



CAM ARC Report Number 927

The Post Office, 84-86 Fore Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire

Desktop Assessment

Taleyna Fletcher

February 2007

CAM ARC Report Number 927

**The Post Office, 84-86 Fore
Street, Hertford, Hertfordshire**

Desktop Assessment

Taleyna Fletcher, BA

Site Code: XHT FSH 06

CHER Event Number: ECB TBA

Date of works: 18th December 2006– 5th January 2007

Grid Ref: Herts. (TL 12587 32785)

Editor: Dr Paul Spoerry

Illustrator: Crane Begg and Andrew Corrigan

Summary

This Study was commissioned by GSS Architects in advance of a proposed re-development. The assessment aims to define the archaeological potential of the land likely to be affected by the development. It has been compiled by the author in response to a design brief for desk-based assessment and archaeological impact assessment issued by the Historical Environment Unit of Hertfordshire County Council. This study makes certain assumptions about the final proposal, based on drafts and drawings made available by the client.

The site is 84-86 Fore Street, Hertford currently occupied by a post office. The proposed development is for the extension of the existing ground floor and construction of three new flats to the rear, currently used as a car park.

The site lies on Fore Street in the core of Hertford, a late Saxon and Medieval town, which is identified as an area of Archaeological Significance in the Local Plan (No. 172). The study area lies in a zone of high archaeological potential within, or close to the southern of two Saxon Burhs. The area around the development zone has been subject to archaeological investigations that have revealed Saxon and Medieval occupation, this area is also rich in listed buildings, many dating from the Medieval period. It is centred on TL 12587 32785.

Contents

1	Introduction	
1.1	Planning Background	1
1.2	Location, Topography and Geology	1
2	Archaeological and Historical Sources	
2.1	Historical Sources	2
2.2	The Historic Environment Record (formerly SMR)	2
2.3	Cartographic Evidence	2
2.4	Archaeological Excavations and Surveys	3
3	Official Designations	3
4	Archaeological and Historical Background	4
4.1	General Background	
4.1.1	Mesolithic to Roman (65000BC – AD 400)	4
4.1.2	Anglo-Saxon (AD 400-1066)	5
4.1.3	Medieval (1066-1500)	6
4.1.4	Post Medieval (1500-1900)	8
4.2	Site Background and Development	
4.2.1	Site of The Chequer Inn	9
4.2.2	Chequers Yard	9
4.2.3	Early-mid 19 th Century Cartographic Sources	11
4.2.4	The Post Office 1891-present	11
4.2.5	Development on the site 1898-present	12
5	Confidence Rating	
5.1	Historical Sources	13
5.2	The Historic Environment Record (formerly SMR)	13
5.3	Cartographic Evidence	14
5.4	Archaeological Excavations and Surveys	14

6	Deposit Mapping of Archaeological Remains	14
6.1	Prehistoric	14
6.2	Iron Age-Roman	15
6.3	Anglo-Saxon	15
6.4	Medieval and Post Medieval	15
7	Degree of Survival of Archaeological Remains	16
8	Rating	17
9	Conclusions	17

Acknowledgements

Bibliography

Maps Consulted

List of Figures

- Figure 1: Site location with development area outlined in red
- Figure 2: Post Office floor plans (from GSS Architecture)
- Figure 3: Saxon burhs (from Bryant/Seddon)
- Figure 4: Speed's Map of Hertford 1610
- Figure 5: Map of Hertford, 1830
- Figure 6: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1881
- Figure 7: 1808 Map of Hertford
- Figure 8: 1847 Map of the Parish of All Saints, Hertford
- Figure 9: Post Office elevation drawing (from GSS Architecture)
- Figure 10: 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1898
- Figure 11: 3rd edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1923
- Figure 12: 1960 Ordnance Survey Map
- Figure 13: 1971 Ordnance Survey Map

List of Plates

- Plate 1: Fore Street
- Plate 2: Hertford Poors Estate plaque
- Plate 3: Post Office Façade
- Plate 4: Original Post Office entrance
- Plate 5: Post Office entrance on Post Office Walk
- Plate 6: Original window on first floor
- Plate 7: Original window on second floor
- Plate 8: Possible concealed fireplace on second floor
- Plate 9: Possible concealed fireplace on first floor

- Plate 10: Original built-in cupboard and possible concealed fireplace on second floor
Plate 11: Rear of Post Office building and Car Park
Plate 12: Post Office Walk

List of Appendices

- Appendix 1: Health and Safety Statement
Appendix 2: List of HER Entries
Appendix 3: Previous Archaeological Work in Hertford (500m radius of study area)

1 Introduction

1.1 Planning Background

GSS Architecture commissioned a desktop study from CAM ARC formerly Archaeological Field Unit Cambridgeshire County Council. The aim of this assessment is to determine the archaeological potential of 84-86 Fore Street, Hertford, prior to redevelopment.

The work contained in this document is entirely produced from a desk-based assessment and does not include any data from physical investigation at the proposed development site. A site visit was carried out in December 2006. Digital photographs were taken of the inside of the building and the car park where the proposed new building will be constructed.

1.2 Location, Topography and Geology

The development site fronts onto Fore Street (plate 1) in the core of the late Saxon and medieval town of Hertford (figure 1). It is centred at TL 12587 32785.

The proposed development is of the upper floors of the existing building and in the car park to the rear. The modern ground level at the back of the Post Office building rises by at least 1m at the very end of the car park plot.

There have been no known test pits or monitoring boreholes on the site to establish the depths of any deposits or ground-water levels which may be encountered.

The building is presently occupied on the ground floor by the Post Office; most of the first and second floor rooms are currently not in use but appear to have been used as office/business premises in recent years (figure 2). Vehicular access is via an access road to the rear of the car park and pedestrian access is via Post Office Walk. The main post office building entrance is also on Post Office Walk.

No archaeological investigations or finds have been recorded within the development area, although the site is within the Saxon and medieval core of Hertford.

According to the British Geological Survey, the site lies on an area where alluvium meets undivided and flood plain gravels (British Geological Survey, 1978).

2 Archaeological and Historical Sources

This desktop study incorporates data collated during research into the archaeological and historical background of Hertford, generated from the Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) and from the Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (Herts HER); both departments within Hertfordshire County Council.

2.1 Historical Sources

Original historical research has not been undertaken as part of this study. The historical background and development of Hertford has mostly been drawn from the secondary sources (below);

- The Victoria County History (VCH) of Hertfordshire provides a general background to the development of the Borough of Hertford,
- The Hertford Extensive Urban Survey (Bryant and Seddon, 1999) provides a good general outline of the history and development of Hertford by period with detailed information about historic and public buildings.

Primary sources consulted include photographs and historical maps.

2.2 The Historic Environment Record (formerly SMR)

The HER research was conducted within a 500m radius of the development area. This generated 160 records, summarised by period in Appendix 2.

There is one Historic Environment record within the proposed development site itself (10009) but there are many within 500m of the study area.

2.3 Cartographic Evidence

Several historical maps were used in the research for this assessment. The cartographic evidence has proved to be one of the most valuable reference sources for assessing the potential survival of post-medieval structures. The maps used were;

- John Speeds Map of Hertford, 1610
- Hertford Enclosure Map, 1808
- Map of Hertford, 1830

- Map of the Parish of All Saints, 1847
- 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1881
- 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey, 1898
- 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey, 1923
- Ordnance Survey, 1960

2.4 Archaeological Excavations and Surveys

There have been no archaeological investigations within the development area itself, however, the property next door, Dimsdale House (HER 10067), 80-82 Fore Street was the subject of a Historic Building Recording Survey (Goldsmith, Gibson & Doyle, 2005).

There have been a number of archaeological evaluations and excavations within 500m of the site. These are listed in Appendix 3.

3 Official Designations

There are 45 Listed Buildings within 500m of the site. A full list of these can be found within Appendix 2. However, within close proximity of the site there were 17 listed buildings;

- Lombard House, Bull Plain (9803) – C15th timber-framed building
- 13a, 15 and 15a Bull Plain (9845) – C16th timber-framed building
- 28 and 30 Fore Street (9854) – C16th Inn
- Bayley Hall, Queens Rd (4008) – C17/18th Manor House
- 11 and 13 Church Street (9851) – C16th/early C17th timber-frame houses
- 7 and 8 Market Place (9855) - C16th/early C17th timber-frame, jettied building
- 14 and 15 Market Place (9856) – C16th timber-framed house
- 6a and 8 The Wash (9865) – Late C16th timber-framed and plastered house
- White Hart Inn, Salisbury Square (9917) – C17th jettied timber-framed building
- Shire Hall, 15 Fore Street (9918) – C18th Courthouse/Town Hall/Market
- 117 Fore Street (9921) – C18th timber-framed structure with neo-Classical features
- The Corn Exchange, 37 Fore Street (9929) – Late C19th Corn Exchange
- The Ram Inn, 112 Fore Street (9931) – C17th Inn
- 31 and 33 Maidenhead Street (9945) – Early C20th Inn

- 80 Fore Street (10067) – Early C19th Inn
- 119 Fore Street (12909) – C18th Town House

There are no known Tree Protection Orders (TPOs) on the site and no Scheduled Ancient Monuments (SAMs) within 500m.

4 Archaeological and Historical Background

4.1 General Background

This section draws almost entirely on the Hertford Extensive Urban Survey (Bryant and Seddon, 1999), which provides an outline of the history and development of Hertford.

4.1.1 Mesolithic to Roman (6500BC – AD 400)

There appears to be very little evidence for prehistoric activity within the central Hertford area. The HER search returned only four entries (Appendix 2). Prehistoric and Roman sites appear to exist along the edges of higher ground around Hertford.

Excavations at Foxholes Farm, a kilometre to the east of Hertford revealed evidence of human habitation dating from the Mesolithic onwards (HER 3131;6448). Features and finds included a Mesolithic stone axe, a row of Neolithic pits, two Bronze Age cremation burials and timber roundhouses and a series of Iron Age enclosed settlements. A late Iron Age and Roman farmstead along with some industrial processing were also found.

Excavations within the town have uncovered Late Iron Age and Roman remains at St Andrew Street in 1990 (HER 9841) and at Millbridge in 1988-90 (HER 9881). The site in St Andrew Street revealed disturbed foundations of a building, indicating settlement. The Millbridge site recorded a circular Roman enclosure and an urned burial. These two sites appear to be linked. The two sites were approximately 80m apart, with that of Millbridge appearing to be the southern edge of settlement. The evidence from these two excavations suggests a small farmstead or agricultural settlement located between the Lea and Beanne Rivers in the late Iron Age and Roman period.

HER findspots include Bronze Age sword fragments and ingot found in the River Lea (HER 271), a flint handaxe found at All Saints church (HER 2073), flints found at the railway station (HER 4108), Paleolithic implements found on the riverbank (HER 4124), an Iron Age bronze

stater (HER 4106), a Roman coin found west of Wesley Avenue (HER 1401) and Roman pottery found in Maidenhead Street (HER 1400).

4.1.2 Anglo-Saxon (AD 400-1066)

Mid-Saxon (AD 600-870)

Evidence of mid-Saxon settlement activity was recorded during excavations at Foxholes Farm (HER 3131;6448) where sunken floor buildings and ridge-post structures were found. The activity recorded at the Foxholes settlement is thought to have been mainly agricultural and may have continued on from the Roman occupation of the site.

Late Saxon (AD 870-1066)

It is thought that two defended settlements or “burhs” were created north and south of the River Lea in Hertford, by King Edward the Elder in 912-913. It is likely that these two late Saxon burhs, were constructed on royal land. The burhs were created as part of a campaign for the reconquest of the Danelaw. Hertford is one of many locations of defended settlements created during the campaign. The full extent of the boundaries of each of the burhs is still to be fully defined (figure 3 from Seddon/Bryant).

The northern burh (HER 9828) may have been constructed to control the crossing of the Lea and any river traffic passing through Hertford. This burh would have been defended by a bank and ditch, with a wooden palisade running along the top of the bank.

The site of a possible Saxon manor (HER 9897) is thought to be located within the northern burh, approximately 400m to the west of the site, the exact location of the manor is unknown.

The southern burh (HER 9830) is believed to have been a square or rectangular settlement defended, like the northern burh, by a bank and ditch with a wooden palisade running along the top of the bank. It is thought that the function of this burh was to protect the local population and serve as a market and trade centre under royal control. Edward may have created a planned settlement within the burh. The current market place, Fore Street, Railway Street, Maidenhead Street, Church Street and Bull Plain all fall within the boundary of the southern burh. The rectilinear arrangement of these streets suggests that they were planned, yet no evidence exists to confirm their Saxon origins. During an archaeological excavation at Railway Street in 1973 (HER 9832), a ditch approximately 6m wide and 2.3m deep was recorded. This ditch is thought to be part of the eastern defences of the southern burh. Further excavation in 1980, 35m to the north, found the presence of what is believed to be the same ditch.

In 1980, an excavation in Railway Street (HER 9886) found evidence of Saxon occupation including buildings. The evidence of occupation from this period in this location is highly significant as it appears to be outside of the probable boundary of the southern burh and indicates settlement beyond its limits.

The HER holds other records relating to Saxon activity in Hertford. Sherds of Saxon pottery were recovered when the Turks Head Inn was demolished in the late nineteenth century (HER 1402). Saxon and medieval features were recorded during excavation at Dolphin Yard representing backyard occupation (HER 12038). A single sherd of early-mid Saxon pottery was recovered during an evaluation in a former car park next to the Dolphin Pub in 2003 (HER 12693).

4.1.3 Medieval (1066-1500)

In the Domesday Book Hertford is recorded as having 146 Burgesses, 54 houses, 2 churches and 3 mills. The town appears to have prospered following the creation of the two burhs and with its designation as administrative centre of the new shire.

The construction of the royal castle soon after the Norman conquest (HER 77) also provided a strategic focal point to the town. The earliest reference to the castle is in 1141 and records relating to the construction of the curtain wall, a ditch and outer bailey survive from 1170. The brick gatehouse was built in 1460. Most of the castle was pulled down in the late 16th century by James I, however, surviving elements include a flat-topped motte 30m in diameter and 6.5m high, the gatehouse, a curtain wall, remains of a 14th century tower and postern gate and an outer ditch. Evidence relating to the castle has been found during archaeological investigations within the area. One of the castle's ditches and evidence of occupation were recorded during excavations in Parliament Street (HER 6527). A small excavation at Hertford Civic Hall in 1977 (HER 6526) revealed an area of the castle's inner ditch. An evaluation in 2002 (HER 12141) revealed a layer of grey clay within a test pit which was interpreted as a deposit from within the castle moat. Excavations in 1988 and 1990 (HER 77) confirmed the existence of the outer ward or bailey. This had a C12th-C14th cobbled surface and the foundations of several buildings, probably constructed at the same time as the gatehouse in 1460. A cellar was found at the SW end of the outer bailey, possibly part of a postern tower of the C15th defences. A large deposit of food refuse, probably from feasting, was found in the excavations.

Excavations within the town have revealed evidence of medieval occupation. Within 500m of the site, these include 4 Market Place (HER 10003), 4-6 St Andrew Street (HER 9835), 7-13 Bull Plain (HER 9891), 12-14 Parliament Street (HER 6527), Barbers Yard, Old Cross (HER 12047), Dolphin Yard, Bull Plain (HER 12038), Green Dragon Hotel, Parliament Square (HER 6528), Honey Lane (HER 9889), Mill

Road (HER 12693), Millbridge (HER 9885), Priory Street (HER 9893), former Simson Pimms Factory (HER 9898) (See Appendix 3 for summaries).

During the medieval period, Hertford boasted many churches; The Church of St. Andrew (HER 1696), Church of All Saints, rebuilt in the 15th and 19th centuries (HER 9935), Church of St. Mary, Church of St Nicholas (HER 4000) and St Mary's Priory (HER 2994). There was also the now lost St Mary the Less (HER 2998). The site of St John the Evangelist (HER 2999) was revealed during excavation in 1989-90 in Priory Street.

Until the 13th century, Hertford successfully maintained its position as a successful trading town through the control of traffic using its rivers and roads. However, as alternative traffic routes became available through nearby Ware, Hertford began to show signs of decline by the mid-14th century. During this period a granary was constructed further down the River Lea at Theale. This meant that the merchants of London could ship corn in their own vessels. As Ware began to compete more with Hertford for trade, it attempted to cut off all water links with Hertford.

With the loss of control of the waterways and roads, Hertford appears to have gone into steady decline as nearby rival Ware began to prosper. Evidence for this can be found in excavations which have suggested abandonment of tenements and contracting settlement (HER 6428).

Decline in trade and population (due also to outbreaks of plague and through famine resulting from poor harvests), continued throughout the 14th and 15th centuries. By the 15th century, industries such as brewing, baking and, on a smaller scale, tanning and glove-making became prominent. The inn trade was also becoming more prosperous at this time.

There are a number of extant buildings within Hertford dating from the late medieval period. Within a 500m radius of the site, these include Lombard House, Bull In (HER 9803), The Walnuts, Castle Street (HER 9804), The Old Vicarage, Church Street (HER 9807), 1 St Andrew Street (HER 9836), The Salisbury Arms, 24-26 Fore Street (HER 9808), 12 and 14 Old Cross (HER 9814), 9 and 7 Parliament Street (HER 9834), 3 St Andrew Street (HER 9840), 17-23 St Andrew St (HER 9842), 43 St Andrew St (HER 9843), 13a, 15 and 15a Bull Plain (HER 9845), The White Swan Inn, 28 and 30 Fore St (HER 9854), 6 Old Cross (HER 9858), 10, 12 and 14 St Andrew St (HER 9861), 27 St Andrew St (HER 9862).

These typically high-status buildings are generally located around the circumference of the castle ditch. This suggests that the richest

merchants of the town were located around an important part of the borough away from the commercial centre of the town. The merchants buildings or tenements were located adjacent to the main streets. These long, narrow strips of land (burgage plots) were orientated at right angles to the street, the houses or shops would usually be at the front facing onto the street with the rear of the plots being used for non-domestic buildings and rubbish disposal.

4.1.4 Post-medieval (1500-1900)

During the early post-medieval period, the town began to show signs of economic recovery, mostly as a result of the growing market for corn and malt in London. Advancements in communication routes meant that goods could be transported faster than before and trade was not just restricted to London. With Hertford becoming a more prosperous town, it began to expand and rebuild some of its existing buildings.

Archaeological investigations within the town have revealed evidence of early post-medieval occupation. Within 500m of the site investigations have included; Folly Island Iron and Brass Foundry (HER 9789), Former Malting behind Bull Plain (HER 5374), Honey Lane (HER 9889) and Priory Street (HER 9893).

There are many post-medieval buildings recorded at the HER within Hertford (many of which have Listed status, see Appendix 2). Within 500m of the site, these include; Icehouse at Hertford Castle (HER 1720), Friends Meeting House, Railway Street (HER 2990), Bayley Hall (HER 4008), Old Cross, Nicholas Lane (HER 5376), St Andrew Street (HER 5382), West Street (HER 5383), Hertford Brewery (HER 5444), Hertford East Railway Station (HER 5533), Old Waterworks (HER 5654), 15 Castle Street (HER 9846), 31, 33 and 35 Castle St (HER 9847), 14, 16, 18 and 18a (1-3 Millers Court), Castle St (HER 9848), 13 Castle St/25 Parliament Sq (HER 9849), Castle Moat House, 25 Castle St (HER 9850), 11 and 13 Church St (HER 9851), Former Green Coat School, 35 and 37 Church St (HER 9853), 7 and 8 Market Place (HER 9855), 14 and 15 Market Place (HER 9856), 4 Old Cross (HER 9857), 8 Old Cross (HER 9860), 51 St Andrew St (HER 9863), 6a and 8 The Wash (HER 9865), 10-16 The Wash (HER 9866), Former Bluecoat School (HER 9915), 15-17 Parliament Square (HER 9916), Salisbury Square (HER 9917), Shire Hall, 15 Fore St (HER 9918), Three Tuns Public House, 34 St Andrews Street (HER 9919), the Sportsman Public House, 117 Fore Street (HER 9921), Corn Exchange, 37 Fore Street (HER 9929), United Reform Church (HER 9930), The Ram Inn, 112 Fore Street (HER 9931), Maidenhead Yard (HER 9933), Church of the Immaculate Conception (HER 9937), 1, 2, and 3 Churchfields (HER 9943), Former Green Dragon Hotel, 31 and 33 Maidenhead Street (HER 9945), The Dolphin Inn, 91 Railway Street (HER 9946), Former Simson Printing Works, 14 Parliament Square (HER 10063), Woolpack Public house (HER 10064), 6 Parliament Square (HER 11430), Norris Workshops, Priory Street (HER 12033),

114-116 Fore Street (HER 12648), 32-36 Railway Street (HER 12706), The Red House, 119 Fore Street (HER 12909) and 2-11 Fore Street (HER 12084).

The location of Hertford, close to the main route between Cambridge and London and the Great North Road made it strategically placed to take advantage of passing traffic. This enabled Hertford's inn trade to develop during this period, boosting Hertford's economy. Fore Street was identified on Speed's map (figure 4) of 1610 as High Street. It is clear that at this time Fore Street was the main route through the town (Bryant and Seddon, 1999) and as such boasted many inns and public houses through the period. These include the White Swan Inn, Red Lion (later Half Moon, Duncombe/Dimsdale Arms), The Ram Inn (later the Golden Lion), The Chequer Inn (and later Talbot Arms), Cross Keys, Angel Inn and Falcon Inn.

The fortunes of Hertford were revived during the early 18th century with the construction of the Lea Navigation, part of national industrial expansion, making the town more easily accessible for trade (Goldsmith *et al.* 2005). This led to expansion of the town's population and consequently the development of property and public buildings.

4.2 Site Background and Development

4.2.1 Site of the Chequer Inn; c.1630-c.1691?

The Chequer Inn (HER 10009) was originally located on the site now occupied by the Post Office. The first documented evidence of the Inn was in 1629. In 1756 it was recorded as having 2 beds. The building was apparently delicensed in 1691 and converted into tenements. The Chequer was then re-sited further to the west and re-opened in 1729-1762 (Jolliffe and Jones, 1995).

4.2.2 Chequers Yard (also called Paradise Yard); c.1691-1890

Chequers Yard, which was also known as Paradise Yard, was named after the former Chequers Inn which occupied the site previously. It was part of Hertford's Poor Estate, which is acknowledged in the plaque on the front of the Post Office (plate 2). Little information could be found regarding the tenements, however, several photographs were found in local study books and in the Local Archives Study. Part of the estate was purchased by McMullen in 1890, who erected the Talbot Arms on the site; the rest was sold for the Post Office .

A map of Hertford from 1766 published by Drury and Andrews shows buildings on Fore Street (Drury and Andrews, 1766), however it is not possible to identify the exact location of the development site. What is

clear from this map is that garden plots and what may be orchards are present on the plots to the rear of those on the south side of Fore Street.

A Plan of the Town of Hertford (figure 5) (Turnor, 1830) shows the presence of buildings along Fore Street, and even has Chequers Yard labelled. Although the scale is not as accurate as the later Ordnance Survey maps, it clearly shows the undeveloped land to the rear, and the grammar school directly behind that. This is the earliest cartographic reference to Chequers Yard found during the investigation.

The only detailed map to show the individual buildings of Chequers Yard was the 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map of 1881 (figure 6). This map clearly shows a square shaped formation of what appears to be small buildings around a central yard area. The buildings appear to be constructed of brick under tiled roofs. The map shows, within the plot (med burgage plot?) an area of undeveloped land which appears to be allotment or open space behind the tenements. There is an entrance to the yard from Fore Street and one leading out to the undeveloped area to the rear.

The Ordnance Survey map shows a pump in the yard and a lamp post. These features can be seen in a photograph taken of Chequers Yard (old photo 1) (Green, 1993). This image shows the part of the tenements around the yard, one over an entranceway, which appears to correspond with that which leads out to the rear of the plot.

A photograph found in Hertford Local Studies (ref H2/5), taken from Fore Street, shows the entranceway to Chequers Yard (old photo 2). On the far right, The Dimsdale Arms Hotel can be seen. Next to that is the Talbot Arms (before it was rebuilt). Next to that is a shop which adjoins the entranceway to Chequers Yard. The original Talbot Arms building and presumably the shop were demolished in 1890.

Another photograph found, (old photo 3) shows people standing around, what appears to be an entranceway within Chequers Yard (Heath, 1981).

If the tenements are contemporary with Chequers Inn, c. 1630, a comparison may be made with another tenement block with shops at 3-11 Fore Street and 1-2 Market Place (HER 13084). According to the HER entry, a single timber framed building was erected in c.1662 by John Holywell in the form of tenements with ground floor shops. The exterior was plastered and pargeted, with a double roof of old tiles above a moulded cornice, and broad over-hanging eaves; three storeys and attics. Each upper floor had five tenements entered from lobbies on the stair landings, located centrally between the brick chimneystacks.

4.2.3 Early-mid 19th Century Cartographic Sources

A map of the town produced in 1808 (figure 7) shows little detail of any distinguishable properties in the town other than churches and other public buildings. The area of the site on Fore Street can be identified, however no property details have been added. This map therefore does not assist with this study.

Like the map of 1808, a map of the parish of All Saints produced in 1847 (figure 8) does not show any specific building detail. Grey shading has been used to represent areas of urban buildings. It is possible to identify the location of the study site, but no useful detail can be gained other than that probably had buildings on it. The map shows the burgage plats still in existence, however this map shows the development site within a large square plot. This cannot however be the case as the burgage plots can clearly be seen on the earlier map of 1830 (figure 5) (Turnor, 1830) and they are still clearly present on the first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1881. It is possible that this area was not or not needed to be mapped with this detail at the time.

4.2.4 The Post Office; 1891-present

The building which currently stands at 84-86 Fore Street was built as, and is still occupied by, the Post Office (figure 9). The building itself (plate 3) was built in 1890, designed by architect J Johnson and built by local builder H. Norris. It cost £2500 to build (Kelly's Directory, 1895) and opened in September 1891 (plate 2). The Renaissance-style, three storey building has an ornate orange brick frontage with Limestone or Bathstone dressing. It also has a turret at an angle, added by public subscription, costing £50 (Kelly's, 1895). The building façade has a number of decorative features and plasterwork. The original entrance to the Post Office appears to have moved from the front of the building on Fore Street (plate 4), where it has been blocked up using red brick, to its current location on Post Office Walk (plate 5).

There was a "sorting office on the first floor and a telephone exchange to the rear" (Hertford Civic Society, 1966).

Inside the building, there have been major alterations to the ground floor to accommodate the needs of the modern Post Office (figure 2). As a result, there was no sign on any original features surviving; however, further inspection may reveal that these features have possibly been covered up. The first and second floor, rooms are currently not in use but appear to have been used as office/business premises in recent years with additional staff toilets and kitchen area (figure 2). A brief inspection of these rooms revealed the potential survival of original features. The windows appear to be from the original build (plates 6 and 7) and although there were no visible fireplaces, some potentially survive behind the boarded chimney

breasts (plates 8 and 9). Other original features were also noted including a built-in cupboard on the second floor (plate 10).

From the rear of the building, later additions and alterations can be seen (plate 11), however, the fabric of the original build from 1890 remains intact.

The rear of the Post Office is currently used as a car park and for delivery access.

4.2.5 Other development on the site; 1898-present

The best evidence available to trace the development of the site after 1890, when the Post Office was built, is the Ordnance Survey maps.

The second edition map of 1898 (figure 10) shows the site, now labelled as a post office (PO). The boundary where the rear of the tenements met the undeveloped ground is still visible, and there is what appears to be an out-building at the rear of the post office. The alleyway which is now Post Office Walk appears to be present, however, there does not appear to be an entrance from Fore Street, therefore it may not have been in use as an access at this time.

On the third edition map of 1923 (figure 11) it appears that the alleyway (now Post Office Walk) between the post office and the Talbot Arms has an entrance from Fore Street, as still in use today (plate 12). If this alleyway has now been opened for access, it is not clear what it would provide access for, as the alley appears to only lead to the back of the post office yard. It is therefore possible that this entrance from Fore Street now gives access to the new side entrance, and it could be at this time that the front entrance is bricked up (plate original entrance). The bricks used to block the entrance and the window inserted in its place also appear to fit the period (1898-1923). The boundary at the rear is still present and the area behind is still undeveloped. There appear to be two additional outbuildings at the rear.

By the 1960 Ordnance Survey map, an extension appears to have been built on the side of the building, incorporating the existing one to form a small courtyard or opening (figure 12). This could be due to the relocation of the staircase, now in this location, as part of the re-modelling when the entrance was moved. The three outbuildings have gone by this point, replaced by new ones which span the width of the plot. An addition has also been made at the rear of the building. This could be the light pinkish brick-built single-story extension with flat roof, still in use and visible from the rear today (plate po rear). The extension may have been to house the telephone exchange, mentioned, but without date as a later addition in a study by the Hertford Civic Society (Hertford Civic Society, 1966). The boundary at the rear is still present and the area behind is still undeveloped.

There had been no changes to the building visible on a later edition Ordnance Survey map of 1971 (figure 13), however, the construction of the a multi-storey car park approximately 10m from the southernmost extent of the site had an impact on the properties and plots to the rear. The lengths of the properties to the south of Fore Street were considerably shortened and many properties demolished. The land at the rear of the post office which had remained undeveloped was incorporated into the car park; the current boundary between this land and the post office appears to be the alignment of the development.

5 Confidence Rating

5.1 Historical Sources

Original documentary research has not been undertaken in this study, as it lies outside the scope of this report. The Victoria County History of Hertford and the Extensive Urban Survey Assessment (Bryant and Seddon) provide detailed outlines of the history of the town's development and a detailed study of many of its principal buildings.

It could be suggested that the VCH is biased towards the post-medieval development of the town; its political and economic growth, public buildings; schools, hospitals and churches, but it does provide some useful information and a reliable alternative source to the Urban Survey (Bryant and Seddon).

The Extensive Urban Survey Assessment report produced in 1999 provides the most reliable background on the development of the town from the prehistoric period through to the late post-medieval. It draws upon archaeological evidence, historical sources and extant buildings. Its only limitations are that it is focused strongly on the post medieval development, and that further excavations and studies have taken place in the eight years since it was written.

Generally, the available historical sources provide useful and reliable information on the historic, economic and social development of the town.

5.2 The Historic Environment Record (formerly SMR)

The HER of Hertfordshire County Council records primarily medieval and post-medieval extant buildings, the sites of industrial and ecclesiastical premises now demolished, sites of monuments and the

results of archaeological building recording and other works. A search of just 500m radius of the site produced 160 records.

5.3 Cartographic Evidence

The cartographic sources were the most useful and reliable for studying the development of the town and the development site.

By consulting 1st, 2nd, 3rd edition, 1963, 1971 and modern Ordnance Survey Maps, it is possible to see in detail, changes which occurred on the development site and how these fitted in with development in the immediate vicinity.

Other cartographic sources used include maps dating to 1610, 1766, 1808, 1830 and 1847. These maps are useful for understanding the development and expansion of the town, but do not provide specific detail for the study site and in the case of the 1847 map, could be misleading. It is therefore important to consider the purpose of the maps and for what reason they were created.

5.4 Archaeological Excavations and Surveys

Several sites within 500m of the study area have undergone archaeological investigation, through evaluation and excavation and non-intrusive desk-top and historic building surveys. Many of the excavations revealed predominantly post-medieval deposits and some building recording exercises have characterised the built heritage of the area. As such, this information is useful for medieval and post-medieval Hertford. There is often limited scope for archaeological excavation within built-up areas and a high probability that pre-medieval archaeological remains have already been destroyed by the construction of medieval and post medieval Hertford.

6 Deposit Mapping of Archaeological Remains

In this section, an attempt has been made to map all known Monuments and events and, based on this mapping, to predict the existence of further remains within the proposed development site. These predictions should not be used to produce 'constraint maps'.

6.1 Prehistoric

There is an almost complete absence of prehistoric remains within the study area that is consistent with that of the surrounding area. The absence of finds is not necessarily an indication of a complete lack of prehistoric activity, however, as any prehistoric activity may have been

destroyed by, or at least masked by, medieval and later development. Nonetheless, the paucity of remains suggests they were never very extensive or dense.

Given these circumstances it is unlikely that substantial prehistoric remains are present in the development area, although some may be identified in those areas left undisturbed by later development.

6.2 Iron Age-Roman

Late Iron Age and Roman occupation has been identified in two areas of Hertford; at Foxholes Farm (HER 3131, 6448), a kilometre to the east of the town and at St Andrew Street (HER 9841) and Mill Bridge (HER 9881) (same settlement). The proximity of the St Andrews Street/Mill Bridge settlement is approximately 600m to the west of the site. There have been very few Iron Age or Roman findspots recorded in the town. It is therefore unlikely that Roman features will be encountered on the site.

6.3 Anglo-Saxon

Archaeological investigations within the area of the development site have encountered evidence of Saxon occupation (Appendix 3). The site lies within the conjectured limits of the southern late Saxon burh (HER 9828). It is therefore possible that features from this period may be encountered.

6.4 Medieval and post-medieval

There is archaeological evidence for medieval and post medieval settlement in the study area, and the development area lies on a main street, within the core of the medieval town.

Maps as early as 1766 (Drury and Andrews, 1766), show what appear to be garden plots and orchards present at the rear of the properties on the south side of Fore Street. Further work may present an opportunity to encounter undisturbed earlier remains within the core of the town.

The construction of the post office on the site in 1890 may have had an impact on the survival of earlier remains. It is known that the tenements in Chequers Yard, a shop and the original Talbot Arms were demolished; however, it is not known whether the debris was removed from the site or whether it was simply moved to the rear of the plot. From the rear of the Post office car park there is a visible slope in the ground level leading down to the rear of the current building. This slope falls by at least 1m. It may have been caused by material from the demolition of these earlier buildings being dumped at

the far end of the plot. If this is the case, it is likely that earlier features may be sealed by a demolition layer, and may be encountered at a significant depth. It is also possible that this area of "high ground" was created during the construction of the multi-storey car park at the immediate rear of the development site. If the car park has a lower ground level, the soil removed may have been used to level and create the rear access to the Fore Street properties that is in use today. The multi-storey car park was constructed sometime between 1963 and 1971. No archaeological monitoring appears to have taken place.

It is unlikely that any *in-situ* evidence of the Chequers Yard will be encountered; this area is now occupied by the post office buildings.

Cartographic evidence suggests that the area to the rear of the post office has not been developed in the last four centuries. The area of the car park was far enough back from the buildings which fronted Fore Street to not have been used by these properties for construction, although it may well have constituted a zone where craft activities and waste disposal took place.

The boundaries of All Saints Church to (HER 9935), (All hallows in Speeds map of 1610 and St Johns in Drury and Andrews map of 1766) the south of the site appear through cartographic evidence to have remained unchanged. It is therefore unlikely that any associated features would be encountered.

If alteration work is carried out to the fabric of the Post Office building, there is potential survival of original features, fixtures and fittings.

7 Degree of Survival of Archaeological Remains

This section broadly assesses the degree of survival of archaeological remains in the areas defined by deposit mapping. The assessment takes the form of a predictive model based on probability and not certainty. It is intended as a guide only.

The degree of preservation of potential buried remains within the study area is likely to have been affected by modern development.

8 Rating

Based on the distribution of known finds and their degree of survival in the study area, as defined in the previous sections, rating can be summarised as follows:

Period	Distribution	Survival
Prehistoric	low	unknown
Roman	low	variable
Saxon	low-moderate	variable
Medieval	moderate-high	good
Post-medieval	high	good

9 Conclusions

The location of the development site within the limits of the southern Saxon burh and in the core of the medieval town, means the potential for the existence of archaeological remains is high. However, the likelihood of survival depends on the level of disturbance from post-medieval/modern activity at the rear of the site. This can only be established through further investigation by intrusive methods. If alteration work is carried out to the fabric of the Post Office building, there is potential for the survival of original features, fixtures and fittings which may warrant recording.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to thank Primeco Ltd. who commissioned and funded the archaeological work and provided the drawings and elevations. Thanks also to staff at Hertfordshire Historic Environment Record (HER) and Hertfordshire Archive and Local Studies (HALS) for their assistance with collating information and locating sources. The project was managed by Dr. Paul Spoerry.

Bibliography

- | | | |
|--|------|---|
| Bennett, R. | 1996 | <i>Hertford Street and Place Names</i> |
| Bryant, S.,
Seddon, V. | 1999 | <i>Hertford: Extensive Urban Survey Project Assessment Report</i> |
| Drury and
Andrews
Goldsmith, A.,
Gibson, A. | 2005 | <i>Dimsdale House, 80-82 Fore Street, Hertford, Herts. Historic Building Recording.</i> |

and Doyle, K.		Archaeological Solutions Ltd.
Green, L.	1993	<i>Hertfordshires past in Pictures</i>
Heath, C.	1975	<i>Hertford in Old Picture Postcards</i>
Heath, C	1981	<i>Yesterdays Town: Hertford</i>
Hertfordshire Civic Society	1996	<i>Buildings of Hertford</i>
Jolliffe, G., Jones, A.	1995	<i>Hertfordshire Inns and Public Houses – an Historical Gazetteer</i>
Miller, M.	1996	<i>The Archive Photographs Series:Hertford</i>
Munnings, E. (Published by)		<i>Gems of Hertford</i>
Spoerry, P	2006	<i>Specification For Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment: Post Office 84-86 Fore Street, Hertford</i> CAM ARC
Tinniswood, A	2006	<i>Design Brief for Desk-Based Aesessment and Archaeological Impact Assessment, 84-86 Fore Street, Hertford</i> Historic Environment Unit, Hertfordshire County Council
Turnor, L.	1830	History of the Town of Hertford

Maps Consulted

British Geological Survey, 1978	Sheet 239, England and Wales 1:50,000 Solid and Drift
John Speed Map of 1610	
Hertford Enclosure Map, 1808	QS/E/30
Map of Hertford, 1830	Turnor, L. (see bibliography)
Map of the Parish of All Saints, 1847	D/P48/27/IB
1 st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1881	BG/HER/89-90
2 nd Edition Ordnance Survey, 1898	Sheet XXIV 15
3 rd Edition Ordnance Survey, 1923	Sheet XXIV 15

Other Sources Consulted

Description	Hertfordshire Local Archive Studies Reference
Black and White Photograph houses on site of Post Office, Fore Street, Hertford	H2/5
Kelly's Directory of Hertfordshire, 1890 and 1895	

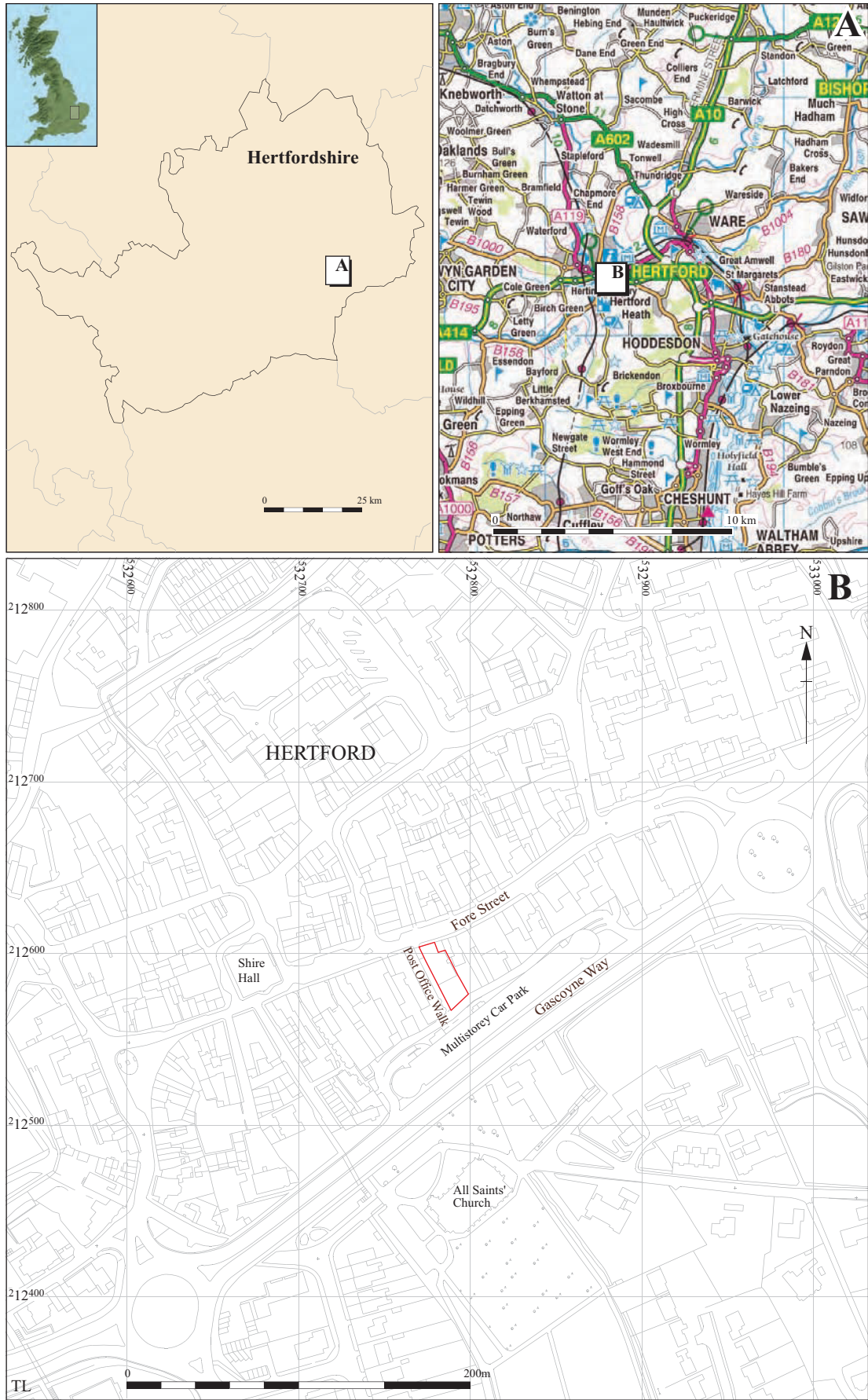
Websites Consulted

www.eastherts.gov.uk/pp/historic_buildings_hertford/hbh2a.htm

www.british-history.ac.uk

www.hertford.net/history/history.asp

www.hertfordshire-genealogy.co.uk



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Cambridgeshire County Council 100023205 2007

Figure 1: Site location with study site outlined (red)

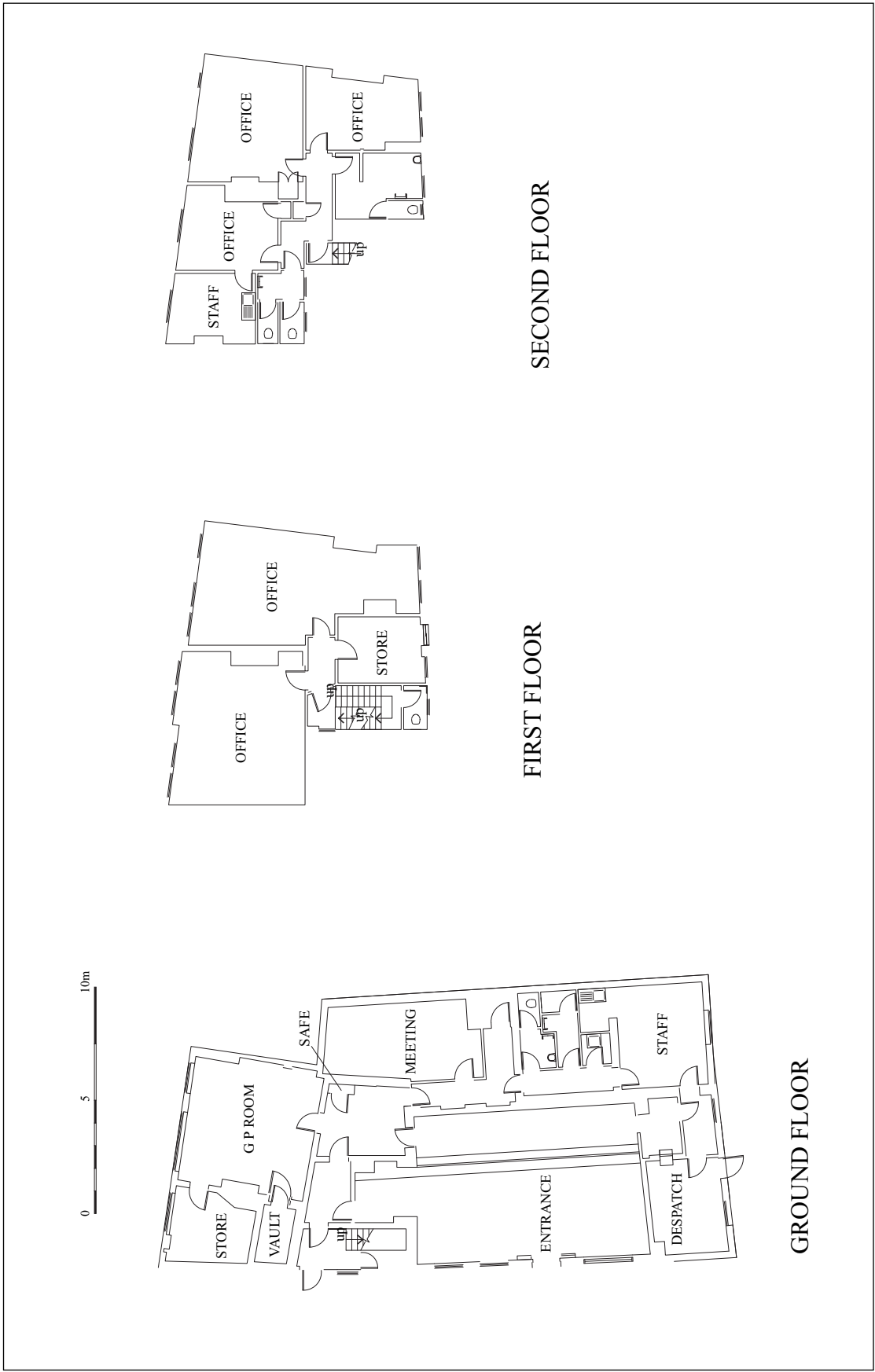
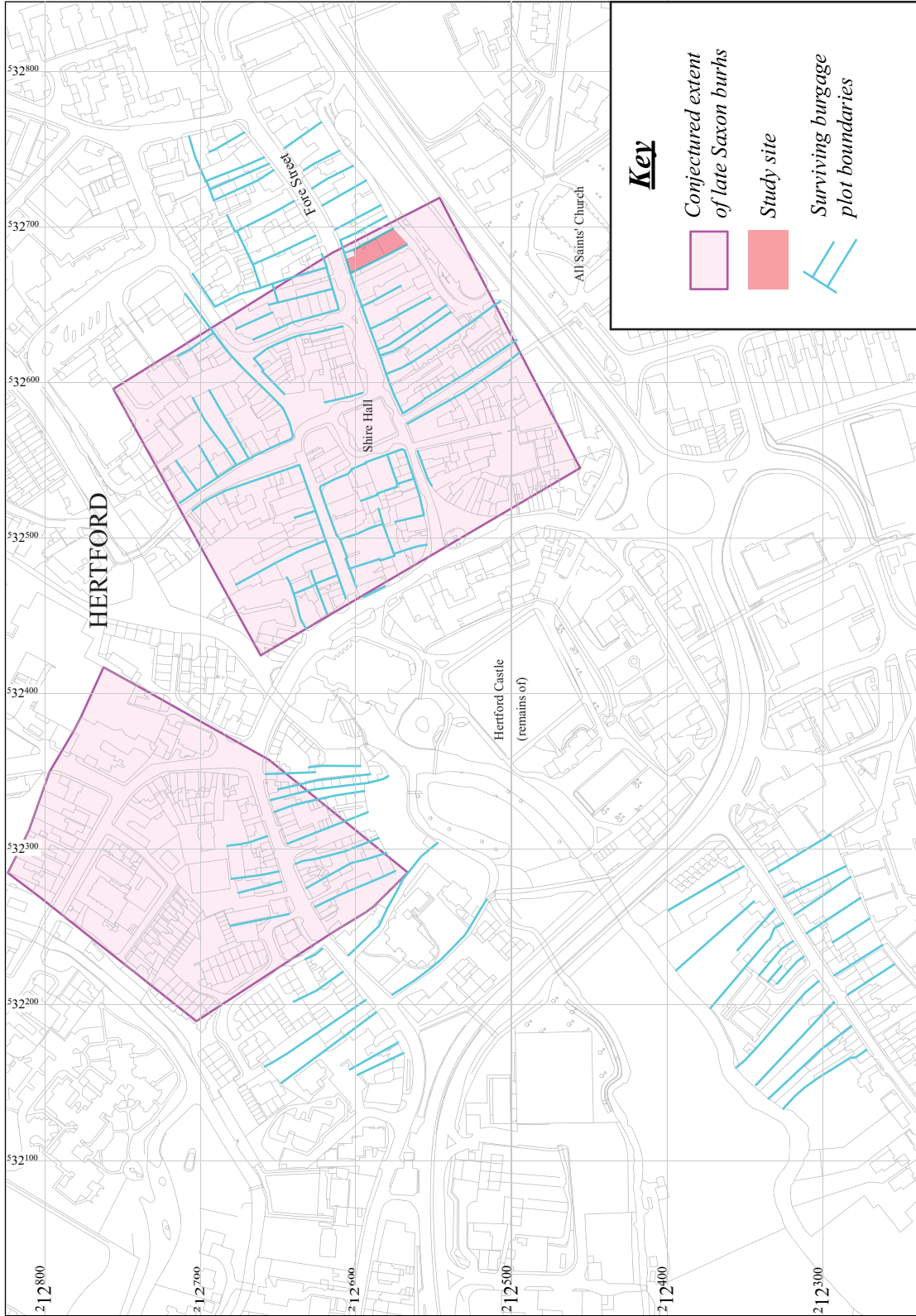


Figure 2: Post Office floor plans (from GSS Architecture)



© Crown Copyright. All rights reserved Cambridgeshire County Council 100023205 2007

Figure 3: Suggested extent of northern and southern Saxon burhs and medieval burghage plots (after Bryant and Seddon)

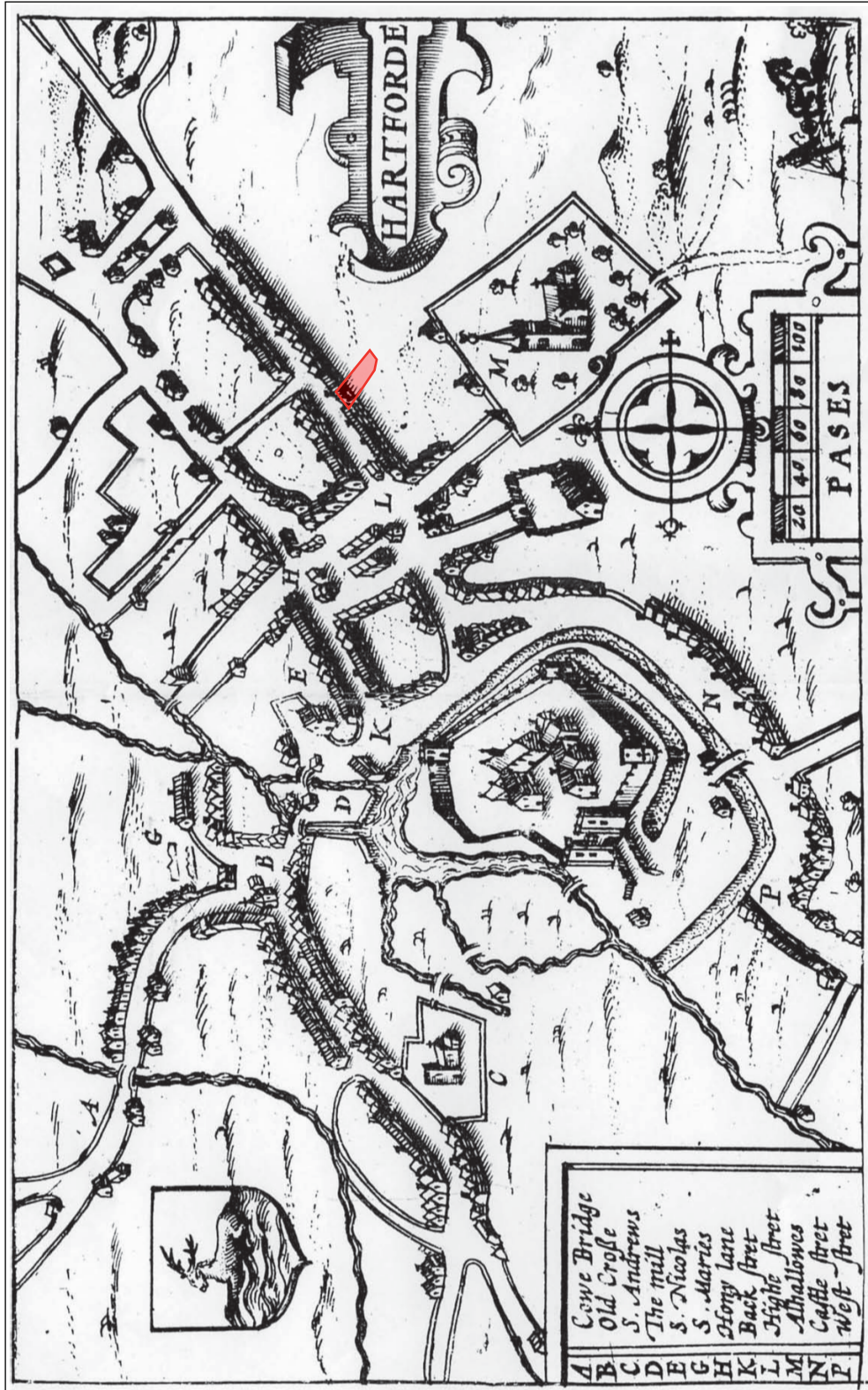


Figure 4: Speed's Map of Hertford, 1610 (estimated study site highlighted red)

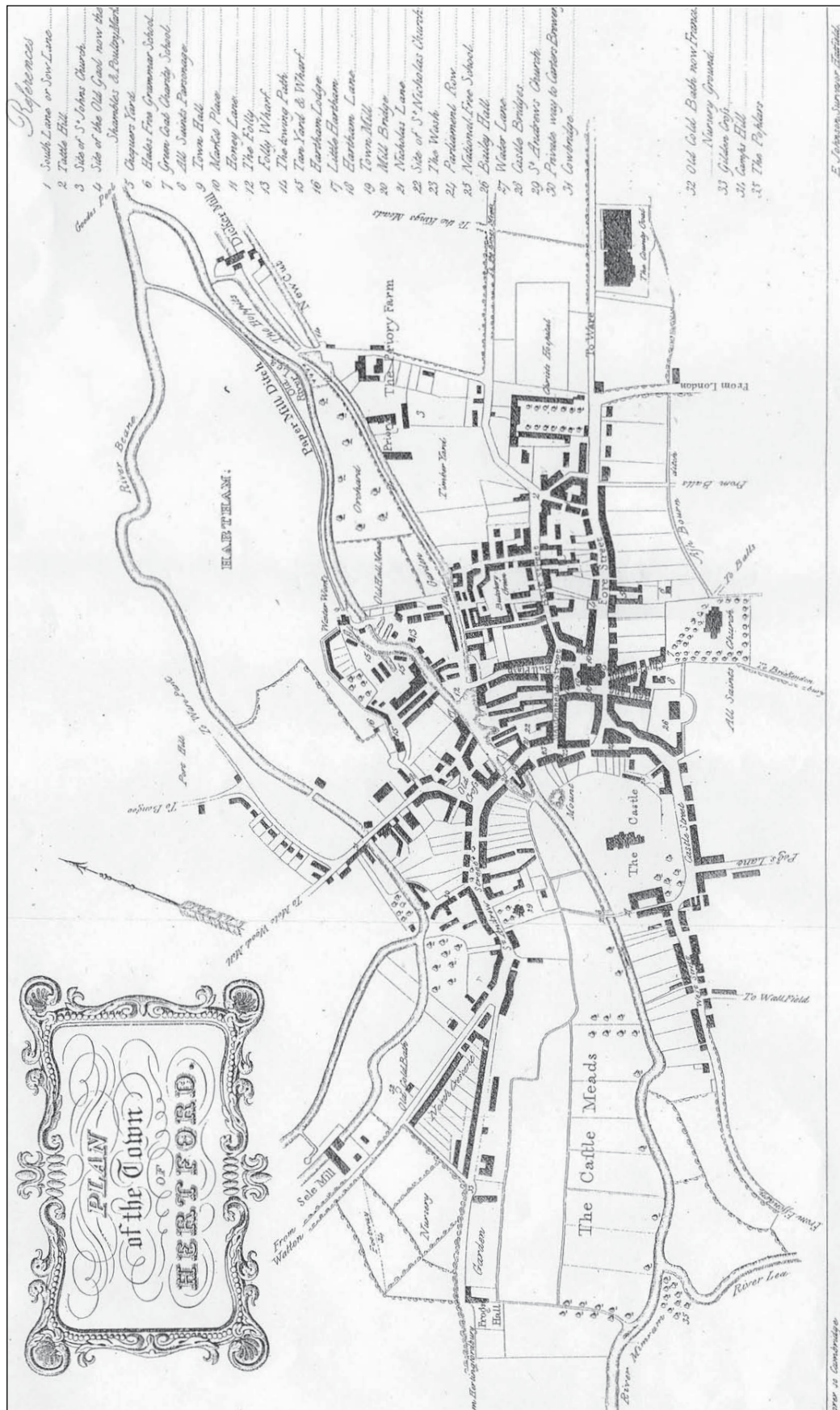


Figure 5: Map of Hertford, 1830 (from L. Turner)



Figure 6: 1st Edition Ordnance Survey, 1881 (with study site highlighted in red) with permission of Hertfordshire County Council HER



Figure 9: Post Office elevation drawing (from GSS Architecture)



Figure 10: 2nd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1898, with study site highlighted in red (with permission of Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies)



Figure 11: 3rd Edition Ordnance Survey Map, 1923, with study site highlighted in red (with permission of Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies)



Figure 12: 1960 Ordnance Survey Map, with study site highlighted in red (with permission of Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies)



Figure 13: 1971 Ordnance Survey Map (with study site highlighted in red)



Plate 1: Fore Street



Plate 2: Hertford Poores Estate plaque



Plate 3: Post Office facade



Plate 4: Original Post Office entrance



Plate 5: Post Office entrance on Post Office Walk



Plate 6: Original windows on first floor



Plate 7: Original windows on second floor



Plate 8: Original fireplace on second floor



Plate 9: Possible concealed fireplace on first floor



Plate 10: Original built in cupboard and possible concealed fire place on second floor



Plate 11: Rear of Post Office building and car park



Plate 12: Post Office Walk

Appendix 1: Health and Safety Statement

The CAM ARC will ensure that all work is carried out in accordance with Cambridgeshire County Council's Health and Safety Policies, to standards defined in *The Health and Safety at Work, etc. Act, 1974* and *The Management of Health and Safety Regulations, 1992*, and in accordance with the manual *Health and Safety in Fieldwork Archaeology* (SCAUM 1997).

Risk assessments prepared for the CAM ARC office will be adhered to.

The CAM ARC has Public Liability Insurance. Separate professional insurance is covered by the Public Liability Policy held by the CAM ARC as part of Cambridgeshire County Council. The CAM ARC's insurance cover is:

Employers Liability	£20,000,000
Public Liability	£30,000,000

Full details of Cambridgeshire County Councils' Health and Safety Policies and the archaeological unit's insurance cover can be provided on request.

Appendix 2: Summary of HER Entries

(500m radius of 84-86 Fore Street)

Prehistoric

HER No.	Grid Ref.	Record	Description	Evidence	Location	Designation
271	TL 33 13	Find Spot	Bronze Age sword fragments and ingot	Find	River Lea, Hertford	None
2073	TL 328 125	Find Spot	Flint Handaxe	Find	All Saints Church	None
4108	TL 3300 1300	Find Spot /	Flints	Find	Nr Great Eastern Railway Station	None
4124	TL 330 125	Find Spot /	Palaeolithic implements	Find	Old River banks, Hertford	None

Iron Age

HER No.	Grid Ref.	Record Type / keywords	Description	Evidence	Location	Designation
4106	TL 3250 1255	Find Spot	Bronze Stater	find	Hertford	None

Roman

HER No.	Grid Ref.	Record	Description	Evidence	Location	Designation
1401	TL 3255 1288	Find Spot	Roman Coin	Find	West of Wesley Ave	None
9881	TL 3245 1263	Monument	Roman Occupation	Destroyed Monument	Mill Bridge, Hertford	None

Saxon/Medieval

HER No.	Grid Ref.	Record	Description	Evidence	Location	Designation
1402	TL 3275 1271	Monument	Saxon and Medieval Occupation	Find	Turks Head Inn, Railway St None	None
9828	TL 32666 12615	Monument	Southern Anglo-Saxon Burgh	Destroyed Monument	Hertford	None
9830	TL 3239 1270	Monument	Northern Anglo-Saxon Burgh	Monument	Hertford	None
9886	TL 32742 12705	Monument	Late Saxon and Medieval occupation	Destroyed Monument	Railway St, Hertford	None
12038	TL 3257 1271	Monument	Late Saxon and Medieval Occupation	Destroyed Monument	Dolphin Yard, Bull Plain, Hertford	None
12693	TL 3295 1292	Monument	Possible Medieval Features and Sculptural Stone	Destroyed Monument	Mill Road, Hertford	None

Medieval

HER No.	Grid Ref.	Record	Description	Evidence	Location	Designation
2121	TL 325 128	Find Spot /	Early Viking sword	Find	River Lea, opposite McMullens Brewery	None
2987	TL 3245 1268	Monument	Site of Market Cross	Documentary evidence	Site of Market Cross, Old Cross, Hertford	None
2994	TL 3282 1298	Building	Site of St Mary's Priory	Destroyed Monument	Site of St Mary's Priory, Priory St, Hertford	None
2998	TL 3246 1269	Building	Site of St Mary the Less Church	Destroyed Monument	Public Library, Hertford	None
4000	TL 3256 1263	Building	Approx site of St Nicholas' Church	Destroyed Monument, Documentary evidence	8-16 The Wash, Hertford	None

4003	TL 3275 1262	Monument	Site of Old (County) Gaol	Destroyed Monument, Documentary evidence	Fore St, Hertford	None
6426	TL 32695 12739	Monument	Medieval Occupation	Destroyed Monument	Birchley Green, Hertford	None
6526	TL 3251 1260	Monument	Castle Inner ditch	Destroyed Monument	Hertford Civic Hall, The Wash, Hertford	None
6527	TL 3258 1254	Monument	Early medieval occupation and castle ditch	Destroyed Monument	12-14 Parliament Square, Hertford	None
6528	TL 3257 1259	Monument	Early Medieval Occupation	Destroyed Monument, Find	Green Dragon Hotel, Parliament Square, Hertford	None
9479	TL 327 128	Building	Original Site of Dicker Mill	Documentary Evidence	Hertford	None
9803	TL 3260 1274	Monument	Lombard House (timber-framed)	Extant Building	Bull Plain, Hertford	Listed Building (II*)
9804	TL 3257 1241	Building	Hall House (timber-framed)	Extant Building	21 and 23 The Walnuts, Castle St, Hertford	None
9807	TL3269 1250	Building	Timber-framed hall	Extant Building	Open Hall House, The Old Vicarage, Church St, Hertford	None
9832	TL 32720 12714	Monument	Ditch, probably the eastern defences of the southern burh	Monument	Hertford	None
9836	TL 3243 1265	Building	Possible Open hall house	Extant building	1 St Andrew St, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9888	TL 32637 12591	Monument	Medieval occupation	Destroyed Monument	Honey Lane, Hertford	None
9891	TL 3261 1266	Monument	Late medieval occupation	Destroyed Monument	Rear of 7-13 Bull Plain, Hertford	None
9892	TL 32654 12593	Monument	Site of Medieval Cemetery	Destroyed Monument	Market Place, Hertford	None
9897	TL 32456 12744	Building	Site of possible Anglo-Saxon Royal Manor	Destroyed Monument	Hertford	None
9898	TL 32321 12699	Find Spot	Medieval Pottery	Find	Former Simson Pimms Factory	None
12047	TL 3252 1269	Monument	Medieval Occupation	Destroyed Monument	Barbers Yard, Old Cross, Hertford	None
12141	TL 3254 1256	Monument	Possible remains of Hertford Castle Inner Moat	Destroyed Monument	1 The Wash, Hertford	None

Medieval/Post-Medieval

HER No.	Grid Ref.	Record	Description	Evidence	Location	Designation
77	TL 3250 1249	Building	Hertford Castle	Earthwork, Extant Building	Hertford Castle 1066-1900	None
1696	TL 3234 1256	Building	St Andrews Church (rebuilt)	Destroyed Monument. Documentary evidence	St Andrews Church	Listed Building (II)
2999	TL 3284 1286	Building	Site of St John the Evangelist's Church,	Destroyed Monument. Documentary evidence, demolished building, find	Hertford	None
6427	TL 32725 12714	Monument	Medieval occupation	Destroyed Monument	31-33 Railway St, Hertford	None
9783	TL 3283 1287	Monument	Site of the old churchyard	Destroyed Monument	St Mary's Priory and St Johns Churchyard	None
9808	TL 3266 1256	Building	Medieval Inn	Extant Building	The Salisbury Arms (The Bell) 24-26 Fore St, Hertford	None
9814	TL 3249 1270	Building	Medieval Cross Wing/Timber-framed building	Extant Building	12 and 14 Old Cross, Hertford	Listed Building
9831	TL 32502 12680	Monument	Medieval and Post-medieval Borough	Destroyed Monument	Hertford	None
9834	TL 3262 1252	Building	Medieval Cross Wing/Timber-framed building	Extant Building	5 and 7 Parliament Square, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9835	TL 32406 12697	Monument	Medieval occupation	Destroyed Monument	4-6 St Andrew St, Hertford	None
9838	TL 32394 12618	Monument	Medieval occupation	Destroyed Monument	15 St Andrew St, Hertford	None
9840	TL 3242 1264	Building	Late medieval house	Extant Building	3 St Andrew St, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9842	TL 3238 1263	Building	Timber-framed hall	Extant Building	17-23 St Andrew St, Hertford	Listed Building (II)

9843	TL 3233 1260	Building	Former open hall house	Extant Building	43 St Andrew St, Hertford	Listed Building (II*)
9845	TL 3262 1267	Building	Possible open hall house (Bull Inn)	Extant Building	13a, 15 and 15a Bull Plain, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9854	TL 3268 1256	Building	Inn, jettied building, timber-framed building	Extant Building	The White Swan Inn, 28 and 30 Fore St, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9858	TL 3247 1267	Building	Jettied Building, Open hall house, timber-framed building	Extant Building	6 Old Cross, Hertford	
9861	TL 3240 1265	Building	Jettied Building, Open hall house, timber-framed building	Extant Building	10, 12 and 14 St Andrew St, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9862	TL 3236 1262	Building	Timber –framed building	Extant Building	27 St Andrew St, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9893	TL 32818 12799	Monument	Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation	Destroyed Monument	Priory St, Hertford	None
9896	TL 32667 12719	Monument	Medieval and Post-Medieval Cultivation	Destroyed Monument	Rear of Bull Plain, Hertford	None
9935	TL 3279 1245	Building	Church of All Saints (with St John)	Extant Building	Queens Road, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
13054	TL 32437 12490	Building	Site of Bridge Across River Lea		Hertford Castle	None

Post-Medieval

HER No.	Grid Ref.	Record	Description	Evidence	Location	Designation
1720	TL 3252 1242	Building	Icehouse	Extant building	Hertford Castle Grounds	Listed Building (II)
2990	TL 3281 1270	Building	Friends Meeting House	Extant building	Railway Street, Hertford	Listed Building (II*)
4008	TL 3268 1246	Building	Bayley Hall	Extant building	Hertford	Listed Building (II)
4884	TL 3270 1255	Monument	Well inside house	Destroyed Monument	Church Street, Hertford	None
5202	TL 3259 1274	Monument	Bridge	Structure	Folly Bridge, Hertford	None
5373	TL 3263 1275	Monument	Maltings	Destroyed Monument	next to Lombard House, Green St, Hertford	None
5374	TL 3258 1268	Monument	Maltings	Destroyed Monument,	behind Bull Plain, Hertford	None
5375	TL 3255 1283	Monument	Maltings	Destroyed Monument	McMullen's, Hartham Lane, Hertford	None
5376	TL 3253 1274	Monument	Maltings	Extant Building	Old Cross, Nicholas Lane, Hertford	None
5379	TL 3280 1279	Monument	Maltings	Destroyed Monument	Priory St, Hertford	None
5381	TL 3275 1273	Monument	Maltings	Destroyed Monument	Railway St/Bircherley St, Hertford	None
5382	TL 3244 1263	Monument	Maltings	Extant Building	R/O 1 St Andrew St, Hertford	None
5383	TL 3236 1237	Monument	Maltings	Extant Building	West St, Hertford	None
5444	TL 3246 1284	Building	Hertford Brewery	Extant Building	Hartham Lane, Hertford	None
5445	TL 3237 1238	Building	Former Nicholls Brewery	Ruined Building	West St, Hertford	None
5533	TL 3298 1292	Building	Hertford East Railway Station	Extant Building	Railway St, Hertford	None
5636	TL 3265 1298	Monument	Former Railway Bridge	Structure	Over River Lea	None
5654	TL 3258 1292	Building	The Old Waterworks	Extant Building	Hartham Lane, Hertford	None
5790	TL 3250 1262	Building	Site of Town Mill	Destroyed Monument	Mill Bridge, Hertford	None
6529	TL 3258 1260	Monument	Post-medieval occupation	Destroyed Monument	29 Maidenhead St, Hertford	None
7250	TL 3251 1265	Monument	Mill Bridge	Structure	Mill Bridge, Hertford	None
7253	TL 3287 1308	Monument	Canal Basin	Extant Building, Structure,	Mill Road, River Lea Navigation	None

7256	TL 3291 1308	Monument	Road Bridge	Structure	Road Bridge over Lea, Mill Road, Hertford	None
9784	TL 3253 1280	Monument	Maltings	Destroyed Monument	Hartham Lane, Hartford	None
9785	TL 3253 1281	Monument	Maltings	Destroyed Monument	Hartham Lane, Hartford	None
9789	TL 3258 1277	Monument	Iron and Brass Foundry	Documentary Evidence	Folly Island, Hertford	None
9846	TL 3262 1247	Building	Timber-framed building	Extant Building	15 Castle St, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9847	TL 3250 1237	Building	Timber-framed public house	Extant Building	31, 33 and 35 Castle St, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9848	TL 3260 1247	Building	Timber-framed building	Extant Building	14, 16, 18 and 18a (1-3 Millers Court), Castle St, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9849	TL 3262 1248	Building	Jettied / Timber-framed buildings	Extant Building	13 Castle St/25 Parliament Sq, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9850	TL 3255 1239	Building	Timber-framed building	Extant Building	Castle Moat House, 25 Castle St, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9851	TL 3270 1253	Building	Front gabled house, jettied building, timber-framed building	Extant Building	11 and 13 Church St, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9853	TL 3272 1250	Building	Jettied building, School, timber-framed building	Extant Building	Former Green Coat School, 35 and 37 Church St, Hertford	
9855	TL 3264 1261	Building	Jettied building, timber-framed building	Extant building, documentary evidence	7 and 8 Market Place, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9856	TL 3269 1260	Building	Jettied building, timber-framed building	Extant Building	14 and 15 Market Place, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9857	TL 3247 1267	Building	Timber-framed building	Extant Building	4 Old Cross, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9860	TL 3248 1268	Building	Timber-framed building	Extant Building	8 Old Cross, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9863	TL 3229 1256	Building	Jettied building, timber-framed building	Extant Building	Cawthorne, 51 St Andrew St, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9865	TL 3255 1261	Building	Cross wing house, gabled house, jettied building, timber-framed house	Extant Building	6a and 8 The Wash, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9866	TL 3255 1262	Building	Jettied building, timber-framed building	Extant Building	10-16 The Wash, Hertford	None
9889	TL 32642 12594	Monument	Post Medieval buildings and occupation	Destroyed Monument	Honey Lane, Hertford	None
9915	TL 3295 1278	Building	Former Bluecoat School/Christ's Hospital	Extant Building	Bluecoat Avenue, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9916	TL 3261 1250	Building	Timber-framed Inn	Extant Building	15-17 Parliament Square	Listed Building (II)
9917	TL 3269 1261	Building	Inn; Jettied building, timber-framed building	Extant Building	Salisbury Square	Listed Building (II)
9918	TL 3267 1259	Building	Court House, Market, Town Hall	Documentary Evidence, Extant Building	Shire Hall, 15 Fore St, Hertford	Listed Building (I)
9919	TL 3233 1262	Building	Jettied Building, Public House, Timber-framed building, workhouse	Extant Building	Three Tuns Public House, 34 St Andrews Street, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9921	TL 3287 1269	Building	Public House, Timber-framed building	Extant Building	The Sportsman Public House, 117 Fore Street, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9929	TL 3275 1262	Monument	Corn Exchange, Market	Extant Building	Corn Exchange, 37 Fore Street, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9930	TL 3237 1276	Building	Church, Congregational Chapel	Extant Building	United Reform Church, Cowbridge	Listed Building (II)
9931	TL 3283 1262	Building	The Ram, Public House, Timber-framed Building	Extant Building	The Ram Inn, 112 Fore Street, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9933	TL 3254 1266	Building	The Seed Warehouse	Extant Building	Maidenhead Yard, Hertford	
9937	TL 3284 1292	Building	Church of the Immaculate Conception (and St Joseph)	Extant Building	St Johns Street, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9943	TL 3293 1248	Building	Harrison Almshouses	Extant Building	1, 2, and 3 Churchfields, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9945	TL 3257 1259	Monument	Former Green Dragon Hotel, Inn	Extant Building	31 and 33 Maidenhead Street, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
9946	TL 3295 1289	Building	The Dolphin Inn, Public House	Extant Building	91 Railway Street, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
10004	TL 3270 1257	Building	Site of the Turks Head Inn/Coffee House	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	42 Fore Street, Hertford	None

10005	TL 3262 1261	Building	Site of Rose Inn/Old Coffee house	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	11-13 Maidenhead Street, Hertford	None
10008	TL 3244 1270	Monument	Site of Ship Inn	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence, Extant Building	17 Old Cross, Hertford	None
10009	TL 3277 1260	Building	Site of the Chequer Inn	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	84 Fore Street, Hertford	None
10010	TL 3276 1262	Monument	Site of Cross Keys Inn	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	41-49 Fore Street, Hertford	None
10011	TL 3264 1258	Monument	Site of Kings (or Queens) Arms	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	3 and 4 Market Place, Hertford	None
10013	TL 3259 1262	Monument	Site of Maidenhead Inn	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidenced	16 Maidenhead Street, Hertford	None
10018	TL 3319 1274	Monument	Site of Steam Laundry	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	Off Ware Road, Hertford	None
10019	TL 3263 1279	Building	Site of Hughes Clay Pipe Factory	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	The Barge, Folly Island, Hertford	None
10020	TL 3288 1271	Building	Site of Young's Brewery	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	South Road, Hertford	None
10021	TL 3253 1270	Monument	Site of Wharf	Destroyed Monument	Off Nicholas Lane, Old Cross, Hertford	None
10023	TL 3279 1291	Monument	Site of Priory Wharf	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	Near Priory Street, Hertford	None
10025	TL 3230 1252	Building	Site of Almshouses	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	St Andrew Street, Hertford	None
10063	TL 3257 1253	Building	Former Simson Printing Works and site of Bell Foundry	Documentary Evidence, Extant Building	14 Parliament Square	Listed Building (II)
10064	TL 3249 1266	Monument	Woolpack Public house	Extant Building	Mill Bridge, Hertford	None
10065	TL 3314 1273	Monument	Site of County and Borough Gaol	Destroyed Monument	Ware Road, Hertford	None
10067	TL 3275 1259	Monument	Site of Red Lion Inn (Duncombe/Dimsdale Arms)	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	80 Fore Street, Hertford	Listed Building (II)
10068	TL 3273 1258	Monument	Approximate Site of Falcon Inn	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	Fore Street, Hertford	None
10069	TL 3272 1258	Monument	Approximate Site of Angel Inn	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	Fore Street, Hertford	None
10121	TL 3277 1270	Monument	Approximate Site of Bridewell (Borough Jail)	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	Railway Street, Hertford	None
10135	TL 3262 1263	Monument	Site of The Glove and Dolphin Inn	Destroyed Monument, Documentary Evidence	Maidenhead Street, Hertford	None
11408	TL 3271 1253	Building	Evidence of post-Medieval Building	Demolished Building	Land between Church Street and Bell Lane	None
11430	TL 3260 1256	Monument	Shop	Extant Building	6 Parliament Square	Listed Building (II)
11788	TL 3271 1253	Monument	C19 th /Post-Medieval Soakaway	Structure	15/15a Church Street, Hertford	None
12033	TL 3282 1284	Building	Norris Workshops	Extant Building	Priory Street, Hertford	None
12039	TL 3262 1280	Monument	Approximate Site of Brays Folly	Documentary Evidence	The Folly, Folly Island, Hertford	None
12648	TL 3284 1263	Building	House (Post-Medieval)	Extant Building	114-116 Fore Street, Hertford	
12706	TL 3277 1267	Building	Post-Medieval Urban Outbuildings	Extant Building	32-36 Railway Street, Hertford	None
12871	TL 3238 1280	Find Spot	Human Bones	Find	14 Cowbridge, Hertford	None
12909	TL 32896 12695	Building	Town House	Extant Building	The Red House, 119 Fore Street, Hertford	Listed Building (II*)
13056	TL 32597 12530	Monument	Site of Parliament Row		Parliament Square, Hertford	None
13070	TL 32845 12940	Monument	Site of Priory Farm	Destroyed Monument	St John's Street, Hertford	None
13071	TL 32800 12935	Monument	Site of Priory House		Priory Street, Hertford	None
13084	TL 32640 12570	Building	C17th Tenement Block		2-11 Fore Street, Hertford	None

Modern

HER No.	Grid Ref.	Record	Description	Evidence	Location	Designation
9477	TL 3324 1277	Building	Former Addis Toothbrush and Plastics Factory	Destroyed Monument	Ware Road, Hertford	None
12663	TL 3254 1231	Monument	Bunker (Cold War)	Extant Building	Beneath Sovereign House, Pegs Lane, Hertford	None

Multi-Period

HER No.	Grid Ref.	Record	Description	Evidence	Location	Designation
2	TL325 125	Monument	Town of Hertford 410AD-1900	Destroyed Monument	Town of Hertford	None
1400	TL 3256 1261	Find Spot	Roman, Saxon and Medieval Occupation	Find	22 Maidenhead St	None
6428	TL 32729 12668	Monument	Anglo-Saxon, medieval and post-medieval occupation	Destroyed Monument	Covered Market site, Market St, Hertford	None
9885	TL 32462 12642	Monument	Late Saxon, Medieval and Post-Medieval occupation	Destroyed Monument	Mill bridge, Hertford	None

Undated

HER No.	Grid Ref.	Record	Description	Evidence	Location	Designation
2071	TL 324 124	Monument	Cropmark	Cropmarks	behind former brewery	None
10003	TL 3264 1258	Monument	Inhumation Burials	Destroyed Monument	4 Market Place, Hertford	None
11782	TL 3254 1268	Building	Post-Medieval wooden revetment	Botanical Feature, Structure	Maidenhead Yard, Hertford	None
12335	TL 3238 1276	Building	Site of Bakery	Destroyed Monument	Cowbridge Street, Hertford	None
12794	TL 3260 1286	Monument	Palaeoenvironmental Data	Botanical Feature	Folly Island, Hertford	None
12841	TL 3263 1247	Monument	Post-Medieval Occupation	Destroyed Monument	17 Castle Street, Hertford	None

Appendix 3: Previous Archaeological Work in Hertford

(500m radius of 84 Fore Street, Hertford)

1 The Wash, 2002
TL 3254 1256 SMR 12141

Cartographic evidence suggests that the site lies across the inner and outer moats of Hertford Castle. By the C17th-C18th the area had been landscaped and the moats filled in. Evaluation in 2002 was largely negative, but a layer of grey clay found in test pit 2 was interpreted as a silt deposit, possibly from within the upper part of the profile of the castle moat.

4 Market Place, 1943
TL 3264 1258 SMR 10003

In 1943 excavations to insert a water tank into the cellar of no. 4 Market Place revealed the skeletal remains of two individuals, thought to be of a man and child. Contemporary reports indicate that the remains were well preserved and were considered to be at least 200 years old. The proximity of the site to the likely Saxon/early medieval cemetery (9892) at the western edge of the Market Place would suggest that these were associates burials. It was recorded that the remains were reinterred on the site.

4-6 St Andrew Street, 1990
TL 32406 12697 SMR 9835

Several post-holes and pits were discovered during excavation in advance of development in 1990, 35m to the rear of the street frontage. The features were of two phases:

Phase 1, dated to the C12th-C14th, consisted of four pits and two post-holes. They contained pottery and animal bone, including some fragments of C10th-C12th pottery.

Phase 2, dated to the C15th-C17th, consisted of three pits, also containing pottery and animal bone, and two bronze pins. The features probably represent medieval back-garden rubbish disposal activity

7-13 Bull Plain
TL 3261 1266 SMR 9891

A watching brief during the building of an extension revealed evidence of medieval occupation including four cess pits, dating to the C14th-C15th.

12-14 Parliament Street, 1977?
TL 3258 1254 SMR 6527

Excavation revealed a second ditch belonging to the castle, dug in 1171. The spoil was used to elevate the wall and early medieval occupation which predates the castle. The pottery was residual and includes Stamford ware, St Neots ware and a "a hard red-black sandy fabric with a grey core".

15 St Andrew Street, 1993
TL 32394 12618 SMR 9838

Excavation revealed a layer 0.8m to 1.7m below the modern surface, which contained pottery dating to the C12th-C14th. This was cut by a large pit, dated to the C17th-C18th. Pottery comprised grey-ware and a glazed sherd with fish scale decoration.

15/15a Church Street, 2001
TL 3271 1253 SMR 11788

A soakaway containing C19th pottery was found during an evaluation. It was bonded into a wall on its northern side.

17 Castle Street, 2005
TL 3263 1247 SMR 12841

Monitoring of new footings behind no. 17 found extensive deposits of C17th-C20th made ground, over natural glacial sands and gravels. A truncated C19th pit was the only feature. The few finds included residual C11th-C14th pottery and C18th-C19th sherds in the pit; late C17th-C19th (largely C18th-C19th) pottery came from the make-up.

29 Maidenhead Street,
TL 3258 1260 SMR 6529

Excavation revealed a 1m build up above natural of four major occupation phases. A large C16th-C17th brick-built chimneystack parallel to the road was the last of these; none of the earlier phases were dated.

31-33 Railway Street, 1973-4
TL 32725 12714 SMR 6427

Domestic occupation represented by a sequence of rubbish pits containing C13th-C14th pottery, revealed during excavation in 1973. Two of the pits cut into the Anglo-Saxon burh defensive ditch (9831). A coin of Henry III (1251-72) was found in one of the pits.

Barbers Yard, Old Cross, 1999 and 2005
TL 3252 1269 SMR 12047

The remains of two lines of wooden revetments were found with quantities of animal bone, oyster shell and pottery dating to the C12th-C14th. Some decayed thin wooden strips appear to be a collapsed lattice work structure and may be the remains of an eel or fish trap. Peat and riverine silts suggest that the course of channels of the River Lea were once wider and shallower at this point. Dumped soils sealed the medieval layers and may relate to reclaimed land used to build Nicholas Lane. It is believed that the was once a ford in the vicinity. Monitoring of the site in 2004 found nothing further.

Bircherley Green, 1980
TL 32695 12739 SMR 6426

Excavation in 1980 revealed a group of seven postholes, six pits, a gully and an oven dated from the C11th-C13th. These features were west of the burh ditch (see 9831). A narrow gully was found east of the burh ditch, and running parallel with it. There was little evidence of activity between C14th and C18th.

(Rear of) Bull Plain, 1980
TL 32667 12719 SMR 9896

Excavation of the Museum car park in 1980 revealed that the area had probably remained as open ground since C10th. Soil accumulations contained pottery dated to C11th-C14th, indicating that the area was cultivated. A more formal garden was probably created, with paths and flower beds in the C18th.

Covered Market Site, Market Street, 1996
TL 32729 12668 SMR 6428

Excavation on the site of the late C19th covered market produced evidence for a late Saxon building, a shaft furnace and 28 pits and several ovens, dated to 900-1200AD. The building comprised two beam slots of the west side and a partition wall, fronting onto Market Street. It was short-lived and was cut by several of the pits. The possible south wall of a building fronting onto Railway Street was also found. A gravel yard surface, dated to the late C13th was laid across the centre of the site. It had a hearth at its southern edge. The area appears to have fallen out of use from the C14th until the early C17th when a rectangular lime kiln, and a chalk raft – probably the base of a building – were constructed. In the C18th two small brick cottages were built on the Railway Street frontage.

(Land between) Church Street and Bell Lane, 2000/1
TL 3271 1253 SMR 11408

Remains of a brick built cellar which probably belonged to a building shown on a C19th OS map. No evidence for previous occupation.

Dolphin Yard, Bull Plain, 2002-3
TL 3257 1271 SMR 12038

A sequence of Saxon and medieval features at Dolphin Yard consisted of pits, ditches and postholes, suggesting backyard occupation from at least the C10th to C14th. The site, on the riverbank, was then abandoned until possibly the C17th. Finds include an important range of C10th-C12th pottery as well as animal bone and oyster shells, and a lava quernstone; burnt flint was present in one trench. See 5374 for the C19th maltings, which stood here.

Eastern Defences of Southern Saxon Burh, Railway Street, 1973 and 1980
TL 32720 12714 SMR 9832

A large ditch 2.3m deep and approximately 6m wide was discovered during excavations at Railway Street in 1973. It ran in a northwest – southeast direction and appears to have been backfilled in the C12th. It was also found at the same alignment approximately 35m to the north during excavations in 1980. Here, it was 2m deep and 6m wide and evidence survives of an internal bank. The length appeared to have silted up naturally in the C12th. The most convincing interpretation of the ditch is as part of the eastern defences of the C10th southern burh at Hertford. The defences, as originally constructed, probably comprised a ditch with internal bank and a wooden palisade on the bank. Pottery found included shelly wares and sherds in a “hard sandy fabric”.

Folly Island, 2004

TL 3260 1286 SMR 12794

Two trenches on the west side of Folly Island found (beneath >0.75m of made up ground) deep alluvial sediments suggesting a riverbank environment (rather than an oxbow). The deposits included water snail shells, charcoal, charred or waterlogged seeds and pollen, and some fragmented organic material in peaty layers (which were more humic mud than genuine peat). No dating evidence was recovered.

Folly Island Iron and Brass Foundry, 1999

TL 3258 1277 SMR 9789

No evidence of metal working was recovered from the evaluation trenches, which predominantly identified post-medieval and modern yard surfaces, made ground and dump layer, some associated with the flood defences on the west side of the site. The “walls” of a post medieval building were found.

Former Malting behind Bull Plain, 2002

TL 3258 1268 SMR 5374

Evaluation trenches recorded post medieval wall foundations, pits and ditches representing the remains of the malting and ancillary buildings. Pottery dating from the C16th-C20th was recovered from these features.

Green Dragon Hotel, Parliament Square, 1903, 1974

TL 3257 1259 SMR 6528

Excavation in advance of the construction of the Green Dragon Hotel in 1903 revealed a large number of sherds of early medieval pottery, including St Neots Ware and a medieval jug now in Hertford museum. A small excavation in 1974 found only a large amount of post-medieval disturbance.

Hertford Castle, 1988 and 1990

TL 3250 1249 SMR 77

Excavations in 1988 and 1990 confirmed the existence of the outer ward or bailey. This had a C12th-C14th cobbled surface and the foundations of several buildings, probably constructed at the same time as the gatehouse in 1460. A cellar was found at the SW end of the outer bailey, possibly part of a postern tower of the C15th defences. A large deposit of food refuse, probably from feasting, was found in the

excavations. This included deer, fish, wild and domestic birds and oyster, Other finds include a penny of Edward II (1317-20) and a C15th French crown-type jetton.

Hertford Civic Hall, 1977

TL 3251 1260 SMR 6526

Small excavation revealed area of the Castle inner ditch. The ecological evidence shows that the ditch appears to have been connected to the River Lea and flax retting took place in it. Little dating material was recovered, apart from a C13th pot. An almost complete C13th pot was found in it by Petchey in 1977.

Honey Lane, 1977-8

TL 32637 12591 SMR 9888

Excavation in 1977-9 immediately behind Market Street produced evidence of occupation dating from the C11th-C14th.

The earliest features were a series of pits and shallow post-holes dated to the C11th, and two beamslots, which may represent the foundations of a building. A series of larger post-holes were dated to the C12th or C13th. These were overlain by a dark loam deposit, dated from the C14th-C16th, which suggest that the site was left open during this period.

The features probably represent occupation to the rear of the Maidenhead Yard and Market Square street frontages.

Honey Lane, 1977-8

TL 32642 12594 SMR 9889

Excavation in 1977-8 immediately behind Market Street revealed evidence of post-medieval occupation.

Following a period of disuse from the C14th-C16th, buildings were constructed fronting onto the Market Square. They were probably timber-framed with stone footings. One of the buildings had an elaborate, stone chimneybreast. In a courtyard behind the building was a well, lined with mortared flint.

By the C18th the buildings were replaced in –situ by brick structures, and in the late C18th, an extension was added to the rear of one of the buildings. This contained a hearth, together with burning and slag, indicating industrial activity. The buildings were demolished by the 1960s.

Maidenhead Yard, 2002

TL 3254 1268 SMR 11782

A channel or leat revetted with wooden planks and square timber uprights was found in an evaluation trench adjacent to the River Lea. This could be the remains of an in filled loading wharf for the Seed Warehouse. No dating evidence was revealed. The channel cut a layer of disturbed alluvium. Environmental samples were taken but preservation was poor. A lower zone dating to the late Holocene (8000-7000BC) indicated a dominance of oak, elm and hazel. A later period “thought” to be of historic age contained weed assemblages from waste ground and arable habitats, some of which may have derived from urban refuse.

Market Place, 1975 and 1988

TL 32654 12593 SMR 9892

Inhumation burials—a total of c.40 individuals, and a pit, were discovered during the constructions of a sewer and to the west of Shire Hall in 1975. They were approximately 1.75m below ground surface, lying in an east-west direction. The pit contained C11th to C12th pottery, and was probably contemporary with the burials. A further group of disarticulated inhumation remains was discovered approximately 7m to the east, in 1988, during the renovation of Shire Hall. These had been redeposited, probably during the original construction of Shire Hall in C18th.

The context for the burials is unclear. They may pre-date the construction of the late Saxon burh and the Market Place in c.913, but they are more likely to form part of a Late Saxon and medieval cemetery located at the western edge of the Market Place. It is possible that the cemetery may belong to St Nicholas Church, which was located approximately 100m to the north (see 4000). St Nicholas was the only church known to have been located within the boundary of the southern burh, and there is as yet no other evidence for a cemetery associated with it.

Mill Road, 2003

TL 3295 1292 SMR 12693

Evaluation of the former car park on the north side of the Dolphin public house (9946) found four pits and a gully cut into natural gravel and sealed by subsoil. Only one pot sherd came from these features, probably early-mid Saxon. Nine large pieces of ashlar architectural mouldings were also found, residual within a modern demolition layer. One is certainly medieval; one may be Victorian and the remainder undated. The source could be the nearby Benedictine priory (2994), or St Johns church (2999) which belonged to the priory.

Millbridge, 1988-90 and 1996

TL 3245 1263 SMR 9881

Excavations in 1988-90 revealed part of a circular enclosure approximately 15m in and an urned cremation dated c. AD40-65. The cremation was also accompanied by two pots and a platter. Also found were plough marks, an area of flint cobbling, alignments of post and stakeholes, pits and drainage gullies.

A ditch, 1m wide by 0.6m deep and running east-west, and containing C3ed and C4rh pottery was found during further excavation on the site in 1996.

Activity on the site appears to have continued from the C1st into the C4th, after which the site was covered with alluvium, representing repeated flooding from the adjacent river.

SMR 9885

Excavations in 1988-90 revealed three phases of Saxon and medieval occupation:

A water-logged cess pit and a drainage ditch dating to C10th-C11th. No trace of any structures which might be associated with the northern burh were found.

A series of layers of dumped material, possibly connected with the construction of Hertford Castle in the C11th.

Beamslot-founded timber structures, probably representing outbuildings for the tenements fronting onto St Andrew Street in the C12th.

Features containing C13th-C14th pottery were found during further excavation in advance of the construction of a garage in 1996. Cut into the medieval features were several pits and gullies containing C15th-C16th pottery and brick, tile, animal bone and two knives.

Old Churchyard, St Mary's Priory and St Johns Church, 1989-90

TL 3282 1287 SMR 9783

The cemetery of St Mary's Priory and St Johns Church yielded 247 burials when partially excavated in 1989-90. There was some variation in the burial styles and depths. Four graves containing flint pillowstones and three graves packed with chalk may be C12th, but there was an overall lack of dating evidence. The main use of the cemetery was from the C12th to the C18th, being the only of its kind in Hertford.

Priory Street, 1977-8 and 1980

TL 32818 12799 SMR 9893

Excavations and watching brief in 1977-8 indicated that the site of Botsfords Yard in Priory Street was open ground during the medieval period. Saxo-Norman pottery was present in "field" soils. Further work in 1980 revealed several large disturbed groups of medieval and post-medieval pits and the remains of medieval houses.

Railway Street, 1980

TL 32742 12705 SMR 9886

Evidence of occupation, including buildings, dating between c.1000 until c.1100, revealed during excavations in 1980 adjacent to Railway Street. The earliest structures comprised the foundations for the north and west walls of two buildings. One was a timber beamslot-founded building and the other a post-hole building, both fronting onto Railway Street. Building 1 was replaced by another beamslot-founded building which extended further north, and in was in turn replaced by a post-hole building 2m by 5m in size, located immediately north of building 1. To the north of the buildings was an oven and a series of rubbish pits, which contained animal bone, pottery and other domestic rubbish. Evidence of hornworking was also found. The occupation was sealed by a layer of silt, which was over-lain by a loam deposit of C16th or later date, indicating that the site became disused, and may have been used as a garden plot.

Evidence of late Saxon occupation of this site is important because it appears to lie immediately to the east, and outside, the probable boundary of the southern Saxon burh, represented by a large ditch (see 9830, 9832). It therefore indicates that. At least in the Railway Street area, occupation extended beyond the boundary of the burh by c.1000.

Former Simson Pimms Factory, 1996

TL 32321 12699 SMR 9898

A few residual sherds of medieval pottery were discovered in C18th-C20th features during archaeological evaluation of the Simson Pimms site in 1996. The context for the pottery is unclear as there appears to have been substantial levelling-up of the site towards the river, and most of the trenches were not deep enough to encounter medieval deposits.

St John the Evangelists Church, 1989-90

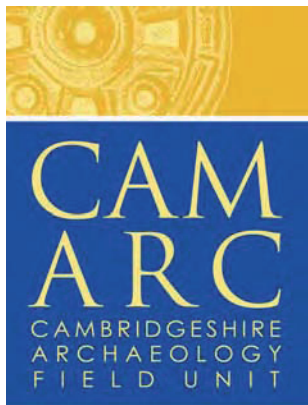
TL 3284 1286 SMR 2999

In 1989-90 excavation in advance of development revealed a previously unknown C15th extension and more than 300 burials (see 9783). The full extent of the churchyard was not determined. Datable finds from the site included a pit c65m north of the church which revealed sherds of C9th-C11th pottery and a single residual sherd from a grave.

St Mary's Priory, Priory Street, 1989-90

TL 3282 1298 SMR 2994

Excavations by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust (HAT) in 1989-90 on the site of Jewsons Yard revealed a plan of the church and a large cemetery (9783) but little trace of any other buildings associated with the priory. Carved stone has also been found nearby (12693).



CAM ARC,
Cambridgeshire County Council,
15 Trafalgar Way,
Bar Hill,
Cambridgeshire,
CB3 8SQ

General Enquiries: 01954-204191
Fax: 01954-273376

<http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/archaeology>