ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT DOCUMENT

ODIHAM

1. INTRODUCTION

English Heritage has initiated a national series of Extensive Urban Surveys. Several counties have commenced such projects including Hampshire County Council who are 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 guidance and for use within development control.

2. LOCATION

Odiham (NGR SU 740510) stands at the junction of roads from Basingstoke, Farnham, Reading and Alton in north-east Hampshire. The town lies at around 100m OD on a north-east facing slope at the limit of the chalk downs near their junction with the Tertiary gravels and clays of north-east Hampshire. No river or stream flows through the town but the River Whitewater flows approximately 1km to the north.

3. BACKGROUND

ARCHAEOLOGY

Introduction

> Three archaeological excavations in the town are recorded in the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), but little information about the medieval town has been recovered. One excavation, on the site of Palace Gate, failed to shed any light on suggested existence of a late medieval royal palace in this area and no evidence for medieval occupation on the High Street frontage was recovered (TWA 1988). Another excavation, to the east of Palace Gate, recovered two sherds of medieval pottery but no structural evidence (Saunders 1995). The third excavation occurred at the east end of the High Street where the earliest artefacts recovered were dated to the sixteenth century (Hardy 1994).

Prehistoric

A1   An occupation site dating from the late Bronze Age or Early Iron Age was excavated approximately 500m to the south-west of the church. A circular set of post-holes was interpreted as representing the site of a round house.

Romano-British

A1   Six inhumation burials dated to the fourth-century were excavated on the site of the late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age enclosure. Five of the burials were male, three of which were wearing hob-nail boots.

A2   Near Lodge Farm, to the north of the town, is the site of a Romano-British villa. The villa, a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM 305), was partly excavated in 1929 and 1930. A bath suite and rooms with tessellated pavements were revealed by the excavations (Liddell, 1930).

Anglo-Saxon

A2   There are no records of sites or finds of Anglo-Saxon date in the SMR although some pottery found on the site of the cemetery on the east side of King Street has been described as similar to late Anglo-Saxon 'Portchester' ware (Moorhouse 1972, 45).

Medieval

A3   Odiham Castle is actually located near the small hamlet of North Warnborough, almost 2km to the north-west of the town. The castle was built by King John in the early years of the thirteenth century. It is thought that the castle replaced another royal residence, possibly located near Odiham church. Construction on the castle began *c.*1207 on land that had been previously held by Robert the Parker, destroying Robert's mill in the process (Page 1903, 88; MacGregor 1983, 20). It is not known why John should have felt it necessary to relocate the castle away from the town. It was considered that the octagonal keep was part of John's castle but excavations on the site have shown that it was built at a later date, possibly in the mid-thirteenth century and was surrounded by a moat that was subsequently filled-in (Barton 1982; Allen, 1984; Barton and Allen, 1985). There are frequent references to repairs being undertaken on the castle throughout the thirteenth century, including repairs on the kitchen that appears to have been partly over the moat as the moat had to be drained to facilitate repairs to its foundations (Colvin 1963, 767). By the fourteenth century the accommodation in the castle included the *ledene* chamber, the king's chamber, a chamber for the queen, a chapel (probably the chapel dedicated to St Michael and recorded as the king's chapel), a hall, and service buildings (Page 1903, 97; Roberts 1995, 92).

A4   To the north of the town was the royal deer park that appears to have been in existence in the first half of the twelfth century as a man called Hugh the Parke was recorded as living in Odiham in 1130-31 (Roberts 1995, 92). In the heart of the park there was a lodge that was recorded as requiring repairs in 1291-92. The lodge, which stood beside a bridge over the River Whitewater, was rebuilt between 1368 and 1375, apparently on the same site (*ibid.*). Lodge Farm incorporates parts of this late fourteenth century royal hunting lodge, confirmed by dendrochronological survey of the timbers, the felling dates of which tie in with building accounts for the construction of the solar cross wing (*ibid*, 97). In the fourteenth century the park also contained a royal stud (Page 1903, 90).

          Within the park was an enclosed garden created for Queen Philippa in 1331. The garden, now lost, was surrounded by a boarded fence with five doors, there were seats protected with turf roofs and a garderobe screened by a hedge (Colvin 1963, 767).

Post-medieval

A5   In 1794 a canal linking Basingstoke and the River Wey navigation at West Byfleet and so provided a water route to London was opened. The canal crosses the parish of Odiham to the north of the town and cut through the site of the castle. There was a wharf on the canal to the north-east of the town.

HISTORY

Anglo-Saxon

There do not appear to be any documents of Anglo-Saxon date that refer to Odiham. The place-name is probably derived from OE *Wudigham* meaning 'wooded estate' (Coates 1993, 126). It has been postulated that there was a royal residence at Odiham in the Anglo-Saxon period (Page 1903, 88) and that the church was a minster church located in a prominent hill-top position (Hase 1994, 58), although the church is not actually on the hill-top as the ground continues to rise to the south-west of the church.

Near the church there is an area called The Bury. This name is often taken to be derived from an early royal enclosure and some towns in Wessex are thought to have elements within their plans that may represent the area of the royal enclosure (*ibid*, 58).

Medieval

At the time of the Domesday Survey of 1086 Odiham was a royal manor that had previously been held by Earl Harold. The estate was large, totalling almost 80 hides, with a recorded population of 250 people, including three priests, two churches and eight mills (Munby 1982, fol 38a).

King Henry I had a residence at, or near, Odiham which he visited in 1116. Repairs were recorded on the residence in 1130 that appears to have been on a different site to the new castle built by King John at North Warnborough in the early years of the thirteenth century. John frequently used the castle as a convenient stopping point on the route between London and Winchester, and for enjoying the sport of the royal park (Page 1903, 88). By 1213-14 repairs were being made on the castle, and there are many other records of repairs and alterations being made.

In 1216 the castle was besieged by the Dauphin of France and a force of English Barons disgruntled with King John. The castle, garrisoned by only thirteen men, withheld the siege for fifteen days when they surrendered on the basis that they would be allowed to leave the castle honourably, with their arms (Page 1903, 88). The castle saw action again during the rebellion of the Duke of Lancaster in 1321-2 when the warden of the castle took Lancaster's side. The castle was seized but the warden attempted to re-take the castle by force. References to repairs being undertaken on the castle in 1324-5 may indicate that the efforts to gain control of the castle caused damage to the fabric (Page 1903, 89).

The Domesday Book entry for Odiham tends to suggest that it was an important manor and settlement in the eleventh century, and there is no evidence for Odiham having the status of a borough. In 1204 John granted the manor to the men of Odiham for a rent of £50 per annum. This may indicate that there was an attempt to raise the status of the settlement and confer it with the characteristics of a borough (Page 1903, 92). However, the men of the town soon allowed the rent to fall into arrears and so the manor returned into the king's hands (*ibid.*). The only reference to Odiham as a borough comes from the *Testa de Nevill*. Although the town was summoned to send representatives to Parliament in the medieval period, no representatives were ever sent. A Parliament was held at Odiham in 1303 (*ibid*, 89) but it is probable that it was actually held at the castle. The Privy Council met at Odiham, in 1576 and again in 1591 (*ibid*, 91). It is not certain where the Council met at as by the late sixteenth century the castle was in a state of dilapidation. According to local tradition there was a palace somewhere in the vicinity of the Rectory and Vicarage near Palace Gate Farm.

There is no record of the grant of a market charter for the town in the medieval period and so it may be that the market was held by ancient right. In the late fifteenth or early sixteenth century there were two fairs being held in the town (Page 1903, 92).

Post-medieval

It is probable that the retinues following the royal household contributed greatly to the economy of the town and so, when the castle fell into decay, and there were less frequent royal visits, the town would almost certainly have suffered financially.

The construction of the Basingstoke canal across the northern part of the parish does not appear to have been a great economic stimulus to Odiham which continued to provide market facilities for the surrounding villages whilst remaining no more than a large village itself.

4. ANALYSIS

THE TOPOGRAPHY OF ODIHAM

<u>Introduction</u>

The plan of the town is dominated by the High Street along which most of the properties of the town are ranged. These properties appear to have been planned as there is a high degree of regularity in plot width and many of the plots are of equal length. However, the church, which may have been an Anglo-Saxon minster church, does not lie on the High Street but is located behind the property plots on the southern side of the High Street on an area of higher ground. The possible minster church status and the name 'The Bury' for the area near the church suggests that this area was the earlier focus of the settlement. The retrieval of late Anglo-Saxon pottery from the cemetery has been taken as evidence that the early royal focus lay in the vicinity of The Bury (Hughes 1976, 101). It is possible that there has been a large scale re-organisation of the town plan. A path, now called The Close, which approaches the church from the west, may have been the earliest route into the town before being superseded by the High Street. The regular property plots along High Street can be paralleled with property plots found in many of the new towns founded in Hampshire in the late twelfth and early thirteenth century.

<u>Market, streets and bridges</u>

Markets
High Street is a wide street that would have provided sufficient space for a market. A map of 1739 (HRO Copy 131) shows a market house in the middle of the street and shambles to the east of the market house, close to the junction of High Street and King Street.

To the north-east of the church there was a rectangular area that may also have functioned as a market place. This area has suffered encroachment from the late medieval period at least, with several small, irregular, blocks of properties appearing as 'islands' (B3) within this area.

Streets
The street pattern of the town is dominated by the High Street that divides into two at the eastern edge of the town (London Road and Farnham Road), and into three roads at the western edge West Street, Alton Road and the road to North Warnborough). The road to North Warnborough was shown only as a track on a map of the town of 1739 (HRO Copy 131). King Street leads to the south from the High Street close to the centre of the town.

The encroachments within the open area in front of the church left a route-way on the southern side which is now known as Church Street.

The original status of the path known as The Close is uncertain. The path approaches the church from the west and could have led into the open area to the north of the churchyard. If the church area is seen as an early focus of settlement, then this path may have been the original route into Odiham from the west. Although The Close runs approximately parallel to the High Street, there is no cartographic evidence to suggest it functioned as a back-lane to the properties on the southern side of the High Street.

<u>Property plots</u>

The Bury (Named on Map B)
To the east of the church is an area called The Bury, a name that often indicates the presence of an Anglo-Saxon royal residence (Hase 1994, 58). Other names in the area include a *Berry Field* that lay on the east side of King Street, and a King's Barn in the area of The Bury, both shown on a late eighteenth-century map (Hughes 1976, 101). King Street itself may also indicate that it was the route to the king's residence. It is possible that The Bury represents the site of the Anglo-Saxon royal residence and possibly the residence visited by Henry I in 1116. It is suggested that early churches associated with a royal residence were often founded

close to the royal enclosure that, in many cases, was adjacent to an open market area (Hase 1994, 58). At Odiham there is the church next to an open area, possibly the early market area, but there is no physical evidence for the royal enclosure so the location can only be inferred from the name and the topography, in that the enclosure was probably sited on the higher ground near the church.

High Street properties B1
The earliest map consulted, a map of 1739 (HRO Copy 131) shows regular property plots along much of the north side of the High Street. The plots shown comprise of short plots on the street frontage that contained the houses with longer strips behind, some of which stretch to the boundary of the Park. The overall impression given by these regular properties is one of a planned development.

On the southern side of the High Street the overall property length is shorter as they do not have the long back-land strips. This is partly due to the location of the church and the possible early market area in front of the church that acted as a restricting factor. The plots that back on to the open, market, area in front of the church also had houses facing the church, some of which date from the late medieval period. The property plots on the south side of the High Street occupied almost the whole length of the street by the fifteenth century although a watching brief undertaken on a service trench through a property near the eastern limit of the town only recorded finds from the sixteenth century onwards which led to the suggestion that this part of the town was not developed in the medieval period (Hardy, 1994). However, the building adjacent to the site (No. 3, The Forge) dates from the mid-sixteenth century and No 1 High Street is a fifteenth-century former open hall house indicating that settlement in late medieval Odiham occupied the whole length of the High Street. It is worth noting that both No 1 and No 3 are wrongly described as eighteenth century in the listed building descriptions.

King Street properties B2
On the east side of King Street there was a short row of properties that faced partly onto the former open area that may have served as a market area to the north-east of the church.

Encroachment B3
There are several small areas of encroachment onto the open area to the north-east of the church. Buildings within these areas of encroachment show that the encroachment was occurring by the late medieval period.

Church Street properties B4
The 1739 map of the town (HRO Copy 131) shows a row of houses on the south side of the open area in front of the church, and immediately to the east of the church. The houses lay within regular plots that were of a similar size to the properties on the south side of the High Street. By the mid-nineteenth century these houses had disappeared and the property boundaries completely altered. The nineteenth century school buildings stand on the site.

Late medieval/Post-medieval properties B5
At the west and east ends of the towns are areas of development that probably represent late medieval or early post-medieval development. The plots are quite small and irregular in shape and size.

The Close frontages B6
As stated above (Streets) the original status of The Close is not known. If this path was part of an early road system into the town, given its proximity to the church and the open area to the north of the church at its eastern end, it may have attracted some form of settlement.

Rectory, Vicarage and Palace

At the western end of the town, on the north side of the High Street, the street frontage was not heavily developed as this is where the rectory, the vicarage, and the suggested site of the palace stood, occupying a large part of the High Street frontage.

The Rectory B7

The old rectory stands at the western edge of the town. The present building is mainly of early eighteenth-century date but elements of a fifteenth-century house survive, partly as a ruin (Page 1903, 87). Ordnance Survey (OS) maps mark this building, wrongly, as the Priory.

The Vicarage B8

The Vicarage stands to the east of the Rectory and is a sixteenth century, partly timber-framed building.

Palace B9

There is a local tradition that there was a palace in the town that was used by royalty after the castle had fallen into disrepair, and was where the Privy Council met in 1576 and 1591. Early OS maps mark the supposed site of the palace on the north side of the High Street in the area now known as Palace Gate. There is a sixteenth century reference to a former bailiff of the manor who demolished a dwelling called the king's _____. Unfortunately, the next word is illegible, but it is stated that the building had stood on the site of the manor of Odiham (Page 1903, 91). The 1739 map of the town (HRO Copy 131) shows a house near this site called Place House and Palace Gate Farm. Place House was demolished sometime in the late eighteenth or early nineteenth century whilst Palace Gate Farm incorporates part of a high quality, early to mid-seventeenth-century, brick building that was probably not built for domestic use, and so may represent a hunting lodge (Roberts pers comm). Page suggests that Palace Gate Farm stands on the site of the entrance to the mansion. The entrance was described as 'a fair gate-house of brick, cornered and windowed with stone' (Page 1903, 91). It is known that Palace Gate Farm had fake stone quoins (Roberts pers comm). There are also local traditions of interconnecting cellars surviving in this area which linked the palace with the former rectory and the church.

An assessment excavation was undertaken on this site before development for housing. The footings of a brick wall, interpreted as being part of the gateway to Place House, were located near to the High Street frontage, and two possible post-medieval brick clamps were found in the area to the east of Palace Gate Farm. This latter area appears to have been levelled leaving terraces along it's east and south sides (TWA 1988). The lack of medieval features or artefacts recovered during the excavations is notable and no evidence for the palace was found.

Buildings

There are many well preserved timber-framed buildings in the town, some of which are hidden behind later, brick, facades, for example, The George Hotel, which was licensed as an inn from at least 1540 had its sixteenth century frame re-fronted in the eighteenth century (Page 1903, 87).

Church B10

The church is thought to have been an Anglo-Saxon minster church (Hase 1994, 58) although there is no architectural evidence for a church of that date. The earliest elements of the church date from the early thirteenth century. Aisles were added in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The tower is of seventeenth century date (Pevsner and Lloyd 1967, 363).

In the south-west corner of the churchyard is a small, late medieval, building that is variously described as a charnel house and a pest house. The building is a one roomed, single storied structure with a fireplace in one wall but there is evidence in a tie beam that there was once a partition wall. The interpretation of the building as a pest house appears to be more convincing than the suggestion that it was a charnel house.

Other churches and chapels (Not shown on map extent)

A Congregational chapel was built at the eastern end of the town on the south side of the High Street in 1662.

The Baptist church in King Street dates from 1877 (Page 1903, 97).

Park B11

To the north of the town, abutting the rear of the property plots on the north side of the High Street, was the royal park. The park would have acted as a restricting factor to the town, preventing development to the north.

Almshouses B12

The almshouses, which stand to the south of the church, were founded in 1623 by Sir Edward More for eight poor people (Page 1903, 87; Prescott 1992, 125). The almshouses are single storied brick dwellings that form three sides of a small court. Further almshouses were built to the south of the original almshouses in the early part of the twentieth century and also in recent years.

Mills

Domesday Book recorded that there were eight mills on the estate of Odiham but as no stream or river runs through the town, the mills must have located to the north and north-west of the town on the River Whitewater unless there was a windmill or -mills included in the number.

There was a mill on the site of, or near to, the castle as it was recorded that the mill, which had belonged to Robert the Parker, had been burnt by the king when building the castle (Page 1912, 94). Another, unlocated, mill was recorded as being destroyed by fire in 1337-8 and a new mill was built in 1345-6, possibly on the same site (*ibid.*). A mill called *Poland Mill* may have been one of the two mills held by the manor of Polling in the sixteenth century (*ibid*, 97).

Cemetery B13

A cemetery was created to the south of the town and on the east side of King Street in the mid-nineteenth century. Within the cemetery are two chapels.

5. RECENT DEVELOPMENT

There has not been extensive redevelopment within the historic core of the town as most of the new housing developments have been located on the eastern edge of the town and in within the rear parts of some of the property plots along the High Street. One of the largest developments in the town has occurred on the suggested site of the manor and possible palace near Palace Gate Farm. Sheltered housing has also been built in the vicinity of the old almshouses to the south of the church.

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 is 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 that 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 that 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 ODIHAM

<u>Areas of Archaeological Importance</u>

Areas Comprising Nationally Important Archaeological Remains
No areas within the town have been recognised as Comprising Nationally Important Archaeological Remains.

The castle at North Warnborough is a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM 24326). The castle consists of the remains a stone keep that has had most of its facing ashlar stones removed standing within a small bailey surrounded by a moat. To the east of the inner bailey is an outer bailey, also bounded by a moat. At present there is substantial tree growth within the inner bailey that may represent a threat to any buried archaeological deposits. Within the inner bailey there were ancillary buildings including kitchens and stores and evidence for earlier structures, possibly part of the original castle built by King John, have been excavated. There was almost certainly a chapel at the castle and it may have been a separate structure within the bailey.

Areas of High Archaeological Importance
The majority of the property plots along the north and south sides of the High Street, along the east side of King Street, and the small areas of encroachment to the north-east of the church are Areas of High Archaeological Importance. Within these areas there are many surviving medieval buildings and evidence for trades and occupations undertaken by the inhabitants of the medieval town may survive in the areas behind the buildings. There appear to be several buildings on the High Street that have cellars that will have removed earlier archaeological deposits but it may be that some of the cellars are of medieval construction and are, therefore, of archaeological interest in themselves. The 1739 map of the town (HRO Copy 131) shows several buildings on the south side of the High Street, at the western end of the town. Most of these buildings have been demolished and much of the area now forms a garden. There was no opportunity to view this area of the town as there is a high wall alongside the High Street but archaeological evidence for these buildings may survive. The sites of the former rectory and vicarage are also Areas of High Archaeological Importance. The former rectory incorporates a late medieval building. On the south side of High Street, at the east end of the town, archaeological observations failed to identify archaeological deposits and it was suggested that this part of the town was a later, post-medieval, development. A very small area of the street frontage was examined and so further evidence for the development of this area is required.

Around the church is an Area of High Archaeological Importance that incorporates The Bury. If there was an Anglo-Saxon royal residence at Odiham it is probable that it stood near to the minster church. The name The Bury may indicate its location, but the area of higher ground to the south of the church may also be suggested as a possible area for the royal residence. The southern limit of the area is

conjectural, based on topography and the presence of the church, due to the lack of information about the presence or location of the royal residence.

Archaeologically Important Areas
There are two Archaeologically Important Areas covering development on the edges of the town. At the western end of the town there was a small area of development on the southern side of West Street by the eighteenth century that may have its origins in the late medieval period, as may the area where High Street bifurcates at the east end of the town.

The Close, the path that leads to the church from the west may have been an early route into the town. If this was the case then it is possible that there was settlement along it, particularly at its eastern end. Due to the uncertain level of archaeological potential, these areas are Archaeologically Important Areas. If future work was to show that there had been occupation along The Close, these areas should be regarded as Areas of High Archaeological Importance.

The line of the park pale of the medieval royal deer-park is an Archaeologically Important Area (not marked on map). The park pale survives as an earthwork in part of the circuit but in the area where the property plots on the north side of the High Street back onto the pale there appears to be no evidence for the pale.

Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance
The areas behind the property plots along the northern and part of the southern side of the High Street are Areas of Limited Archaeological Importance. There is a possibility that evidence for trades carried out in the town may survive in these areas but it is likely that there will be a low density of archaeological remains. The Area of Limited Archaeological Importance on the south side of the High Street extends to include the cemetery and the area surrounding it. Late Anglo-Saxon pottery that may have been associated with the royal residence has been recovered from the cemetery and so evidence for the royal residence may survive in this area although within the cemetery any archaeological deposits are likely to have been severely damaged by the cutting of graves. However, there are parts of the cemetery that do not yet contain graves and so there remains the possibility that some deposits remain intact.

Research Framework

The three archaeological problems listed by Hughes in 1976 focused on the origin and development of the settlement and the relationship to the early royal residence, the later medieval development of the town, and the origin and development of the church. Although there have been some small archaeological interventions in the town, little light has been shed on these questions and so they are still relevant at the present time.

- The Bury - The possible site of a royal residence and the status of the church.

  To the east of the church is an area called The Bury that may indicate that there was a royal enclosure, possibly dating from the Anglo-Saxon period, and still in use in the early twelfth century, in this area. The church, which stands adjacent to this area, is thought to have been a minster church, and does not easily fit into the regular plan of the town. These facts may strengthen the suggestion that this area was the early focus of the settlement and the location of the royal residence. Work is required to attempt to define the exact location of the royal residence.

- The development of the High Street

  The properties along the High Street appear to be planned and it is possible that the town went through a period of reorganisation in the early thirteenth century when King John allowed the men of the town to rent the manor. As stated above, the church appears to be located on the fringe of the town that may suggest that the settlement has been re-planned.

- The later manor house and supposed palace on the site of Palace Gate

   Although much of the area near Palace Gate Farm has been redeveloped, there may be areas to the west of the farm within which it may be possible to attempt to confirm the presence of the late medieval manor house which may have served as a residence for the royal household and hosted the Privy Council in the sixteenth century.

- Industries undertaken in the town

   There appears to be little evidence for the trades and industries that were undertaken in the town in the medieval period. Excavation in the rear parts of the property plots along High Street and King Street may be able to shed light on this aspect on the history of the town.

- The date of encroachment onto the possible market area to the north-east of the church

   Standing buildings within the small islands of possible encroachment to the north-east of the church indicate that the encroachment was occurring in the late medieval period but archaeological evidence may allow a further refinement of the dating of this development.

- The park pale in the area of the town

   There appears to be no field evidence for the park pale in the area where the property plots on the north side of the High Street and the pale abut. To discourage poachers from the town, it may be expected that the pale would have been particularly strong in the area of the town but there appears to be no surviving earthwork. Would the proximity of the settlement have necessitated a different form of park pale and how do the property boundaries relate to the park pale?

7. SOURCES

DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

There are many documents that detail repairs and alterations undertaken on the castle at North Warnborough but there appear to be few medieval documents relating to the properties of the town.

MAPS AND PLANS

1739	Map of Odiam (sic) HRO Copy 131
1843	Tithe Apportionment map HRO 21M65/F7/177/2
1875	OS 1st Edition 6" map Sheet 19
1932	OS 25" map Sheet 19.12

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8. ABBREVIATIONS

c.	*circa,* about
HRO	Hampshire Records Office
nd	No date of publication given
NGR	National Grid Reference
OD	Ordnance Datum
OS	Ordnance Survey
pers comm	personal communication
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
TVAS	Thames Valley Archaeological Services
TWA	Trust for Wessex Archaeology