

# ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

## TITCHFIELD

### 1. INTRODUCTION

English Heritage have initiated a national series of Extensive Urban Surveys. Several counties have commenced such projects including Hampshire County Council which is undertaking the survey of the small towns of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The survey is intended to provide an up-to-date view of the archaeological resource in each of the towns building on earlier surveys (e.g. Hughes, 1976; Basford, 1980) and consists of three phases: Data Collection, Data Assessment and Strategy. The first stage, Data Collection, draws together the accessible history of the town, the archaeological knowledge and historic buildings data. The Data Assessment phase of the survey leads to the production of a report which presents a brief history of the town, (this document is not intended as a definitive history) an analysis of the plan of the town, an assessment of the archaeological and buildings data and the state of modern development resulting in the identification of areas of archaeological importance. Information about the development of the town through the ages, including plan-form analysis and the identified areas of archaeological importance, is also presented in cartographic form at the end of the report. The Strategy phase of the survey, uses the information presented in the Data Assessment combined with current statutory and non-statutory constraints, and present and future planning policy to make recommendations for policies regarding the historic environment. The policies may be incorporated into Local and Unitary Development Plans, non-statutory policies, supplementary planning guidance and for use within development control.

### 2. LOCATION

Titchfield lies on a gravel terrace on the western side of the valley of the River Meon at around 8m OD. The town is approximately 4km to the west of Fareham, and 15km to the south-east of Southampton, and lay on the main route between Southampton and Portsmouth. The coast and the mouth of the River Meon, Titchfield Haven, is 3km to the south of the town.

### 3. BACKGROUND

#### ARCHAEOLOGY

##### Prehistoric

Mesolithic and Palaeolithic flint tools have been found in various sites in the landscape around the town and also from within the area of the town.

- A1 There have been several finds of Bronze Age metalwork made to the south of the town. Spearheads have been recovered from two sites along the line of the River Meon which may suggest that they were votive or ritual depositions in the river.
- A2 Eight Bronze Age palstaves were found in the area to the west of Great Posbrook.
- A3 A single gold Iron Age coin was found at Titchfield Hill to the east of the town.

##### Romano-British

There are few recorded sites of Romano-British date in the immediate vicinity of the town. One Roman coin was found was found to the south of the town near Great Posbrook.

##### Anglo-Saxon

- A4 The only reference to Anglo-Saxon material in the area of Titchfield in the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR) is for Titchfield church which incorporates parts of a mid-Saxon church (see B12 below).

### Medieval

- A5 To the north of the town was the site of the Premonstratensian Abbey founded by Peter des Roches in the first half of the thirteenth century. After the dissolution of the abbey it was granted to Thomas Wriothesley, later Earl of Southampton, who built a large house called Place House on the site. Remains of the gatehouse survive together with the monastic fishponds, a tithe barn, and some other medieval building remains.
- A6 Less than 1km to the south-west of Titchfield is the site of the medieval manor of Great Posbrook which is recorded from the early thirteenth century. The manor formed part of the abbey estate and passed to Wriothesley at the dissolution (Page 1908, 228).

## HISTORY

### Anglo-Saxon

The earliest reference to Titchfield dates from the late tenth century when the 'members of the religious house' of Titchfield were witness to a charter of King Æthelred in which he granted several estates, including Segensworth, to the New Minster, Winchester (Sawyer 1968, 842; Hare 1976, 8). The size of the parish, even into the nineteenth century, has been taken as an indication of the minster status of the church at Titchfield. It is suggested that the *parochia* or area of jurisdiction also included the later parishes of Fareham and Wickham (*ibid*, 9-10). Analysis of the Anglo-Saxon fabric of the church, together with the fact that Titchfield was a royal manor, has led to the conclusion that the church was probably founded in the seventh or eighth century (*ibid*, 11).

The 'Titch' element of the place-name may be derived from *ticcen* or *ticce* 'kids' resulting in the name meaning 'kids open land' i.e. the open land where goats graze. Alternatively, the name may incorporate the mans name Ticcea (Coates 1993, 164).

### Medieval

Domesday Book recorded that the royal estate of Titchfield was an outlier of Meonstoke which was also held by King William. There was a recorded population of 33, a mill worth 20s, a market and tolls worth 40s. (Munby 1982, fol 39b). The record of a market in the eleventh century is important as it was one of only three markets recorded in Hampshire in the Domesday Book, and was second in value to the market on the royal estate of Neatham. Although the market was later described as being injurious to an unspecified neighbouring market, probably Fareham, it was still in use in the mid-sixteenth century. There are no records of the market after that time (Page 1908, 224).

In 1222 Henry III granted the manor to Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester, for part of the endowment of the abbey des Roches was about to found at Titchfield (Doubleday and Page 1903, 181). The abbey, a daughter house of Halesowen, was a Premonstratensian foundation. It is suggested that the Premonstratensian order were selected as they undertook pastoral work which may have been seen as a continuation of the work of the priests who had ministered to the parish from their base at the minster church in the town, possibly until the regularisation of the canons in the thirteenth century (Hase 1994, 66).

Titchfield never became an incorporated borough and there is no indication that any of the properties of the town were held by burgage tenure although in 1335 the town was described as a *villa mercatoria* and there was a *praepositus burgi* as well as a manorial reeve by at least 1329 (Watts 1958, 32).

In the mid-fifteenth century Henry VI made a grant of an annual five day fair to the abbey (Page 1908, 224).

Medieval documents relating to the town record a wide range of traders, craftsmen and occupations including butchers, bakers, salters, carpenters, coopers, rope makers, skinnners and tanners, saddlers, shoemakers and sailors (Watts 1958, 31).

The abbey was surrendered to the king in 1537 and was granted to Thomas Wriothesley who later became the 1st Earl of Southampton (Page 1908, 224). Wriothesley had the church dismantled and some of the building materials were sold (Doubleday and Page 1903, 186). Leland described Wriothesley's new house as '*a right stately House embatelid and having a goodely Gate and a conducte castlid in the Midle of the Court of it, yn the very same place wher the late Monasterie of Premostratences stode caulld Tichefelde*' (Doubleday and Page 1903, 186).

#### Post-medieval

In the early seventeenth century the 3rd Earl of Southampton wished to reclaim a large stretch of sea marsh between the town and Titchfield Haven and did so by building a sea wall across the river mouth. The reclamation was completed by 1611 (Page 1908, 220). Although a canal was built to link the town to the sea, it appears that trade was severely reduced and eventually the quay went out of use. The blocking of the river to shipping led to the transfer of much of the town's trade to Fareham (Hughes 1976, 136). The 3rd Earl attempted to stimulate a woollen industry in Titchfield because, it is claimed, the town was suffering a reduction in trade due to the suppression of the monastery, although the reclamation of the estuary probably also caused a decline in trade. Men were brought in from Alton to teach weaving to the poor but the enterprise was not altogether successful (Page 1908, 221).

In the nineteenth century market gardening, and in particular strawberry growing, supplying the London market, was an important industry of the area.

## **4. ANALYSIS**

### TITCHFIELD PLAN ELEMENTS

#### Introduction

The rectilinear character of the town shown on nineteenth-century maps was noted by Hughes who suggested that the regularity in the street plan may indicate that at least parts of the town were deliberately laid out (Hughes 1976, 136). Hughes is almost certainly correct in stating that parts of the town appear to be planned but it is possible that the apparent regularity in the street pattern is mis-leading. There are parts of the town which either do not conform to the predominantly rectilinear form or may be remnants of an earlier plan. For example, Castle Street initially leads to the east from the southern end of South Street but curves to the north-east towards the church. In the mid-nineteenth century it terminated short of the churchyard boundary but the line of the lane was continued by boundaries, including the curving line of the then eastern boundary of the churchyard, before linking with the southern end of a lane called Church Path which leads to the south towards the churchyard from East Street. The junction of Church Path and East Street is only slightly mis-aligned with the road that led to the north and the abbey. The line of these lanes and boundaries formed a continuous curving line which, apart from the tannery that stood on the site of the quay, formed a limit to the settlement at the time of the Tithe map (1837-8) (HRO 21M65/F7/234/5).

The date of development of two of the streets leading to the east, East Street and Bridge Street, is uncertain. An early seventeenth-century map of Titchfield (HRO 142M83/1) shows that Bridge Street, which leads to the coast to the east of the haven, existed before the reclamation of the haven in 1611 but the continuation of the line of East Street over Titchfield Hill was a post late-eighteenth-century development as it does not appear on a map of 1774 (Maps of Portsmouth No 92). Approaching the town from the east involved taking the road that crossed Stony Bridge, near the Abbey, and then entering the town from the north along Mill Road. The early seventeenth-century map of Titchfield shows a track running through the southern park of the abbey which aligns on the High Street. It is possible that this track is a pre-abbey route into the town which was then diverted around the park of the abbey after its foundation in the thirteenth century.

The church is held to have been a minster church and so it is possible that there was a royal establishment at Titchfield at the time of the foundation of the church (c. late seventh century). However, there is no evidence in the plan of the town to suggest where the Anglo-Saxon royal estate centre or *villa regalis*, may have been located but research in other similar settlements have suggested that the church was often located close to the *villa regalis*.

### Roads, streets, market and bridges

#### *Market B1*

The main street of the town is High Street which is relatively wide, especially at its southern end, which would have been able to accommodate the market. The market hall formerly stood at the southern end of High Street but has been removed to the Weald and Downland Museum, Singleton. It is possible that there has been some alteration in the line of the street frontage along the northern part of the eastern side of the street where buildings may have encroached into the High Street. It is also suggested that there was an open area due west of the church which may have been an early market site (Hughes 1976, 136).

#### *Streets*

South Street continues the line of High Street to the south but is considerably narrower than High Street. At the southern end of the street it divided into two, one leading to the west, Coach Hill, and Bridge Street leading east across the river before turning to the south to lead towards the coast. West Street leads to the west from the centre of the town and the junction of South Street and High Street. The line of West Street continues to the east of High Street as Church Street, leading to the church, forming a cross-roads at the heart of the settlement. At the northern end of the town Southampton Hill leads to the north-west, a route led to the north and the abbey through the park of the abbey. East Street now leads to the east but before there was a river crossing at the eastern end of East Street, it turned into Mill Street which led to the north, the mill, the abbey, and the crossing point of the river opposite the abbey, skirting the eastern edge of the abbey park. A footpath (B2) runs to the south-west from the northern end of Mill Street. The path, which lies in a hollow-way, was shown on a map of early seventeenth-century date (HRO 142M83/1).

Castle Street, formerly known as Frog Lane, formed part of the curved line along the eastern side of the town which appears to have formed a limit to settlement. This curved line was continued by the former eastern boundary of the churchyard and Church Path (B3). These two lanes may have formed part of an earlier street plan and/or provided access to the waterfront and quay.

#### *Bridges*

The bridge that carries East Street over the river is a brick structure that probably dates from the early nineteenth century. The bridge along Bridge Street is of modern construction. A bridge on the line of Bridge Street is shown on the early seventeenth-century map of Titchfield. The map, which was produced before the reclamation of the haven and the construction of the canal, shows ships on the river as far as the bridge but how vessels passed beyond the bridge is not known. Leland wrote that just below Titchfield was a timber bridge called Warebridge which was the point at which the river was tidal (Chandler 1993, 208). No bridge was shown at the eastern end of East Street on a map of 1774 (Maps of Portsmouth No 92).

Stony Bridge stands opposite the site of the abbey (see Map A) and dates from the first half of the seventeenth century. It probably stands on the site of a medieval bridge and the wooden bridge recorded by Leland in the sixteenth century (Chandler 1993, 208). This bridge carried the main route from the east across the river and may represent the lowest crossing point of the river in the medieval period.

### Property plots

#### *High Street properties B4*

Although it is probable that High Street formed the market area of the town, as similar wide main streets did at many of the other market towns of the county, there is little indication of

regularity within the property plots lining the market. These areas are where evidence of planning would be expected if there had been a phase of planned development in the town in the medieval period. Again, reference to other towns in Hampshire show that the market areas are often associated with planned property plots that may date to the later twelfth and early thirteenth centuries. In the mid-nineteenth century the plots in this area were of a variety of sizes and lengths suggesting piecemeal development. High Street is narrower along its northern half than the southern section which may be due to the properties on the eastern side of the street encroaching onto the street.

#### *South Street properties B5*

The properties along both sides of South Street reveal a high degree of regularity with generally long, narrow, plots of similar length which would appear to represent a planned development. At the southern end of South Street the regularity is broken by plots of a different length. On the eastern side of the street, this may be due to the existence of properties on the northern side of Castle Street. Within these areas there are several surviving medieval buildings. South Street is considerably narrower than even the narrowest part of the High Street.

#### *East Street and Southampton Hill properties B6*

The property plots on the northern side of East Street appear to be a single phase of development as there was a high degree of regularity in plot width apparent in the mid-nineteenth century, and the block of properties shared a common rear boundary line. However, an early seventeenth-century map of the town (HRO 142M83/1) shows that there were small areas of development on the northern side of East Street at its western and eastern end near the junction with Mill Street but the area between was undeveloped. This suggests that the street may have been of little importance in the early development of the town. The buildings in this area mainly date from the eighteenth century and may indicate the date when East Street became fully developed. The properties on the southern side of East Street exhibited less regularity and were generally smaller than the plots on the northern side of the street.

At the point where East Street turns to the south and then turns to the west to become Southampton Hill there is a block of properties which had relatively long, narrow, slightly curving plots with a terrace of buildings which incorporates medieval fabric, including a archway.

#### *West Street properties B7*

Both sides of West Street from the town centre up the valley side were developed by the eighteenth century as evidenced by some surviving buildings but the seventeenth-century map of Titchfield (HRO 142M83/1) shows that it was fully developed at that date. There are some buildings of medieval date, particularly at the eastern end of the street indicating that the street was at least partially developed in the medieval period. There was less regularity evidence in the plots on the southern side of the street than in the plots on the northern side of the street which shared a common rear boundary line. The relationships between the properties at the eastern end of West Street and the properties on the western sides of High Street and South Street is less clear. It would be expected that High Street/ South Street were the first streets to be built up with the properties on West Street appearing later but the rear boundary of the plots on the northern side of West Street appears to run through to the High Street frontage rather than stopping at a rear boundary of a High Street property. Does this suggest that West Street was developed earlier than High Street?

#### *Church Path properties B8*

It is suggested that Church Path may form part of an early street pattern of the town but the seventeenth-century map of Titchfield shows that there was not any development along the street although the street itself was in existence at that date. Adjacent to the northern boundary of the churchyard there are few properties with long, narrow, plots but the majority of the plots are small and the buildings mainly date from the nineteenth century.

#### *Bridge Street properties* B9

Between the river and the southern end of South Street there is a block of properties divided into long, narrow, strips. An early seventeenth-century map of Titchfield (HRO 142M83/1) shows that this area was open land at that date. The area remained undeveloped in the late eighteenth century as a 1774 map of the area around Gosport (Maps of Portsmouth No 92) also showed that there had not been any development along Bridge Street. The existing buildings appear to date from the early nineteenth century.

#### *Coach Hill properties* B10

Along the northern side of Coach Hill there was a series of plots that had their long axis along the street frontage and appeared to be encroachment onto the road-side waste. Such development frequently occurred in the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries and were the properties of some of the poorest people in the community. A small row of three nineteenth-century cottages, one of which is in poor condition, survive towards the western end of this area.

#### *Vicarage* B11

The vicarage lies to the south of the churchyard and may represent the site of an earlier vicarage. The existing building is a nineteenth-century building.

### Buildings

There are several surviving medieval buildings in the town, particularly in South Street, Church Street and West Street. The buildings are generally aligned with their long axes along the street frontage which suggests that there was not a pressing demand for space in the town in the later medieval period.

It is possible that there are further medieval buildings to be discovered hidden behind later facades.

### Church B12

Titchfield church has been identified as an Anglo-Saxon minster church which served a large *parochia*. The oldest parts of the existing building, the lower part of the west tower, the west wall of the nave and the east face of the chancel arch wall probably date from the late eighth century (Hare 1991, 139). The church was subsequently altered and enlarged over the centuries resulting in the large church with north and south aisles and a south chapel that stands today.

The church lies away from the main streets of the town, tucked away behind properties facing South Street and High Street. It is approached along a small lane from the west, the line of which is continued by West Street. Two other lanes approach the church, Castle Street from the south and Church Path from the north forming a curving route along the former eastern boundary of the churchyard. The position of the church, somewhat on the periphery of the settlement, may suggest that there was a period of reorganisation in the plan of the town, probably in the medieval period and possibly at the time that parts of the town gained the planned appearance they exhibit today.

### Park B13

Attached to the abbey was a park which was, by the seventeenth century at least, divided into two parts, one to the north of the abbey and the second to the south as shown on Speed's map of Hampshire dated 1611 and another seventeenth-century map of Titchfield. The southern area of park almost extended to the northern limit of the town and was shown on the seventeenth-century map as being fully enclosed but with a route-way between the town and

the abbey running north-south through it. The northern park was called the great park in the seventeenth century and contained the fish-ponds and dog kennels.

#### Mills B14

The Domesday Book entry for Titchfield recorded a mill on the estate worth 20s (Munby 1982, fol 39b). In the later thirteenth century two mills were granted to the abbot of Titchfield (Page 1908, 224). It is possible that Titchfield Mill, which lies to the north of the town, is on the site of one of the medieval mills. The early seventeenth-century map of Titchfield (HRO 142M83/1) marks a site as the *olde myll* near to the site of the present-day Great Funtley Farm, 4km to the north-east of the town.

#### Quay and Canal B15 and B16

Titchfield was a port in the medieval period and traditionally the reclamation of the sea marsh between the town and the haven in 1611 is said to have effectively ended the town's life as a port even though a canal (B16) was constructed along the western side of the river valley with the intention that shipping could still gain access to the town (Page 1908, 220). The quay was located to the north-east of the church and it was said to be possible to see remains of the quay on the tannery site in the late nineteenth century (*ibid.*). The area of the quay appears to jut out into the valley bottom causing the line of the canal to turn to the north-east before continuing to the north. This may indicate that the quay extended out in to the estuary in an attempt to allow boats with deeper drafts to reach the port. Leland wrote in the sixteenth century that there was a wooden bridge just below Titchfield, the point from which the river was tidal (Chandler 1993, 208). This may suggest that the river had been silting up and that shipping could no longer reach the quay near the church in the early seventeenth century. The canal may have been an attempt to revive a port facility that had lapsed rather than an attempt to keep the port working. The southern part of the canal is now dry although earth banks survive in places. The sea lock has been destroyed (Ellis 1975, 37).

#### Tannery B17

A tannery stood on the site of the quay and was shown on the OS 1st Edition 6" map of 1870. Another tannery, also shown on the 1870 map, was located on the western bank of the river near Stony Bridge.

#### Salt-working (not on map extent)

There are medieval references to salt-making occurring on the coast, and possibly along the tidal estuary before the estuary was reclaimed in the seventeenth century although the salinity of the estuary may have been too low for economic extraction. No salterns were recorded along Titchfield Haven on the early seventeenth-century map of Titchfield (HRO 142M83/1).

#### Brick making (not on map extent)

Brick making was an important industry in Titchfield in the post-medieval period (Page 1908, 221). Field-name 'Clay-pits' evidence for the extraction of clay for the industry. A sixteenth-century brick-kiln has been located to the south of the Abbey.

## **5. RECENT DEVELOPMENT**

Most of the recent development in Titchfield has occurred on the fringes of the settlement, particularly to the south-west of the historic core of the town. Within the town there has been development along Castle Street and in a large area on the southern side of East Street which approaches the northern boundary of the churchyard. Although both these developments appear to have mainly affected the rear parts of the property plots, it is difficult to assess their impact on any elements of the town that

may have pre-dated any reorganisation in the medieval period. To the north of the town a by-pass now carries the traffic that once travelled along East Street and Southampton Hill.

## 6. IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL

### CRITERIA FOR THE AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL IMPORTANCE AND POTENTIAL

#### Introduction

The primary aim of the Data Collection and Data Assessment phases of the project is to enable the identification of areas of archaeological importance within each town to inform the Strategy phase of the project. Four such areas of importance have been defined, and the criteria for these are briefly described below. Although they are all described in this introduction, not all towns will have areas within each of these categories.

#### Levels of Archaeological Importance

The levels of importance are Areas Comprising Nationally Important Remains; Areas of High Archaeological Importance; Archaeologically Important Areas; and Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance.

As additional archaeological information becomes available, and a greater understanding of the archaeological resource of the town is achieved, it is possible that some areas will be re-assigned to different levels of importance.

#### *Areas Comprising Nationally Important Remains*

Areas of identified nationally important archaeological remains, whose location, character and importance have been demonstrably established. These remains merit physical preservation *in situ*. The criteria used to assess national importance are set out in Annex 4 of the Secretary of State's non-statutory guidance note PPG16, and are briefly noted below.

- Period
- Rarity
- Documentation
- Group Value
- Survival/Condition
- Fragility/Vulnerability
- Diversity
- Potential

This category will include Scheduled Ancient Monuments.

#### *Areas of High Archaeological Importance*

Areas considered to include other important archaeological remains, whose location, character and importance are inferred from observation, research and interpretation. Those remains are likely to merit preservation *in situ*. Where preservation is not justified appropriate archaeological recording will be required.

Areas of High Archaeological Importance may:

- Contain well preserved, archaeological deposits which may not be of national importance, but which are of importance to the understanding of the origins and development of the town;
- Be areas where the destruction, without archaeological record, of well preserved archaeological deposits means that the last surviving elements have an increased value for the understanding of the origins and development of the town;

- Have been identified as having significant water-logged deposits;
- Have a high number of existing medieval buildings. The survival of medieval buildings may also indicate that there is well preserved stratigraphy beneath the building;
- Be areas which are thought to have High Archaeological Importance due to their proximity to other, recognised, plan elements even though there is little direct evidence to indicate high importance. For example, the area around an isolated church which may have been the focus for earlier settlement may be defined as an Area of High Archaeological Importance.

It is possible that areas that areas of High Archaeological Importance may, through further archaeological or documentary work, be shown to include Nationally Important Remains.

#### *Archaeologically Important Areas*

Areas considered to contain archaeological remains of some importance. Where these remains cannot be preserved *in situ*, they are likely to require appropriate archaeological recording.

Such areas:

- Are significant elements in the plan but where there has been a moderate level of modern development or cellaring;
- Have had little archaeological work undertaken within them but cartographic or documentary sources suggest that they may have been within the historic core of the town or areas of important suburban development.

Surviving archaeological deposits in Archaeologically Important Areas will probably have a relatively high density but, due to pressures of development over many centuries, there may be a high level of fragmentation.

#### *Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance*

Areas considered to include archaeological remains of a character unlikely to provide significant information, or archaeological remains whose integrity has been severely compromised by development. These remains may require appropriate archaeological recording if threatened by development.

Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance may:

- Have a good survival of archaeological deposits, but where there is likely to be a low density of archaeological features;
- Be areas with significant modern development resulting in limited archaeological importance, either due to the scale of development or due to the limited nature of the archaeological resource before development;
- Be areas where the current hypothesis supports only a limited possibility of encountering archaeological remains.

## THE POTENTIAL OF TITCHFIELD

### Areas of Archaeological Importance

#### *Areas Comprising Nationally Important Archaeological Remains*

The site of the Premonstratensian abbey to the north of Titchfield is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 26713). The area of the SAM includes the series of fishponds to the north-west of the abbey buildings.

The tithe barn to the south-west of the site of the abbey is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (Hants 216). The barn is the last of a small complex of buildings shown within an enclosed area adjacent to the park on a seventeenth-century map of Titchfield. Although the area of this complex is not scheduled it may be regarded as being nationally important as it probably represents part of the agricultural aspect of the economy of the abbey and could provide an insight into this important element of the monastic foundation.

Stony Bridge, the seventeenth-century bridge opposite the abbey, is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM Hants 81).

#### *Areas of High Archaeological Importance*

The property plots along both sides of High Street and South Street are Areas of High Archaeological Importance. It is probable that some of these blocks of properties represent planned medieval development but evidence for earlier settlement may survive. It is likely that there was a reasonably substantial settlement at Titchfield in the mid- to late Saxon period but little is known about the plan of the settlement. Within the property plots along High Street and South Street evidence for the medieval economy of the town may survive as well as information about the possible later reorganisation of properties. Within these areas there are several surviving medieval buildings which adds to the importance as analysis of the buildings themselves may throw light on the economy of the medieval settlement.

The church also lies within the Area of High Archaeological Importance. The building itself, which incorporates parts of a mid-Saxon church, is of national importance. The churchyard will have been used as a burial ground from the mid-Saxon period as the church was a minster church and would have been the only church with burial rights in the area and so will contain burials interred over 1,300 years ago. It is probable that some of the earliest burials will have been disturbed by later burials but large scale excavations in other cemeteries has shown that burials from the Anglo-Saxon period can survive undisturbed.

The suggested site of the medieval quay is an Area of High Archaeological Importance. The quay would have been an important economic element in the town. It is known that evidence for the quay survived up to the beginning of the twentieth century but although there are no earthwork remains visible today, evidence for the quay and associated structures, such as store houses, may still survive. There is a high probability that water-logged deposits could be recovered from this area in the valley of the Meon.

#### *Archaeologically Important Areas*

The property plots along East Street, Mill Road, and the area behind the plots on the southern side of East Street and High Street are Archaeologically Important Areas. It is suggested that East Street was not heavily developed until the later seventeenth or eighteenth century but the undeveloped nature of East Street shown on a seventeenth-century map of the town may be the result of shrinkage in the settlement in the later medieval or early post-medieval period. If excavation within the plots on East Street were to show that there was development in this area in the medieval period, and that the deposits were sufficiently well preserved, this area could be regarded as being an Area of High Archaeological Importance. Mill Road was more heavily developed by the seventeenth century but there is no evidence to indicate at what date development began along this street.

At the southern end of South Street, on its eastern side, there is a small Archaeologically Important Area which partly extends along Castle Street. This area was possibly developed in the medieval period although there is no direct evidence for medieval occupation. As with the areas along East Street, if archaeological evidence was to be forthcoming from this area, it could be regarded as an Area of High Archaeological Importance.

It is clear that the lower part of West Street was developed by the later medieval period at least but it is uncertain how far development extended to the west at that time. Cartographic evidence shows that there was development along most of the street towards the brow of the hill by the early seventeenth century. It is probable that any development along this street would have been less dense than along High Street or South Street. Therefore, the areas along both sides of West Street are Archaeologically

Important Areas but well preserved archaeological evidence for medieval settlement up the valley side may lead to the raising of the status of the areas to Areas of High Archaeological Importance.

The river valley to the east of the town is an Archaeologically Important Area, but it must be emphasised that the area of importance is, at present, not clearly defined. The river provided access to the town and so played an important part in the economic development of the town but there are certain factors regarding the size of the river and its silting-up/reclamation that are vital in understanding the development of Titchfield. The nature of the river during the medieval and post-medieval periods is also relevant to understanding the development of the crossing points near the town, particularly the lower crossing at Bridge Street.

#### *Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance*

There are two Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance in the town. The areas behind the plots on the southern side of East Street and the eastern side of South Street appear to lie outside the major areas of domestic property plots but it is not known how these areas were used either before the suggested planning in the town was undertaken or in the later medieval period. It is possible that small-scale industrial activities were undertaken in these areas and so important evidence about the economy of the town could be recovered.

#### Research Framework

- Anglo-Saxon Titchfield

The Anglo-Saxon origins and form of the town are not understood. The Anglo-Saxon remains surviving in the church and its minster status suggests that there was an important, possibly royal, settlement at Titchfield in the Anglo-Saxon period but there is no archaeological evidence for the settlement.

- Planning in the medieval town

The plan of the town suggests that there was an episode of planned development and/or reorganisation but there is no firm evidence to date these developments. Archaeological excavations within the rear parts of the property plots where medieval boundaries may aid an understanding of the layout of the properties.

- Encroachment on the market place

The High Street, which functioned as the market area, is not of uniform width along its length as buildings along the northern part of the eastern side of the street protrude into the High Street. It may be that these buildings have 'pushed forward' into the market area. Evidence for an original building line may survive within some of the buildings in this area.

- The origins of the bridges crossing the River Meon and routes into the town.

There is uncertainty over the stages of development of the crossing points over the river to allow access to the town from the east. This problem is linked to the need to understand the size of the river at various periods, especially if the quay was at its suggested location to the north-east of the church. The bridge carrying Bridge Street across the river itself poses problems. If it was possible to bridge the river at that point, why was it not possible to bridge the river at the eastern end of East Street allowing a more direct route into the town from Fareham and the east. How did the Bridge Street bridge affect the use of the quay?

## **7. SOURCES**

### **DOCUMENTARY SOURCES**

There are many surviving medieval documents relating to Titchfield Abbey estates which provide often detailed information about the tenants who lived in the town. These original documents have not been used in this study, but published analyses have been utilised.

## MAPS AND PLANS

c. 1610	An old map of a portion of the ancient parish of Titchfield (HRO 142M83/1) (Also published in Minns 1906)
1611	John Speed's map of Hampshire
1774	Map of Gosport and surrounding landscape including Titchfield Portsmouth Record Office (Maps of Portsmouth No 92)
1837-8	Tithe Apportionment map HRO 21M65/234/5
1870	OS 1st Edition 6" map Sheet 74

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## 8. ABBREVIATIONS

BCG	Borough Council of Gosport
c.	<i>circa</i> , about
Ed	Editor
nd	No date of publication given
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	Ordnance Datum
OE	Old English
OS	Ordnance Survey
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance

SMR

Sites and Monuments Record