanners, and references to 'tilers' who leased chalk and clay pits from the manor, indicates some brick and tile manufacture (Bailey, 366). In particular there are several names relating to cloth manufacture, such as weavers, dyers and fullers (Page 1912, 349) which indicates that this industry was an important part of the Standon economy in this period (see below).

The Decline of the Borough

Standon's early success as a market town is reflected in its Borough status, however the inconvenient situation of the town, half a mile from Ermine Street, put it at a disadvantage during the later, leaner years of the 14th century. Indeed Buntingford, a later settlement positioned on Ermine Street at the junction of two major trading routes, was more suitably located to capture a larger proportion of the victualling trade and enjoyed spectacular growth, a success which rightfully caused anxiety in Standon.

Buntingford grew at the expense of neighbouring markets, and in 1367 the Lord of Standon Manor successfully petitioned the King, Edward III, to revoke the new Buntingford market on the grounds that it was causing damage to his town (Bailey, 361). However, the 'lords and tenants' of Buntingford were able to prove that all market rights had been transferred from the manor of Pope's Hall to the people of Buntingford and the King was forced to regrant their charter, although the day was altered to avoid a clash with the market at Standon (Bailey, 362).

By the late 14th century Standon was beginning to show signs of severe decline, and was only capable of paying half the full borough rent and of maintaining fewer than 20 burgesses in the town (Bailey). Indeed, by the mid 15th century the manorial records mention that the burgesses had been unable to supply more than half of their fixed annual rent, indicating that the town may have been in commercial decline. A further indication of decline is provided by a 75% drop in market tithes between 1350 and 1450, and by 1472 the borough court had reduced its meetings from once a month to one every 6 months.

It is known that the Standon market had lapsed before 1668, when Walter Lord Aston was granted a Friday market and two fairs (Page 1912, 349), however these had also lapsed before 1728, the antiquarian Salmon noting that the 'market and fairs of Standon have been long disused' (Salmon, 238).

Nevertheless, despite such a decline in trade, the hearth tax returns of 1664-5 for 'Standon Proper' indicate a fairly substantial settlement in which 153 buildings were taxed, which may be compared with 308 in the whole of Standon parish. The greatest proportion of these (104) related to small buildings of 1-3 hearths. However, there were several substantial properties, of which the largest was the Lordship with a total of 48 hearths. An examination of a list of 1699 detailing properties with a taxable value of more than £10 p.a., indicates that few of the wealthier inhabitants of Standon were permanent residents in the area, many were gentry and merchants from London, others being wealthy yeoman farmers and tradesmen (Munby n.d., 27). It therefore seems likely that Standon became a favoured country retreat, the popularity of which may also account for the proliferation of buildings ascribed to the 17th century in the town.

Principal Manors (figure 1)

Manor House Standon Lordship

An extent of the Standon manor made in 1262 records c 625 acres of land, mainly comprising arable land with some pasture and small amounts of meadow, and two fisheries. In addition the manor included a park of c 2 leagues in circumference, and a fruit and herb garden, which has been tentatively identified with 'Balsoms Park', a field sited to the east of the Lordship (Page 1912, 353).

Following the Dissolution, Ralph Sadleir, reputedly the richest commoner in England and Gentleman of the Privy Chamber (Clutterbuck 1815, 226), was appointed keeper of the manor of Standon (Standon Lordship). The existing manor house was clearly still in respectably good repair as in 1539 Sadleir is recorded as having received Thomas Cromwell (Smith 1993, 174). In 1540 Sadleir was granted the manor, with the park and warren in tail mail, which was changed to a grant in fee in 1544 (Page 1912, 354). Shortly afterwards, in 1546, Sadleir's steward built a new house for him upon the site of the old one (Salmon, 237), which is purported to have been on a much larger scale than he wished (Page 1912, 354), and contained more than 40 rooms and a chapel (Cussans, 170).

Antiquarian sources indicate that the old manor house was kept in 'tolerable' repair until after the sale of the manor in 1822, when it was allowed to fall into 'utter ruin' (Cussans, 170). By the early 20th century only 'a small part [of the 1546 house] still remains' (Page 1912, 354), although an engraving of c.1700 and a plan made shortly

before demolition in the 19th century have survived (Smith, 174) and an inventory taken in 1660 (Munby n.d., 64-7) describes many details. These records indicate that the house was of the courtyard style, comprising a principle range with 2 wings, the main entrance of the west range being flanked by semi-octagonal turrets. The south (hall) range featured a datestone incorporating Sadleir's initials, which has been reset in the modern SE wing (DoE List). On the east side of the courtyard was a long range of buildings constructed on a different axis, and suggesting that more than one phase of construction (Page 1912, 354).

The house [SMR: 10032] was substantially rebuilt in 1872 and fragmentary remains of the Tudor house were incorporated into the new building. The most substantial remains belong to the west range, and include remnants of the gateway, which has been enclosed to form an entrance hall with truncated turrets. In addition, the lower walls of the north end of the W wing were incorporated into a small building, 'built of old materials' (Page 1912, 354), and another portion to the south was enlarged and rebuilt to form a hunting lodge for the 2nd Duke of Wellington. Foundations from the demolished N, E and S ranges have been located between the present buildings and the river, and include the remains of the semi- underground service rooms to the hall (S range) with (blocked up) hollow chamfered openings (DoE List).

Some internal features were retained, such as moulded 4-centred arched stone fire surrounds (Sadleir 1905, 89), although the building underwent extensive renovation in 1927 following a fire (DoE List).

Standon Friars (figure 1)

The Rectory Manor (Standon Friars) originated in a grant made by the Lord of the Manor Gilbert de Clare in 1151. The grant gave Standon church, 140 acres of land and a vineyard to the Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (Knights Hospitallers). A Preceptory is known to have been established at Standon, and may have originally included a House for Sisters of the Order, until they were moved to Somerset in 1180 (Squires 1930-1, 265). In 1330 the manor was leased out and in 1338 was recorded as only having a chaplain, clerk & bailiff. However by 1360 there is reference to a Preceptor, after which nothing more is known until the manor was leased again in the 15th century (Squires, 266).

The Preceptory and manorial site were probably located at Standon Friars [SMR: 1979], an area of high ground approximately half a mile to the east of Standon town. In 1728 the site was described as having 'turned to a farm' although 'some part of the old stone building remains, which is called a chapel but must always have been of inferior use' (Salmon, 238). There are now no above ground remains of the early buildings, the present farmhouse is of 19th century date (Squires, 266) with a 17th century granary and late 18th range of farm buildings (DoE List). However, there is evidence of disturbed ground in the 'orchard and adjoining meadows' (Page 1912, 351), the regular arrangement of which are thought to represent the remains of the Hospitallers buildings and may include a chapel (Perowne 1967, 29). Inhumation burials have also been found in the vicinity, which may indicate the presence of a cemetery, and there is evidence for medieval fishponds 'in the field below the farm pond' (Squires, 265). In addition, field name evidence, which includes 'Knights

Spring', 'Knights Leys' and 'The Balsoms' may suggest earlier use of the site (Squires, 266).

The Economy of the Town

Mills

The Domesday survey of 1086 mentioned 5 mills in Standon manor, although it is unlikely that all these were present within the extent of the settlement. An extent of Standon manor in 1360 describes the presence of two water mills farmed out by the Lord of the manor. One of these mills was Latchford (Loteford) corn mill, the other, a fulling mill, may have been the mill described as Lynchemelne in early charters, although its position is not known (Page 1912, 353). Shortly afterwards, in 1398, four mills were recorded on the manor (Page 1912, 353).

Fulling

Fulling describes the process by which newly woven cloth was cleansed and felted and evidence exists for the presence of fulling mills in the vicinity of Standon in the 14th century. In the 1330s a fulling mill was built 'near the town', whilst the Latchford corn mill was converted to fulling in the later 14th century (Bailey, 366). It is not known whether any of the mills within Standon Borough were used for fulling, although there is a substantial amount of surname evidence for those involved in the processing of cloth (see above).

However, later records of the 1350s and 60s reveal little evidence of manufacturing, and it appears that the cloth making industry declined, the Latchford fulling mill was dilapidated for much of the 15th century (Bailey, 366). Comparable industrial sites in other areas (such as Rickmansworth) indicate that these sites continued to be converted to other uses with the advent of technological change.

Paper Mill, Paper Mill Lane (figure 6)

The paper mill [SMR: 5766] is thought to occupy the site of one of the mills mentioned in the Domesday survey of 1086 and to be the subject of a gift given by Gilbert de Clare to the Knights Hospitallers in the mid 12th century when it was described as lying 'outside the gate of Standon towards the south'. The property was subsequently leased back to the manor until being exchanged for land in the mid 14th century (Page 1912, 362).

By 1713 the water mill had turned to paper manufacture and a 'drying house' [SMR: 9487] was situated on the other side of Papermill Lane, although this structure had been demolished some time before 1898 (2nd edition OS Map). The mill was later used as a saw mill (after c.1862) before being converted to residential use. The site currently consists of two large timber-framed and weatherboarded sheds, which probably date to the C18th. One has a C19th central brick chimney, whilst the other is empty. Some workings have survived, including the c.12ft diameter water wheel, although it is in poor repair. The mill house is of C17th date and comprises a two storied, timber framed L-shaped construction with a notable C18th frontage (DoE List).

The Old Mill House, Mill End (figure 6)

This former waterpowered corn mill [SMR: 5809] is situated at the northern end of the settlement and is thought to be on the site of the old manorial mill to which the copyholders owed multure (Page 1912, 350). Little is known of the early mill, however by 1901 the water mill had been supplemented by steam power, and assisted in powering a new flour mill (see below) (Page 1912, 350).

A fire in 1961 destroyed much of the mill, although one wing survived which is of two stories and constructed of yellow brick with an asbestos roof. The former boiler house (built in 1890) is situated at one end of the wing, although the rest of the mill is thought to have been 'rather older'. The wheel house also remains, but there is no water wheel inside.

The mill house dates to c. 1800 and is a symmetrical Regency style double-pile house of timber-framed construction. The two storey main range is now fronted by a curved glass-roofed conservatory and was extended in the mid 19th century by the addition of a (lower) short, two storey rear wing (DoE List). Other associated structures include an L-shaped range of 18th century weatherboarded timber-framed barns c 40 m to the south east of the house.

Former Flour Mill, Standon New Mill, Kents Lane (figure 6)

A large steam corn mill [SMR: 5808] was built in 1901 and connected to the Old Mill (a water and steam powered mill) on the other side of the Rib by electrical wires (Page 1912, 350). The building survives and is of brick construction, featuring four floors and a chimney of c.100ft in height. There are miscellaneous buildings at the rear, some of brick, others of corrugated iron.

Site of Smock mill, off Hadham Road (Figure 6)

A smock mill, known as 'Tower Windmill', was formerly located to the south of the settlement, and is thought to have been built in the early 19th century. The first direct evidence for a windmill on the site [SMR: 4755] is found on the 1838 Tithe Map and Award, although the tenant appears as a corn miller in a trade directory of 1823/4 (Moore 1999, 128). Documents indicate that the windmill was in use until c 1890. Sale particulars of 1875 described the structure as being 'a timber-built mill, having three floors on a lofty eminence and with spring and clock sails, containing the equipment for flour milling' (Munby n.d., 25). The inclusion of a brick-built bakehouse in these sale particulars indicates that at one time the site combined corn-milling and a bread baking business (Moore, 129). Whilst the date of demolition has been disputed, the mill was described as 'disused' in 1912 (Page 1912, 350), and it seems likely that it was demolished during the early/mid 20th century. One source attributes it to 1931 (Smith 1986, 40). Nothing remains visible at ground level.

Inns (Figure 6)

The first reference to an inn in Standon dates to the late 17th century, and it is likely that the position of Standon on the Stortford road (A120), which served to link a major communication route (the A10) to Bishop Stortford, was important in the generation of the inn trade by passing travellers. This function is therefore likely to have been a significant part of the Post Medieval economy of the settlement.

Former Falcon Inn, No 2 (Falcon House), Stortford Road

The first reference to an inn on this site dates to a will of 1686 (Salmon, 241). The north facing timber-framed building [SMR: 10037] is constructed on a T-shaped plan and comprises a main range, thought to be of 17th date, and a (potentially earlier) lower gabled cross wing. The structure is of two-storeys and a cellar and has a wide, single story lean-to extension which has enclosed the large external gable chimney (DoE List).

The Star PH (former Star and Garter Inn) No 62, High Street

The first reference to an alehouse on this site is found in a lease of 1727 when it was described as 'The Star, otherwise the Maypole' (Joliffe & Jones 1995, 140). The building [SMR: 10038] is thought to be of (at least) 17th century date, the main range is a two storied, timber-framed and plastered structure which has retained traces of panelled pargetting on the frontage. A south crosswing of brick is cellared, and features a ovolo moulded axial beam in the central room which may indicate an earlier date than that of the main range. The crosswing has a gabled parapet and contains a square sundial in the upper level (DoE List).

Former Windmill Inn, No 53, High Street

This timber framed building [SMR: 10036] originated in the 17th century, and underwent substantial alterations in the 18th and C19th centuries which are likely to have resulted in the irregular positioning of the windows on the upper level. Until being converted to housing in 1968 (Joliffe & Jones, 140), the two storey structure was known as the Windmill Inn, the first reference to which dates to 1806 (Johnson 1963: 90). The inn is known to have featured a (now lost?) pargetted frontage (Johnson 1963, 90), and renovation of the building retained a large, centrally placed chimney which is in line with the entrance (DoE List).

The Bell PH, High Street

The earliest known reference to The Bell dates to 1727 when it was described as an alehouse, and it was acquired by a brewer of Hertford in 1777. However, the site is referred to as the Wellhouse in 1646, indicating that the building originated as a private dwelling (Joliffe & Jones, 140). The main range of this building [SMR: 10038] is thought to be of 17th century date and comprised a two storey, plastered, timber-framed structure. The building, which faces east on to the High Street, underwent internal and external alteration in the early C18th and features an 18th century symmetrical facade incorporating renewed panelled pargetting. A two storey red brick extension was constructed to the rear of the property in the C19th which is thought to have housed a carpenters shop (Joliffe & Jones, 140). The building was further extended in the C20th (DoE List).

Derry House, 30 -32, High Street

The tithe map and award of 1838 describe this building as being a 'bakehouse' which currently comprises a long 2-storied building with rear wings partially enclosing a rear courtyard, which is reached through a tall central carriage entrance, the form of which is reminiscent of coaching inn origins, and may recognise its original function. The building, which as now been subdivided into two houses, is of the late 18th

century and was renovated in the early 19th century and is of red and blue chequered brickwork with a hipped slate roof. There are projecting chimney stacks on north side of the building (DoE List).

The Townscape

Religious Buildings and Institutions

Church of St Mary, High Street (Figure 2)

The early wealth and success of Standon is reflected in the size and status of the parish church [SMR: 4366]. The earliest parts of the existing building can be stylistically dated to the early 13th century and may represent a significant rebuilding programme on this site at the foundation of the borough (see above). However, foundations revealed during restoration works in the late 19th century indicated that an earlier, Saxon structure stood on the site (Cussans, 174), and is reinforced by a reference in the Domesday book recording the presence of a priest in the manor of Standon in 1086 (see above). At the beginning of the 12th century the church of Standon was granted to the Knights Hospitallers by the Lord of the Manor, Gilbert de Clare, along with 140 acres of land and his vineyard. It has been suggested that the church was built by the Templars as a Processional church, of which there are only 2 other examples in England (Crofton 1901, 274). Early 16th century wills indicate the presence of a brotherhood of Our Lady in Standon church (Page 1912, 363).

The church itself is of flint which, until 1863 was arranged in a chequered pattern, the tower was cement rendered at this time (Crofton, 275). Later additions include the construction of a west doorway in c.1320-30, and shortly afterwards the north and south aisles were added and the nave substantially rebuilt. During the 15th century the west porch and an extremely unusual free-standing bell tower were constructed, which is thought to be unique in the county (Pevsner 1977, 340-1).

In 1864 the church was comprehensively repaired and underwent some extension, which included linking the tower with the main body of the church, and much of the external stone was replaced (Page 1912, 363). Removal of the old high pews at the end of the south aisle revealed a piscina and an empty stone coffin, in what is thought to have been the Lady Chapel. Antiquarian sources suggest that the coffin had been relocated to this site, as it was found to be merely covered by the floor of the pew and was stylistically older than the present church (Cussans, 176).

Various sources have noted an unusual slope to the floors of the nave and chancel, in which the chancel end is considerably higher the nave. Local folklore suggests that this slope can be attributed to a 'spacious crypt' or vault beneath the chancel, although there is no direct evidence for this (Cussans, 174; Page 1912, 363).

Knights Court, (formerly Standon Endowed School), Hadham Road (figure 6)

This site is traditionally considered to have originated as a hospice of the Knights Hospitallers, on land which was granted to the order in 1151 (Crofton 1901, 276), although there is an alternative theory that the Knights may have held a manorial courthouse here after they had begun to grant leases of the manor in the 14th century. (Page 1912, 349).

Nevertheless it is possible that the site served, in part at least, as a hospice, as at the time of the Reformation there were as many as 50 poor people fed at the 'Standon Hospice' every day. Following the Dissolution, which forced the closure of most religious Houses, the feeding of the poor was continued at the Lordship by the new lord of the manor, Ralph Sadleir (Brown 1901, 290). A school is known to have occupied the site from before 1612 until c1980 (DoE List), and it has been suggested that prior to the Dissolution, the Knights taught, in addition to their duties at the Hospice. Comparable religious institutions indicate that, following closure of the Hospice, former members of the Order may have continued this function under the patronage of Sadleir (Brown, 290).

The building itself [SMR: 10031] is a high status construction of two storeys and nine bays. The present structure appears to be of late medieval foundation (or earlier) and features a continuous jetty along the north elevation (facing the church yard) and exposed close-studded timber-framing on a flint and brick base, with C19th red brick herringbone pattern infill. In the 19th century the building underwent internal alterations (Perowne, 30) and a substantial extension was constructed to the east of the main building to house the Girls school. Following closure of the school c.1980 the building was converted into 4 dwellings (DoE List).

Chapel (figure 2)

A chapel [SMR: 2766] is recorded as having stood on 'Our Lady Bridge' (see below) on the Stortford highway. According to a survey of the early 16th century the chapel contained 'a lady' (probably an image of Our Lady), and all offerings were received by the Prior of St John of Jerusalem, presumably for the upkeep of the bridge, for which he was responsible (Page 1912, 351). The chapel is known to have fallen into ruins and been removed prior to 1590, at which point the bridge was in decay. The bridge may have had some connection with the gild of our lady in the church. (Page 1912, 351).

Almshouses 1 - 5 (consecutive), Hadham Road (figure 6)

The Hadham Road almshouses [SMR: 10029] date to the 18th century and reputedly originally functioned as weaving sheds, which were outbuildings for the adjacent Standon Workhouse (see below) (Crofton, 287). Following conversion, the timber-framed and weatherboarded building formed a single storey block of 10 almshouses, which were arranged into handed pairs with 5 shared chimneys. Renovation works have combined these pairs to form 5 dwellings and tiled the formerly thatched, steep hipped roof (DoE List).

Parish Workhouse (figure 6)

The Standon parish workhouse stood on land endowed to the parish by a foundling, John de Standon. The building fell into disuse after the Poor Law Act of 1834 when Standon was incorporated into the Ware Union (Page 1912, 350), and was demolished some time before 1900 (Crofton, 287). However, 'this ancient building' is recorded as having been sited in the east corner of the former girls' school playground (Crofton, 287). The adjacent almshouses (see above) formerly comprised outbuildings for the workhouse. The Standon Charities list 33 deeds of apprenticeship between 1697 and 1789, two thirds of which occur within the first 15 years. These describe a significant number of apprentice weavers, although between

1752 - 86 three were apprenticed to the Standon Paper Mill. Others, described as 'free will apprentices', were attached to the Overseers and Church wardens of Standon in the 'House of Industry' for 'sack weaving and all branches' (Munby n.d., 76)

1 & 2, Church End Cottages, Paper Mill Lane (figure 6)

This building [SMR: 10030] comprises a pair of 17th century timber-framed and red brick ornamental almshouses, which were enlarged and Gothicised with oriel windows and Tudor-style details in the early C19th. The building was originally a single E-W range of one and a half storeys, but was enlarged by two gabled wings to form a U-shaped plan (DoE List).

The Old Vicarage

Until 1811, the old vicarage was situated in the area now used as playing fields. In 1811, following the resignation of Rev. Richard Jeffreys, the house, which was in a dilapidated condition, was made into 2 cottages, although these have not survived. The present vicarage in New Street was the private property of the next incumbent which was eventually legally converted into the vicarage (Page 1912, 350)

The Men's Institute (figure 6)

A Men's Institute was established in Standon in 1886 and was located on Hadham Road, opposite the school (Page 1912, 351).

Non-Conformism

In 1798 the house of John Newland was certified for the worship of Independents (Page 1912, 349) and shortly afterwards a document of 1825 illustrates a 'a certain meeting house with a yard', which had been erected on a piece of land on Kents Lane towards the outskirts of the town. However, it was subsequently removed (c1840) and re-erected in Braughing.

Other significant Surviving Buildings

16th century

Town Farm House (on corner of Stortford Road), Mill End

The building [SMR: 10043] comprises a timber framed and plastered late Medieval open hall house 'of unusual proportions' with an (early) C16th 2 storey east crosswing. In the late C16th the hall was probably floored and a chimney inserted which backed onto the wing. In addition the hall may have been heightened to form 2 stories, although this alteration could date to the C18th when the hall chimney was rebuilt in brick, and an external gable chimney was added to heat the parlour east of the hall c1789 (Smith 1993, 175). The red brick south frontage also reputedly dates to 1789 and features details including pilasters and moulded cornices.

Internally some of the timber frame has been exposed and indicates the presence of a cambered tie-beam and chamfered arched braces in the east cross wing. There is also evidence to suggest the survival of parts of the early timber and plaster chimney or 'smokehood'.

13 (Standon Post Office), High Street

This timber-framed and plastered building [SMR: 10044] apparently originated as a late Medieval open hall house and features a jettied street frontage (to west) and some panelled pargetting to the north side. The building has a 2 storied north crosswing with a lateral chimney, and a continuous lean-to extension of unknown date. Alterations in the C19th and C20th included the insertion of Gothick-style fenestration and a substantial C20th shop frontage (DoE List).

17th Century

Examination of the distribution of early surviving buildings in Standon indicates a significant number 17th century structures. However, it is clear that many of these may represent the rebuilding or renovation of earlier buildings on the site. Further investigation may provide evidence for the earlier origins for a number of these buildings.

55 (Little Bear), High Street

This building is thought to be at least 17th century in origin and comprises an L-shaped roughcast timber-framed structure with a weatherboarded apron to the north side of the house. The front range is of 2 storeys and features an C18th symmetrical brick frontage. There is a two storey wing to the rear featuring fan pargetting, and a large chimney is located at the junction of the front and rear ranges. A row of single storey outhouses are positioned in line with the rear wing (DoE List).

57, High Street

This house is thought to be a timber-framed structure of at least 17th century date, but may have earlier origins. The 2 storied front range was remodelled and encased to the eaves in brick in the early C18th and features a symmetrical C18th brick frontage with a central door. The rear wing was partially brick encased, and the upper storey, in addition to the gable ends of the front range, retain visible evidence of the timber frame origins and pargetting. Internally there are gable chimneys located at the north and south ends.

64, High Street

This timber-framed and roughcast jettied building is of at least C17th date, and may have earlier origins. The building is of two storeys, the lower storey has been faced in grey brick and is recessed beneath the upper storey which is carried on heavy bull-nosed joists and brackets. The frontage features a gabled bay to the south and a large red brick external gable chimney is located to the south. There is a large plastered wing to the rear with an external chimney.

A late 17th or early 18th century south-facing timber-framed and weatherboarded barn is associated with no 64 (DoE List).

Post-Medieval Expansion of the Town (figure 4)

Several buildings dating to the 17th century can be found along Hadham Road and Mill End, and indicate a general expansion of the town away from the core of settlement around the market place.

Hadham Road

Blair Cottages, (1 & 2, Hadham Road) date to the late 17th or early 18th century and comprise a two storied, timber-framed, plastered and weather boarded structure on a brick plinth. Some of the plaster work features fan pargetting and there is a central brick chimney stack (DoE List).

'The Cottage' dates to the 17th century and is a 2 storied timber framed and plastered structure, to which a single storey extension was added during the 20th century (DoE List).

'Hillside' is also of the late 17th century and is a two storied building of three bays . The north front features a painted brick ground floor with roughcast above, the south front is plastered, and the east weatherboarded (DoE List).

Mill End

3, Mill End is of the late 17th century and is a timber-framed, roughcast structure of 3 bays which forms a two-room plan with a central-chimney. A lean-to has been added to the south (DoE List).

The timber-framed and roughcast two storey *building south of 3, Mill End* also originated in the 17th century, although it was altered in the C18th. The building has been converted into two dwellings, divided by a central chimney which only serves the northern portion of the house. A projecting gable chimney heats the southern part. An extension has been added to the rear (DoE List).

19th century Refronting and Renovation

A substantial number of buildings in the core of the town underwent significant renovation in the early 19th century. Such alterations typically involved refronting the structure to reflect the contemporary style. Examples of this practice include nos. *41-51 High Street*, all of which are two storied, timber-framed and plastered structures of 17th century origin. During the 19th century general alterations were undertaken, including refacing the frontage in white brick with red brick dressings in alternate courses (DoE List)..

42, High Street is a roughcast timber-framed structure of 2 storeys which originated as three cottages in the 17th century. The building was subsequently converted into a single dwelling and external alterations were undertaken in the early C19th. The frontage features Gothick-style cast iron window frames and a simple early C19th doorcase. A lean to extension has been added to the south (DoE List).

70, and 74, High Street are of timber-framed and roughcast construction and feature a painted brick ground floor and plinth. The building is of C17th origin, but was refronted in the early C19th and has irregularly spaced fenestration to the frontage and C19th century moulded doorcases. No. 74 has a long two story wing to the rear, the lower storey is of brick and flint with a weatherboarded upper floor (DoE List).

18th century

It seems that relatively little domestic building construction was undertaken in the 18th century and the majority of the surviving buildings from this time are associated with agriculture, although an important building of considerable status (*59, High Street*) dates to this time. The core of the early settlement area features a number of

former farmhouses and associated buildings, and indicates the continued emphasis on agriculture in the economy of the post-medieval town.

59, High Street

This building is an L-shaped structure formed by a symmetrical red brick range along the street frontage of c. 1700 with a timber framed and plastered wing to the rear of earlier origin. The building, which is clearly of some status, occupies a focal position in the street and overlooks the former market place. The front range is of two storeys with a cellar and attics, and features a fine early C18th frontage which includes a central doorcase and fluted Tuscan pilasters. A parapeted roof conceals three hipped dormers, each of which features a wine bottle set into the ridge end. The cellar windows are of two lights and have heavily mullioned frames.

Internally the building has retained much of its original decoration including moulded plaster details and panel fielded doors with H-hinges. The rear wing is also of 2 storeys and has a large gable chimney. Internally this wing features a large open fireplace with an arched lintel. A conservatory abuts the rear wing to the east (DoE List).

18, and 20, High Street

This building comprises a roughcast and weatherboarded timber-frame structure dating to at least the C18th, and may have earlier origins. The building apparently originated as a single pile structure of two storeys of one rooms depth, and divided into two dwellings by a central, red brick chimney. A single story outshot was situated to the rear, although this was later heightened to two storeys. The frontage is symmetrical with one window to each house on each floor and simple early C19th doorcases. Other features include an original doorway to the north of No 18, and unusual combed pargetting over side door of No 20. The building has been extended to the rear.

Agricultural Buildings

Former Dour Farmhouse, Nos. 66 & 68 (Dour House), High Street

No 66 comprises a three story timber-framed and roughcast structure on a stuccoed plinth. The building features a long cast iron workshop-style window on the top floor, which may indicate other industrial activity being undertaken on the site. A one and half storied timber-framed range located to the north, was formerly used as a dairy. No 68 is a two storied timber-framed building which has been refronted with red and blue brick. Both nos. 66 and 68 are of late 17th century date, and underwent renovation in the C18th century. A shared red brick wall to the rear is of C19th date.

There are timber-framed and weatherboarded outbuildings to the rear of no. 68 with steep tiled roofs of queen-strut construction. In addition the farm previously maintained an C18th timber framed and weather boarded 4 bayed barn and C19th farm buildings at the entrance to Paper Mill Lane (DoE List).

New Street House, Kent's Lane

This former farmhouse, was originally an L-shaped construction of red brick with random blue headers. The building is of 2 storeys and attics and has a symmetrical 18th century style frontage (to E) which features an eroded datestone over the central doorcase, reputedly of '1749', although the house is stylistically of c.1700. The house was extended for the Duke of Wellington, who bought the manor of Standon in 1843, to form a square, and further external alterations were undertaken during the 19th century, including the insertion of bay windows on the southern elevation. A rear wing is located to the south, facing onto the garden. The building is now a house and farm office (DoE List) and an associated, large, square 2 storied 18th century timber-framed and weatherboarded granary, on dressed stone staddles is located to the SSE of the farmhouse.

New Street Cottage, Kent's Lane

This building is of at least 18th century date and originated as two houses divided by a central chimney, although has now been converted to a single dwelling. The two storey, timber-framed and weatherboarded buildings were extended by the addition of adjacent, heated, rear (W) wings in the early C19th (DoE List).

Barn at 28, High Street

A 5 bayed, timber-framed and weatherboarded 18th century single-aisled barn is also located near 28 High Street. This particular barn demonstrates construction details, such as unjowled posts with curved braces to the arcade plate and tie-beams, which are not usually found in East Hertfordshire. Alterations to the building include a single bay extension to the E and rebuilding of the roof (DoE List).

Communications

Roads and Turnpikes

The repair of the many roads in the parish were a heavy burden on the inhabitants of Standon. In 1389 a grant of pavage was made for repairing the highway from All Saints chapel Puckeridge to Lapdenbridge and in 1390 the bailiffs and constables of Standon, Puckeridge and Buntingford were allowed a similar grant for the roads between Braughing Puckeridge and Wadesmill and Buntingford. About 4 miles of this road was repairable by Standon and was particularly liable to get into a bad state owing to the springs of water arising in the swallowing clay and sandy places.

Bridge

The bridge over the river at the northern end of the town was proposed in 1782 to replace the old wooden 'County Horse Bridge' with a 5-arched brick bridge wide enough for the passage of carriages, "so that it might combine with the recent widening of the road from Hadham to Braughing and Standon to improve the communication between Essex and Hertfordshire" (Page 1912, 350). However, the new bridge was designed by a carpenter, and contemporary reports recommended that 'as he does not consider it necessary to pile the foundations of the bridge, he is to give security for its upkeep for five years after its completion'. In 1829 a further arch was added as it was found to have insufficient span. The bridge lasted 70 years, although caused continuous problems and bricklayers were requisitioned twice to undertake necessary repairs, and included Caleb Hitch, the celebrated Ware brick manufacturer, in 1814 (Munby n.d., 5). However, in 1858 the brick bridge was destroyed by a flood, and the present iron bridge of two arches was built (Page 1912, 350).

Railway

The Hertford to Buntingford branch line from the Great Eastern Railway, which linked Hertford and Buntingford, and was opened in 1863. The station was gutted by fire in 1867 and was subsequently rebuilt. The station finally closed, along with the branch line, in 1965 (Paye 1980, 30). The railways had a substantial impact on Standon as, following the collapse of the market, the town had relied upon passing trade from people travelling to neighbouring trading centres (Page 1912, 349).

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Bailey, M. 1993 A Tale of two towns: Buntingford and Standon in the later Middle Ages in *Journal of Medieval History* 19 pp.351-71

Clutterbuck, R. 1815 *The History and Antiquities of the County of Hertford* (Vol. III), London

Cussans, J. E. 1873 *The History of Hertfordshire* (Vol. I), London

DOE *List Of Buildings of Special Architectural or Historic Interest*, Dept. of Environment

Gelling, M. 1979 *Early Charters of the Thames Valley*

Glasscock, R. E. (ed.) 1975 *The Lay Subsidies of 1334*, O.U.P.

Gover, Mawer & Stenton 1938 *The Placenames of Hertfordshire*, Cambridge

HAT 1992 St Mary's Church Standon: An Evaluation (Unpublished Report)

Johnson, W. B. 1962 *Hertfordshire Inns Part 1: East Herts.*, Hertfordshire Countryside, Letchworth

Joliffe, G. & Jones, A. 1995 *Hertfordshire Inns and Public Houses: An Historical Gazetteer*, Stephen Austin, Hertford

Moore, C. 1999 *Hertfordshire Windmills & Windmillers*, Windsup Publishing, Sawbridgeworth

Morris, J. (ed.) 1976 *Domesday Book: Hertfordshire*, Chichester

Munby, L. M. 1977 *The Hertfordshire Landscape*, London

Munby, L. M. n.d. Braughing, Puckeridge and Standon (Unpublished Thesis: HALS)

Page F. M. 1936 A sketch of the village of Standon in the Middle Ages in *East Herts. Archaeology Society Transactions* Vol. 9, pt 3 pp 265-70

Page, W. (ed.) 1912 *The Victoria County History of the Counties of England: Hertfordshire Vol. III*, Constable & Co., London

Paye, P. 1980 *The Buntingford Branch*, Oxford Publishing Co.

Pevsner, N.. & Cherry, B. 1977 *The Buildings of England: Hertfordshire*, Penguin

Perowne, C. 1967 *A History of the Parish of Standon*, Stephen Austin & Sons Ltd., Hertford

Salmon, N. 1728 *History of Hertfordshire*, London

Smith, D. 1986 :*Windmills in Hertfordshire*

Smith, J. T. 1993 *Hertfordshire Houses: Selective Inventory*, RCHME, London

Crofton, W. d'A. 1901 Standon in *East Herts. Archaeology Society Transactions Vol. I, pt 3*, pp273-288

Brown, J. A. 1901 Hospice of the Knights Hospitallers at Standon in *East Herts. Archaeology Society Transactions Vol. I, pt 3*, pp289- 92

Sadleir, T. U. 1905 Sir Ralph Sadleir in *East Herts. Archaeology Society Transactions Vol.III, pt 2*, pp79-99

Squires, E. E. (ed.) 1930-1 Notes on excursions in *East Herts. Archaeology Society Transactions Vol. VIII, pt 2*, pp265-6