List of Abbreviations Used in the Text

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<th>Abbreviation</th>
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<td>DMV</td>
<td>Deserted Medieval Village</td>
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SUMMARY

The Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) carried out on Cambridgeshire's 28 largest and most historic towns revealed much concerning their archaeology and history. This report provides a synopsis of the findings for the 12 most significant of these towns with reference to their relevance to specific research aims and conservation principles.

The historic urban areas examined in this report contain a wealth of information regarding past human activity in the county. This activity has its origins in the prehistoric era, however, for most of the county's towns it is in the Anglo-Saxon period that true urban settlement begins. Evidence for this can take several forms such as historical, place-name or that from archaeological sites. The last of these forms can be somewhat tenuous but does have the potential that further research of its type may greatly increase our knowledge of urban origins and continuity in the county.

The archaeological and architectural evidence for the county's towns increases for the medieval period. It was also at this time that the towns became centres for commerce and light industry. Research on these topics carries the possibility of being able to reconstruct trade routes and study the potential of the built environment. It was also at this time that ecclesiastical institutions start to influence and, indeed, encourage urban growth and this presents a further area of inquiry that may be worth pursuing. The presence of these institutions also often led to the existence of documentary evidence regarding these towns, thereby enhancing the historical value of these urban areas.

It was during the post-medieval period that many of the county's urban areas became established centres of trade and studies into the details of this process may enhance our knowledge of the nature of commerce during this period. This process also lead to a growth in the size of the urban areas, much of which survives in good condition and many of these towns' listed buildings date to this era. These buildings represent a valuable architectural resource due to the fact that they are of a wide range of forms and fabrics. The aesthetic value of the towns was enhanced by the presence of these buildings and the open spaces laid out at this time.

Although Cambridgeshire is not known as an industrial county there is evidence from its urban areas that small scale production was taking place. The evidence of this has the potential to increase the communal value of these towns as their present inhabitants may find the remains of such industrial activities easier to relate to than less tangible aspects of the past.
INTRODUCTION

This document summarises the findings of the EUS reports for Cambridgeshire's 12 largest urban areas (Figs 1 and 2) with reference to Research and Archaeology: a Framework for the Eastern Counties, 2. Research Agenda and Strategy (Brown and Glazebrook 2000), Research and Archaeology Revisited: a Revised Framework for the East of England (Medlycott 2011) and English Heritage's Conservation Principles Policies and Guidance for the Sustainable Management of the Historic Environment (English Heritage 2000). The specific research aims from the former documents that are relevant to the EUS are as follows:

Rural
  Roman
    • Military
    • Towns

Early Saxon
  • Continuity of settlement in 5th century
  • Cemeteries
  • Settlement size

Middle Saxon
  • Middle Saxon “shuffle”
  • Population growth
  • Economy
  • Impact of Christianity

Late Saxon
  • Economy
  • Settlement nucleation

Medieval
  • Rural settlement density
  • Field systems
  • Households
  • Craftsmanship and industry
  • Agrarian economy
  • Population distribution
  • Settlement forms and function
  • Craft production
  • Impact of immigration e.g. Anglo-Saxons, Danes, Normans
  • Impact of Christianity

Urban

Medieval and Post-medieval

Broad Topics
• Industrial and technological innovation
• Economic innovation
• Cultural innovation
• Social innovation
• Political innovation
• Potential of the small town (particularly in the Fens)
• Role of the church
• Commercial activity of towns
• Potential of the built environment
• Population structure through time
• Definition of non-urban, proto-urban and urban
• Population density as an economic indicator
• Rural interaction
• Housing and provisioning
• Layout of towns

**Social Organisation**

• Relationship of royal villas to later urban centres
• Early estates and their relationships to towns
• Definition of boundaries
• Examination of buildings their location, function and form
• Acquisition of raw materials
• Product distribution
• Distribution of wealth within towns
• Corporate activity

**Economy**

• Specialisation
• Link between social and political development
• Communications
• Industrial zoning
• Distribution zones

**Culture and Religion**

• Characteristics of urban culture
• Growth and complexity of urban culture
• Relationship of church to urban foundation
• Ecclesiastical development within growing towns
• Impact of ecclesiastical institutions on the urban environment

**Post-medieval and Modern**

• Fortifications
• Parks and gardens
• Industrialisation and manufacture
• Farmsteads
• Planned industrial settlements
• New towns

The EH Conservation Principles tend to be more general. Those which are relevant are as follows.

The historic environment is a shared resource

• Record of human activity
• Reflects knowledge, beliefs and traditions of diverse communities
• Public interest in places

Understanding the significance of places is vital

• Any part of the historic environment with a distinctive identity can be considered a place
• Significance of a place embraces all cultural heritage values that people associate with it
• It is necessary to understand the fabric of a place and how it evolved over time, its context etc.

Significant places should be managed to sustain their values

• Change in the historic environment is inevitable

Documenting and learning from decisions is essential

• Records of the justification of decisions must be made accessible

The discussion of how the history and archaeology of each urban area can contribute to these research aims and principles is prefaced by an introductory paragraph regarding the evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal values of each town. These values also form part of EH’s Conservation Principles.
Fig 1: Map of UK showing Cambridgeshire
Fig 2: Map of Cambridgeshire showing locations of towns on EUS summary report
FENLAND

Summary of Fenland

Fenland distinct contains the towns of Chatteris, March, Whittlesey and Wisbech, all of which are reported on here. The first three of these towns are situated on islands in the peat fen with Wisbech being on the silt fen and the medieval coastline. Such locations would have been attractive to early settlers and the archaeology of these towns has the potential to provide much information regarding the nature of prehistoric, Roman and Anglo-Saxon activity in the district. The Roman town at Stonea Grange provides the earliest known evidence of urbanisation in Fenland.

During the medieval period ecclesiastical institutions had a clear impact of the growth and development of towns in the district. This not only involved the economy and fabric of the towns themselves but also the surrounding countryside, as these institutions were often responsible for large scale drainage of the fens. It was also at this time that market places were set up in Fenland towns turning them from mere settlements to distribution centres. For example it was at this time that Wisbech became a major port with important trading links to western Europe.

Compared to other parts of the country, Fenland was never a major centre of post-medieval industry. However, for certain towns in the district specific industries, such as brick making in Whittlesey and shipbuilding in Wisbech, were significant. Fenland's agricultural products were of vital importance in supplying other major population centres which were growing at this time. This made communications vital and led to the growth of the canal and railway networks in the district, with Wisbech acting as a port and March becoming a major marshalling yard.

The district's workhouses and non-conformist churches are an interesting reflection of social attitudes during the later post-medieval period. The study of the archives and fabric of these institutions can help greatly with research areas such as social and family history. Wisbech has particularly significant Georgian and Victorian buildings which reflect the towns wealth and importance in the later post-medieval period.
Chatteris

The Value of the Resource
Chatteris possesses a limited evidential resource which is mostly confined to the Anglo-Saxon origins of the town, in the environs of the church. There are also limited historical resources regarding the town, except those relating to the abbey. The architecture of the area between the church and the supposed site of the abbey can be considered to be of aesthetic value, however, as there are few public buildings of significance there is a general lack of communal value. This latter point might be addressed if further archaeological evidence for the abbey comes to light.

Anglo-Saxon
Evidence for activity during the early part of this period consists of remains of structures and burials found in the environs of the Parish Church of St Peter (Thatcher et al. 2009). Settlement size is a relevant research issue as is the potential for burials to contribute to the understanding of Saxon origins. It appears that settlement at this site continued into the Late Saxon period suggesting continuity rather than evidence for a Middle Saxon 'shuffle'.

Medieval
The impact of ecclesiastical institutions on the urban environment is of relevance as there exists documentary evidence for there having been an abbey in the town. Archaeological evidence exists for medieval activity at the supposed location of this abbey (Connor 1998, Clarke 2011) and any further work in its environs has the potential to confirm the position of its various buildings. Such work can also help with the investigation of how such an institution interacted with the town in general.

Examination of the architectural and historical development of the Parish Church of St Peter may be of interest in terms of the interaction between it and the abbey. Such an examination may help to investigate whether the church increased in importance after the abbey was dissolved.

Evidence of ridge and furrow from the northern part of the historic core (Cuttler 1996) can assist the study of the nature of field systems in the region. The combining of any such evidence with that found on the Fenland Survey (Hall 1992) could assist with the mapping of field systems near the town.

Post-medieval
The area between the church and the site of the abbey was the main focus of settlement during this period and it is here that most of the town's listed buildings are to be found. Examination of this location may be able to assist with areas of interest such as the potential of the built environment and the impact of ecclesiastical institutions on towns.

The economic importance of communications in the town can be examined with reference to the various waterways that lead to and from it. Also of relevance here is the military road of Ireton's Way.

Corporate activity in the town can be examined with reference to the rise and decline of its market place (Fig 3). Such an examination can also assist with the investigation of economic role of Chatteris as a small fenland town.
Fig 3: Market Hill, Chatteris (photo: Rob enwiki)
March

The Value of the Resource
There is only limited evidential value to March's history as the archaeological work carried out in the town has tended to be small in scale. Historical value is derived from references to the town in Liber Eliensis and fairly sparse manorial and diocesan records, however, more recent sources, such as maps and photographs of the rail works, may add to this. The aesthetic value of the historic core is limited to the area around the town hall, market place, West End and the High Street, however, as these are public spaces they do contribute to the communal value of the town. The latter is also the case for the rail works and their associated buildings as these are important to the social history of March.

Anglo-Saxon
It is thought that settlement during this period was clustered around the site of the later church of St Wendreda and also at the DMV at Knights End. No archaeological evidence of this has been found, however, there is clearly a potential for future investigations in these areas to uncover Anglo-Saxon remains.

The Anglo-Saxon pottery found in the ditches on a site at Church Street (Weston and Williamson 2004) shows that at least some form of activity was taking place in the historic core at this time. These findings also hint at the potential for there being more remains from this period as the ditches are likely to be associated with some form of nearby settlement. This settlement may have been the manor which is referred in Domesday as existing at March.

Medieval
Historical evidence exists for there having been a manor at Hatchwood’s Farm at this time (Pugh 2002). As the location of this farm is known, any investigations in its vicinity should take into account the possibility of finding the remains of buildings associated with this manor.

There was a shift of settlement northwards during this period and it is thought that this was due to a variation in the course of the River Nene. The details of the date and exact nature of this change are not known, nor is there any firm evidence for it actually having taken place. Knowledge of the nature and timing of any shift in settlement can, therefore, assist with gathering evidence for the diversion. If such a diversion did take place then it would represent a major undertaking and as it may have been associated with Ely Abbey it reflects the power of ecclesiastical institutions at this time. Other waterway diversions which took place in and around March during the medieval period are associated with improving communications and are, therefore, linked to commerce.

The church of St Wendreda is of interest as its rebuilding in 1343 required a Papal Indulgence, which is a fairly rare occurrence. The exact nature of this occurrence is worthy of investigation as is the nature of this church before it was rebuilt. The double hammer beam roof in the present church is of importance as such an architectural feature is fairly rare.

Post-medieval
March has 70 listed buildings dating to this period, representing a valuable architectural resource. Many of these are included in the town's Conservation Area which also contains the Town Hall and market place (Fig 4) and as these are still in use they may be of interest in terms of the administrative and economic history of the area.
The town was part of Vermuyden’s drainage scheme, a very important episode in the history of the fens. The details of this scheme and its impact on the local landscape may well be of interest to the region’s population. The drainage of the Fens also allowed March to become a minor port and this has implications for the town in terms of its commercial history.

March’s major industry at this time was that of the railways, it had the second largest marshalling yards in Europe, and this had huge implications for the social history of the town. Not only are the railways important in themselves, the houses in which those employed in their construction, maintenance and associated industries lived represent an important social historical resource.
Fig 4: Town Hall and Market Place, March (photo: Cmglee)
Whittlesey

The Value of the Resource
Whittlesey's evidential value is limited by the small scale nature of the archaeological work that has taken place in its historic core. The earliest historical resource for the town are references to it in Domesday and Liber Eliensis with its aesthetic value being mainly found in its relatively high number of listed buildings. There is little communal value in the historic core, however, this point might be challenged by a better understanding of the social history of the town's market place and former workhouses.

Anglo-Saxon/Viking
A cemetery dating to this period is known to have existed at Bassenhally Field which, whilst outside the historic core, does suggest that there may have been settlement nearby. In addition to this if further human remains are recovered from the cemetery itself then this may assist with the study of Anglo-Saxon origins and population structures.

The presence of the Fen Causeway is also significant not only as a communications route in itself but because it too suggests that there may have been settlement in the general area. Although the Fen Causeway has its origins during the Roman era it is likely that it was still in use in the Anglo-Saxon period. Research which might provide evidence for this continued use would be worthwhile as this will help with the study of communication routes at this time.

Evidence for a Viking presence in Whittlesey centres around street names such as Scaldgate, Eastgate and Briggate. Any development in this area has the potential to uncover evidence of this presence and this would be important in terms of the study of the impact of immigration during this era.

Documentary evidence exists for there having been two manors in Whittlesey at this time. The discovery of archaeological evidence for these would be of great help in terms of the study of rural settlement and architecture during the Anglo-Saxon period.

Medieval
The presence of two manors in the town owned by rival ecclesiastical landlords is of interest as it has the potential to add to the study of the relationship of estates to each other and nearby towns. Evidence for the form and extent of these manors would also give an indication as to the distribution of wealth during this period.

The town's street layout suggests that the market place was established at this time, although according to historical sources a market was not granted until 1715. If direct archaeological evidence can be uncovered for the presence of a medieval market in the town then this would add to our knowledge of the history of Whittlesey as a local product distribution centre.

Evidence for small scale quarrying (House 2008) and leather working (Wood 2008) during this period has been found in the historic core. This highlights the potential for industrial activity having taken place in the town at this time and further examination of this may contribute to research regarding primary and secondary production.

Whittlesey/Kings Dyke was probably constructed during this period and would have been an important communications route linking the town to the River Nene and, therefore, The Wash. This leads to the potential for the existence of wharfs on the
dyke's route through the town and if evidence for these could be found then this would help with the study of Whittlesey's role as a centre for trade.

Post-medieval
There are a total of 101 listed buildings in the town which belong to this period and these consist of various fabrics. The buildings represent an important resource in terms of the potential of the built environment and their contribution to the attractiveness of the town (Fig 5).

Whilst there are few industrial buildings in the historic core it is clear that brick making was very important to the town's economy. Evidence pertaining to the origins of this industry may be of interest to the town's population as it forms an important part of Whittlesey's history.

The workhouses on Broad Street and Eastrea Road form an important part of the town's social history. The records of these institutions may be of great interest to members of the public carrying out family history studies.
Fig 5: Butter Cross, Whittlesey (photo: Michael Trolove)
Wisbech

The Value of the Resource
Wisbech's evidential value has been augmented in recent years by excavations in and around the castle, however, little work has been carried out in the remainder of the historic core. Historical value can be found in references to the town in Domesday and the *Inquisito Eliensis*, along with more recent sources such as maps and photographs. The aesthetic value of the town mainly consists of the Georgian architecture of the North and South Brinks and the area of the former castle. This architecture along with the town's historical role as a major port forms the basis of Wisbech's communal value.

Anglo-Saxon
The possibility that during this period the town consisted of a network of hamlets means that Wisbech's archaeology has the potential to answer a number of important research questions. These include issues regarding settlement nucleation and growth as well as continuity between the Saxon and medieval periods.

The area of the castle may be very important in terms of research regarding settlement during this period. This is due to the significant depth of archaeological deposits found here which have the potential to have protected earlier Anglo-Saxon remains from the affects of later development. It is also likely that the site on which the Norman castle was built was chosen because settlement already existed there, as happened in other towns such as Norwich. There is also the possibility that a church existed near the site of the castle and if the remains of this could be located then they may contribute greatly to our understanding of ecclesiastical architecture at this time.

Medieval
Flooding events in the town during this period have left deposits of sufficient depth to have buried and, therefore, preserve earlier structures. This may be especially relevant for the preservation of organic remains including wooden structures which would have made up much of the built environment at this time. Such remains may include those of the Old Market and the manor of Wisbech Barton, the locating of which will assist with the study of medieval commerce and architecture.

The role of the town as a port is also of interest as it would have served as a “gateway” to the wider region. Again, evidence for this is may well be buried under silt and is likely to take the form of the remains of wharves and warehouses.

Research regarding the form of the early castle may be of great interest in terms of the nature of medieval architecture and the impact of the Norman invasion. It is likely that the remains of the early motte and bailey underlie those of the later brick castle and the former may well be protected by a make up deposits. If evidence for the various phases of the castle can be found and equated to tangible historical events then this will help to engage the public with the past of the town.

The locating of the two medieval hospitals that were known to exist in the town may be of interest, particularly if their cemeteries can be found. These may add to our knowledge regarding the extent and nature of diseases such as leprosy at this time.

Post-medieval
The most obvious historical resource the town possess is that of its Georgian architecture, particularly that along the North and South Brinks (Fig 6). This resource
has the potential to contribute to the study of the built environment and to act as a source of pride to the town's population. Pevsner (1976) states that the Brinks are:

'...one of the finest Georgian brick streets of England. In addition there are a great many varied visual pleasures around the two market places, and a nice planned development of c. 1800 with tucked-away streets and crescents of small houses'.

The site of the former castle is also now occupied by attractive Georgian crescents.

Of the town's 282 listed buildings there are also a number of historically interesting Victorian examples, particularly those which would have been inhabited by the port and railway workers. The market area also has a number of buildings dating to this period.

Post-medieval below ground remains include a number of interesting cellars, passages and vaults which may also contribute to the study of the built environment. These are preserved beneath existing buildings and deposits and may contain artefacts which might be relevant to research regarding product distribution at this time.

The most important economic role Wisbech fulfilled during this period was that of a port which connected the region to other east coast towns and the continent. Any remains of this activity will be significant in research regarding the economic role of the Wisbech and may also be of great local interest, especially given the currently landlocked nature of the town. The same can also be stated for the remains of the shipbuilding yards which were located on the north side of Wisbech.
Fig 6: North Brink, Wisbech (photo: Jim Linwood)
EAST CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Summary of East Cambridgeshire

East Cambridgeshire’s early settlement history is similar to that of Fenland District, in
as much that it is dominated by islands in the Fens. The largest of these is The Isle of
Ely, on which the Anglo-Saxon town of Ely itself is situated. Evidence of pre-Anglo-
Saxon settlement activity in the district comes from traces of a Roman port and
possible small town at Littleport, which was involved in the salt-making industry.

There is clear evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation at Soham and the cemeteries
dating to this period found at Ely strongly suggest the existence of a nearby
settlement. It is also at this time that an early ecclesiastical institution was
established at Ely meaning that the Anglo-Saxon archaeology and history of the
district is of great significance.

The church had a major and obvious impact on the town of Ely during the medieval
period through the establishment of an abbey and cathedral in the town. This led to
the growth of Ely as a trading centre and hythes and light industries were established
in order to service these institutions. Soham also grew at this time through its
association with a nearby royal manor there and its involvement with river based
trade and quarrying. The town is also still surrounded by a medieval open field
system, a feature that is unique in Cambridgeshire.

The light industries in these towns continued into the post-medieval period with their
roles as distribution centres for agricultural produce also being enhanced. It is also to
this period that many of these towns' listed buildings date and these are a valuable
architectural and aesthetic resource. The establishment of workhouses in Ely at this
time is of significance to the district's social history.
Ely

The Value of the Resource
There is much evidential value to the archaeology and history of Ely. Research has proven a long history of settlement and church activity dating back to the Anglo-Saxon period. The town is also of historical significance as an ecclesiastical and regional centre and the former of these has contributed to its aesthetic value. Recognition of these points by the town's population mean that it is communally valuable as well.

Anglo-Saxon
The impact of Christianity can be studied through the effects of the establishment of the abbey on the Saxon settlement. There also exists within the town evidence for an earlier Saxon church which itself may be of great interest.

Cemeteries within the urban core offer the potential to carry out DNA analysis on human bone in order to study Anglo-Saxon origins. The presence of an abbey in the town at this time means there is a distinct possibility that other such cemeteries may exist.

The nature of Saxon settlement in the core is difficult to assess as much of it may have been destroyed by medieval and post-medieval settlement. However, it is clear from the evidence uncovered so far that there was a Saxon settlement at Ely and further investigations in the town centre may bring more of this to light. If this is the case then such evidence may be of assistance in the study of settlement size at this time.

Medieval
The town's most significant feature of this period is obviously the cathedral (Fig 7) and associated abbey and these offer great potential for the study of the impact of ecclesiastical institutions on the urban environment. Indeed, as the town probably grew up around the abbey it may be more appropriate to frame this research area in terms of the symbiotic relationship between the two.

The development of the town's market place is of interest as this clearly reflects increasing commerce, probably linked to the importance of the abbey. This also applies to the growth of the mercantile area between Broad Street and the River Great Ouse. Also of importance to this subject of research is the presence of hythes on the River frontage.

Various trades are recorded and further research into these may enhance our knowledge of small scale industry in the town at this time. Of particular interest may be to what extent these trades interacted with or were independent of the abbey.

One of the most important industries at this time appears to have been pottery making, which produced 'Ely Wares'. As these were exported throughout the fens and the fen-edge, an examination of their manufacture and distribution would enhance the study of local trading networks.

The impact of the Normans on urban growth is an important research theme. This has implications not only for the abbey but potentially also for the two castles which were supposed to have existed in the town as it has been suggested that one of these was built in response to the rebellion of Hereward the Wake. The other castle was associated with the wars between Stephen and Matilda and so is of importance
to the local history of the area. Further research into the location of these two castles would, therefore, increase public interest in historic places in the town.

The 39 medieval listed buildings in the town are of interest in terms of the potential of the built environment. The fact that many of the town's post-medieval buildings contain medieval elements (Fig 8) may also be of interest as research in this area may assist with the study of the evolution of such buildings over time.

**Post-medieval**

Pottery making continued in Ely during this period, however, the location of this industry shifted. A study of the reasons for this shift may be of interest in terms of whether there was any industrial zoning in the town. A point of further interest in this area of research is that the riverside location of former medieval pottery kilns was used by the tanning industry during the post-medieval period.

Passing historical references to the productivity of market gardening in the town offer a further potential research area. If archaeological evidence can be found of this then it would contribute to our understanding of the town's economic and social history.

A study of the five workhouses in the town may also be of interest in terms of the town's social history. Such a study could also engage the public's interest as the records of workhouses are often relevant to family history research.
Fig 7: Ely Cathedral (photo: Tom-)
Fig 8: Oliver Cromwell's House, Ely (photo: Gwendraith)
Soham

The Value of the Resource
The evidential value of Soham's history is somewhat limited by the small scale of the archaeological work carried out in the historic core, however, the intact open field system which surrounds the town is an important resource. The town's historical value derives from references to it in the Liber Eliensis, the Chronicon Abbatiae Ramesiensis and William of Malmesbury's De Gestis Regum Anglorum. This value is augmented by Palmer’s map of 1656 of Soham and Fordham Manors and more recent cartographic and photographic evidence. The aesthetic value of the town is mainly to be found in its listed buildings and the open space to the west of the church. Communal value in Soham is linked to the fact that it was the home of historical figures such as the religious philosopher Andrew Fuller and also William Case Morris, who founded a number of children's homes in Argentina. The village's communal value may also be felt further afield as Soham was a reception area during The Second World War for evacuees from London's East End.

Anglo-Saxon
Artefacts dating to the earlier part of this period were recovered from the village's churchyard during the 19th century (Fox 1923). Although these artefacts could not be associated with specific graves they do suggest that there is a fairly high potential for there being Saxon burials in the churchyard. If future investigations can assign such artefacts to specific burials, and these can be compared to medieval inhumations, this may contribute to the study of population structure changes between the two periods.

The Middle Anglo-Saxon monastery or cathedral, noted in documentary evidence dating to the 12th century, has not been proven to exist. However, given the significance of such an early religious establishment the possibility of uncovering its remains must be taken into account when carrying out future research in the historic core. Any such remains have the potential to answer important questions regarding the impact of Christianity and the architecture of early ecclesiastical institutions.

As Saxon ditches have been uncovered which appear to respect the alignment of the current High Street and Station Road it is likely that the layout of the historic core was in place by this period (Heawood 1997). The finding of further such remains will advance our knowledge of settlement form at this time.

The uncovering of a possible livestock enclosure dating to this period (Nichol 2011) may be of interest in terms of agricultural production. If evidence of other such remains can be found then this could help to answer questions regarding the economy of the Anglo-Saxon settlement.

Medieval
The location of the royal manor of Soham is known it would be of interest to study the relationship between this and the medieval settlement. Any remains of this manor that might be encountered, for example barns or other storage facilities, might indicate the level of control that it had over local agricultural production. The extent to which presence of a manor in the centre of the historic core affected the later street layout might also be worthy of investigation.

Also of interest in terms its impact on the layout of the historic core is the presence of Soham Mere. Access to the mere would have been important as it would have acted as a source of natural resources at this time. The extent to which the manor controlled this access is, therefore, of particular interest.
The course of the River Snail may have been canalised during this period and this would also have affected the subsequent street layout. The role of the river in local communications is also of interest and this might be ascertained by the discovery of any potential hythes or wharfs on its course through the town. The existence of a mill complex where the river enters the mere represents an important resource in terms of the industrial history of the town.

Details of the street layout may also be revealed through excavations as archaeological work has uncovered ditches which probably represent the remains of plot boundaries (Bush 2007 and Matthews 2007). The mapping of such features may also assist in the study of the distribution of wealth in the town, for example if a small number of plots are much larger than others then this might indicate that certain individuals were much richer than the populace in general.

There exists the potential that the 12th century Church of St Andrew's is built on an earlier church. If this were the case then any investigations in the environs of the church may uncover remains of this earlier structure and these may be of interest in terms of the study of early Christian architecture.

Industrial activity in the historic core is represented by widespread evidence of clunch quarrying (Atkins 2004, Nichol 2011 and Mortimer 2006). This provides an opportunity to study the nature of this medieval industry and perhaps investigate where the clunch was used as a building material by examining its distribution network.

The intact open field system which surrounds the historic core is a highly important historic resource as its survival makes Soham unique in the county. The interaction between the town and its rural hinterland can be examined using this resource as can the nature of the agrarian economy in general. The lack of enclosure also impacts on the social history of Soham as it meant that many of the town’s inhabitants could continue to farm the land rather than it being in the hands of a few individual landowners.

Post-medieval
The industries of milling and clunch extraction continued to be important during this period. This affords an opportunity to study how these industries changed through time as demand for their products increased and decreased.

Soham provides an opportunity to study the role of the small town as an agricultural and service centre. Produce was bought to the town by barges using Soham Lode and the steelyard at Fountain Inn contains a working example of a weighing machine for wagons containing agricultural produce.

The 34 listed buildings in the Conservation Area represent a valuable resource in terms of the built environment. These consist of a variety of fabrics including brick, flint, thatch and timber framing. They also belong to a wide range of ages possibly allowing for a study of the evolution of town’s buildings.
HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Summary of Huntingdonshire

The earliest evidence of urbanisation in Huntingdonshire dates to the Roman period and takes the form of towns at Godmanchester (Durovigutum) and Water Newton (Durobrivae) both of which also had fortresses. The archaeology of this town is therefore of great significance as it has the potential to answer questions regarding the interaction between the civil and military spheres of the Roman occupation.

Whilst settlement declined in Godmanchester during the Anglo-Saxon period it was at this time that other towns in the district had their origins. These towns include Huntingdon, Ramsey, St Ives and St Neots, with occupation in these urban areas taking place prior to the establishment of various ecclesiastical institutions. However, when these institutions were established in Ramsey, St Ives and St Neots, these towns saw an obvious increase in activity.

The town of Huntingdon is of particular interest as it was a royal burh during in the Anglo-Saxon period. That the town underwent Viking occupation is also significant as such historical events are of great public interest. After Anglo-Saxon reoccupation of the town it gained more status as an urban centre with the establishment of a mint and a market.

Further growth of the district's towns occurred during the medieval period, encouraged by their role as centres of local commerce. Light industries also played a role in this growth as did the presence of abbeys and priories. The fabric of these religious institutions and other buildings dating to this period are also an important resource in themselves. This is particularly the case for Huntingdonshire as during the 15th century a third of all the churches in the district were refashioned in the perpendicular style (Bigmore 1979).

The Great North Road, which was turnpiked in 1662, played a significant role in the development of the district's towns and communications. This can also be said for the numerous channels and dykes that were cut at this time in the area.

There are a large number of listed buildings dating to the post-medieval period in the district's towns. Many of Huntingdon's historic buildings have been lost in more recent development but the district's other towns have generally retained much of their significant architecture.
Godmanchester

The Value of the Resource
The most striking component of the evidential value of Godmanchester is its Roman archaeology. The urban nature of this makes it a valuable resource and this can also be said of evidence for the town's role as a medieval river port. Historical value is to be found in references to the town in the Ravenna Cosmography, Domesday, Rotuli Hundredorum and the Lay Subsidy Rolls. There are also numerous more recent cartographic sources for the town. The aesthetic value of Godmanchester derives from the historic core's listed buildings, however, this is rather diminished by the intrusive presence of the A14 fly-over in the northern part of the town. The town's history as a Roman fort and town probably contributes much to its communal value and the negative impact of the A14 fly-over may have 'galvanised' the local population into appreciating Godmanchester's historic architecture.

Roman
Roman Godmanchester is of interest both as a military establishment and as a proto-town. The confirmation as to the extent of fort's walls during this period is a relevant subject of research. This is also true of whether there was any zoning within the fort and to what extent this reflected civil rather than military control. This latter point particularly applies to the later phases of the fort/town.

Anglo-Saxon
Although no firm evidence has been found of occupation during this period, future work in the town has the potential to address this gap in settlement history. Any such positive evidence for occupation would assist in our understanding of settlement continuity from the Roman to Anglo-Saxon periods. If, however, no such evidence is found it may be interesting to address why settlement was abandoned here after the Roman occupation.

If extensive evidence is found for Anglo-Saxon settlement in Godmanchester then interaction between the town and Huntingdon is of interest as this can shed light on to what extent to which these two settlements operated as double-burh separated by a river. It may be interesting to examine, for instance, whether there was an overlap in the trades practised in the towns or such activities were kept as mutually exclusive. Parallels could then be drawn with other double-burh examples elsewhere in the country.

Medieval
The relationship of royal vills to urban centres can be explored by studying the lands and records of the town's Manor. The establishment of the extent of the manor would be of particular interest as this would allow for a study of how it interacted with houses in the town and the surrounding countryside. The precinct of the Church of St Mary lies within the former lands of the manor and has been relatively untouched by later development meaning that it may have the potential to provide information on this area of research.

The study rural interaction may be explored in the town as much of its population appears to have been engaged in the wool trade at this time. Firm archaeological evidence of such an occupation would help to confirm the exact nature of this trade.

A town such as Godmanchester is likely to have had at least an informal market place at this time even though there is a lack of a reference to a formal one. It is likely that any such market place would have existed in close association with docks on the river and the study interaction between the two could be of great interest.
Examination of the town’s riverside area in general can greatly enhance our understanding of Godmanchester’s role as a port. Such an examination can also lead to more information being gained as to how the course of the River Great Ouse may have been altered for navigation or to accommodate fisheries and mills. Investigations into these areas should lead to a better understanding of the town’s economy and the importance of the riverine communications to this.

The importance of road based communications can be studied through the examination of the changes in the course of Ermine Street, which went out of use in the town during this period. If any traces of this road can be revealed during future work then this will help in the understanding of just how long it was still in use for.

**Post-medieval**

Godmanchester contains 122 listed buildings which date to the late medieval or post-medieval era. These represent a valuable resource for the study of the architecture and fabric of buildings belonging to these periods (Fig 9).

The affects of enclosure on the economy of the town during this period may be of interest. This area of research has the potential to illustrate how changes in the countryside can affect a nearby urban area as its population looses access to cultivation strips and common fields. Such a change can alter the distribution of wealth within towns.

Various industries are recorded as existing on the River Great Ouse at this time. These include tanners, jute making, brick making, malting and gravel extraction. Examination of these industries may be of interest as they would have provided a non-agricultural contribution to the town's economy.
Fig 9: Post Street, Godmanchester (photo: The Grappler)
Huntingdon

The Value of the Resource
Much of the evidential value of Huntingdon was lost during the 1960's and 1970's when the town's centre was redeveloped without archaeological work taking place beforehand. Fortunately more recent development has involved archaeological interventions and this has contributed to evidence regarding the town's history. Huntingdon's historical value derives from early sources such as the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle and Domesday and more recent cartographic evidence such as Speed's map of the town of 1610. Aesthetic value is to be found in the historic core's listed buildings and scheduled monuments such as the castle and town hall. The town's role in significant historic events, such as being the birthplace of Oliver Cromwell, has much to contribute to Huntingdon's communal value. This may also have been contributed to by the threat posed to the town's historic architecture by development during the 1960's and 1970's. The town's many churches and the fact it was the setting for a medieval synagogue augments its communal value on a spiritual level.

Anglo-Saxon/Viking
That the Domesday Survey records of two churches dating to this period in the town raises the possibility that there may be contemporary cemeteries associated with them. The recovery of human remains from any such cemetery may mean that Anglo-Saxon origins can be studied through DNA analysis. The remains of the churches themselves would also be of great interest as these could provide valuable information as to the nature of early Christianity.

There is uncertainty over the location of the Viking burh defences meaning that any possibility of locating them will greatly enhance our knowledge of the history of the town. Any investigations in the area of the later castle have the potential of uncovering the remains of these defences. Indeed, the historic core in general may contain traces of internal structures of the burh meaning that a rare opportunity may be provided to examine the nature of Viking architecture.

The Anglo-Saxon chronicle refers to Edward the Eldar taking the Viking burh and then repairing it. It would be of interest to find evidence of any damage and subsequent repair work to the defences relating to this historical episode. The establishment of a mint in the town at this time is also historically significant and if any evidence can be found for this our knowledge of the Saxon economy could be greatly enhanced.

It may be possible in such a town as Huntingdon to examine the overall extent of settlement at this time. This is because the burh should be fairly well contained within the town's defences. Indeed, if any evidence for occupation is found outside the defences it would be interesting to test whether this represents a suburban or satellite settlement. However, the testing of this hypothesis depends on first establishing the location of the defences themselves.

Huntingdon at this time not only had a mint it also had a market and several churches making it an important urban centre. Therefore, any work in the historic core has a high potential of uncovering Anglo-Saxon remains including those relating to the economic and religious role of the town. The discovery of a market place could be extremely significant as the artefacts recovered from it may reveal information as to product distribution.

As the Domesday Survey records the clearance of Anglo-Saxon properties when the castle was constructed any investigations in its environs could shed light on the
nature of this part of the Late Saxon town. It would be interesting from the point of view of continuity of settlement to ascertain whether this area formed the core of the town at this time. If this was the case then this could be the reason the Normans choose this location to build the castle. An alternative possibility is that the core of the Saxon urban area lies to the north, in the vicinity of the High Street, where Saxo-Norman pottery has been found.

Medieval
One of the most important subjects to address from this period of the town's history is the nature of the Norman castle. The history of this castle may well contribute tangible knowledge of the town's past which has the potential to engage local public interest. The question of the fabric of the castle is difficult to address as this would require the partial excavation of a Scheduled Ancient Monument. It may, therefore, be appropriate to examine the fabric of nearby medieval buildings to ascertain whether they incorporate the type of masonry from which a Norman Castle would have been constructed.

The extent of the town defences at this time are only partially known and more investigation may help to ascertain the size of the medieval urban settlement. Also, if it can be proven that settlement existed outside the defences it may be worth investigating whether this was suburban in nature or was perhaps the location of anti-social industries such as tanning.

There is a medieval charter which refers to there being a market in the town, however, the location of the latter is unknown. A detailed cartographic study of the town centre may help to locate this market as might intrusive work in the historic core. If the market place can be found its investigation may answer questions as to the extent of Huntingdon's trading network.

Although there are no records of wharfs on the waterfront there is, given the importance of Huntingdon as a local centre with a market place, a reasonably high chance that such structures existed. The area of the river front may, therefore, have the potential to contain the remains of wharfs and associated hythes, the finding of which would enhance our understanding of how goods were transported to and from the town.

The town's bridges (Fig 10) were of obvious importance at this time as these allowed road based communications to Godmanchester and all other areas to the south. As documentary sources refer to repairs to a no longer extant timber bridge it may be of interest to research the exact location of this structure.

The tradition that in the 12th to 13th centuries Huntingdon had a synagogue has important implications from the point of view of religious diversity in the town. Ascertaining the exact location of this place of worship, and perhaps further details pertaining to it e.g. the conformation of the existence of an associated cemetery, may be of great interest to the region's Jewish community.

Post-medieval
As it was the birthplace of Oliver Cromwell, Huntingdon is of national historical importance. The buildings in the town that are associated with his life are of significance and form tangible historical components to which the town's population can relate.

The Civil War in general is important to the history of the town and Huntingdon's various defences, including those of the castle, were remodelled at this time. If there
is any evidence of this remodelling, or for any of the damage that the town suffered during the Royalist attack on the Parliamentarian forces garrisoned there, then this may well be of great interest to the local population. In general, the defences constructed during the Civil War tend to be relatively slight and temporary and their remains are, therefore, fairly rare.

Huntingdon's role as a staging post on the Great North Road is also of significance as it led to the existence of a number of coaching inns in the town. Several of these inns survive and the continued preservation of these is of local importance. This is especially the case if, as rumoured, Dick Turpin can be linked to the town as the association with such an engaging historical figure could be of great local interest.

The role of the town as a centre for non-conformity is also of interest. This is especially the case as one of Huntingdon's non-conformist churches, that of the Union church of the Holy Trinity, was fairly substantial having a 55m tall spire. This church no longer exists, however, any remains of it would be of local interest as it would have been a very prominent feature on the town's skyline.

The current street layout has much to offer in terms of the town's history. The back lanes probably represent the boundaries of medieval burgage plots and many of the buildings that line them are of historical significance. Most of the other historically important structures in the historic core are to be found lining the High Street which contains many of the town's 130 post-medieval listed buildings.

The role of Mill Common as First World War Royal Flying Corps training camp may also be of significance. It may be possible for some the town's inhabitants to link their families' history to members of Corps stationed at this training facility and if this were the case then any remains of the camp would be of great local interest.
Fig 10: Old Bridge, Huntingdon
Ramsey

The Value of the Resource
Ramsey's evidential value for the most part lies in remains of the abbey and results of the excavations that have taken place in its environs. The historical value of Ramsey also mainly relates to the abbey although photos and maps do record the history of the rest of the town. The abbey and its associated gardens also greatly contribute to the aesthetic value of the town as do many of the buildings along The Great Whyte and the High Street. Communal value is to be found in the pride the town's populace takes in the history of the abbey and the motte at Booth's Hill.

Anglo-Saxon
According to tradition a hermitage was founded at Ramsey during the Late Saxon period and this was probably the forerunner to the abbey. The remains of Saxon structures have been found in the grounds of the abbey (Macaulay 1996, Macaulay 1999, Spoerry et al. 2008) suggesting that the site was occupied at this time. Any further investigations in this area, therefore, hold the potential to uncover further remains belonging to this period and a detailed study of these could be of interest in terms of the impact of ecclesiastical institutions on existing settlement at this time. The potential for there being occupation dating to this period in the area between the abbey and the later, medieval, High Street should also be noted. If evidence for this can be found then this may contribute to the study of settlement nucleation around abbeys and other religious institutions.

Medieval
The impact of the Norman Conquest on the abbey is of interest but to fully assess this the nature of this institution during the Anglo-Saxon period has to be ascertained. Ramsey Abbey became very wealthy during this period due to a series of endowments and was known as “Ramsey The Golden”. As the full extent of the eastern limits of the abbey are unclear, and may well extend beyond the scheduled area, any investigations in this direction should take into account the possibility of locating further remains.

The role of the abbey during the Anarchy is also of significance as this was a tangible historical event which has the potential to be of great local interest. If the motte at Booth's Hill can be linked to this period then this may help to engage with the public's interest in places. Excavations to the east of the abbey ( Spoerry et al. 2008) have uncovered remains of structures dating to this period which may also be associated with the Anarchy.

Any investigations in the vicinity of the abbey have the potential to further our knowledge as to the full details of the location of its buildings. The remains of structures associated with the abbey's economic activities have been found to the east of the scheduled area ( Spoerry et al. 2008) and these may have implications for the study of the wider commercial activities of the town.

The destruction of the abbey during the dissolution left very few upstanding structures, however, those that remain form a very important part of the town's scenery and can engage the public's interest in the past (Fig 11). It may also be worthwhile to examine the fabric of the town's early post-medieval buildings as these may incorporate some of the masonry from the dissolved abbey.

The extent to which the town itself was planned may be of interest as this also illustrates the extent of ecclesiastical control at this time. Any examination of this
would require fairly accurate dating of any remains found in order to gain an idea as to its exact nature. Although more recent development may have destroyed any such remains, there is evidence to suggest that it may also have preserved soil sequences associated with medieval settlement. The study of such sequences can help with several areas of research concerning urban development.

An examination of the market place may be of interest as it can help with the study of the town's economic history. An idea as to the extent to which the economy of the town was dominated by the abbey at this time can be gained by investigating the role of secular trading in the market place during the medieval period. The nature of the physical interaction between the market place and the various waterways associated with the town (see below) is also important to this area of research. Archaeological evidence for the various crafts connected to the town that are noted in historical sources would also be of great help here.

Traces of industry in the town at this time are limited to the uncovering of heat fused bricks on a site to the south-east of the abbey, suggesting the presence of a nearby kiln. If such a kiln could be located then it would contribute to our understanding of Ramsey's industrial history.

Waterways were of great importance in terms of the town's communications and commerce at this time. The theory that certain of these have their origins in the Saxon period would interesting to test as if this were the case then these channels would represent major pieces of engineering and may hint at fairly sophisticated social organisation at this time. The extent to which the medieval waterways spread from the town into the surrounding landscape is of interest as it illustrates the extent of the local trading network. Remains of these waterways may be found in the town itself and the surrounding countryside.

Post-medieval
Tracing evidence of the fires that occurred in the town in 1636 and 1731 may be of public interest as these are locally important historical events. Evidence of these fires may be contained within existing buildings, dating to when these events occurred, or as destruction layers underlying later structures.

The history of the drainage of the local countryside at this time may also be of interest as this increased the area of land available for agriculture. That this drainage may initially have been somewhat piecemeal reflects the move away from the authority of ecclesiastical institutions and towards individual landowners after the dissolution. This is, therefore, significant to the social history of the town.

The site of the abbey is now an important green and open space with a somewhat formal and historic feel. It is, therefore, not only important to the town's populace but also to visitors to Ramsey who wish to see the remains of the abbey.

The Great Whyte is an unusually a wide thoroughfare through the centre of the town. This offers an open feel and the history of this street as a former canal may be of great local interest. The Great Whyte also has a number of 17th century listed buildings lining it, as does the High Street.
Fig 11: Abbey Gatehouse, Ramsey (photo: David Dearden)
Sawtry

The Value of the Resource
Although there has been very little in the way of archaeological interventions carried out in the historic core the presence of a Shrunken Medieval Village (SMV), moated manor house and Civil War gun mound at Tort Hill, to the east of the town contributes greatly to Sawtry's evidential value. Historical value takes the form of references to the town in Domesday and the Hundred Rolls along with various cartographic sources. Aesthetic value is to be found in the town's listed buildings and the SMV as an open space. The history of Sawtry's relationship with The Great North Road is probably the main component of its communal value although the presence of abbeys in the town's environs during the medieval period may also contribute to this.

Medieval
The possibility of there being a Saxon predecessor to the 13th to 14th century Church of the All Saints is of interest, however, no evidence of this has thus far come to light. Instead the main area of research Sawtry can be of help with is that of settlement history, there being a SMV immediately to the east of the town. This village initially grew around Ermine Street but was abandoned due to a preference for drier routes to the west. The remains of this SMV, which consists of house platforms and holloways, provide an opportunity to study settlement forms and function at this time. The presence of an abbey approximately 2.5km to the south-east of the SMV, outside the historic core, is of relevance to study the impact of ecclesiastical institutions on settlement.

The manor belonging to the Abbot of Ramsey, which was situated to the south of the church, was in the historic core. Much of the speculated location of this manor has been built on, however, there still exist open areas which hold the potential to contain its remains.

Post-medieval
The settlement of Sawtry shifted to the south-west and became nucleated during this period. A study into the details of this may shed light on details of settlement patterns at this time and the reasons that caused such a shift to occur.

There are nineteen listed buildings in the village and these represent an important resource in terms of Sawtry's architectural history. These consist of timber-framed structures which had a variety of uses including domestic, agricultural and commercial. Other listed buildings include boundary posts which in themselves may represent an important part of the village's history.
St Ives

The Value of the Resource
The small scale nature of most of the archaeological interventions in the historic core has limited the evidential value of St Ives, however, the bridge over the Great Ouse, with its associated chapel contributes to this value. The town’s historical value derives from references to it in Domesday and more recent cartographic and photographic evidence. From an aesthetic point of view, value is derived from the town’s many listed buildings and the attractive riverside area. As it is a public space, the latter of these also contributes to the St Ives’ communal value as does the town’s wide market place which contains the only statue of Oliver Cromwell in the county.

Anglo-Saxon
The fact that traces of Early Anglo-Saxon settlement have been found in the historic core illustrates the potential for such remains to exist. The uncovering of any further such remains could be important in ascertaining whether there was continuity of settlement location between this period and that immediately prior to the Norman Conquest (see below).

That St Ives is recorded as a settlement in the Domesday Book suggests that there is a fairly high probability of uncovering Late Saxon remains in the historic core. These could be important in answering questions concerning the relationship between the settlement and a postulated contemporary priory, such as the impact of ecclesiastical institutions. However, this will depend on the extent to which later development in the town has impacted on the survival of earlier remains.

As the Church of All Saints is mentioned in the Domesday Book there is a possibility that a Saxon predecessor lies beneath it. Any investigations in the environs of the church have the potential to uncover the remains of such a structure, the finding of which could further our knowledge of the nature of early Christian architecture.

Medieval
That part of the priory which survives represents an important resource in terms of the architecture and layout of medieval Christian institutions. As the full extent and layout of the priory are unknown any future investigations in its vicinity have the potential to answer some important research questions. These involve the nature of early Christianity and the impact of ecclesiastical institutions on the surrounding town. Parts of the fabric of the priory are known to have been reused meaning that a systematic examination of the architectural elements of nearby buildings may be worthwhile.

The three manors which, according to historical sources, existed in the town may be of interest if their remains can be accurately located. The study of such structures would be of significance in terms of medieval architecture and the layout of agrarian settlement at this time. Evidence for any communications or interaction between the manors might be relevant to the study of wealth distribution patterns.

The market place (Fig 12) is a very prominent feature of the current town and has existed since the medieval period. Investigations in its vicinity, therefore, hold the potential to produce evidence of mercantile activities at this time. It may also be possible to reconstruct trading patterns based on any artefacts recovered.

It is likely that the presence in the town of the priory, and in turn the market, were the main stimuli for settlement growth at this time. This growth would be reflected in an increase in the number of properties in St Ives and evidence for the back plots
associated with these will help with mapping the town's street layout and can also provide secondary information such as the extent of small scale private quarrying.

There is a fairly high likelihood that there was a causeway linking the church to the Hemingfords towards the south and the remains of such a structure may well be preserved in the waterlogged area adjacent to the River Great Ouse. The uncovering of such a causeway would assist in the reconstruction of the communications history of the town.

The town's medieval bridge (Fig 13) is a valuable architectural resource. The various additions and alterations made to this structure, including that of its own chapel, reflect its importance to the wider town in general. This is illustrated by replacement during the Civil War of part of the structure by a drawbridge, a tangible historical fact that may be of great interest to the town's population.

Post-medieval
The 147 listed buildings in the town are in themselves an important architectural resource as they are constructed of various fabrics, although most consist of gault clay bricks. Some of the earlier of these buildings may contain evidence of the two fires which occurred in the town during the 17th century, these being disasters which form tangible historical events and may be of local interest. The recovery of the town after these fires is demonstrated by the architectural quality of the merchant premises along the Broadway, Market Hill and Bridge Street.
Fig 12: Market Hill, St Ives (photo: Cmglee)
St Neots

The Value of the Resource
Evidential value for St Neots derives from the archaeological interventions that have taken place in its historic core. These have been particularly extensive on the north-west bank of the Fox Brook, however, few excavations have been undertaken in the area of the priory. The historical value of the St Neots relates to the priory in early references such as those in the Liber Eliensis with more recent evidence taking the form of maps and photographs. The aesthetic value of the town is to be found in its historic buildings and riverside location. These also contribute to its communal value as does the fact that St Neots was the birthplace of James Toller who during the early 19th century was considered to be one of the tallest men in the world.

Anglo-Saxon
The area to the north of the Fox Brook has proved to be productive in terms of evidence for settlement dating to this period (Lethbridge and Tebbutt 1933, Addyman 1973, Newton et al. 2011). Any development or investigations in the environs of the bow formed by the confluence of the Fox Brook and Hen Brook, therefore, have the potential to uncover further structural remains dating to this period. If such evidence can be found then this would greatly assist with the study of Anglo-Saxon settlement size.

The Priory of St Neots is referred to in the Domesday Book as being founded in the 970s and any investigations in the town on the eastern bank of the River Great Ouse and north of the bridge have the potential to uncover the remains of this institution. If this potential was realised then this could enhance our knowledge of the architecture of such early Christian institutions and their impact on the local community.

Medieval
The extent and layout of the priory during this period are unknown and investigations in its environs have been limited in scale. Parts of the cemetery have been uncovered (Horton and Wait 1992, Alexander and Shepherd Popescu 2005) but the full extent of this is unknown too. If the remains of the priory have survived later development then they have the potential to contribute to the study of ecclesiastical architecture and the impact of such institutions on urban areas. It has also been noted that much of the building material of the priory has been incorporated into later buildings and a full study of this may be interesting in terms of the nature of its fabric and dissolution.

It is thought that the priory gave land in order to extend the market suggesting that they had a direct interest in, and probably close control over, mercantile activities in the town. If more evidence can be found of the nature of the relationship between the priory and the market then this may enhance research in area of the role of the church in commercial activities.

That the market place was extended at all is an indication of its success. This suggests that it fulfilled an important role in the commercial history of the town and any evidence of the details of the trading activities undertaken there would be of great interest. An illustration of this importance is the investment undertaken in raising the level of the market place in order to prevent it flooding. The deposition of the make up layers in itself may have buried, and therefore protected, earlier remains, making this area of the historic core a potentially important resource in terms of tracing the origins of the town.
Evidence for settlement during this period has been found in the environs of the market place and along the High Street (Doel 1999, Murray 1999). This includes shops for which evidence of specific trades has been established (Tebbutt 1982) making this area of study of great historical interest. Also of interest may be the medieval horticultural plots found at Huntingdon Street (Cessford and Dickens 2013) as these reflect the economic activities of the town's populace.

The area between St Mary's Church, Eynesbury and the River Great Ouse to the north has also proved to be of interest in terms of evidence for settlement dating to this period. Further investigations in this area may indicate the extent of the town to the south of the river at this time and possibly details of how this settlement spread.

Post-medieval
The role of the post-dissolution market place (Fig 14) is of interest as in many towns the loss of a religious institution such as a priory often led to economic decline. That St Neots seems to have avoided this suggests that there existed some form of authority in place to take on the economic role of the priory and ensure the continued operation of the market place. This is of significance in terms of researching corporate activities in towns.

From an architectural point of view, the market place itself is surrounded by continuous facades of historic buildings of various fabrics. These reflect the economic success of the market place and their fabric represents a valuable architectural resource which may contain much reused material from the dissolved priory. There are also a number of town houses in the historic core, the architectural quality of which are indicative of a high level of economic activity. A study of the relationship between these and the more prosaic houses in the town may give an idea as to how wealth was distributed.

As the town's 17th century bridge consists of reused material from the priory a study of its fabric may be of interest. The identification of ecclesiastical architectural elements in the bridge may help to reconstruct the details of the priory buildings.

Industrial activities including tanning, brewing and paper milling, appear to have taken place on or near to the site of the dissolved priory during this period. A study of the evidence for these may provide a valuable insight as to economic activities in the town beyond the commerce of the market place.

The relationship between St Neots and Eynesbury may also be worth considering as this may reveal something of the symbiotic roles of urban areas and outlying settlements. For example, Eynesbury may well have produced agricultural goods which were sold at the market place in St Neots.
Fig 14: Market Place, St Neots (photo: Chris Jeffries)
SOUTH CAMBRIDGESHIRE

Summary of South Cambridgeshire

Several of South Cambridgeshire's towns were included in the EUS, however, due to their small size none of these are in the Strategy Document. This in itself is interesting as it illustrates the "smothering" effect the presence of Cambridge, Royston and Newmarket have had on the growth of other urban areas in the south of the county.

Some of the earliest traces urban settlement in the district have been found on the fen-edge at Swavesey and Cottenham. These took the form of Anglo-Saxon villages, which in the case of Swavesey had an associated church or possibly minster. The fen-edge would have been an attractive location for settlement at this time as it would have been the first extensive area of "dry land" encountered by Anglo-Saxon settlers who had entered the East Anglia via The Wash. Such fen-edge locations would also represent an important base for the exploitation of wetland resources.

The medieval period saw a growth in the size of the villages throughout the district, especially where the local communication network was best developed (Taylor 1997). This growth often involved more than one centre for each village, sometimes due to the presence of multiple ecclesiastical institutions or manors (e.g. at Cottenham), leading to a sometimes complex settlement history (Taylor 1997). Like other areas of the county at this time, it would appear that religious institutions were responsible for the growth and reorganisation of many of the district's villages. Examples of this phenomena include Linton and Swavesey. A series of bad winters during the early 14th century interrupted this pattern of growth in some of the villages in the south of the district which were situated on poorly draining clay soils. This episode had less of an impact on the settlements on the fen-edge as these villages had a wider resource base available for exploitation (Taylor 1997).

The character of the medieval and post-medieval buildings in the south of the district is of importance as they are more akin to those in north Essex than the rest of Cambridgeshire. This makes the ecclesiastical and secular architecture of the district particularly important.

During the post-medieval period the villages that experienced the most growth were those that were situated far enough from Cambridge to become local centres in their own right. Linton had its own markets and craftspeople and Swavesey had a brick-making yard. Towards the end of this period, villages such as Histon, Impington and Sawston became satellite settlements to Cambridge.
DISCUSSION

The urban origins of the towns of Cambridgeshire appear, with the exception of Roman Godmanchester (and Cambridge), to date to the Anglo-Saxon period at the earliest. Other Roman settlements, such as Stonea Grange, Water Newton (Durobrivae) like Godmanchester appear to have suffered a decline immediately after the Roman period and, despite limited reoccupation, did not become substantial Anglo-Saxon settlements.

Often the origins of the county’s towns are to be found in the establishment of ecclesiastical institutions such as abbeys or priories. These institutions controlled and encouraged the growth of these urban areas through the setting up of markets and communication routes. Historically recorded manors may have also played a part in this, however, there is very little archaeological evidence of these.

The locations of early settlements can also often be initially attributed to reasons such as quality of drainage and access to resources such as water. It may be significant that Anglo-Saxon settlement was often on islands in the fens (e.g. Chatteris), unlike Roman settlements (e.g. Godmanchester, Water Newton and Reach) where ease of communication appeared to be of more importance than drainage. This may reflect the failure of Roman drainage schemes during the Anglo-Saxon period (the Car Dyke canal had fallen out of use by the end of the 3rd century AD), due to lack of maintenance, or the fact that such islands would have been the first “landfall” for immigrants entering the county at this time via The Wash.

As the vast majority of buildings dating to the Anglo-Saxon period were constructed of wood, the ease of procurement of timber would also have been important. Evidence for the proximity of woodland to settlements can best be gained by taking pollen samples or by examining tree-throws found on relevant sites. As wood was also an important fuel at this time much information may be gained through the examination of charcoal samples. Such broad landscape based approaches may be very helpful when fulfilling research aims. A landscape based study may also assist the study of the origins of flood management in the county which is known to date to the Roman (e.g. The Car Dyke), Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods, where the monasteries in particular were involved in large scale flood prevention.

It is for the medieval period that evidence exists for these settlements becoming truly urban. Whilst Cambridgeshire was never the most industrial of counties, there are indications of small scale manufacturing and activities such as quarrying having taken place in many of the county’s towns at this time, for example at Soham. Further recognition in future investigations of the possibility of finding evidence for industry may challenge the perception of Cambridgeshire's medieval economy being predominantly agrarian based. Indeed, the intensive nature of agriculture in the county during the medieval and post-medieval periods appears to have blurred the line between farming and industry in as much as that the processing of the produce of the former required the equipment and practices of the latter. Examples of this can be seen in the county’s many windmills and other processing facilities such as the agricultural produce weighing machine at Soham.

The presence of ecclesiastical institutions in many of the counties towns would also have lead to there also being a number of large cemeteries. Whilst a limited amount of evidence has been found for these it would prove useful to several research areas if more extensive remains could be uncovered. The examination of such remains would greatly assist in the modelling population structures and the impact of diseases such as leprosy. Cemeteries can also act as a proxy for settlement where the
remains of the latter are lacking due to the fact that they have been built upon. This point is particularly relevant to towns such as Ely where there was extensive development during the medieval period.

The preservation of and research concerning the counties medieval structures is very important in terms of public engagement with the past. These monuments and buildings offer the general public highly visible indicators of past activity and are often of high aesthetic value in themselves. Interest in these monuments can be enhanced if they can be associated with particular historical events such as the Anarchy or Dissolution. Where these monuments consist of earthworks there also exists the potential that earlier remains may be preserved beneath them.

Many of the county's market places have their origins in the medieval period and the role of various institutions in the growth of these is of interest in terms of the commercial activity of towns. These institutions were also very often responsible for improving communications between these towns, this usually involving fairly large scale engineering works such as the cutting of new waterways or the building of bridges, for example as at St Ives and St Neots. The ability to carry out such works would have depended very much on technological innovations and the power of the organising agency undertaking them. Research regarding finds spots on these routes and in their environs may also contribute to the study of the distribution of goods in the county.

It is for the medieval period that historical records become a useful resource in exploring the county's urban history with many of these concerning the origins of the towns in terms of ecclesiastical institutions, manors and other landholdings. Whilst these records have been the subject of much research in themselves, improved public awareness of their existence may lead to an increase in the communal value of the urban areas to which they pertain.

The post-medieval history of Cambridgeshire's urban areas is also of great importance to the study of the county's past. It was this period that witnessed the greatest growth in the size of the towns and this was accompanied by an increase in trade between them and, through ports such as Wisbech, the rest of the east of England and the continent. The remains left by this such as those of wharfs and docks are, therefore, of great interest in terms of the commercial history of the county.

The Dissolution led to the end of the church as a major controlling force in the county. Research on this subject might be enlightening from the point of view of the power of other institutions, such as guilds and Cambridge University, to impose themselves on the development of local urban infrastructure. The ability of such bodies to fill the void in organisational power left by the dissolution also has implications in terms of the nature of the communal value of the towns as it may mark a shift in public trust from religious institutions to commercial and educational ones instead.

Flood prevention is a major theme in the post-medieval history of Cambridgeshire. The main form of this was the digging of channels and the diversion of rivers to control the flow of water, both of which have implications in terms of technological innovation in the field of civil engineering. In the absence of ecclesiastical institutions to undertake this task it was carried out instead by private individuals and bodies such as public and commercial corporations (e.g. The Bedford Level Corporation). These bodies also carried out other flood prevention works which involved the raising of the ground level of towns through the deposition of soil. These acts again illustrate the power of corporations at this time and also have the potential to bury, and
therefore preserve, evidence of earlier structures.

Buildings from the post-medieval period in the county's historic cores represent a valuable aesthetic resource. The variety of fabrics used in these illustrates the potential of the built environment to reveal human activities, for instance the replacement of timber and clunch by brick as the most common building material. These buildings can often also act as a palimpsest of historical events as they record episodes such as fires (e.g. at Ramsey) and flooding (e.g. at St Neots). It is knowledge of episodes such as these that can increase the communal value of a town as they represent tangible historical events that have a great deal of potential in terms of public engagement with the past.

Public engagement can also be promoted through the use of the county's archaeological and historical resources to illustrate the social upheavals which took place during the post-medieval period. These include castles and earthworks used during the Civil War, for example at Huntingdon, and these can also be of aesthetic value. Further social change at this time, in this case having an impact on the communal value of towns, involved the appearance of non-conformist faiths. This led to an increase in the number of churches in the county and as these were of varied forms they represent a valuable architectural resource.

Workhouses appear to have been an important part of the social fabric of certain of the county's towns during the 19th century. These institutions are important as they recorded the movements of people at the poorer end of society who are otherwise under represented in historical records. Moreover, the existence of such institutions reflects the industrialisation of agricultural practices as this caused rural unemployment and migration to urban areas. Their records are also a valuable resource for members of the public who are carrying out family history research.

The county's towns define what it is to be urban during the post-medieval period. This is the case as, despite the fact that they are not noted for their industrial history, there are still signs of industry such as shipbuilding, tanning and brick making to be found within them. These towns, in their roles as markets, ports and railheads were also instrumental in the distribution of goods, including the agricultural produce from rural areas. The employment and services that the towns provided led to an increase in their population as people from the surrounding countryside were drawn to them. This in turn led to an increase in the size of these urban areas as housing had to be built to accommodate these rural immigrants.

The process of the increase in the size and number of the county's towns continues into the present with the development of urban areas such as Bar Hill, Cambourne and Northstowe. These are being built in an effort to continue one of the main roles of the county's towns, namely that of providing housing for commuters who work in Cambridge. However, this has led to a situation that in themselves these new towns do not have many sources of employment beyond that of supermarkets or other retail outlets. The fabric of the towns though do provide an important resource in terms of modern domestic, religious and civic architecture. Also, as they are being built as newly planned communities, they have the potential to contribute much in terms of communal value.
CONCLUSIONS

The archaeology and history of urbanism in Cambridgeshire demonstrates the county's rich and varied past. The earliest significant settlements appear to be the Roman military and trading establishments at Godmanchester, Water Newton and Reach and these were situated to take maximum advantage of communication routeways such as roads, rivers and canals. Anglo-Saxon occupation appears, like the Roman town of Stonea, to have been on the fen islands or fen-edge suggesting that riverine communication and drainage were paramount. This history of early urbanism in the county demonstrates the importance of landscape studies to the history of settlement.

During later Anglo-Saxon and medieval period the fen-edge and fen islands continued to be of importance but it is clear that communications, particularly rivers, also became more influential, with the growth of towns such as Cambridge, Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots. This suggests that trade was becoming more and more important as the county's major towns moved away from an economy based purely on agriculture towards one where commerce was also significant. However, as this commerce for the most part involved the trade of agricultural products, it is clear that these towns were still very much connected to their local landscape. In many cases this trade also involved the presence of ecclesiastical institutions which required supplying and, themselves, produced goods. Indeed it is clear that all the major towns of the county lie on the fen-edge, fen island or river valleys, the Historic Environment Characterisation of the county clearly identified that water and communications are the key driving factor for the settlements of Cambridgeshire including both Cambridge and Peterborough as well.

The dissolution had a major effect on the county's towns and their surrounding landscapes. Not only was the fabric of many of the religious institutions destroyed but also the management of the infrastructure that they patronised, such as drainage channels and market places, had to be taken on by other bodies. This event, therefore, signifies the rise of private individuals and institutions in the governance and building of the county's urban areas. The fabric of the towns' buildings and infrastructure is thus a reflection of the major political changes that were occurring at this time and the same can be said for the rise of non-conformist churches, which constitute a significant architectural resource in Cambridgeshire. The rise of workhouses in the county also reflects social changes as their existence was mainly due to rural unemployment causing migration from the countryside.

Despite the fact that Cambridgeshire has never been noted as an industrial county, a certain amount of manufacturing was taking place. This was often connected with communications, such as at March, or the processing of agricultural products. The intellectual "gravitational pull" of Cambridge University has led to the growth of the phenomena of science parks, making the county a centre of innovation.

The main themes of the history of urbanism in Cambridgeshire since the Roman period can, therefore, be roughly summarised as being communications (Roman), landscape (Anglo-Saxon), communications again (medieval) and, in the post-medieval period, industry, politics and innovation. The last of these concerns not only industrial and intellectual innovations but also new philosophies regarding urban development including the establishment of entirely new villages and towns such as Bar Hill, Cambourne and Northstowe.
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