

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE  
EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY

# FOTHERINGHAY

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Funded by English Heritage

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## **BACKGROUND TO THE REPORT**

This is one of a series of reports compiled by Northamptonshire Heritage as part of the English Heritage funded Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) of Northamptonshire, which is intended to provide an effective information base and research framework to guide the management of the county's urban archaeological resource. The survey encompasses all urban settlements and others which may have had some urban attributes, from the Roman period to the 1930s. The only exception is Northampton, which is the subject of an Intensive Urban Survey in its own right.

Each report comprises three distinct sections: a detailed description of the town in each major period; an assessment of potential and definition of a research agenda; and a strategy for future management. A consistent approach has been taken in the presentation of the description in each report with detail being presented under each standard category even where this has no direct obvious relevance to the urban aspects. This section has however been presented in the form of a gazetteer with standard headings so enabling the reader to identify those sections of particular interest. The report draws upon research previously conducted by Glenn Foard on the medieval and post medieval towns of the county. Other contributions to the EUS on digital mapping, database input and related work have been made by various individuals including Christine Addison, Chris Jones, Paul Thompson, Rob Atkins and Phil Markham.

The first objective of the report is to determine layout, character and chronology of development of Fotheringhay from its rural Saxon origins up to the 18<sup>th</sup> century. An attempt has been made to identify the various components of the town which are likely to have left identifiable archaeological remains and, as far as practicable, to define the exact location and extent of these buried or upstanding 'monuments'. They have also all been assessed for likely current survival and their potential to contribute to research objectives. The relationship of the town to its hinterland has also been considered and the potential for study of that interaction has been assessed. In this way the report aims to provide a well founded research framework, establishing the current state of knowledge of Fotheringhay history and defining a research agenda which can guide future archaeological investigation within the town. Conservation objectives have also been defined. This report should be viewed as a starting point rather than a definitive study, which it certainly is not. If this report serves its purpose then it will need to be regularly reviewed and substantially revised in future years as archaeological investigations, and hopefully also further documentary research, is undertaken.

Given the limitations of time which inevitably must guide the conduct of a countywide project it has been necessary to limit the depth of investigation. No original archaeological earthwork or other such field survey has been conducted, but all available existing archaeological data has been consulted. Mapping from aerial photographic sources in the Northamptonshire SMR, CUCAP and the NMR has been completed. Although each town has been visited to examine the topography of the town and an assessment attempted as to the general state of archaeological survival, no attempt has been made to conduct cellar survey comparable to that undertaken for Northampton as part of the Intensive Urban Survey of that town. This is due to the absence of detailed mapped evidence comparable to that which exists for Northampton and the very poor results achieved in 1979 when a cellar survey was attempted in Thrapston and Towcester. Nor has it been possible to examine all documentary

sources, even for the medieval period. However, an attempt has been made to assess the overall potential of this crucial part of the record of the urban past and to examine in detail the most documentary important sources. An index has been compiled from various list and indexes in the Public Record Office, Northamptonshire Record Office, National Register of Archives and British Library. Given the vast quantity of documentation, particularly for the last 200 years the limitations in the documentary assessment, especially regarding the industrial period must be acknowledged. Attention has focussed on those sources which might contribute significantly to the reconstruction of the historical topography of the town and to the broader characterisation of the various ‘monuments’ within the town.

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## **SUMMARY**

**This report focuses on the archaeological development of Fotheringhay in the pre-industrial period. The post 1750 period has not been assessed in the context of this report, but this does not mean that there are no significant archaeological remains in the area.**

**Fotheringhay lies in the Nene valley between Oundle and Peterborough, on the edge of Rockingham forest in which the manor held substantial woodland and where a deer park was created. The valley here had been intensively exploited from the earlier prehistoric period onwards, but Fotheringhay was overshadowed in the Saxon period by the nearby royal manor of Nassington. However from the conquest it was held by the Earls of Northampton who built a castle there, the village close to what appears to have been a significant road along the Nene to Stamford and perhaps at an early date controlling another road from London. In the early 14<sup>th</sup> century the Earl of Richmond founded a market, a relatively late foundation which probably decayed in the recession of the later 14<sup>th</sup> century.**

**Although the village always remained relatively small, Fotheringhay's heyday was under the House of York, from the later 14<sup>th</sup> to the later 15<sup>th</sup> century. They completely rebuilt and enlarged the castle into a major residence which dominated the village. They re-founded the market, although this soon failed, established a large secular College which served as the mausoleum of the House of York. When the Tudor's came to the throne Fotheringhay was granted to a succession of queens and was maintained as a significant residence. However the College was lost at the dissolution while later in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the castle itself fell into decline. The market was held once more in the earlier 17<sup>th</sup> century but was never significant and decayed again later in the century. The settlement never appears to have gained any truly urban attributes other than the market because, despite its high ranking patronage, the market was always overshadowed by that in nearby Oundle. This was perhaps because its foundation was so late, in a period of far lower economic opportunity compared to the time in the 13<sup>th</sup> century when Barnwell market was founded and provided a genuine threat to the prosperity of Oundle market.**

**It is amongst the villages with the highest historical potential, combining good survival of earthwork and buried archaeology, standing buildings and documentary evidence. Alongside Rockingham it offers an exceptional potential to examine the promotion and demise of a market village promoted by a family of the highest national importance. As at Rockingham part of the market place remains as open ground and relatively undisturbed. There are also potentials to study the origins, development and character of the village because, despite the relative lack of tenement earthworks there is a significant area of medieval frontage that is not and, in the last 200 years or more, has not been built up. But most of all it is the castle and college and their associated monuments that must form the core of any study of Fotheringhay, revealing the development of an estate centre of the Earls of Northampton and the Dukes of York.**

# **I DESCRIPTION**

## **1.0 TOPOGRAPHY & GEOLOGY**

Fotheringhay lies in the valley of the Nene 5 km north of Oundle. The village lies on a low ridge of gravel almost connecting a small limestone and gravel island, the ‘eg’ or island in the place-name, to the west side of the valley. The ridge and island are formed by the confluence of the Willow Brook, on the north, with the Nene, on the south and east. The township itself lies wholly on low lying ground in the Nene valley with extensive alluvial river meadows of both the Nene and the Willow Brook, but extending over gravel terrace, limestone and some clays. Unlike most other townships it does not reach far up onto the higher ground away from the valley, though this may be because

## **A PRE MEDIEVAL**

### **1.0 EARLY HISTORY**

#### **1.1 Prehistoric and Roman**

The extensive permeable geologies of the lower Nene valley supported an intensive settlement and land use along the lower Nene from the prehistoric and Roman period. A causewayed enclosure lies just 2 km to the south west, there are numerous Bronze Age ring ditch barrows in groups and in isolation, while extensive crop-marks of Iron Age and Roman field systems, boundaries, roads and enclosures lie along the valley on either side of Fotheringhay. A number of Iron Age and Roman settlements, including at least one villa lie within this landscape.

#### **1.2.1 Saxon and medieval village**

As elsewhere in the county settlement is likely to have remained on the permeable geologies of the river valley in the late Roman and early-middle Saxon period. There has however been no intensive fieldwalking survey of the township and so there is little evidence as to the distribution of early-middle Saxon settlement, though a dispersed pattern is to be expected.

The place-name Fotheringhay is probably ‘island of the people of Forthere’.<sup>1</sup> This must refer to the gravel and limestone island, which was almost wholly encompassed by the Nene and its tributary, immediately to the east of the village. Though not occupied during the medieval period it is possible that an early- middle Saxon settlement lay on the island. It is also possible that the name Walcot represents another deserted settlement of early-middle Saxon date, as has been seen elsewhere in the county recorded in furlong names,<sup>2</sup> though it may represent a late Saxon and medieval farm or hamlet.

The township is an unusual shape, comprising two distinct components, which might relate to two separate Saxon settlements. One lay on the south side of the Willow Brook and is possibly to be equated with the original land of Fotheringhay, while the other lies to the north of the Willow Brook and is associate with the name Walcot. Perhaps significantly in this context, the name in origin is said to be ‘cote’ of the Britons, perhaps giving a connection directly to

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<sup>1</sup> Gover et al, 1975, 202.

<sup>2</sup> Brown & Foard, 1998.

late Roman settlement.<sup>3</sup> This may be the remnant of a far more extensive pattern of hamlets surrounding the late Saxon royal manor of Nassington in a fashion repeated elsewhere in the county.<sup>4</sup>

Walcot, if not a deserted early-middle Saxon settlement, may have been a hamlet or isolated farm in the medieval period, for there is reference to Walecote in 1261 and the bridge of Walcotforth in 1330. Walcot Lodge is not however likely to be the site of Walcot, if it was a medieval settlement, for it lay outside the deer park and of the area known as Walcot Field, all to the north of the Willow Brook. Neither did Walcot Lodge exist in 1716 or on Eayre's map of 1791 but it was in existence by the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and as late as the 1880s was known as Fotheringhay Lodge.<sup>5</sup> The lodge in Fotheringhay Great Park was called Walcot or Fotheringhay Park House in c.1720. In 1662 Walcot Field, lying to the west of the stream and comprising 66 acres, was granted for the support of the poor of the village.<sup>6</sup> This, together with the land of the park all lay on the opposite side of the stream to Fotheringhay village and may represent in origin a separate land unit of Walcot.

Although there are no clear tenurial linkages with Woodnewton, the place-name suggest that this represents a new 'tun' carved out of a pre-existing land unit in the late Saxon period, as seems to be the case with Newton near Geddington.<sup>7</sup> The topographical arrangement of the townships might indicate that it was carved out of a larger Fotheringhay and Walcot and explain why Fotheringhay, unlike many other Nene valley parishes did not in the medieval period extend very far westward into the forest.

### **1.2.2 Estates**

The village of Fotheringhay had common rights in land in Rockingham forest, in Southwick and in Warmington.<sup>8</sup> By the 13<sup>th</sup> century the manor of Fotheringhay had dependent members in Nassington and Yarwell and later in Southwick (see below). It also held woodland in the forest, in Morehay to the west of Southwick. These would all point to the possibility that Fotheringhay was a substantial estate centre. However in the late Saxon period it had been Nassington which was the royal estate centre and Nassington that had medieval ecclesiastical dependencies. It seems likely that Fotheringhay acquired the estate centre function in the medieval period from Nassington or that it was established by fragmentation of the Nassington estate in the late Saxon period.

## **B MEDIEVAL & POST MEDIEVAL**

### **1.0 HISTORICAL DEVELOPMENT**

There is slight evidence of occupation in the village in the Saxon period suggesting the village, like most others in the county, has early-middle and late Saxon origins. First recorded in 1086, for most of its life Fotheringhay was just a small agricultural village. From the conquest the manor was held by the Earls of Northampton who built a castle there. The

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<sup>3</sup> Gover et al, p.202.

<sup>4</sup> Brown & Foard.

<sup>5</sup> Eayre's map of Northamptonshire, 1791. OS 1:10560 1<sup>st</sup> edition mapping.

<sup>6</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 458.

<sup>7</sup> Bellamy, 1996.

<sup>8</sup> Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, 1548-9, PRO SC12/13/27.



village lay close to what appears to have been a significant road along the Nene valley from Oundle to Stamford and it is also possible that at an early date there was another road from London via Warmington and Fotheringhay to Stamford and that the castle was built here to control this road rather than just to serve as an estate centre and residence. In the early 14<sup>th</sup> century the Earl of Richmond founded a market in Fotheringhay, a very late foundation after the main phase of market village foundations. It is unclear whether this market had any significant commercial success but it seems likely that it decayed in the recession of the later 14<sup>th</sup> century.

Although the village always remained relatively small, Fotheringhay's heyday was under the House of York, from the later 14<sup>th</sup> to the later 15<sup>th</sup> century. The Dukes of York completely rebuilt and enlarged the castle, creating a major residence which dominated the village and it was here that Richard III was born and later where Mary Queen of Scots was imprisoned and then executed. The family established a large secular College which served as the mausoleum of the House of York and also re-founded the market. The market appears not to have had any great commercial success and probably fell into decline very rapidly. When the Tudor's came to the throne Fotheringhay went into decline and was granted to a succession of queens. Although it was maintained as a significant residence but never regained its earlier importance. The College was lost at the dissolution while later in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the castle itself fell into decay.

The market was held once more in the earlier 17<sup>th</sup> century but was never significant and decayed again later in the century. The settlement never appears to have gained any truly urban attributes other than the market because, despite its high ranking patronage, the market was always overshadowed by that in nearby Oundle. This was undoubtedly because its foundation was so late, in a period of far lower economic opportunity compared to the time in the 13<sup>th</sup> century when Barnwell market was founded and provided a genuine threat to the prosperity of Oundle market.

## **2.0 TOPOGRAPHICAL DEVELOPMENT**

Several sherds of early-middle Saxon pottery have been recovered from excavation in the church and part of the head of a late Saxon cross has been recovered reused within the village.<sup>9</sup> This suggests Saxon origins for the settlement, but there have been no significant modern excavations to examine this issue. The plan form of the settlement was determined by the narrow ridge on which it lies between the Willow Brook and the Nene. The east-west road running along this ridge is likely to have formed the basis for the planning of the settlement, presumably in the late Saxon period. Two rows of tenements may be expected fronting the road, with the church presumably also abutting the road, a church already probably existing here before 1086 when a priest is recorded. The plan form would appear to fall into a class in which two converging roads, in this case from the west, come together in a wide green with one continuing as a back lane and the other as a main street. It may be that the tenement row on the north side of the main street at the west end of the town represents in origin infilling onto a long narrow green. There may have been some replanning of the settlement and realignment of the road as a result of the construction of the castle in the late 11<sup>th</sup> or early 12<sup>th</sup> century. To the east of the castle the road from Warmington, surviving as a

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<sup>9</sup> Johnston, forthcoming

hollow way, diverts northward to skirt the castle. The alignment if continued through the castle roughly matches the alignment of the present main street.

There may also have been significant realignment of the main street as a result of the laying out of the market place in the early 14<sup>th</sup> century. The way in which the market place was created in 1308 is difficult to determine. There may have been an original green at the centre of the village which was used for the market place. Alternatively it may have been created by the removal of a number of tenements on the south side of the main street, for the depth of the market place corresponds with the approximate length of tofts elsewhere in the village. However this would place the church back behind the frontage at an earlier date, an unusual situation. If far more major replanning was involved then perhaps the main street originally ran immediately to the north of the church and was moved north to enable the market place to be laid out. However the replanning was done it is clear that there were tenements to the north of the church fronting north onto the 'kings highway' as early as 1322-3, but with separately owned land between them and the church.<sup>10</sup> The nunnery established in the village in the 12<sup>th</sup> century is said to have been located on the site of the later College, to the south of the church, but this location is not certain.

The village comprised tenements in several separate rows fronting on either side of the main street, divided from each other by side lanes. This double row plan form is noted in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century when Leland visited, describing it as just of one street with all the buildings constructed in stone. These tenements appear to have been extended in most cases by the addition of closes to their rear, though this did not occur at the western end of the village where the rabbit warren extended behind the tenements. The extent of tenements at the west end of the settlement is indicated by the presence of surviving earthworks suggesting short tenements to the north of the warren, with ridge and furrow further west and on the south side within the warren. This might suggest that the addition of the closes may have been a late medieval development, the warren having been created from open field land, probably by the College in the 14<sup>th</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> century.

On the north side of the street in the west of the settlement a back lane divides the tenements from their closes. This lane, which survived in 1947 as a hollow way, appears to have existed in 1548. The closes to the north of it, which also survived as earthworks, in 1548 belonged to the adjacent tenements. However they could have contained houses at an earlier date, for ridge and furrow did not survive within them in 1947. This area is now wholly ploughed and fieldwalking survey could determine whether there was ever occupation along this back lane.<sup>11</sup> There is a distinct drop in level from the rear of the tenements and the former back lane down into the former closes. These and the other closes further east extend to the edge of the gravel terrace but not onto the alluvium.

Elsewhere in the village there was no back lane. To the north of the tenements in the central part of the settlement, where the back of the tofts may be indicated by several doglegs in the tenement boundaries in 1716, the rear closes are particularly long and mostly contained ridge and furrow. However a number of rectangular features lay at their northern ends, adjacent to the floodplain, now levelled by ploughing. It is unclear whether these represent structures,

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<sup>10</sup> NRO, Montagu collection, charter, 16 ed II, 1322-3. These charters may be for land acquired by the College and hence can perhaps be located on by reference to the 1716 map and related documents recording the former College estate.

<sup>11</sup> RAF vertical photo CPE/UK 1925 Jan 16 1947. SMR, air photo 0693/004.

ponds or some other features. They are bounded on the north side by the course of the mill dam, the channel feeding the water mill to the east.<sup>12</sup>

Immediately to the west of them lay the moated earthwork enclosure, bounded by the mill brook on the north and adjacent to the lane running north from the village in 1548 and 1716, which continued across the stream to skirt the eastern edge of the Great Park and on to Nassington. Though some hermitage sites are seen to be moated enclosures in similar topographical situations, this is unlikely given the description of the Hermitage as lying in the wood or forest. No other interpretation has yet been identified for this earthwork, which survived in 1947 but had been ploughed by 1996.<sup>13</sup>

Towards the eastern side of the village in the rear of the closes north of the main street there is what appears to be a large terraced garden, seen in surviving earthworks, in the close to the rear of tenements fronting the main street. Its date and significance is uncertain, but is not recognisable in either the 1548 rental or the 1716 map.<sup>14</sup> Immediately to the east the causeway running from the farm across the floodplain clearly post dates the 1716 but is present in the 1880s.

There were a number of lesser lanes within the settlement recorded in 1548 or 1716, one leading to the watermill, another to the Great Park and a third skirting around the west and south of the Old Inn. The latter may represent Pikes Lane, recorded as containing tenements between 1458 and 1533, for the other lanes are all described in 1548. The College in 1533 held at least one cottage and one messuage in Pikeslane. In 1508 there was a payment of 4/6d for 1 cottage lying in Pykeslane formerly belonging to Henry in the lane.<sup>15</sup> The cottage lying in 1468-9 in Parkeslane may be the lane leading to the park but may be a mistranscription for Pikes Lane.<sup>16</sup> A cottage in the royal manor also lay in Pikes Lane in 1470-1.<sup>17</sup> The College had also acquired two tenements and one cottage which lay between the College and the castle.<sup>18</sup> The latter property also existed in 1468-9 and 1470-1.<sup>19</sup> These may prove to have been the converted Old Inn (see above).<sup>20</sup> There were various other tenements belong to the College lying in an around the College property, one in 1508 being in the Slype.<sup>21</sup>

Tenements are not likely along the lane to Fotheringhay bridge, for this road does not appear to have been constructed until the 1460s. The tenements on this side of the main street may have extended eastward from the Old Inn, being displaced by the outer ward of the castle in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. This seems to have been the site of the 'manor' within the castle in the late and post medieval period. To the north of the castle are earthwork platforms on the north side of a probable hollow way, representing the road eastward to Warmington, which are likely to

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<sup>12</sup> RAF vertical photo CPE/UK 1925 Jan 16 1947. SMR, air photo 0693/004.

<sup>13</sup> RAF vertical photo CPE/UK 1925 Jan 16 1947; SMR, air photo 0693/044, 21/7/1996.

<sup>14</sup> SMR, air photo 0693/28.

<sup>15</sup> VCH notes: Ministers Accounts, 24 Hen VII - Hen VIII no.86

<sup>16</sup> Account Roll of Fotheringhay, 1468-9, PRO, SC6/1115/10.

<sup>17</sup> Account Roll of manor of Fotheringhay, 1470-1, PRO, SC6/947/18.

<sup>18</sup> Account Roll of Fotheringhay College, 1533-4, PRO, SC/6/henryVIII/6580.

<sup>19</sup> Account Roll of manor of Fotheringhay, 1470-1, PRO, SC6/947/18.

<sup>20</sup> Account Roll of Fotheringhay, 1468-9, PRO, sc6/1115/10.

<sup>21</sup> VCH notes, Ministers Accounts, 24 Hen VII - Hen VIII no.86

be tenements extending eastward from that which survived on the east of the mill lane in 1716. They were perhaps removed in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century when the castle was extended and the road diverted, but they may equally represent late medieval depopulation.

The reconstruction of the tenement plan in 1548 shows a village in which messuages with virgate land, varying from half to two and a quarter virgates, exist scattered throughout the settlement. There were just a handful of cottage tenements interspersed with the virgate tenements. This is typical of an agricultural village rather than an urban settlement. However it is clear that considerable engrossing had occurred by this date and that various tenements must have been deserted and their virgate land attached to others, hence the tenement character of the settlement may have changed significantly since the 14<sup>th</sup> century. The College properties included three tenements spread through the village but the remainder lay in a consolidated area between the market place and the castle which unfortunately is not encompassed by the Tudor survey.

### **3.0 THEMATIC ANALYSIS**

#### **3.1 MANORIAL**

##### **3.1.1 Manors<sup>22</sup>**

###### **3.1.1.1 Main manor**

Fotheringhay was a substantial manor of 6 hides held freely in 1066 by Thorkell. From the conquest it was held by the Earls of Huntingdon, also at times the Earls of Northampton and the king of the Scots. The manor was forfeit to the crown in 1294. By the first half of the 13<sup>th</sup> century the manor had been divided between the Earl of Albemarle and the Balliol family. In 1244 the crown seized the Albemarle moiety while the Balliol moiety passed to the crown by early 14<sup>th</sup> century and was granted in 1308 to the Earl of Richmond. Later it passed to the Earl of Pembroke and then in 1377 was granted to Edmund of Langley, founder of the house of York. The Dukes of York made Fotheringhay a major administrative centre for their estates. Edward IV granted Fotheringhay to his mother, Cecily Duchess of York, but she returned it in 1469.<sup>23</sup>

After the house of York was replaced by the Tudors then Fotheringhay began to decline in importance. Both Henry VII and VIII gave Fotheringhay to their wives. The castle was finally alienated to Lord Mountjoy in 1603. There was no resident lord in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and in 1806 it was bought by the Belseys who were responsible for various early 19<sup>th</sup> century improvements in the village including rebuilding various houses. Further work was then conducted by Lord Overstone who purchased the village in 1842.

Between 1220-38 the manor had several members. In 1266-7 the appurtenances of the manor were said to lie in Fotheringhay, Nassington, Yarwell and Southwick.<sup>24</sup> In 1308 the members of the manor were specified as the hamlets of Nassington and Yarwell.<sup>25</sup> In 1485 these members were confirmed as part of the manor.<sup>26</sup>

###### **3.1.1.2 Sawtry Abbey property**

In 1535 Sawtry Abbey held a property in Fotheringhay, comprising the Hermitage (see below), a fulling mill and at least one tenement in the village, with appurtenances and field land in Fotheringhay, Newton and Southwick. These had been granted to the Abbey out of the main manor at some time in the 12<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>27</sup>

###### **3.1.1.3 Rectory manor**

The rectory was held by Delapre Abbey from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, following the transfer of the abbey from Fotheringhay to Northampton. In 1254 the profits were valued at 15 marks.<sup>28</sup> This property was transferred to the College in Fotheringhay when it was founded by the

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<sup>22</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 448-458. RCHME, 1975.

<sup>23</sup> Colvin, 649-50. RCHME, 1984, 63.

<sup>24</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 451.

<sup>25</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 450.

<sup>26</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 452.

<sup>27</sup> Account Roll of Sawtry Abbey, 1535, PRO, SC6/henryVIII / 1666 (3).

<sup>28</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 453.

Dukes of York. In 1806 there was a Rectory and Parsonage (presumably a single property is meant), established after the dissolution from property formerly of Fotheringhay College, as well as a Vicarage.<sup>29</sup>

#### **3.1.1.4 College property**

The College acquired various property in Fotheringhay from Delapre Abbey. This estate was maintained and enhanced through the 15<sup>th</sup> and early 16<sup>th</sup> century and retained a separate identity even after the dissolution, with property being described as formerly of the College during the 17<sup>th</sup> century even after coming into the same ownership as the rest of the village under Lord Mountjoy.

### **3.1.2 Manorial Appurtenances**

#### **3.1.2.1 Manor house**

A manor will have existed in 1086 but its location is not known. When the castle was constructed, in the late 11<sup>th</sup> or early 12<sup>th</sup> century it will have become the manorial centre and an area outside the castle was known as the manor in 1340-1. It may perhaps have been in the area of the outer ward. However this need not be the site of the late Saxon manor, lying as it does at some distance from the church. It is perhaps possible that the original manor lay on the site of the later monastery, being land which the lord granted for the foundation.

#### **3.1.2.2 Castle<sup>30</sup>**

The motte and its eastern bailey is the castle which was probably originally built in the early 12<sup>th</sup> century by Simon de Senlis, Earl of Huntingdon and Northampton. It was probably placed here both due to its good defensive location, lying on a vary narrow ridge with the Nene on the south and east and the Willow brook on the north, and in order to control what seems likely to have been a major road from London.

There is no record of it ever having being subject to a major siege but the castle was taken by surprise in 1220-1 by the Earl of Albemarle, easily taken because its defences were relatively weak and its garrison small.<sup>31</sup> In 1289 it was of little value because of its condition.<sup>32</sup> When described in detail in 1340-1 it comprised fairly small accommodation. They perhaps lay on the site of the outer ward. This suggests that only the motte and the inner bailey existed at this time.<sup>33</sup> At that time within the castle was a place called 'the manor', which was presumably included the demesne farm.<sup>34</sup>

After its acquisition in 1377 by Edmund Langley the castle, then in a ruinous state, was extensively rebuilt and extended. These works included the large two storey lodging on the motte, called the Fetterlocks.

Following his accession in 1461 Edward IV began major new series of works, which were underway in 1463-6. These included construction on the chambers, gallery, latrines, turrets

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<sup>29</sup> Release of 1806, includes Schedule relating to Map 468, a copy of the map of 1716, NRO,O.136.

<sup>30</sup> RCHME, 1984, 63-4. Bridges, 1791, 2, 451.

<sup>31</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 450.

<sup>32</sup> PRO, C133/57(1).

<sup>33</sup> RCHME, 1975, 1, 43.

<sup>34</sup> VCH notes, Extent of manor, in Inquisition Post Mortem of William de Bohun, 1340-1.

and kitchen; roofing of the new chambers and of the turrets at the end of them took place between 1466-9 and other works in 1478.<sup>35</sup> There were also other associated works on the parks, the College and the road system. In 1468-9 the house in the outer ward of the castle was let out to farm, as was the dovecote within the ward of the castle,<sup>36</sup> The defences did however leave a strip of pasture waste, recorded in 1470-1, between the wall of castle and the river on the south and extending from 'le Newebrigge' as far as 'le grate'(?).<sup>37</sup>

Catherine of Aragon is said to have conducted extensive refurbishment of the castle in the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>38</sup> Leland writing in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century describes the castle as 'fair and meately strong', having fair lodgings and an ancient strong keep,<sup>39</sup> and in 1548-9 the castle was described as 'sufficiently maintained'.<sup>40</sup> The castle was used as a prison for Mary Queen of Scots but following her execution was little used, except as a militia store. It is again described in 1586.<sup>41</sup> However, following its sale, by 1625 its is described again, just before demolition began. Parts of the structure and stone therefrom it were reused in other buildings in the region. According to Stukeley the castle had already been mostly demolished by the early 18<sup>th</sup> century and the western-most filled in during the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Any surviving fragments of the castle buildings were incorporated in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century Castle Farm.<sup>42</sup>

### 3.1.2.3 The Inns

Although lying outside the outer defences of the 15<sup>th</sup> century castle, there were two properties at the castle gate which were an integral part of the functioning of the castle. These were the Inns, both probably constructed in the 15<sup>th</sup> century to provide lodgings for guests to the castle. The Old Inn was a 15<sup>th</sup> century range.<sup>43</sup> A coat of arms recorded in 1821 may date the building to the reign of Edward IV (1461-83).<sup>44</sup> However there is record of two tenements and one cottage lying between the College and the castle which were identified as belonging to the College 1460-1.<sup>45</sup> Further documentary analysis may show that this is the Old Inn being converted to tenements and granted out following the construction of the New Inn. Old Inn is not identified in the 1548 rental suggesting that, like the other land not recorded in the rental it was owned by the College. This plot is certainly the only property on the south side of the main road at this end of the village which was not in 1716 identified as formerly belonging to the College. It is unlikely that the tenements could lie elsewhere, unless they lay on the small back lane, for the road and bridge to the east was not apparently constructed

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<sup>35</sup> Colvin, 649-50.

<sup>36</sup> Account Roll of Fotheringhay, 1468-9, PRO, SC6/1115/10.

<sup>37</sup> Account Roll of manor of Fotheringhay, 1470-1, PRO, SC6/947/18.

<sup>38</sup> Leland, part 1, f.6.

<sup>39</sup> Leland, part 1, f.6.

<sup>40</sup> Rental of manor of Fotheringhay, 1548-9, parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, PRO SC12/13/27, f.25. '*the court or outer ward on the north and west of the castle and within the outter ryng wall of the castell pasture containing with the river and castle dyke (?)*. *The barns set in the northwest part of the said ryng wall. The gatehouse in the mydlys of the ryng wall on the north syd of the castle. The lodge at the northeast end of the said ryng wall. The garden and 2 ponds on the east of the said castle. The castle dykes both within and without the castle*'.

<sup>41</sup> VCH Notes: Landsdowne Ms.15, m.48 n.31.

<sup>42</sup> RCHME, 1975, 1, 43.

<sup>43</sup> RCHME, 1984.

<sup>44</sup> Pevsner, 221.

<sup>45</sup> Account Roll of Fotheringhay, 1461, PRO, SC6/8-9.

until the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century. Certainly the building was converted to tenements at some time in the late or post medieval period.<sup>46</sup>

This interpretation may be supported by the fact that the New Inn was built between 1461 - 1476. It is the only building described as the 'Inn' under the rental of 1548, where it is described as including 'all the houses barns and edifices and yard'.<sup>47</sup> It is described in detail in 1624.<sup>48</sup>

#### 3.1.2.4 Fishponds

The fishing rights recorded in 1289 were presumably in the river.<sup>49</sup> In 1548 there were however a garden and 2 ponds on the east of the castle.<sup>50</sup> In 1624 a great pond lay between the castle and the mill brook, that is to the north of the castle. It may have been constructed as part of the defences of the castle, just as were the large fishponds at Brackley, but perhaps more likely it was part of the designed landscape setting of the castle.

#### 3.1.2.5 Corn mill

A water mill existed in Fotheringhay in 1086.<sup>51</sup> It is recorded again in 1289.<sup>52</sup> The mill was let to farm in 1468-9, when repair were conducted, and further repairs took place in 1470-1.<sup>53</sup> In 1548 the mill lay to the north of the New Inn on the west side of the lane running from the village. At that time the mill was part of the demesne of the royal manor and included a mill holm and a little yard on the south side.<sup>54</sup> It would appear however in 1533 to have been farmed to the College.<sup>55</sup> It lay adjacent to the south side of the mill brook, which in 1624 ran on the north of the pond north of the castle.<sup>56</sup> The stream adjacent Butts Close is described in the 18<sup>th</sup> century as the mill dam.<sup>57</sup> In 1560 this mill, formerly leased by the College was leased out once more.<sup>58</sup> A mill still existed in 1791 and 1804 but is no longer present on the 1807 map and had certainly been demolished by 1832.<sup>59</sup> The mill was served by a leat, called the mill dam, which skirted the edge of the floodplain of the Willow Brook to the north of the village.<sup>60</sup> The outflow ran east to skirt the castle and rejoin the Nene to the east of the castle.

Another mill may have lain to the north west of the village, for a Mill Close is recorded in 1716 on the edge of the floodplain of the Willow Brook.

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<sup>46</sup> RCHME, 1984.

<sup>47</sup> Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, 1548-9, PRO SC12/13/27, f.27d.

<sup>48</sup> Transcript in Bridges, 1791, 2, 449.

<sup>49</sup> PRO, C133/57(1).

<sup>50</sup> Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, 1548-9, PRO SC12/13/27, f.25. Survey transcript in Bridges, 1791, 2, 449.

<sup>51</sup> Domesday Book, 228b.

<sup>52</sup> PRO, C133/57(1)

<sup>53</sup> Account Roll of Fotheringhay, 1468-9, PRO, SC6/1115/10.

<sup>54</sup> Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine 1548-9, PRO, SC12/13/27, f.27d.

<sup>55</sup> PRO, SC6/Henry VIII, 6, 580.

<sup>56</sup> Survey transcript in Bridges, 1791, 2, 449.

<sup>57</sup> NRO, Overstone collection, box X9956.

<sup>58</sup> NRO, Westmorland 2x1c9.

<sup>59</sup> Eyre's map, 1791 but mainly surveyed in the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century. NRO, map 357. RCHME, 1984, 75, quoting sale catalogue in Burghley House collection.

<sup>60</sup> NRO, Overstone collection, box X9956



### 3.1.2.6 Fulling Mill

In 1535 Sawtry Abbey held a watermill called a ‘fullyngmyll’, apparently in Fotheringhay.<sup>61</sup>

### 3.1.2.7 Bakehouse

A common bakehouse is recorded in 1289 worth 26/8d.<sup>62</sup> In 1434-5 the bakehouse was in hand because it was in need of repair.<sup>63</sup> In 1468-9 it was held by the community of Fotheringhay for 26/8d.<sup>64</sup> and in 1508 it was held at farm for 1/8/9d.<sup>65</sup> In 1588 the common bakehouse was worth 24/-.<sup>66</sup> Its location is given in 1548 when it lay in front of a cottage in the main street, the tenants paying for it 12d per yardland.<sup>67</sup> The common bakehouse was maintained as a manorial privilege for profit and hence in 1448-9 a tenant was recorded as holding a bakehouse to the detriment of the common bakehouse.<sup>68</sup>

### 3.1.2.8 Pinfold

A pinfold existed in the village, for repairs are recorded in 1470-1 but its location has not been established.<sup>69</sup>

### 3.1.2.9 Great Park

Fotheringhay park is first mentioned in 1230, the Earl of Huntingdon having several grants for imparking in the reign of Henry III (1216-72).<sup>70</sup> A single park is again reported in 1289.<sup>71</sup> In 1330 the Earl of Richmond had the right to a park with two deer leaps.<sup>72</sup> The Great Park with its timber framed lodge is described in 1548-9.<sup>73</sup> In 1588 the herbage of the great park was worth £3/6/8d.<sup>74</sup> The Great Park is last mentioned in 1659, including a deer leap, held by Lord Mountjoy.<sup>75</sup> In 1713 the lodge is described as Park Lodge Farm, the park having been converted by then to agriculture.<sup>76</sup>

There were in the 1970s fragments of limestone rubble from a wall, as well as extensive remains of a rampart with in places an inner and an outer ditch along the rampart of the Great Park.

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<sup>61</sup> Account Roll of Sawtry Abbey, 1535, PRO, SC/6/henryVIII / 1666 (3).

<sup>62</sup> PRO, C133/57(1)

<sup>63</sup> Account Roll of manor of Fotheringhay, PRO, SC/6/1115/6.

<sup>64</sup> Account Roll of Fotheringhay, 1468-9, PRO, SC6/1115/10. Account Roll of manor of Fotheringhay, 1470-1, PRO, SC6/947/18.

<sup>65</sup> VCH notes: Ministers Accounts, 24 Hen VII - Hen VIII no.86.

<sup>66</sup> Fotheringhay rental 1588, PRO, SC 12/26/9.

<sup>67</sup> , Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, 1548-9, PRO, SC12/13/27, f.215d.

<sup>68</sup> BL, Eg.Roll 8437.

<sup>69</sup> Account Roll of manor of Fotheringhay, 1470-1, PRO, SC6/947/18.

<sup>70</sup> Gover et al, p.202.

<sup>71</sup> PRO, C133/57(1).

<sup>72</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 450.

<sup>73</sup> Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, 1548-9, PRO SC12/13/27.

<sup>74</sup> PRO, SC 12/26/9, Fotheringhay rental 1588.

<sup>75</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 453.

<sup>76</sup> RCHME, 1984, 74.

### 3.1.2.10 Little Park

It appears that the king created the Little Park in 1464 when he made a ‘garden and spinney ... to enclose the little park’.<sup>77</sup> There is mention of land in Fotheringhay fields in 1508 below the ‘new park’.<sup>78</sup> In 1548-9 the little park lay on the east of the castle, extending to the meadow, and was part pale, of which some was decayed, and part set with a quick hedge.<sup>79</sup> It is last recorded in 1659 when claimed by Earl Mountjoy.<sup>80</sup> It has surviving earthworks of a short section of the pale and contains some ridge and furrow and traces of other earthworks at the western end.

### 3.1.2.11 Warren

The rabbit warren was held at least in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century by Fotheringhay College. In 1508-9 there was inclosure of land towards ‘le Connynggerthwonge’.<sup>81</sup> In 1548 a close called the ‘Conygre’ and formerly held by the College, lay to the west of the College tenement near the south west end of the village. Its exact extent is uncertain.<sup>82</sup> This is the area where the pillow mound was recorded by RCHME. This mound survives in 1999 as a substantial earthwork cutting the surrounding ridge and furrow, but no warren boundary has yet been identified as an earthwork. Conygree Close or Hop Ground is recorded in 1807 schedule to the 1716 map.<sup>83</sup>

### 3.1.2.12 Gardens?

The possible terrace and associated earthworks visible on aerial photographs to the east of the vicarage may represent a substantial garden which must post date the Tudor survey. Alternatively they may simply represent boundaries of crofts of deserted tenements. The area requires field examination.

## 3.2 CHURCH

### 3.2.1 Church of St Mary the Virgin and All Saints

A priest and hence one may assume a church existed in Fotheringhay in 1086. The church stood on the site of the present church in the first half of the 12<sup>th</sup> century but it was almost totally rebuilt and vastly extended in the 15<sup>th</sup> century with the foundation of the College and its development as a mausoleum of the House of York. The church is described in detail by RCHME.<sup>84</sup> It comprises a Nave, north and south aisles, north porch and a west tower. The very large choir was demolished in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Recent excavation has also revealed a crypt or undercroft beneath and to the east of the north porch.

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<sup>77</sup> RCHME, 1984, 64.

<sup>78</sup> VCH notes: Ministers Accounts, 24 Hen VII - Hen VIII no.86

<sup>79</sup> Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, 1548-9, PRO SC12/13/27.. There is more detail about the little park.

<sup>80</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 453.

<sup>81</sup> VCH notes: Ministers Accounts, 24 Hen VII- Hen VIII no.86

<sup>82</sup> Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, 1548-9, PRO SC12/13/27.

<sup>83</sup> NRO, O.136, Release of 1806, includes Schedule relating to Map 468.

<sup>84</sup> RCHME, 1984, 64-71. The detailed contract for the construction of the new Nave, tower and porches in 1434 is given in Salzmann, 1952, 505-9.

The medieval churchyard appears to have extended further to the west, for burials have been recovered some 18m to the north west of the present boundary.<sup>85</sup> This may indicate that the churchyard boundary previously extended as far west as the eastern edge of the market places as mapped in 1716. Though the reason for such a change is unclear unless perhaps it represents the creation of a rectory on part of the site of the former College and churchyard following the dissolution.

### 3.2.2 Vicarage

The church was given by Simon de Senlis II to Delapre Abbey and a vicarage was ordained. In 1412, with the foundation of the college, the vicarage was relinquished by Delapre Abbey and responsibilities transferred to the College. A vicarage was instituted again following the dissolution. Certain lands were set aside in 1635 as glebe for the vicarage. In c.1720 the vicarage lay on the south side of the church, on part of the site of college. This may be the building depicted in 1718 below the church.<sup>86</sup> By 1720 (1791?) Fotheringhay was a curacy.<sup>87</sup> In 1806 there was a Rectory and Parsonage, property formerly of Fotheringhay College, as well as a Vicarage.<sup>88</sup> By the 1880s a new vicarage had been constructed on the north side of the main road at the junction with the new Nassington road.

## 3.3 MONASTIC & OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS

### 3.3.1 Nunnery

In c.1141 Simon de Senlis, Earl of Northampton and Huntingdon, founded a Cluniac nunnery at Fotheringhay but moved it about four years later to Delapre by Northampton. The site of the nunnery is said to have been later used for the College.<sup>89</sup> However in 1322-3 Delapre Abbey held land between the church and the tenements fronting the road to the north.<sup>90</sup> It is possible that this was merely land belonging to the Rectory but could perhaps have been the site of the original monastery.

### 3.3.2 Hermitage

The Hermitage, belonging to Sawtry Abbey is first recorded in 1176 when it is described as being in the wood.<sup>91</sup> Hence the claim that it had been founded by John de Balliol in 1237 must be in error. The Abbot of Sawtry held it as a single tenement with one carucate of land but was responsible to provide a chaplain to perform services three times a week.<sup>92</sup> In 1535 Sawtry Abbey held a property 'in the forest' called the Hermitage.<sup>93</sup> The location of the hermitage has not been established but, although the Abbott held at least one tenement in the village, it was probably not the Hermitage, which may have lain at a distance from the village if the reference to the forest is to be taken literally.

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<sup>85</sup> Dix, B., 'Human Burials at Church Barn, Fotheringhay', *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, 20, 139-141.

<sup>86</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, facing p.452.

<sup>87</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 453-4.

<sup>88</sup> NRO, O.136, Release of 1806, includes schedule relating to Map 468, a copy of the map of 1716.

<sup>89</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 456.

<sup>90</sup> NRO, Charter in Montagu Collection, old box 27/17.

<sup>91</sup> BL, Cott. Ms. Aug. li 125.

<sup>92</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 451. VCH notes, Extent of manor, in Inquisition Post Mortem of Wm de Bohun, 1340-1.

<sup>93</sup> Account Roll of Sawtry Abbey, 1535, PRO, sc/6/henry VIII / 1666 (3).

### 3.3.3 The College of the Blessed Virgin & All Saints<sup>94</sup>

Fotheringhay College of priests, dedicated to the Annunciation and St Edward the Confessor, was founded in the castle at some time before 1398 by Edmund Langley. In 1411 this was transferred to a new site with 6 acres being allocated for it by the king (this is almost exactly the area of the former College property surrounding but excluding the churchyard as recorded in 1716). It was wholly integrated with the parish church, the claustral buildings being laid out on a site immediately south of the church. It comprised a master, 12 chaplains and four clerks (Bridges says 8) and 13 choristers and was constructed as a mausoleum for the House of York, a number of family being buried there. Major construction works were underway between 1414 and 1441. The last building to be constructed was the hospitium, a guest house or hospital. There was some rebuilding of the choir between 1480-3. The exact extent of the choir is not known. The college was re-founded by Edward IV.

The College is described by Leland.<sup>95</sup> It was dissolved in 1548 and the property was given to the Duke of Northumberland. In 1558 the site and its lands were sold to the Crew or Cruys family and converted as a large house occupied by the lessee of the manor. At this time it comprised 2.5 acres and 20 pole with various woods, land in Fotheringhay and tenements in the village. The choir of the church dismantled in 1573 and various parts of the structure reused in various buildings in nearby villages area. The north claustral range was demolished before 1603 but the rest shortly after 1662.<sup>96</sup> Inventory of 1608 of the goods and chattels of Henry Baker of Fotheringhay, listing details of the former College buildings, including a chamber over the churchyard gate, the cloister etc.<sup>97</sup> In 1623-4 the college still comprised a capital house, and was held by William Becher, but by 1635-6 it was held by Mountjoy. The arable land belonging to the former College property at that time was 5 virgates. In c.1720 there were still some ruins surviving in the vicarage garden on the south side of the church, with part of the college wall running towards the river. Their outline was recorded by excavations in 1926 and are recognisable as an earthwork.<sup>98</sup>

### 3.3.4 Hospital

In the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century the College owned a mess called 'le bedhowse' with a rental value of 3/4d<sup>99</sup>

### 3.3.5 School

A school was founded in Fotheringhay by Elizabeth I, the master having a house in the churchyard.<sup>100</sup> The school still existed in 1849.<sup>101</sup>

### 3.3.6 Workhouse

In 1716 or 1806 a workhouse existed at the west end of the village.<sup>102</sup>

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<sup>94</sup> RCHME, 1984, 64-6. Bridges, 1791, 2, 456. Other sources are VCH, 2, 170-7; *Archaeological Journal*, LXI, 1904, 241-75; RCHME, 1975, 46.

<sup>95</sup> Leland, part I, f.5.

<sup>96</sup> RCHME, 1984, 64.

<sup>97</sup> NRO transcripts, 45a, 1608ad.

<sup>98</sup> *Northamptonshire Archaeology*, 11, 1976, 177-9.

<sup>99</sup> Fotheringhay rental of Fotheringhay College, c.1558, PRO, SC 12/13/28.

<sup>100</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 456.

<sup>101</sup> Whellan, 1849, 737.

<sup>102</sup> NRO, schedule of 1806 to 1716 map.

### 3.4 TENEMENTS

#### 3.4.1 Population and Wealth

In 1086 there were 25 tenants recorded in the village, which in addition to the 3 slaves on the demesne and the priest is a substantial number. By 1289 the manor comprised at least 54 tenants.<sup>103</sup> In 1548 there were 30 tenements recorded on the royal manor including the mill and New Inn. In addition there were three tenements in the College estate recorded incidentally. The rental does not however include the tenements leased to the college towards the castle. These are probably included in the 1533 rental which records the College as having at least 10 tenements, while another rental records 8 tenements and 7 messuages. In addition Sawtry Abbey held at least one tenement, making a total with the royal manor, of at least 46 tenements in the village in the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century. Though the number of tenements may be calculated with reasonable accuracy, there is uncertainty as to the degree of subdivision of tenements which had taken place in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries. In 1320-1 for example a third of a messuage was granted out to the north of the church.<sup>104</sup>

It has been suggested that the settlement was substantially larger in the earlier 16<sup>th</sup> century than later, based on the valuation in the 1524 subsidy, suggesting perhaps as many as 100 households. This is not supported by the evidence of the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century rentals nor is there clear evidence of extensive deserted tenements (see below).<sup>105</sup> In 1673 there were just 67 families in the village and by 1716 this had declined to about 51 households with 57 in 1801.<sup>106</sup>

The overall trajectory of the settlement relative to all other settlement in the county can be seen from graph 1. Fotheringhay declined in relative terms during the medieval period but in 1542 has shown a major expansion. This may well be as a result of the promotion of the settlement by the House of York, particularly their development of the castle and the college and associated property, but also perhaps to a very limited degree assisted by the briefly functioning market. This was however relatively short lived and the settlement appears to have reverted rapidly in the 16<sup>th</sup> and earlier 17<sup>th</sup> century towards the scale seen in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century and which is reflected in the present size of the settlement.

#### 3.4.2 Borough / Burgage

In 1558 burgages as well as other tenements in Fotheringhay are said to be mentioned as belonging to the property formerly the College.<sup>107</sup> No other reference to burgages has been located.

#### 3.4.3 Virgate

19 villeins in 1086. By 1289 there were 24 customary tenants holding virgates (at 48/-). There were 26.75 virgates held of the royal manor in 1548. In the first half of the 16<sup>th</sup> century

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<sup>103</sup> PRO, c133/57(1). There are other extents in 1327 and 1340.

<sup>104</sup> NRO, Montagu Collection, old box 27/17, 16 ed II 1320-1.

<sup>105</sup> RCHME, 1984, 64.

<sup>106</sup> The 1806 schedule for the 1716 map records 39 houses comprising 46 households. At least 5 more houses are shown on the map, being former College land and not listed in the schedule.

<sup>107</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 458.

the College had 5 virgates and the Abbot of Sawtry 2 virgates, giving a total of approximately 35.<sup>108</sup> The presence of quarterns and half yardlands shows that there had been considerable subdivision of holdings, but also by the 16<sup>th</sup> century a number of whole, half and quartern virgates were detached from tenements, while other tenements had seen engrossing with some having up to 2 virgates attached.<sup>109</sup> Hence by the 16<sup>th</sup> century there were at least 30 tenements with virgate land attached (23 in the royal manor and 7 in the College property).

#### **3.4.4 Cottage**

In 1086 there were 6 bordars in the village. In 1289 the manor included 28 cottagers (10 at 10/- and 18 at 33/-).<sup>110</sup> The variation in rents may indicate that some of these held field land, but the numbers are relatively high at a time before the foundation of the market. No figures have yet been identified which can show the impact of the foundation of the market on the number of tenants in the village.

#### **3.4.5 Decline and Recovery**

The evidence so far recovered does not enable analysis of the impact of the recession of the later 14<sup>th</sup> century on Fotheringhay. However by 1548 it would appear that there had been some desertion of tenements for several frontages are seen to be unoccupied closes while some others are likely to represent combination of tenements. There is not however extensive evidence of desertion of tenements which would indicate that the village was ever substantially larger than that seen in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. In the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century there was however further depopulation of the settlement with various tenements being abandoned between 1716 and the 1880s.

### **3.5 COMMERCE**

No evidence has so far been identified to suggest the degree of success of the market or the nature of the trade taking place in Fotheringhay.

#### **3.5.1 Market**

The market appears to have been a very late foundation and to have decayed in the mid to late 14<sup>th</sup> century. An attempt at revival in the mid 15<sup>th</sup> century seems to have failed though perhaps it was revived again. The first market grant was to the Earl of Richmond in 1308-9 when he acquired the manor.<sup>111</sup> The absence of any reference to income from a market in the extent of 1289 would seem to confirm that this was genuinely a new market foundation.<sup>112</sup> The new market was held on a Wednesday. It was still claimed in 1330,<sup>113</sup> but must have decayed in the recession of the later 14<sup>th</sup> century. There is no evidence of income from the market in 1434-5.<sup>114</sup> It was re-founded by Richard, Duke of York in 1457 with a steward to be appointed to hold the court of the market and fair.<sup>115</sup> It is said to have been disused again

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<sup>108</sup> Fotheringhay rental of Master of the College, c.1558, PRO, SC 12/13/28.

<sup>109</sup> Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, 1548-9, PRO SC12/13/27.

<sup>110</sup> PRO, C133/57(1).

<sup>111</sup> Calendar of Charter Rolls, 1300-26, 122.

<sup>112</sup> Extent of the manor, PRO, C133/57(1). The 1327 and 1340 extents may hold important information as to the decline of the market in this critical period of economic decline.

<sup>113</sup> VCH Notes, Quo Warranto 3 Ed.III.

<sup>114</sup> Account roll, PRO, SC6/1115/6.

<sup>115</sup> VCH Notes, Charter Rolls 27/39 Hen VI no.18, 1456-7.

by 1460 and does not figure as an income in the 1468 and 1470 account rolls.<sup>116</sup> There are no later rentals to assess the functioning of the market at a later date, but the 1548 rental makes no reference to shops. Leland makes no reference to the existence of a market in the village but this is not a certain indicator of the market's demise. Indeed the market place was still an open area in 1548 and in 1604-5 the manor was granted out with the right to hold a market and fair and with reference to the office of clerk to the markets.<sup>117</sup> Then again in 1663-4 Lord Mountjoy claimed the right to hold a Wednesday market in the village, with rights of tolls, stallage, picage, pontage, office of the clerk of the market.<sup>118</sup> The market had however certainly gone out of use by c.1720.<sup>119</sup>

### 3.5.1.1 Market Place

Bridges records in c.1720 that 'In the middle of the street is a place called the market-stead, where the market on Wednesday was formerly held.'<sup>120</sup> The remnant of the market place can be identified on the map of 1716, though by then largely built over, and indeed as late as 1821 there was still an open space near the centre of the village called the 'Market-stead', though it had gone by the 1880s.<sup>121</sup> In 1548 there were 5 properties fronting onto the 'market stede'. Of the three on the west side two are described as 'stables' held for 2/- each, this may be a transcription error, the other was a cottage. On the east side of the market place there were two cottages, both formerly held by the College.<sup>122</sup> There are no other properties record around or in the market place although on the south side the 1716 map shows they had been owned by the College and hence like all the other College property are not included in the rental. The exact extent of the market place may be defined by the narrow lane seen in 1716 running west from the surviving market place. The 1548 rental has been reconstructed on this basis, for there is no mention of such a land in the rental even though all other lanes are identified. It is therefore unlikely that some of the tenements recorded in 1548 on the south side of the street actually lay to the east of the lane where tenements existed in 1716. Moreover almost all the properties within the area defined by the lane, with one exception, were held in 1716 by the Overseers of the Poor, providing further possible support for an origin as encroachment following the demise of the market.

### 3.5.1.2 Market Cross

In 1580 there was a cross in the village from which stone was removed and sold. Bonney suggests that this represents the destruction of the cross.<sup>123</sup> There was also a maypole described as being on the market place in the 16<sup>th</sup> century.

## 3.5.2 Fair

In 1308 the Earl of Richmond also had the grant of an annual fair, on the eve, day and morrow of St. Michael (28<sup>th</sup> September).<sup>124</sup> The right was confirmed 1330.<sup>125</sup> In 1457 the

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<sup>116</sup> Bridges, 1791 II, p.448; Markham, 1901. Account roll of 147-1, PRO, SC6/947/18 and of 1468-9, PRO, SC6/1115/10.

<sup>117</sup> VCH Notes, Feet of Fines 2 Jas I.

<sup>118</sup> VCH Notes, Feet of Fines, 15 Chas II.

<sup>119</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 449.

<sup>120</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, p.449.

<sup>121</sup> Bonney, 1821. OS 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1:2500 mapping.

<sup>122</sup> Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, 1548-9, PRO SC12/13/27.

<sup>123</sup> Bonney, 1821, 5.

<sup>124</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 450.

<sup>125</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 450.

Duke of York obtained a grant of a fair for two days beginning on the Monday after Relique Sunday (the Sunday after 7<sup>th</sup> July), the anniversary of Thomas Becket.<sup>126</sup> In 1659 the right of a fair on the eve of St. Michael was still claimed by Lord Mountjoy,<sup>127</sup> and in c.1720 the fair was still kept, the old fair at Michaelmas having by then been discontinued. In 1800 it was held on the third Monday after the 5<sup>th</sup> July.<sup>128</sup> And in 1849 an annual horse fair was still held, on the 5<sup>th</sup> July.<sup>129</sup> As late as 1865 a cattle and horse fair of considerable importance was still being held.<sup>130</sup>

### 3.5.3 Inns & Alehouses

The number of alehouses in a settlement in the post medieval period would appear to be a good guide to the amount of external visitors coming to a settlement. There were five alehouses in Fotheringhay in 1630. The number places it at the very bottom end of the range for post medieval market villages and comparable to some ordinary villages not lying on major roads. However it is a relatively high number for such a small settlement which did not by the 17<sup>th</sup> century apparently lay on a nationally important route way. The numbers declined thereafter to 3 or 4 by 1673-4, 3 in 1755 and 1 in 1828.<sup>131</sup>

### 3.5.4 Hinterland

The definition of hinterlands for this study has necessarily been conducted in a relatively simplistic fashion. Firstly using Bracton's theoretical measurement of  $6\frac{2}{3}$  miles as the distance within which a new market could be considered to provide direct competition to an existing market.<sup>132</sup> An alternative has been calculated using Thiessen polygons. The latter have just taken into account the markets towns which were clearly successful and which survived into the post medieval period. The Thiessen polygons are likely to give a closer definition of the area in which the town had the dominant impact but the former should provide a guide as to the widest hinterland from which the town will have derived the most of its trade. These theoretical constructs will of course have been substantially influenced by the road pattern. They will also have been affected by physical topography and land use, though in Northamptonshire, unlike upland counties, these are likely to have been relatively limited in their impact.

Fotheringhay lay well within the hinterland of Oundle. Just 30 years earlier the Abbot of Peterborough had engaged in a significant legal challenge to the market at Barnwell, which must have been impacting on the Abbey's profits from their market at Oundle, managing to get the market extinguished within a decade of its foundation. Though the market day was clearly defined, on a Wednesday to cause the least conflict with that at Oundle, which was held on a Saturday, why then would the Abbot not have attempted a similar action against the market at Fotheringhay as he had mounted in connection with Barnwell? The success of the foundation may be in part to the status of the Earl, as the king's nephew, the Abbot of Peterborough perhaps not being able to challenge the foundation. However, it may equally be

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<sup>126</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 452.

<sup>127</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 453.

<sup>128</sup> Markham, 1901, 56.

<sup>129</sup> Whellan, 1849, 736.

<sup>130</sup> *Northamptonshire Notes & Queries*, vol.1, p.13.

<sup>131</sup> Alehouse Recognizances, NRO, Quarter Sessions records.

<sup>132</sup> The issue is discussed briefly in the Northamptonshire context by Goodfellow, 1987, 305.



an indication that the market did not have the same level of success as Barnwell and hence did not pose a significant threat to the income of Oundle market.

Within the hinterland lay extensive high quality agricultural land and this may explain why the market survived for at least part of the 14<sup>th</sup> century and was re-founded in the 15<sup>th</sup> century. The presence of a significant road from London to the north passing through the village will have assisted as will the presence of the castle. However Fotheringhay's success was very limited as the size of the settlement indicates and this must be due in part to its position so close to Oundle.

### **3.6 INDUSTRY**

There is no evidence for industrial activity in the village in the medieval period apart from the reference in 1168-9 to payment of 20/- by the lord of the manor for one or more forges in the forest.<sup>133</sup> The whole of the township lay within the forest and so the forge could have been within the village itself, as has been found to be the case in some other forest villages. However the nodular ore beds do not extend into the village and it is possible that the forge was situated elsewhere in the township or even perhaps in one of the members of the manor.

The record of a fulling mill at Fotheringhay in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century would indicate that it had a role in the cloth industry in the Tudor period. In 1689 there was still at least one weaver living in the village.<sup>134</sup> The presence of a Drying Close in 1716, immediately north of the village, is of uncertain derivation but may prove to have some significance in this connection.<sup>135</sup>

The only other record of trades so far recovered is in 1716 when a Wheelwrights Shop and a blacksmiths shop are recorded.<sup>136</sup> In the 1777 militia list it was a relatively small settlement with just 27 persons named and of these there were just two wheelwrights, two bakers, a cordwainer and a carpenter, all the rest being involved in agriculture or working as servants.<sup>137</sup>

### **3.7 COMMUNICATIONS**

A minor road ran north from the village in 1548 and 1716, skirting the Great Park on its east side and presumably continuing to Nassington. This road entered the village further west than the present road to Nassington. The former road is clearly seen as an earthwork on 1947 air photographs and still remains as an arable field as a shallow wide hollow adjacent to the village. This is likely to be medieval in origin. It was replaced by the present road at some time in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. However there were two more important routes within the township.

#### **3.7.1 The London Road**

In the medieval period it is likely that a major road from London to the north ran through Fotheringhay. Westward the road through Fotheringhay joined the Oundle to Stamford road near Walcot bridge, formerly Walcot ford (see below). Eastward the road to London must originally have run past the castle on its north side, onto the island and thence crossing the

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<sup>133</sup> Foard, 2001.

<sup>134</sup> Inventory of Richard Miller, NRO,???

<sup>135</sup> 1806 schedule to 1716 map.

<sup>136</sup> 1806 schedule to 1716 map.

<sup>137</sup> Hatley, 1973, 201-2.

Nene at Warmington. This would have placed the crossing on the alignment of but some two or three kilometres north west of what in 1620 was known as the London Road, running up from the Giddings and west of Lutton towards Warmington.<sup>138</sup> However by 1620 the London Way turned north before it reached Warmington and ran up to Wansford bridge on the great north road. The control of this road may have been one of the reasons for the siting of a castle at Fotheringhay. The traffic it brought may have been one of the reasons for the foundation of a market in the village and the demise of the route by the early 17<sup>th</sup> century may in part explain the demise of the market.

In 1468-9 and 1470-1 the bridge by the castle was described as ‘le Newebrigge’.<sup>139</sup> South of the river in Warmington township it is served by a long causeway, seen in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century cutting obliquely across the meadow boundaries, and presumably was constructed at the same time as the new bridge. It seems likely that this was an integral part of the works conducted by Edward IV from 1461 onwards. The removal of the road from the north side of the castle presumably allowing the expansion of the castle defences to create the outer court and particularly to enable the creation of the little park and other landscaping around the castle. Despite the diversion the road continued to be of importance for in 1586 it was specifically stated that the road from the bridge running north by the castle wall was a ‘comon highe wayye for many passengers had between London and the northe partes’.<sup>140</sup>

When Leland saw Fotheringhay bridge in the mid 16<sup>th</sup> century it was constructed of timber.<sup>141</sup> The stone bridge had been built in 1573, comprising four piers of stone covered with wood and fenced on either side, part in stone and part timber.<sup>142</sup> The bridge was depicted by Tillemans in 1718 before it was rebuilt in 1722.<sup>143</sup>

### **3.7.2 Stamford to Oundle road**

There was a major road running north from Oundle to Stamford. It ran on the west side of the Nene past the medieval hospital at Perio and through the western part of Fotheringhay township, crossing the Willow Brook at Walcotforth. In 1330 the men of Fotheringhay were distrained for failing to repair the bridge at Walcotforth which it was said was crossed by men, horses and carriages from Oundle to Stamford.<sup>144</sup> The surviving bridge is of 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> century date but clearly not only was there a 14<sup>th</sup> century bridge but also an earlier ford, suggesting that this was probably of some importance at a much earlier date.

## **3.8 LAND USE**

### **3.8.1 Open Fields & Inclosure**

The township of Fotheringhay has an extensive area of permeable geology and large areas of alluvial floodplain meadows. In contrast to many Northamptonshire townships it did not have extensive areas of clay land. The township therefore had a relatively high agricultural potential, which is reflected in its relatively large hidage and population in 1086. It also has

<sup>138</sup> Oundle School Collection, Survey of Warmington, 1620. OS 1" 1<sup>st</sup> edition map.

<sup>139</sup> Account Roll of manor of Fotheringhay, 1470-1, PRO, SC6/947/18. Account Roll of Fotheringhay, 1468-9, PRO, SC6/1115/10.

<sup>140</sup> VCH Notes: Landsdowne Ms.15, m.48 n.31.

<sup>141</sup> Leland, part 1, f.5.

<sup>142</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 449.

<sup>143</sup> Bailey, 1996, 73. *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1827, part I, 401-2.

<sup>144</sup> Goodfellow, 1985, 154; VCH II, 569.

an extensive area of alluvial floodplain which will all have been meadow in the medieval period, a very valuable land use. As early as 1086 there were 40 acres of meadow recorded. The demesne in 1289 included 419 acres of arable but also the high relative figure of 280 acres of meadow and over 90 acres of pasture.<sup>145</sup> In 1548 the open field was divided into three great fields but already there was a significant area of old enclosure with the College in particular holding enclosures surrounding the small closes on the north west side of the village.<sup>146</sup> Most of the tenements in the village also by this time had adjacent small closes attached which had been created by enclosure of open field land. Piecemeal enclosure had begun as early as 1508-9 when 10 acres were enclosed towards 'le Connynggerthwonge'.<sup>147</sup> The enclosure of the majority of the open field was completed in 1635.<sup>148</sup>

### 3.8.2 Woodland

A limited part of the township within the area known as Walcot, within the Great Park, remained as woodland in the medieval period, although the majority of the manor woodland lay about 6 kilometres to the west in Morehay, now part of Southwick parish. These were the two woods called Erleswode and Newhaugh, in Cliffe bailiwick in the forest and are located by Pettit.<sup>149</sup> The latter must explain the extensive tract of woodland belonging to the manor in 1086, 1 league by 9 furlongs which was worth 10/- when stocked and the king was not hunting in it. In 1289 there were 60 acres of wood specified as part of the demesne, lying in the forest of Cliffe.<sup>150</sup>

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<sup>145</sup> PRO, C133/57(1).

<sup>146</sup> Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, 1548-9, PRO SC12/13/27.

<sup>147</sup> VCH notes: Ministers Accounts, 24 Hen VII - Hen VIII no.86. Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, 1548-9, PRO SC12/13/27.

<sup>148</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 456.

<sup>149</sup> Bridges, 1791, 2, 451. Pettit, 1968, map.

<sup>150</sup> PRO, C133/57(1).

## **II ASSESSMENT**

### **1.0 TOWN**

#### **1.1 ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE & SURVIVAL**

Fotheringhay appears to have a high potential for reconstruction of the historical topography and there is a relatively low density of occupation today so possible high potential for archaeological investigation. Possible parallel but at lower level of market intensity to Rockingham - and hence a later medieval and post medieval market village to complement high medieval Catesby.

#### **1.2 Documentary**

##### **1.2.1 Summary of Previous Investigation**

The sources for the castle have been broadly dealt with by Colvin. There has also been limited work by the RCHME on the College and Church. Other material has been reprinted by Bonney.

##### **1.2.2 Research for this Report**

The indexes and catalogues to the major relevant collections in the Public Record Office, Northamptonshire Record Office and British Library have been searched as have those in the National Register of Archives. Several key documents including the 1548 rental and the 1716 map with its later schedule have been analysed in detail. There has been rapid assessment of the range of other sources but many have not been read and most have not been subject to detailed analysis.

##### **1.2.3 Survival**

There is a wide range of documentary sources surviving for the village in the late medieval and post medieval period. There are three extents from the late 13<sup>th</sup> and earlier 14<sup>th</sup> century. Also from the 14<sup>th</sup> century are a series of charters. There is a good run of account rolls in the 15<sup>th</sup> century for the royal manor with extensive detail. They are only disappointing in the absence of evidence relating to the functioning of the market. In the earlier 16<sup>th</sup> century others are available for the College, supported in 1608 by a detailed inventory which deals with the property which had been the College. In the 16<sup>th</sup> century there are others details repairs and works on the castle. The rentals from the 16<sup>th</sup> century, particularly that of 1548, together with the detailed valuation of the College and the map of 1716 with its schedule of 1806, are the most important documents providing a detailed description of the village. The one major limitation is the presence of only a handful of court rolls, from the mid 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. Later deeds, from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> centuries are fairly extensive, especially from the 19<sup>th</sup> century.

##### **1.2.4 Potential**

Overall the documentation for the late medieval and post medieval village is excellent. There are detailed records for both the College and the Castle in the 15<sup>th</sup> to early 17<sup>th</sup> centuries which should enable complex interpretation of the archaeological remains of both. Moreover the combination of a good map of 1716 with a schedule and the 1548 rental of the royal manor and 1534 valuation of the College, offers a high potential for detailed reconstruction of

the detail of tenurial organisation of the settlement.<sup>151</sup> The reconstruction of the College property will be aided by the identification of much of it on the 1716 map as in a separate ownership, and in addition to the Vicarage land which must have been taken out of the former College property. This has already been completed with limited accuracy based on the 1548 rental but this should be amenable to major enhancement through the use of the post medieval deeds and various other account rolls and rentals. The earlier rentals may then enable this picture to be extended in part back into the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

The ability to closely tie rental details to individual plots on the ground should enable close correlation of archaeological with documentary evidence in the tenements of the village just as is suspected from the castle and College. The bailiff's rental attached to the rental of 1548-9, which is in effect a summary of the main survey, is an excellent example of the way in which rental can be presented in the form of a circuit of the settlement yet have no direct locational information within it to enable the circuit to be recognised directly.<sup>152</sup>

The rapid analysis conducted in connection with this report has provided a broad framework for the understanding of the settlement and to enable the better structuring of archaeological investigation. More detailed documentary study is needed but in order to provide a significant advance on present understanding it is likely to involve full reconstruction of the historical topography and tenement pattern with the integrated use of all the available sources.

Objective to locate the Hermitage needs to be explored initially through more detailed documentary investigation, to establish the general location and then through detailed field system and woodland reconstruction to exactly locate the site.

### **1.3 Historic Buildings**

#### **1.3.1 Summary of Previous Investigation**

The historic buildings of the village have been surveyed by RCHME, in most cases in detail, though the roof structures of several of the lesser buildings were not examined.<sup>153</sup>

#### **1.3.2 Research for this Report**

No new fieldwork was conducted into the historic buildings of Fotheringhay in connection with this report.

#### **1.3.3 Survival**

Although only half of the church remains it is an outstanding example of Perpendicular architecture. An important building which had royal patronage.<sup>154</sup> The survival of vernacular buildings in Fotheringhay is poor. Apart from the church, the Old Inn and New Inns there are just three other buildings in the village which date from before the 19<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>155</sup> This is in part the result of the substantial decline of the settlement in the post medieval period but also because of the substantial reconstruction of the village conducted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the

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<sup>151</sup> Account Roll of Fotheringhay College, 1533-4, PRO, SC/6/henryVIII/6580.

<sup>152</sup> Rental of manor of Fotheringhay parcel of the Jointure of Queen Catherine, 1548-9, PRO SC12/13/27.

<sup>153</sup> RCHME, 1984.

<sup>154</sup> RCHME, 1984, 67.

<sup>155</sup> RCHME, 1984, 63-75.

lords of the manor. Though Fotheringhay was always a small settlement, this is an exceptionally poor survival.

### **1.3.4 Potential**

The church, New Inn and Old Inn are important survivals of significant buildings and they contribute significantly to the understanding of late medieval Fotheringhay. However due to the very poor survival of vernacular buildings there is relatively low potential to contribute to research objectives. However two of the surviving buildings do front onto the former market place and may thus contribute something to the understanding of the latest history of the market. Detail investigation of the few surviving early buildings should be undertaken if any form of threat arises to their external or internal features as information may arise which elaborates the existing information and analysis provided by RCHME.

## **1.4 Archaeological**

### **1.4.1 Summary of Previous Investigation**

The earthworks of the castle have been surveyed by RCHME. A geophysical survey of the inner bailey of the castle was conducted in the 1980s with very limited results. There has been no excavations on the castle but in June 1820 on the Castle Hill ‘some of the remains of the ancient fortifications were discovered on the removal of some of the earth .....’<sup>156</sup>

The earthworks of the College have been surveyed by RCHME. In the 1920s excavation took place on the College. This may have caused considerable damage to the site and has left very few records apart from the site plan. Other excavation has been conducted in the 1990s on the ‘crypt’ under the north porch of the church but this has not yet been written up or published. Rescue excavation has been conducted to the west of the present churchyard where burials have been recovered.

There is good vertical and oblique aerial photography of the earthworks and crop-marks of the village and associated monuments but further aerial survey may assist in the interpretation of the remains. The earthworks to the north of the castle and from the Little Park have been crudely mapped from aerial data but they have not been subject to detailed ground survey. The earthworks to the north of the village have similarly been mapped from aerial data but can no longer be surveyed on the ground. There has been no substantial excavation in the village. Minor excavation and observation has been conducted in advance of small scale construction work in the village in several locations but no significant evidence has yet been recovered.

The pillow mound in the warren was surveyed by RCHME but not within any mapped context which would allow the accurate positioning of the survey. Neither did it include the mapping of the ridge and furrow within the warren or the ditched boundaries to the adjacent tenements and possible crofts.

### **1.4.2 Research for this Report**

Apart from the rapid mapping of the aerial photographic evidence no new field survey was conducted in connection with this report.

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<sup>156</sup> *Gentleman's Magazine*, 1827, part I, 401-2.

### **1.4.3 Survival**

There is excellent survival of the earthworks castle and College sites. Most of the former tenements within the village are now within but large parts of the frontages are not currently built up and hence archaeological deposits may be expected to survive well. In places this extends to complete tenements. To the north of the church and to the north of the castle there are tenements wholly within pasture fields, in the latter case with substantial surviving earthworks. The former area includes tenements which will have fronted onto the market place and these will be of particular importance with regard to the understanding of the origins and development of the market. So too will the areas of the market place itself a substantial part of which lies in the grounds of the Falcon Inn. However the closes to the north of the village west of the Nassington road, including the moated enclosure have been levelled by ploughing. The site of the watermill to the north of the New Inn no longer survives as an earthwork but may still have good archaeological survival. The adjacent possible garden earthworks also survive. Part of the warren still survives as an earthwork, including the pillow mound.

### **1.4.4 Potential**

The castle, College and church offer high potential for archaeological investigation given the high quality of the survival of the archaeological remains as indicated by the earthworks. In the case of the College account needs also to be taken of the potential for the presence of the 12<sup>th</sup> century monastic site beneath the later medieval remains. A significant part of the eastern and western frontages of the market place and of the market place itself survive under pasture or in gardens and offer a high potential for the investigation of the origins and development of the market. Similarly the evolution of the village, including the character and wealth of the tenements across the village may be explored though future excavation within the tenements throughout the village.

There is the potential for fieldwalking survey of the land immediately north of the village to determine whether there were tenements in this area and to determine the nature and significance of the moated enclosure.

Given the high potential for the archaeological investigation of the origins and development of the village of Fotheringhay it is important that the Saxon settlement pattern is intensively explored to contribute to the understanding of origins. The general survival of the historic landscape around as well as within the village, with no significant development or mineral extraction in the township, offers the potential to explore the early and middle Saxon settlement pattern from which the village developed. It is particularly important in this context that Walcot is located and its history explored as it is one of the few such place-names in the county, indicating continuity with the Roman period. The opportunities are further enhanced by the association with the royal manor at Nassington. The apparent transfer of estate centre functions between Nassington and Fotheringhay and the latter's development as a market village may provide a valuable example of the way in which central place can shift short distances for specific and identifiable reasons.

## **1.5 Historical Topography**

The relatively simple two row plan of the medieval settlement remains but major components of the plan have been lost, most notably the market place and the various side and back lanes. Similarly the pattern of the medieval tenement rows have been largely lost by post medieval

and modern changes, while the loss of earthworks to the north have removed a significant component in the plan form of the settlement.

## **2.0 SPECIFIC MOMUNENTS**

### **2.1 Castle**

Although the earthworks of the motte and bailey are well preserved, clear and well understood. The outer moat survives on the north and east but is largely filled in on the north west. This defines the outer ward, which contains various 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings. Reasonable archaeological survival is to be expected over most of the area though in some parts significant localised damage is likely to have been done.

Although the broad layout of the castle can be defined by the mapped and earthwork evidence, the internal arrangements of the castle are poorly understood. There needs to be a reconsideration of all the documentary evidence in conjunction with the existing archaeological evidence to more accurately interpret the internal arrangements. A re-survey of all the earthworks would be of assistance here to recover more fine detail which might give an indication of the layout of buildings. This would be assisted by the extension of the survey to encompass the adjacent earthworks of the Little Park, roads and the tenements to the east and north of the castle which will help by putting the castle in an effective contemporary context.

## **3.0 URBAN HINTERLAND**

For the purposes of assessment of the hinterlands of the medieval and post medieval towns in the county a rapid grading of the archaeological potential of the medieval settlements of the county has been conducted on the basis of professional judgement. A documentary assessment has also been completed, based on a systematic but far from complete indexing of the major documentary classes for each township in the county based on a search of various list and indexes in the Public Record Office, Northamptonshire Record Office, National Register of Archives and British Library. Separate scoring has been made for each document class based on the number of documents identified for each settlement in both the medieval and post medieval periods. The severe limitation of such a quantitative assessment and the incompleteness of the initial indexing task mean that this scoring has many shortcomings but countywide it may be expected to give a broad indication of potential. Details of the methodology are defined in the general synthesis report of the Extensive Urban Survey.

A number of settlements in the hinterland of Fotheringhay have a high archaeological potential, most notably Warmington, Perio and Southwick but also Nassington for its manorial origins. Historic landscape survival is also excellent in the hinterland. Similarly there is a relatively high documentary potential in the townships in the hinterland although the absence of good documentary evidence for the functioning of the market at Fotheringhay will limit the potential for study. Also, given the small scale of the market and urban functions of Fotheringhay a substantial linkage between the surrounding settlements and the market village may not be apparent. It will probably be as a valuable comparator to Oundle, with which it was in direct competition, that Fotheringhay's marketing functions will be significant to study. It is likely to be the interaction of these two places which will be the most significant component in any study of Fotheringhay's hinterland.



### **III RESEARCH AGENDA**

Fotheringhay's potential association with the Nassington Saxon estate and its fragmentation, and the associated early-middle Saxon settlement pattern including Walcot. Establish the location of the pre-castle manor. If the late Saxon, pre-castle manor can be located then it may be possible to explore the relative chronology of this and Nassington royal manor as regards the fragmentation of the Saxon royal estate functions.

Origins and development of the village from the early-middle Saxon period onwards may be a valid research theme as a spin off from the investigation of the later settlement..

The origins, development and changing character of the castle from the early medieval period onwards.

Location of the short lived 12<sup>th</sup> century monastery. If located this may give significant information as to the character of such early foundations undisturbed by later evolution, although it may prove to have been overlain by the later college.

The character of the late medieval college and the associated collegiate church. It may be that the origins and development of the earlier church may be investigated as a spin off from the study of the collegiate church and will contribute to the general study of the medieval village.

The process of creation of the market place within a pre-existing settlement will be a key theme given the apparently relatively undisturbed nature of a significant part of the market place. The open areas of the former market place may yield remains related to stalls and shops on the market place and on the adjacent frontages which are well preserved and provide a valuable insight into the nature of the commercial activities of such market villages. This is a high priority for Fotheringhay because the area of interrelationship of tenement row with market place on the east side is in pasture and in gardens with the probable frontage of at least two tenements as well as tenements fronting north.

The water mill may offer a high research potential given its accurate location and apparent survival as an undisturbed site.

The detailed investigation of the tenements of the village prior to and during the life of the market may represent one of the best opportunities to examine the commercial and industrial impact, if any, of market foundation on the economic base of a village in the county. However the potential influence of major castle and an important college on such issues will also have to be considered.

The location of hermitage should be established to determine whether it has a significant archaeological potential.

## **IV STRATEGY**

The assessment of the management and conservation priorities within the Extensive Urban Survey have been based around an assessment of levels of importance previously applied elsewhere in the county for management purposes. The grading falls into six categories:

**Scheduled:** nationally important remains that have statutory protection.

**Unscheduled national importance:** in some cases statutory protection is suggested while in others recording action may prove to be the appropriate response to threats.

**County importance:** Where significant archaeology is known or where it is likely but confirmation is required. Normally recording rather than preservation would be the appropriate mitigation strategy.

**Historic buildings:** Buildings known or which have the potential to contain significant pre 19<sup>th</sup> century structural remains.

**Local importance:** where archaeology may survive but where, on present evidence investigation does not appear appropriate.

**Destroyed:** where the archaeology has been wholly destroyed.

**White Land:** Archaeology not assessed for this report.

In addition in some cases recommendations have been made for the designation of new or the extension of existing Conservation Areas and for the listing of specific buildings.

### **1.0 EXISTING DESIGNATIONS**

#### **1.1 Scheduled Ancient Monuments**

The castle and the College are both adequately scheduled.

#### **1.2 Listed Buildings**

There are 16 listed buildings in the village.

#### **1.3 Conservation Area**

The whole of the village is designated as a Conservation Area and is designated in the local plan as a Restraint Village.

### **2.0 MANAGEMENT PRIORITIES**

#### **2.1 EVALUATION AND RECORDING**

All developments involving extensions of larger constructions on or near any certain or presumed frontage should be evaluated and all those involving substantial new buildings of a house or larger should be examined wherever they may be sited within the former settlement area and its immediate environs.

Any scale of ground disturbance anywhere across the market place and its immediate environs should be examined to determine chronology of infill, to seek evidence of the re-planning of the settlement to insert the market place and to pinpoint exact frontage locations in the medieval period; also to look for shops or evidence of stalls in the market.

In order to guide future management, fieldwalking should be conducted on the area to the north of the western part of the village to establish whether occupation evidence exists on the back lane or in the area to the north, and to establish the function of the moated enclosure.

Earthwork survey is urgently required on the settlement remains, mill and other earthworks to the north of the castle and of the New Inn. This is essential in order to inform the process of rescheduling to conserve the earthworks. The earthworks of and within the Little Park have not been surveyed and should be recorded, especially in the unlikely situation of them not being considered worthy of scheduling. Future resurvey of the college site may also be worthwhile to better define the layout of the college. The earthwork bounds of the market place on its east side should also be accurately defined by earthwork survey in the paddock to the north west of the church. Careful field inspection is required on the warren to determine if any earthworks remain from the warren boundary as no such features have been identified from the air photographs or from ground inspection from the adjacent road.

## **2.2 CONSERVATION**

Retention of the open area to the north of the church and of the remaining open areas of the market place is important both in terms of the archaeology they are expected to contain as well as for their value in terms of the setting of the church and their preservation of the historical topography of the market village. Scheduling should be extended to these area to conserve the archaeological remains which almost certainly survive of both the frontage and of the market place itself.

The castle site needs effective long term management as ongoing use is gradually eroding the archaeological deposits while certain specific actions by the landowner, particularly within the outer bailey, have caused clear damage to the monument without any effective enforcement by English Heritage or any appropriate remedial action. Visitor pressure is also causing erosion of the earthworks in the absence of effective ground works to protect them. A high priority should be given to securing the implementation of a scheme of works to halt this erosion and to reinstate the monument. A management plan and management agreement is urgently needed.

The scheduled areas should be extended to cover the settlement earthworks and mill sites to the north of the castle; the remains of the Little Park with its ridge and furrow and hollow way to the east of the castle. The Great Park in the north of the township which still retains a substantial length of intact rampart should also be considered for scheduling because of its association with the castle.

The Conservation Area could usefully be extended to encompass the earthworks to the north of the castle to complement an extension of the scheduled area. Promotion of Countryside Stewardship for the various earthwork monuments in and around the village is another

appropriate supporting approach to conservation, but none of this can be effective without extensive scheduling and enforcement.

### **2.3 INTERPRETATION POTENTIAL**

The earthworks of the castle are very clear and easily interpreted and the greater part of the site is accessible to the public. Similarly the Collegiate church and the New Inn are excellent survivals which can be easily viewed. They are complemented, if detailed explanation is available, by the Old Inn which can be viewed from the road, and by the earthworks of the College which they can be seen from the churchyard. The presence of the former market place is not however easily appreciated. The earthworks of the Little Park with the hollow way and ridge and furrow are just visible from the right of way running towards Warmington. This right of way is the Nene Way and hence a major recreational route. The village is also a significant tourist location due to its royal associations, with the birth of Richard III and the execution of Mary Queen of Scots. The whole village therefore has a very high interpretative potential which demands interpretative provision and reinforces the case for extensive and effective conservation measures. At present there are three interpretative panels, at the church, college and castle. A substantial interpretative facility could usefully be developed at Fotheringhay to meet the needs of the significant numbers of visitors who come to the village can be disappointed by the lack of an appropriate level of interpretation. This potential can and should however only be realised in co-operation with the village and without encouraging a level of tourist interest which would damage the character of the village including its historic value.

## **ABBREVIATIONS**

AASR	Association of Architectural Society Reports
BL	British Library
NRO	Northamptonshire Record Office
PRO	Public Record Office
RCHME	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments of England
SMR	Sites & Monuments Record
VCH	Victoria County History
VCH Notes	Notes compiled by the VCH in the early 20 <sup>th</sup> century, now in NRO.

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