



**CAM ARC Report Number 1002**

## **Hampden House, Temple Place, Huntingdon**

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**Desk Based Assessment**

Will Punchard

January 2008

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## **Desk Based Assessment**

Will Punchard BA

With contributions by Scott Kenney and Dr Paul  
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Site Code: HUN HAH 08  
Date of works: 21<sup>ST</sup> Jan 2008  
Grid Ref: TL 2436 7172

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## CAM ARC OASIS Report Form

OASIS Number: cambridg1-38270

<b>PROJECT DETAILS</b>				
Project name	Hampden House, Temple Place, Huntingdon: A Desk Based Assessment			
Short description	A Desk Based Assessment prior to the redevelopment of a site at Temple Place, Huntingdon.			
Project dates	Start	21 <sup>st</sup> January 2008	End	21 <sup>st</sup> January 2008
Previous work	None		Future work	Unknown
Associated project reference codes	HUNHAH08			
Type of project	Desk Based Assessment			
Site status	None			
Current land use (list all that apply)	Residential			
Planned development	Residential			
Monument types / period (list all that apply and use <a href="#">thesaurus of monument types</a> )	None			
Significant finds: Artefact type / period (list all that apply and use <a href="#">MDA object thesaurus</a> )	None			
<b>PROJECT LOCATION</b>				
County	Cambridgeshire	Parish	Huntingdon	
HER for region	Cambridgeshire			
Site address (including postcode)	Hampden House, 21 Temple Place, Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire, PE29 3RT			
Study area (sq.m or ha)	0.14ha			
National grid reference	Easting (6 figure)	TL 2436	Northing (6 figure)	7172
Height OD	Max OD	N/A	Min OD	N/A
<b>PROJECT ORIGINATORS</b>				
Organisation	Cambridgeshire County Council, CAM ARC			
Project brief originator	Pre-Planning			
Project design originator	Toby Gane			
Director/supervisor	Will Punchard			
Project manager	Paul Spoerry			
Sponsor or funding body	Ithuriel PTY			
<b>ARCHIVES</b>				
	Location and accession number		Content (e.g. pottery, animal bone, database, context sheets etc)	
Physical			Report, development maps	
Paper			Report, development maps	
Digital			Report, Illustrations	
<b>BIBLIOGRAPHY</b>				
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## **Summary**

The proposed development, covering an area of approximately 0.14ha and centred on TL 2436 7176, is bounded by Riverside Road, Brook House, and the houses of Temple Close, in the town of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. The proposed development involves the demolition of the current residential building and construction of several new residential dwellings. The site lies within the medieval town and recent nearby excavations could place it just inside the Saxon settlement. Roman, Saxon and medieval remains have been recorded in the vicinity, and a small detached building/house is recorded on the 1886 OS Map which was demolished to make way for the construction of a post WW2 house. The evidence of past activity to the north, south and west, implies a high potential for preservation of any archaeological remains on the site however it may have been disturbed by foundations from the buildings that were erected more recently.

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## **1 Introduction**

### **1.1 Planning Background**

Ithuriel PTY commissioned a desktop study from Cambridgeshire County Council, CAM ARC (formerly Archaeological Field Unit). The aim of this assessment is to determine the archaeological potential of land at Hampden House, Temple Place, Huntingdon, 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.

### **1.2 Location, Topography and Geology**

The proposed development, covering an area of approximately 0.14ha and centred on TL 2436 7172, is bounded by Riverside Road, Brook House, and the houses of Temple Close, in the town of Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire (Fig.1). The site sits at a height of approximately 10m OD.

The underlying geology of the development area comprises of Pleistocene First and Second Terrace Gravels of the River Great Ouse. The gravels overlie Upper Jurassic Oxford Clays, which are the underlying solid geology across a wide area in this region (British Geological Survey 1975).

## **2 Archaeological and Historical Sources**

### **2.1 Historical Sources**

The investigation concentrated on the accessible archaeological and historical resources held by Huntingdon Record Office (HRO), Cambridge Record Office (CRO), the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record (CHER) and documentary sources held by CAMARC. The latter includes the archive of the Huntingdon Archaeological Town Survey (1997-9) and material gleaned from the archives of Sidney Inskipp Ladds, held by the Norris Museum in St Ives.

### **2.2 The Historic Environment Record (formerly SMR)**

The known archaeological resource was investigated through the Historic Environment Record held by Cambridgeshire County Council (see Appendix 2). Additional published resources such as the Victoria

County Histories and the Royal Commission inventory for the parish (Page *et al* 1932; RCHME 1936) were examined. Reports and archives on excavations carried out in and around Huntingdon were consulted.

### **2.3 Cartographic Evidence**

The historical records held at the HRO in Huntingdon were also consulted. The Office holds copies of the Enclosure Award, Tithe map and earlier maps of the town, as well as documents referring to land sales. This work was supplemented by study of the Ordnance Survey maps of the area, from the draft First Edition onwards. The modern layout of the town appears to retain many boundaries and holdings set out in the medieval period and perhaps dating from earlier periods.

### **2.4 Aerial Photographs**

The subject area is considered unsuitable for aerial photographic assessment or geophysical survey, due to the current and recent building cover.

### **2.5 Archaeological Excavations and Surveys**

Unpublished archives of archaeological interventions in Huntingdon were also studied; one excavation was completed in close proximity to the site at the site of the Former Model Laundry (CamArc report 845, CHER MCB 17084).

## **3 Archaeological and Historical Background**

By Scott Kenney and Will Punchard

### **3.1 General Background**

#### **3.11 Prehistoric**

The subject site is situated within the Ouse Valley, which is rich in prehistoric remains. During the Late Neolithic and Bronze Age, major ritual complexes sprang up and evolved along the course of the Ouse and, although much of the material culture does not survive, these monuments are highly visible from the air as cropmarks. These ceremonial complexes cover extensive territories and are distributed evenly across the landscape (Malim 2000).

To the west of Huntingdon lies the Late Neolithic and Early Bronze Age ceremonial complex of Brampton, where mortuary enclosures, cursus monuments and ring ditches have been identified. Brampton and its surroundings are an area rich in archaeological activity. Aerial



photographic work has discovered groups of Neolithic monuments including henges, a cursus and a long mortuary enclosure, in addition to Bronze Age burial monuments and Iron Age/Romano-British field systems. Parts of this landscape have been scheduled as an ancient monument (SAM 121). In 1990 and 1991 an investigation of a portion of this monument, north of the Thrapston Road and south of Alconbury Brook, found evidence for a Neolithic mortuary enclosure situated at the end of a cursus (Malim 1990).

Excavations within the area have also recovered material relating to prehistoric ritual activity. In 1966 a Bronze Age triple ring ditch was investigated south of the Thrapston Road and a cinerary urn and 'maritime' beaker fragments were recovered from the ditches (White 1969). Subsequent work in the same area uncovered an Iron Age settlement and associated ditch systems (Malim and Mitchell 1993).

Within the Huntingdon area, an Iron Age presence has been identified. At Godmanchester a series of Early Iron Age farmsteads or hamlets have been located at intervals along the gravel terrace (Green 1977). One such farmstead has been sample excavated just east of the town (Wait 1992) whilst other evidence of Iron Age activity is known beneath modern Godmanchester in the form of roundhouses and ditched enclosures encountered below Roman occupation (Green *op. cit.*).

Investigations north of the Alconbury Brook at Huntingdon Racecourse have revealed evidence of prehistoric land clearance, settlement and ritual activity adjacent to an ancient stream channel (Macaulay 1996). This settlement, dating to the Neolithic, Bronze Age and Iron Age was sealed by alluvial deposits, as were all of those discussed above.

Within Huntingdon itself, artefacts of prehistoric date have been found and reported to the CHER. These are largely of Neolithic and Bronze Age date. The presence of such artefacts is unsurprising given the preference of early prehistoric populations for low-lying gravels and the major Late Neolithic ceremonial complex at Rectory Farm Godmanchester, which lies about 1km to the southeast of the development area. This site consisted of a huge rectilinear 'horned' ditch enclosure approximately 6.3ha in area, with an internal bank and 24 posts arranged regularly along the perimeter of the enclosure. Radiocarbon dates from the site suggest a Late Neolithic date of between 5050 ±80BP and ±4850 80BP (McAvoy, in Dawson 2000). Excavations by the AFU south of the enclosure indicate that the activities associated with the monument were widespread (Hinman & Kenney 1998).

Excavations at the former Model Laundry, Ouse walk revealed some pre-historic activity in the form of residual flint and pottery. 25 lithics were identified representing most stages in the reduction process and included five cores in addition to blades and small chips, indicative of

on site knapping (Clarke 2005, 35). Alongside this a small group of Iron Age pottery (5<sup>th</sup> – 3<sup>rd</sup> Century BC) was recovered.

More Iron Age finds have been discovered within Huntingdon at Watersmeet, including Scored Ware pottery dating from the Middle to Late Iron Age (Cooper and Spoerry, 2000). Bronze age pottery and a Neolithic ditch were recorded during evaluation and excavation in 2004 and 2005 on the Walden Road/Walden house sites (Clarke 2004 and Rachel Clarke pers. comm.).

### **3.12 Roman**

Roman Huntingdon is often seen as a suburb of Godmanchester, and/or ribbon development northwards along Ermine Street. Evidence for Roman activity has come mostly from chance finds and also from unpublished excavations. The results of many of these are detailed in section 3.3 in summary, they consist of a villa site overlooking Alconbury Brook, and two investigations within the town that revealed metalled Roman road surfaces, one of these was probably a spur road off the Ermine Street that led to the villa mentioned above, and a large roman ditch at the former model laundry site. Chance finds have indicated that roadside burial was taking place during this period alongside Ermine Street. Since this is a common Roman practice, further examples may come to light during future archaeological work in the roadside zone. In 1999 and 2003, evaluations and an excavation at Watersmeet, bordering the Castle, Mill Common and Alconbury Brook, revealed a Roman presence, including a Late Roman cemetery. Excavations at Pathfinder house in 2006 (CHER MCB17284), revealed Roman pits and Ditches of 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century date. Further to this, excavations at the former Model Laundry, Ouse Walk (CHER MCB 17084) revealed a substantial Roman ditch that was either part of a significant boundary, or may have been part of a water-management system (Clarke 2005, 37). Roman pottery from the site indicated a broad span of occupation from the 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, with the majority of the assemblage representing domestic use. This indicates that there was probably domestic Roman activity nearby however any evidence of settlement has yet to be found.

Several authors have made attempts to locate the line of Ermine Street between Godmanchester and the northern edge of Huntingdon. The consensus is shown on Figure 2. Ermine Street lies several hundred metres to the south of the subject site. The Roman period CHER entries imply that the area to the north, south and west experienced a range of activities, whilst the presence of an excavated villa site to the south-west of the site, on the high riverbank, implies that further, related, remains may be present in the zone between there and the line of Ermine Street. It is possible similar riverside occupation existed during the Roman period along the northern bank of the Great Ouse, and the development site would lie within this zone. The Roman tile

mentioned in CHER entry 02733 (Fig.3) may provide evidence of this type of occupation.

### 3.13 Anglo-Saxon

Although the location of the documented Danish and Late Saxon burhs at Huntingdon (the latter being a re-build or extension of the former) is not known, recent work has attempted to re-assess the evidence. New research indicates that the Late Saxon settlement is located in the southern part of the area later enclosed by the medieval town ditch to the north-east and the bar dyke to the south-west (Spoerry 2000). There is, however, much dispute as to the location of the late 9th to early 10th century Danish burh.

One model, although not the most favoured, is based on the comparative situation at Stamford (Mahany 1982) and would place the burh at a defensible location some distance to the north-west of the river crossing, its western limit conforming to the boundary of the bar dyke (Fig. 2). The alternative and more probable model proposes that the early defended area consisted of a D-shaped enclosure around the river crossing carrying Ermine Street across the River Ouse. This interpretation suggests that the later castle may reflect the approximate location of the Danish burh with, on topographic grounds, the western burh defences perhaps coinciding with the western part of the Watersmeet site.

The process of Late Saxon urban development eventually resulted in the very substantial town documented by Domesday Book, which also refers to the twenty properties cleared to make way for the castle (Spoerry 2000). Both documentary and archaeological data suggest that the main area of immediately pre-Conquest settlement extended from the later High Street to the east, as far as bar dyke at the end of Mill Common to the west. One particularly noteworthy CHER entry is that of the Late Saxon church and burial ground at Whitehills.

The adjacent site at the former model laundry (CHER MCB 17084) revealed little in the way of early Saxon occupation, just a few sherds of pottery, however it did reveal a significant amount of late Saxon activity. A series of ditches or channels were identified across the site. The channels appeared to have been partially deliberately in-filled and partly filled through natural processes i.e. flooding and silting. When a channel was in-filled a new channel was cut in a progressively northerly direction. The main channels ran roughly northwest to southeast for at least 40m from the western edge of the site and a probable terminal or entrance was seen at the western edge of the site in trench 9. The eastern trench, trench 2, revealed no continuation of the channels suggesting they may be located further to the southeast beneath the gardens of the adjacent house (Fig 4).

The channels possibly represent a significant boundary between habitable land on the higher ground to the south and more marginal floodplain to the north. The deliberate infilling and movement northwards of the channels could be to increase the area of dry land in this marginal location, as pressure on the land increased, perhaps due to population growth in the Danish settlement to the south and west (Clarke 2005).

In light of the recent excavation (Clarke 2005), if the ditches and channels are interpreted as a boundary then the development site may lie just inside the Saxon settlement. Late Saxon occupation has been found on Orchard Lane (Oakey 1997) and Hartford Road (Connor 1996), which itself is probably earlier in date. and as highlighted above a large amount of Saxon activity was uncovered at the model laundry site.

### **3.14 Norman & Medieval**

By the time of Domesday survey there were 256 burgesses (freemen who were heads of households), two churches and a mill.

The major element in the post-Conquest medieval townscape is the castle, built in 1068 and at least partially destroyed in 1174. The imposition of the castle onto the pre-existing Saxon town necessitated the movement of the river crossing, resulting in the construction of a wooden bridge, and made it necessary to lay out a new High Street and, probably, market place. Both Ladds and Dickinson thought that the original castle curtilage was much larger than that surviving by the post-medieval period, and proposed that the area immediately west of the motte was in fact a second bailey (Ladds Archive; Dickinson 1972). The distinct rise from west to east under the houses on the street of Castle Hill, along with the substantial earthworks present on the Watersmeet site (see 3.3) offer strong support for this model. The fact that the earthworks are not shown on the 1886 OS map (or the 1901 revision) but appear by 1926 may mean that this area was substantially re-modelled in the early 20th century, perhaps when the house called Watersmeet was built. If this land were not part of the castle then it may still have experienced a range of other activities in the medieval period and could have been occupied by buildings, particularly following the castle's demise as a defensive structure.

The stone-built bridge carrying Ermine Street over the River Ouse was constructed in AD 1332. It is believed that the present bridge, with six arches, replaced an earlier timber bridge (Page *et al*, 1932). The surviving structure is considered to be one of the finest of its kind in England and was constructed simultaneously at both ends by two different authorities, without much regard to direction. Fortunately, the two parts joined in the middle, but as they were not on the same axis

the bridge exhibits a notable bend. Records describe a chapel on the east side that has not survived, unlike the chapel at St Ives.

St Mary's Priory was built north of the town ditch around AD 1086 and may have been located within a detached cemetery of the pre-Conquest collegiate church of St Mary (Page *et al*, 1932). The new priory was constructed shortly after 1086 by Eustace and was substantially complete by the middle of the 12th century. In 1253 the priory held the original two hides of land with the church and the priory, whose buildings included the infirmary and sacristy, both located within the monastic enclosure. These two hides of land were bounded by the King's Ditch, and the parishes of Stukeley and Hartford on the north east, by the Ouse to the south and by the High Street to the west.

The next two hundred years were, in general, a period of population growth and increased prosperity over much of England. Huntingdon was a very successful town during this time. It gained prosperity by being the Shire town and by providing a bridged crossing on Ermine Street, which still formed the basis of the route later to become the Great North Road and A1. In addition Huntingdon collected tolls for all those going to St Ives fair, one of the largest gatherings in the country. By the early 14th century Huntingdon had sixteen churches, two priories, a friary and three hospitals; all the hallmarks of a thriving centre. The castle was partially demolished in the late 12th century and, except for the gaol, ceased to be used. It is not certain whether Huntingdon's lower political profile after this time had any economic effect on the town itself. One might expect this to be the case, although the continued growth of the town's key institutions may suggest otherwise.

The 14th century was the period during which fortunes changed for Huntingdon, an extreme example of a trend seen all over the country. Huntingdon had always gained much of its prosperity from its position as a meeting point for goods passing up the Ouse from the Fenland and the Wash and goods travelling along Ermine Street. During the late 13th and 14th centuries there are many references to disputes between the borough and landowners restricting river flow and riverine access further downstream. In addition, the construction of a bridge downstream at St Ives and the demise of St Ives' fair all weakened the local economy. These unfortunate circumstances were compounded by countrywide overpopulation and several years of failed harvests, followed by several waves of plague. It seems that there was a particularly severe visitation of the Black Death to Huntingdon itself, and the shortage of people and parlous state of local finances is regularly attested in documents in the 14th and 15th centuries. Six of the churches are not mentioned in documents after the mid-14th century and by the 16th century only four were still functioning: St Mary's, All Saints, St Benedict's and St John's. Archaeological investigations within the town suggest that occupation inside the town ditch may have been rather piecemeal after the 13th century.

Huntingdon had a small Jewry in the 12th and 13th centuries. References exist to its chest of charters and in 1279 a curious grant was made to the bailiffs and good men of Huntingdon for three years of one penny for every Jew or Jewess crossing the bridge on horseback, or a halfpenny if on foot (Page *et al* 1932). The name Temple Close may refer to the original location of such a foundation, rather than to any Templar activity in the area, for which there is no evidence. Although Temple Close or Lane has been used as a street name since at least 1572, it appears that name migrated over the centuries. It once applied to what is now St Clement's Passage, and is currently in use to the south-west of that lane, close to the development area.

There was a significant amount of domestic medieval activity on the former model laundry site (Clarke 2005). A number of layers, pits and ditches were investigated, with an apparent concentration of features in the south west corner of the site, close to Ouse Walk. A flood deposit was recorded which sealed the late Saxon channels, and in turn was cut by the medieval features. Artefacts from the site give a date from c1150 – 1400. One large pit may have been used for tanning and two cattle horn cores were recovered from its backfill, the process of horn working was often undertaken nearby to tanning. The ditches may have been dug to serve a similar purpose as the Saxon ditches, for drainage away into the river to the East, and possible to also demarcate boundaries or properties (Clarke 2005).

Medieval pottery was found at the same location as the Roman tile mentioned above (CHER 02733a), and this may indicate nearby occupation utilising the area for rubbish dumping. A moated site lay to the east, close to the riverbank (CHER 01055), but was filled in during the construction of the ring road. This may have been the source of the medieval pottery found less than 100m to the west.

Most of the investigations detailing the medieval finds within Huntingdon are listed in 3.3.

### **3.15 Post-Medieval**

Huntingdon suffered during the 15th-century War of the Roses and in the Civil War of the 17th century, when the castle defences were remodelled. Throughout this period documents still speak of 'the poor decayed town'. It was only with the rise of the coaching trade in the 18th century that the town found another role and prosperity returned.

It is at this point in the evolution of the town that the earliest surviving maps depict. Although a map does not accompany the 1572 survey, it is possible for entries to be transcribed onto Jeffries' 1768 map of Huntingdon, or the 1752 plan of the Hospital Lands. These and John Speed's map of 1610, all show the development area as a blank. Such

maps would not have recorded temporary structures or quarrying for instance, and cannot therefore be taken as an indicator that the area was completely unused at this time.

The 1826 map of the Earl of Sandwich's estates indicate trackways crossing this area, leading to the river, but no buildings (HRO no ref.). Again, this is not an absolute indicator of a lack of activity.

### **3.2 Site Background**

The HER search and cartographic evidence shows very little documented history of this specific site. Historic maps show the site as arable/pasture land until 1886 when a small detached building/house was built on the land. This stayed in place until the current bungalow was built on the site probably during the 1960's. The nearby excavation at the Model Laundry gives a very good indication of land use in close proximity to this site, however no recorded archaeological work has been undertaken on this site.

### **3.3 Previous Archaeological work**

By Paul Spoerry and Scott Kenney

#### **Pre-1990s**

##### **Castle Hill Early 1960s**

TL 2414/7149; Generally CHER 01774

Philip Dickinson reported that during the laying of telephone lines a short distance within the modern entrance to Castle Hill, in a location close to the footpath, massive stone foundations were discovered a few feet below the ground. He believed that these represent a stone gatehouse inside the moat, probably replacing an earlier one of wooden construction, and stated that tooling on the stones indicated a date of around 1100.

##### **Castle Hill 1963**

TL 2418/7152; Generally CHER 01774

Construction of the High Street to Mill Common relief road resulted in little damage in the northern section as it ran mostly over the top of the infilled moat. In the garden and car park of the Old Bridge Hotel, however, the foundations of what Dickinson believed to be a Barbican, paired with the gatehouse, were discovered. He did not state whether it was stone-built, but this seems likely. A section through the moat revealed it to be 20' wide with sloping sides becoming near vertical at a depth of 5', at a reduced width of 15'. The full depth is not known as only 7' was revealed, however, Dickinson estimated it to have been 15' or more.

In the car park, Thetford ware and other artefacts were identified and in addition, a large area of fine wood ash about 18 inches deep (c.45cm), was seen close to the gatehouse which Dickinson linked to historic records of the castle being burnt after its capture in 1173. A well with 18th century brickwork was found close by and in the line of the new road.

##### **High Street 1967**

TL 235/719, 236/717; CHER 02605

A rather cryptic note, apparently from Philip Dickinson, published in the CBA Group 7 Bulletin briefly mentions that excavations for new buildings in the High Street

produced "Saxon pottery of the 8/9th century 'at a depth of *twelve feet*'. Also numerous carved stones 'from two of the destroyed churches of the town have also been discovered one with fine chevron moulding'. The two grid references for these findings are, unfortunately, not explained and neither is actually on the High Street.

#### **Whitehills 1967 and 1967-9**

TL 2366/7138; CHER 02545, 02567

Emergency excavation works were started in 1967 directed by Brian Davison for the Ministry of Works, as a builder had started levelling the site for construction of 2 houses (Davison, unpublished). Following Davison's work Group Captain Trudgian was able to continue excavations on the site as a private venture. The excavation report is available for study through the NMR, however summaries in County CHER and in *Medieval Archaeology* 1967-9 provide a brief statement of each phase of activity. The sequence of construction and activity on the site appears to be as follows, however, succeeding annual statements indicate changing interpretations and this list is almost certainly incorrect at least in part.

- 1 1st century Roman occupation of uncertain form, but a series of ditches are present.
- 2 2nd century timber structure with mortared floor.
- 3 A Roman corridor villa, perhaps of early 3rd century construction, made in part of Barnack stone with a possible industrial (re-)use for one room.
- 4 Re-definition of the above building with changes to partition walls.
- 5 Around 400 east-west aligned burials, associated with late Saxon pottery (St Neots and Thetford type wares). Some of these burials were aligned with part-surviving Roman walling suggesting that robbing occurred during the lifetime of the cemetery.
- 6 Some records indicate that the remains of a probable stone building, a chapel associated with the cemetery, were discovered.
- 7 Scarping of the hill that was associated with the 1174 siege, this site long being assumed to be a siege castle.
- 8 Very ruined walls of what may have been a medieval church or chapel, including one piece of re-used Saxon decorated masonry (interlace) which had a 13th century arch-moulding on the other side. All a rebuild of the earlier chapel?
- 9 A windmill (15th century).
- 10 The gallows, believed by the excavators to have been erected in the 16th century.
- 11 A second windmill (18th century).
- 12 19th century cottages.

#### **Castle Hill 1973**

TL 2415/7140; Generally CHER 01774

Dickinson observed initial works for the Huntingdon bypass, which is located on top of the 19th century railway cutting through the castle, but in construction damaged a larger area of land. He observed a section through the southern rampart that showed it to be of sandy gravel construction lying on top of a raised bank of clay and silt, some ten feet above river level. He noted that where the western end of the moat joined the river the embankment was about 36 feet high. He also observed the castle well, located just outside of the eastern rampart.

#### **Castle Hill 1974**

TL 2415/7140; Generally CHER 01774

During landscaping of the castle site following the bypass construction Alison Taylor carried out some emergency excavation and recording. Although not published, notes in the County CHER and photos held by CCC AFU indicate that the rampart above the level of the bailey was found to be post-medieval in date and probably of Civil War origin. This covered about 1m of buried soil, which included much artefactual debris of both medieval and Roman date. Below this were a number of shallow-cut and east-west aligned graves, surrounded by coffin nails. The graves



may derive from a medieval castle chapel known to have been still in existence in 1327 and presumably with a late 11th-12th century origin.

### **Pathfinder House Car Park 1973**

TL 2403/7154

Roger Smith excavated this site for the DoE in 1973. No report or archive exists, but three slides showing plans of the excavated areas and some of the main features are in the possession of David Cozens and copies are with CCC AFU.

The site was located in the former grounds of Castle Hill House and work was allowed in areas of proposed car parks around the then new District Council HQ. A metalled surface, running approximately WSW-ENE, was interpreted as a spur road linking the 2-3rd century Roman Villa 400m to the west at Whitehills with Ermine Street. This latter, or one of Green's two proposed lines, was expected within the excavated area but it was not located and must therefore lie a little to the east of the excavation.

Personal recollections suggest that Late Saxon building remains were found but no actual record exists.

Vague references hint at another trench being located at this time on the north side of St Mary's Street that uncovered a stone church. This reference has not been verified, however, 'great quantities of bone' were known by Carruthers to have been discovered there (1824).

### **St Benet's Court 1975**

TL 2388/7173

The large 1970s Benet's area shopping centre development included no archaeological provision beyond a 15m x 7m trial trench, with small linear extension. This represented just 5% of the area of the development and, sadly, is an awful example of a missed opportunity to investigate and/or protect a major part of the town's archaeological resource. The excavated evidence suggests that the central part of the site may have had little pre-17th century occupation and also that the most significant deposits may lie under up to 2m or more of recent make-up.

The trial excavation was carried out by Terry Betts for the DoE in November 1975, the main purpose being to find the line of Roman Ermine Street and elucidate Roman and medieval occupation. A small triangular-sectioned ditch and associated gravel make-up may have been part of Green's proposed second (eastern) line of Ermine Street. This feature was partially removed by deep medieval ditches running parallel to, and behind, the properties lining the High Street. No trace was found of Green's earlier line of Ermine Street and thus it must either have lain further west, towards Prince's Street, or it did not exist. Cultivation beds containing St Neots, Thetford, Stamford and Lyveden wares lay west of the Roman road ditch and these were in turn covered by a build-up of topsoil under 17th century floors that appear to have been for buildings similar in plan to those surviving into the 20th century. A further metre of make-up overlay these and this may be linked to documentary evidence for ground-raising known for nearby Queen's Head Passage in the late 18th century.

### **St Benet's Church 1980**

TL 2391/7175; CHER 02649

St Benet's (Benedict's) Church is known from documents for the reign of Henry I and was still standing until the Civil War, when all but the tower was destroyed. This was pulled down in 1802 and the burial ground used until 1855; the parish was unified with St Mary's in 1668. Repairs to an outhouse revealed foundations and plinth stones, recorded by Ladds (1930); stone from the church was re-used in various constructions between its demise in the 17th century and the construction of a 'gazebo' on the site in the 1980s.

Only a small area (3m x 4m) of the church's known site was available for study, the fieldwork being carried out by A Taylor of CCC, D Cozens of HLHS and CAFG. The earliest E-W wall foundation was of flints bonded with gravel and mortar. The fabric also contained tile and one piece of Stamford ware dated to the 12th century. The wall cut two graves, which suggests that an earlier church, perhaps of wooden construction, may have previously stood here. There were later burials both inside and outside of the stone building and this may have had a porch constructed on the north side. This was followed by an aisle, foundations for the west wall of which were found, and later evidence for part-removal of the west wall of the church may have coincided with the construction of the stone tower observed by Ladds, believed to be of 15th century date. A brick and tile floor was inserted in, perhaps, the 17th century.

After demolition of buildings over the rest of the church site, the team were allowed only part of a day to record some of its dimensions; the tower was found to be 6.4m east-west by 5.8m north-south.

#### **Cromwell House 1976**

TL 2366/7204; CHER 02703

Small-scale excavations by Alison Taylor and HLHS in the kitchen garden prior to development revealed fragmentary remains of the post-dissolution house foundations, re-using stone from the Friary buildings.

#### **Cromwell House 1984**

TL 2366/7204; CHER 02703

Small-scale excavations for CCC by David Haigh in advance of redevelopment of the house known to be on the site of the Augustinian Friary, identified that substantial remains of the 13th century buildings survived and also that a major rebuilding had occurred shortly after their initial construction. The remains seemed to be part of the west range, but no function for any room could be confirmed. At dissolution, alterations occurred followed by the major rebuilding of the site to provide the house used by the Cromwell family. The excavator's suggestion that the two observed phases of medieval building date to the Friary's foundation in 1258 and to a documented rebuild after a major fire in 1286 seems reasonable.

Documentary evidence indicates that in 1363 the Friars gained permission to construct an underground conduit leading from a well on Spring Common to the monastery. Carruthers (1824) reports a description of a brick underground feature in the correct location, however, Ladds describes a stone construction in an early 20th century observation opportunity which showed the culvert to run beyond the south side of the present house in the direction of Spring Common.

### **1990s (Post-PPG16)**

#### **Mill Common 1992**

TL 2388/7148; CHER 10486, CB12453

In 1992 the AFU dug several small test pits in land to the east of Mill Common (AFU Report No. 59). Although only a tiny area of earlier deposits was exposed the evidence suggests a (property) boundary ditch existed here from perhaps the 11th or 12th century onwards which superseded dumping, possibly within former quarries. Later deposits suggest dumping in both the medieval and modern periods. This location, close to the castle, might conceivably have provided earthen material for the defences, known to have been built in the late 11th century. The suggestion of quarrying here in that period cannot, however, be directly linked to the construction of the castle, although the two *may* be related. The partial demolition of the castle in the late twelfth century might also have provided the fill of any open quarries (before the

ditch was constructed), or it may be represented by the dumping over the top of this feature.

### **Spittal's Link 1993**

TL 229/732

In 1993 a team from the AFU excavated and recorded the mostly partial remains of 55-60 human burials during road widening at the Spittal's Link roundabout at the northern end of the historic settlement of Huntingdon (AFU Report No. A20). The Leper Hospital of St Margaret is known to have existed close to this location from its foundation by Malcolm IV of Scotland in the mid-12th century until a probable abandonment in the 15th century. Study of the skeletal material by Corinne Duhig, AFU Palaeopathologist, suggested that a large proportion of the bodies had abnormalities associated with leprosy. In addition it seems that many were buried in one very large pit, but at different depths. This may indicate mass burial of individuals after an epidemic (perhaps one of the 14th century plagues) or it might be that a large open pit was made available for regular, but periodic, burial of individuals who succumbed to secondary diseases and infections associated with leprosy.

### **90/91 High Street 1993**

TL 2371/7194

A small recording exercise in 1993 in advance of shop construction and refurbishment revealed a considerable density of archaeological remains behind two historic High Street frontage properties (Heawood 1994). At least twelve rubbish pits were recorded which, from pottery found within their fills, could be dated to the 11th to 12th centuries. At least one of these contained cessy material suggesting the deposition of human waste products. In addition linear features suggested, as expected, that the boundaries between the 'burgage plots' were of similar antiquity to the pits. Other smaller features included postholes which may indicate the former presence of timber structures. This one small recording exercise seems to confirm that there was a great density of occupation within the northern part of Huntingdon, at least in areas close to the High Street frontage, in the 11th to 12th centuries. Until now the historic data seems to have suggested that the main part of the town continued up to the Augustinian Friary (now Cromwell House) and beyond, but perhaps not until the later 13th century. The presence of earlier activity at 90/91 High Street is thus significant.

### **High Street/Hartford Road Corner 1993-4**

TL 2406/7167; CHER 11907, CB14013

In 1993-4 the AFU carried out evaluation trenching and observation in advance of a planning decision, on the forecourt of Marshall's Garage at the corner of Hartford Road and the High Street (AFU Report No. 105). Three trenches were excavated which revealed a variety of archaeological deposits. The earliest deposits may date to before the Norman Conquest, but this is not certain.

The first remains of certain date come from the 13th to 14th centuries, the dating deriving from pottery sherds. A gravel surface, perhaps part of a yard, was laid and in addition rubbish pits and evidence for timber, and possibly stone, structures was identified. As the latter in some way back from the High Street frontage it suggests fairly dense occupation in the secondary areas along this main street.

Following this a period of deliberate ground raising occurred, perhaps to combat flooding. Large quantities of clay and other materials, much of it burnt, were dumped towards the end of the medieval period. Then, around 1500, a cellared building was constructed on the High Street frontage which may be one of three inns mentioned in a document dating to 1572. This structure was probably partly demolished in the 17th century and around this time further buildings were constructed on the Hartford Road frontage. These were demolished in the 19th century prior to the building of St Mary's Vicarage.

### **Orchard Lane 1994-5**

TL 2420/7160

Evaluation in 1994 and excavation in 1995 were carried out by the AFU, funded by English Heritage, in advance of the development of the former Peacock's builders yard on Orchard Lane only 70m from the High Street and close to the riverside (Oakey 1997). Human bone had been recorded during works in adjacent locations and it seemed likely that this might indicate the location of the burial ground of the lost church of St Clement, known to have existed between St Mary's parish and the riverside in the medieval period. Evaluation confirmed the presence of human remains, plus archaeological deposits pre-dating and post-dating the burials.

Excavations revealed rubbish and cesspits dating to the period 900-1150, along with evidence for property boundaries and burials. The date that the burial ground was established is not certain; it cannot be assigned to either before or after the Norman Conquest. It certainly was in existence in the 13th century, however, and may have ceased to function before the end of the 14th century. No evidence for the church itself was found.

After the 14th century the burial ground ceased to function. The later periods of activity on the site mostly seem to suggest that it remained open ground, supporting a belief that the town contracted significantly for several hundred years. In the 16th to 17th centuries, however, a period of quarrying was followed by the partial backfilling of one quarry pit with hot, damaged bricks and other building debris. This may be related to the demolition of structures damaged in the Civil War.

#### **12 Hartford Road 1996**

TL 241/718; CHER 11908, CB14014

In 1996 an evaluation was undertaken at 12 Hartford Road, in advance of a planning decision for a residential development (Connor 1996). A trench along the street frontage revealed three phases of medieval activity from the 12th to mid-14th centuries, including quarrying for clay and the construction of timber buildings. Towards the rear of the property more evidence for several phases of structures was revealed, and in addition a sequence of pitting, presumably for rubbish disposal, may have started as early as the 10th century, but was certainly underway by the early 12th. This was superseded by a mid-14th century dump layer. A pond may also have existed here throughout the medieval period and it was probably not filled in until the 18th century.

This site confirms the presence of dense occupation along Hartford Road, and not just on the immediate street frontage, in the 12th to 14th centuries and possibly earlier. The absence of later activity supports documentary evidence for a severe decline in activity in the town in the late medieval period, with even a secondary routeway such as this becoming peripheral to the main areas of activity/occupation.

#### **112 High Street 1995/6**

TL 2384/7183, CHER CB975, CB15332-4

Excavation was carried out by Tempus Reparatum on a key frontage plot on the north side of Market Hill on the High Street (Richmond 1996). The post-excavation assessment provides summaries by feature type and phase that can be reconstructed to gain a perception of the occupation history of the site.

There appears to have been a low level of occupation in the vicinity in the 10th/11th to mid-12th centuries, with only a number of poorly defined layers and pits being possibly representative of this time period.

In the 12th to 13th centuries layers are present which are taken to be indicative of dumping associated with nearby occupation. Pitting increases in magnitude with two very substantial ones located 20m from the frontage, but structural evidence is still

slight with only two postholes and *possibly* the earliest layers associated with hearths dateable to this period.

The majority of dumping horizons, make-up and activity surfaces could confidently be dated to the 13th to 14th centuries. In addition many pits were dug, albeit generally of small size. Structural remains take the form of a little post hole evidence for flimsy timber structures, several hearths and one possible domestic fireplace. These remains probably derive from some form of industrial processing taking place on the property in this period.

### **Stanton Butts, Stukeley Road 1997**

TL 2325/7260

Evaluation trenching by the CAU west of the old line of Ermine Street revealed dense pitting of a dispersed nature plus linear features that represent either fence-lines or timber buildings mostly dating to the 13th century or thereabouts. Ditched features in the southern part of the site and the possible building remains further north are aligned together but not with the present Stukeley Road which here is believed to preserve the line of Ermine Street. The implication is that the road may have been aligned more to the north-west to south-east at this time. The occupation remains were interpreted as being most likely to be associated with a moated site immediately north of the site, rather than implying ribbon development continuing from the High Street this far north along Ermine Street.

### **Hinchingbrooke 1997-2005**

Just to the west of Huntingdon, adjacent to Hinchingbrooke Country Park, development has been ongoing for several years, creating new housing estates and local amenities. Archaeological work in advance of this has revealed extensive Iron Age settlement from the Middle and Late Iron Age, and also Roman occupation, possibly persisting into the 5th century (Hinman 1997).

The first phase of evaluation, which took place in January 1997, identified a marked concentration of features dateable to the late Iron Age adjacent to the northern limit of the current development area. As a result of this evaluation the AFU were commissioned to undertake the simultaneous excavation of two open areas, to the north and east of the current development area (see below).

#### *1997 Excavation*

Excavation revealed the north-eastern limit of a middle Iron Age settlement. Significant artefacts recovered included two currency bars, a ritually defaced quern base, the ritually placed upper fore-limb of a boar, a complete rotary quern top and base, knife fragments, iron working waste, loom weight fragments and large quantities of domestic pottery and animal bone.

The presence of currency bars would seem to suggest a settlement displaying a relatively high degree of wealth and status. That these and other objects had been deliberately placed at the same point on the northern settlement boundary is taken as indicative of symbolic ceremonial activity resulting from the beliefs and superstitions of the Middle Iron Age inhabitants. Enclosure ditches associated with a separate late Iron Age settlement were also revealed at the eastern limit of the previous land sale area, within 30m of the northern limit of the development. A second phase of evaluation, which took place in spring 2000, identified marked concentrations of settlement related features dateable to the late Iron Age and Roman periods.

#### *2000 Excavation*

Limited excavation was undertaken by the AFU in 2000. The main features identified included a late Neolithic/early Bronze Age pit, a 1st century AD pottery kiln, three inhumations (human burials), a metalworking area/smithy with *in-situ* crucible, structural remains including an aisled barn and possible villa wall foundations, post

alignments/fence lines, enclosure ditches, processing areas, hearths/ovens, cistern and rubbish pits.

Significant artefacts were recovered, which included a flint arrowhead (barbed and tanged), late Neolithic/early Bronze Age structured deposits of ceramics, lithics, animal bone and stone. Roman artefacts included high status Claudian/Neronian pottery (1st century AD) including imported Dressel 20 Amphora (Spanish) and rare central Gaulish glazed ware, in addition to painted plaster, metalworking slag, stamped Samian ware, and over 70 metal objects. Environmental sampling has produced evidence for the consumption of fresh seafood, peas, wheat and barley, large assemblages of domestic pottery, tile and animal bone of 1st century through 4th/5th? century AD date.

### **St Clements Passage 1998**

TL 2413/7162, CHER CB14595

In 1998 the AFU undertook an excavation at St Clements Passage (Roberts 1999). Excavation revealed quarry pits, rubbish pits and deposits dating from the medieval and post-medieval periods. A clay and wood lined pit was found in a group of similar features in the northern part of the site. The considerable build up of a garden type soil suggest this area was open land to the rear of properties along the High Street until the 19th century.

### **The Old Music and Drama Centre, Brookside 1998**

TL 2385/7210, CHER CB186

An evaluation at Brookside revealed medieval activity perhaps representing suburban development immediately outside of the town ditch (Cooper & Spoerry 1998). This activity was focussed around a crossing point where the track to Abbot's Ripton intersected the town ditch. Other features on the site indicated medieval quarrying and some possible prehistoric features.

### **The Views 1998**

TL 236/717, CHER CB183

An evaluation at this site in 1998 revealed only a single archaeological feature containing 13th- to 14th-century pottery.

### **Stanton Butts, Stukeley Road 1999**

TL 2325/7260

Excavations by the AFU revealed suburban ribbon development of an interrupted nature in the 12th to 14th centuries, represented by the truncated foundations of timber buildings fronting onto Stukeley Rd.

These remains have important ramifications for the history and development of medieval Huntingdon. The location of these remains is highly significant since it establishes medieval suburban ribbon development along Ermine St. The identification of suburban development is of considerable interest since it provides an opportunity to examine issues concerning the growth of the town in the 12th and 13th centuries and subsequent decline in the 14th century. The excavation identified a number of phases; the first phase of activity on the site is the Roman roadside ditch. Phase 2 sees the development of roadside buildings and associated tenement plots whilst Phase 3 is characterised by greater development of tenement plots with extensive areas of pitting and quarrying across the site. Phase 4 is characterised by the reinstatement of backplot ditches and further pitting (Cooper & Spoerry, forthcoming).

**Hinchingbrooke: The New School Site 2000**

(TL 223/722)

A further stage of evaluation was undertaken on land to the east and immediately adjacent to the Bob's Wood site in December 2000. The 'New School' evaluation identified a group of pits within the northernmost extent of the development area provisionally dateable to the early Bronze Age. Three pits were similar in terms of size and fill type to a series of features excavated within Area 1 of the 1997 excavations. Those pits, all of which, with one notable exception, were devoid of any artefactual material were aligned roughly north south and had subsequently been truncated by a later Iron Age ditch and have been interpreted as the first formalised phase of boundary definition within that part of the site.

The results of the New School Site were interesting in that the area evaluated was not covered by anything like the density and diversity of remains encountered either in 1997 or on the Bob's Wood site. One possible explanation for the paucity of features dateable to the late Iron Age and the surprising absence of Romano-British artefactual materials may be that the area currently under investigation had held some special significance to the earlier prehistoric peoples of the area, a significance that continued to be respected during the later Iron Age and Romano-British periods. Support for this idea may be gained by the presence of those pits dateable to the early Bronze Age within Trench 26.

Other more pragmatic explanations may include the possibility that this part of the hillside was unattractive for settlement, perhaps due to poor drainage or a relatively exposed location. Evaluation identified a similar absence of artefactual materials combined with a lack of any surviving archaeological features within the southwestern corner of the Bob's Wood site (Hinman 2000). Here the void in the archaeological record was attributed to poor drainage and soil conditions where the underlying boulder clay lay directly below the subsoil.

**9/10 George St 2000**

TL 2367/7171; CHER CB182

An evaluation was carried out to the west of the development area at 9/10 George St in June 2000 by the AFU (Cooper 2000). This area lay adjacent to the evaluation at The Views undertaken in 1998. The evaluation revealed extensive 13th and 14th century quarrying, post-holes and pits, with feature density increasing towards Walden Road.

**Ambury Road 2000**

TL 2395/7130; CHER ECB190

Archaeological observation was undertaken on five geotechnical test pits at Ambury Road, Huntingdon by the AFU (Abrams 2000). No archaeology was encountered in any of the test pits.

**Watersmeet 2000**

TL 2398/7135

An evaluation by the AFU revealed significant late Iron Age/Roman and medieval remains within the development area. The first century Iron Age or Roman remains may represent roadside activity alongside Ermine Street. The riverside occupation may eventually have culminated in the nearby villa site. The medieval remains consist of several occupation features, plus a re-working of the riverside escarpment that is almost certainly defensive and probably dates to the post-Conquest period, rather than being part of the Danish or Saxon burh. It may therefore represent a 'lost' western bailey of the Norman Castle.

**The Samuel Pepys, 146 High St 2001**

(TL 2414/7161) CHER ECB271

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at the Samuel Pepys public house, Huntingdon by Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust. Post-medieval layers were identified by the evaluation.

**Glendower, Mill Common 2003**

(TL 2371/7130)

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on 440 square metres of land to the rear of Glendower, Mill Common, Huntingdon by the AFU. The evaluation identified significant Roman riverside activity that may be related to a Roman villa less than 100m to the west, at Whitehills. A large channel, or a series of channels, which contained Roman building material was identified in Trench 1.

**Watersmeet 2003**

(TL 2398/7135); CHER ECB1872

An archaeological excavation was undertaken at Watersmeet, Huntingdon by Archaeological Solutions. A Roman cemetery was revealed, containing at least 73 inhumations, as well as an enclosure with evidence of iron smelting

**4 Mill Common 2003**

(TL 2380/7136); CHER MCB16329

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken on land adjacent to 4 Mill Common, Huntingdon by Archaeological Solutions. Roman pits gullies and a ditch were revealed, dating to the 1st-2nd centuries AD.

**Wood Street, Hartford Road 2003**

(TL 2413/7170); CHER ECB1369

An archaeological evaluation was undertaken at Wood Street, Hartford Road, Huntingdon by the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. The evaluation identified medieval structural remains and redeposited dumped layers.

**4 Chequers Court 2003**

(TL 2396/7181); CHER ECB1335

Archaeological observation and recording was undertaken at 4, Chequers Court, Huntingdon by CAPCA. A feature containing shoe leather and horn cores was recorded, and interpreted as a tanning pit.

**Parkway, Hinchingsbrooke 2004**

(TL 223/722)

Archaeological evaluation and excavation were undertaken on land adjacent to Parkway, Hinchingsbrooke by the AFU. Possible Bronze Age pits were identified, along with Later Iron Age settlement features.

**Hartford Road/High Street 2005**

(TL 2406/7167)

An archaeological excavation was undertaken by the AFU. The excavation identified pre-Conquest activity in the form of pits, possibly dating from the 10th century. Occupation continued in this area into modern times, apparently continuously. Other features recorded included postholes, boundary ditches and wells, and the finds included significant quantities of metalworking debris.

**Kingfisher Way, Hinchingsbrooke Business Park, Hinchingsbrooke 2005**

(TL 2227/7267)

Archaeological evaluation of this site revealed a single post-medieval boundary ditch.

**Huntingdon Town Centre (Walden Road/Prince's Street/Walden House) 2004-5**

(TL 2380/7170); CHER MCB16321-4

Archaeological evaluation and excavation by the AFU have revealed significant evidence of medieval Huntingdon, as well as features and finds dating from the Neolithic to post-medieval periods. Feature types include pits, ditches, wells, ovens and structural remains. Some of the later walls on site incorporated re-used ecclesiastical masonry, most likely originating from one of the 'lost' churches.



**Evaluation of Land to the rear of 151 High Street, Huntingdon 2005**

(TL 24182/71613); CHER MCB 17378

Three evaluation trenches were excavated in advance of proposed development, revealing deep, well stratified sequence of medieval deposits and features, overlain by late medieval and post-medieval soil horizons. The earliest feature identified was a burnt clay surface/layer, which produced finds of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century date. Other medieval remains were characterised by rubbish and quarry pits occurring across the site, dated from the 12<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries, and continuing into the post-medieval period no evidence of medieval structures was recorded and the earliest structural remains date to the post-medieval period, comprising a clay floor/pad and associated rammed gravel surface. A later post-medieval wall was also recorded, which re-used stonework and architectural fragments, likely to have come from a disused church.

**Evaluation at the rear of 11-12 High Street, Huntingdon 2005**

(TL 24137/71553); CHER MCB 17112

A single trench was excavated in advance of the proposed development, revealing a 3m deep sequence of well-preserved archaeological deposits. The earliest deposits probably date to the Norman/Post Conquest periods, and appear to be the fills of a large feature, which may have been deliberately infilled in the 12<sup>th</sup> or early 13<sup>th</sup> century. A thick layer containing 13<sup>th</sup> century pottery and other occupation debris was recorded across the trench, sealed by the remnants of a cobbled surface and truncated by earlier post-medieval post holes. The route of the pre-1322 High Street was not identified, and may lie to either the north or south of the evaluation trench. Finally various post-medieval layers and dumps were recorded overlying the medieval deposits, including wall foundations and floors associated with the Victorian laundry, outside toilets and associated outbuildings that were demolished prior to the evaluation.

**Evaluation at the Former Model Laundry, Ouse Walk, Huntingdon 2005**

(TL 24341/71762); CHER MCB17084

Nine evaluation trenches were excavated on the site of the former Huntingdon Model Laundry, revealing medieval and earlier deposits at various depths across the modern ground surface. Of particular significance was a series of large ditches or channels, the earliest phase of which dates to the Roman period. The remains may represent the management of an existing water channel, which appears to have been moved progressively northwards during Roman and Saxon times. This feature may represent a boundary between habitable land to the south and the floodplain to the north, with attempts to consolidate and increase the area of dry land available. The channels were largely infilled by the Saxo-Norman period, and pits and ditches of this date indicate some activity at the site. Domestic activity continued during the medieval period, with some evidence of butchery and tanning, despite evidence of continued flooding at the site. Possible gravel lanes have also been identified, which may have provided access across the floodplain. Finally the site is thought to have reverted to pasture in the late medieval though to Post Medieval times, until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century when the model laundry was constructed.

**Evaluation at Pathfinder House, Huntingdon 2006**

(TL 24026/71558); CHER MCB17284

Six evaluation trenches were excavated across the site revealing deposits and finds dating from the Roman to Modern Periods. Roman pits and ditches of 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> century date were encountered to the W and S of Pathfinder House. A pit of 9-13<sup>th</sup> century date was cut into a Roman feature. To the east of Pathfinder House, around Castle Hill House, the overburden was deeper and more disturbed by Post-Medieval activity and modern services, although some Roman artefacts were recovered from this area. A Post-Medieval pit was recorded in the easternmost part of the site, probably associated with properties fronting onto the High Street prior to their demolition in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. No remains associated with the use of Castle Hill House during WWII were encountered.

## 4 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 Huntingdon and Godmanchester area is rich in archaeological remains of all periods. From at least the Roman period onwards, Huntingdon has been the site of continuous occupation, although its fortunes have waxed and waned. This alone makes it clear that the development site has the potential for survival of archaeological deposits. Study of historical records and known archaeological remains serve to further reinforce this.

The Historic Environment Record for the zone adjacent to and including the development area begins with a single Roman entry (CHER 02733) relating to tile fragments 'found at a depth of seven feet'. This point is located adjacent to the development area, and medieval pottery was found at the same spot (CHER 02733a). This is probably indicative of medieval rubbish pitting.

The adjacent site at the former Model Laundry (CHER MCB 17084) provides a very good insight into the archaeological landscape of this area of Huntingdon. As mentioned above, the site revealed a long sequence of archaeological history. Pre-historic activity in the form of flints and Iron Age pottery was found; also a series of large ditches or channels, the earliest of which being Roman, was found. The features may represent the management of a water channel that was progressively moved north in Roman and Saxon times. They could also represent a boundary between the habitable land to the south and the flood plain to the north, with attempt to consolidate and increase the area of dry land available (Clarke 2005). Domestic activity continued in the Medieval period, with some evidence of butchery and tanning, despite further evidence of flooding at this site.

Trenches 4, 7, 8 and 9 show the continuation of afore mentioned ditches/channels running down the gradual slope towards the river. The continuation of these ditches and channels from trench 9 would run directly under the north end of the development site (see Fig 4).

Trench 1 is pertinent in showing us that despite disturbance from hardcore being laid down in association with the previous car park, and modern levelling due to the land gently sloping down to the river; archaeological remains still survive at depth.

On higher ground away from the river, trench 4 revealed archaeological deposits at 0.5m below current ground level. The depth of remains encountered increased towards the river with trenches 7, 8, 9 and 1 revealing archaeology at depths of 0.7m, 0.8m, 1m and 1.2m respectively.

Evidence for trench 1 suggests that within the footprint of the proposed buildings, piling aside, there will be a general impact on deposits, to a depth of 0.45m below existing ground level. Archaeological remains are unlikely to survive at this depth so close to the river, therefore it is unlikely that the foundations alone will have a negative impact upon any surviving archaeology.

The services for the buildings will be excavated to a depth of 0.8m; this could potentially impact on any surviving archaeology. Historic maps show the development area as arable/pasture land until 1886 when a small detached building/house was built on the site. This stayed in place until the current bungalow was built on the site c.1960's. Therefore any archaeological remains on the site are likely to only have been disturbed by ploughing and the foundations of the houses. Trenches 7 and 8 at the Former Model laundry showed that areas with little disturbance revealed archaeology at a depth of 0.7-0.8m below ground level.

The main impact from the proposed development will come from the piling strategy. As outlined above, the Roman ditch and Saxon channels continue in a south easterly direction towards the river. They will therefore probably continue into the northern section of the development area (See fig 4 and 5). The piles are to be placed as shown on the development plan (Fig 5), they measure 0.3m in diameter and will be excavated to a depth of 7m below ground level. This will have significant impact upon any surviving archaeology within the pile holes themselves.

## 5 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:

<i>Period</i>	<i>Distribution</i>	<i>Survival</i>
Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze Age	Low	Unknown
Iron Age/Romano-British	High	Good
Anglo-Saxon/Anglo-Danish	Moderate	Good
Medieval	High	Good

## 6 Conclusions

The study has demonstrated that the subject site lies within a rich archaeological landscape, surrounded by sites of all periods. Whilst largely Roman and medieval remains or finds are known from the vicinity of the subject site itself, its archaeological potential for many periods may be considered moderate, with particular emphasis placed upon the later Saxon period. If archaeology is encountered on the site, conditions for preservation are likely to range from good to very good, particularly at depth. The relative proximity of the site to the river may mean that deposits encountered at depth may be waterlogged. These conditions are ideal for the preservation of organic remains such as wood and leather, as well as foodstuffs and pollen, both of which can give an idea of the local environment and economy.

Whatever finds may be located during work on this area; archaeological investigations within the development zone are likely to add to our knowledge of the evolution of the town.

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## **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

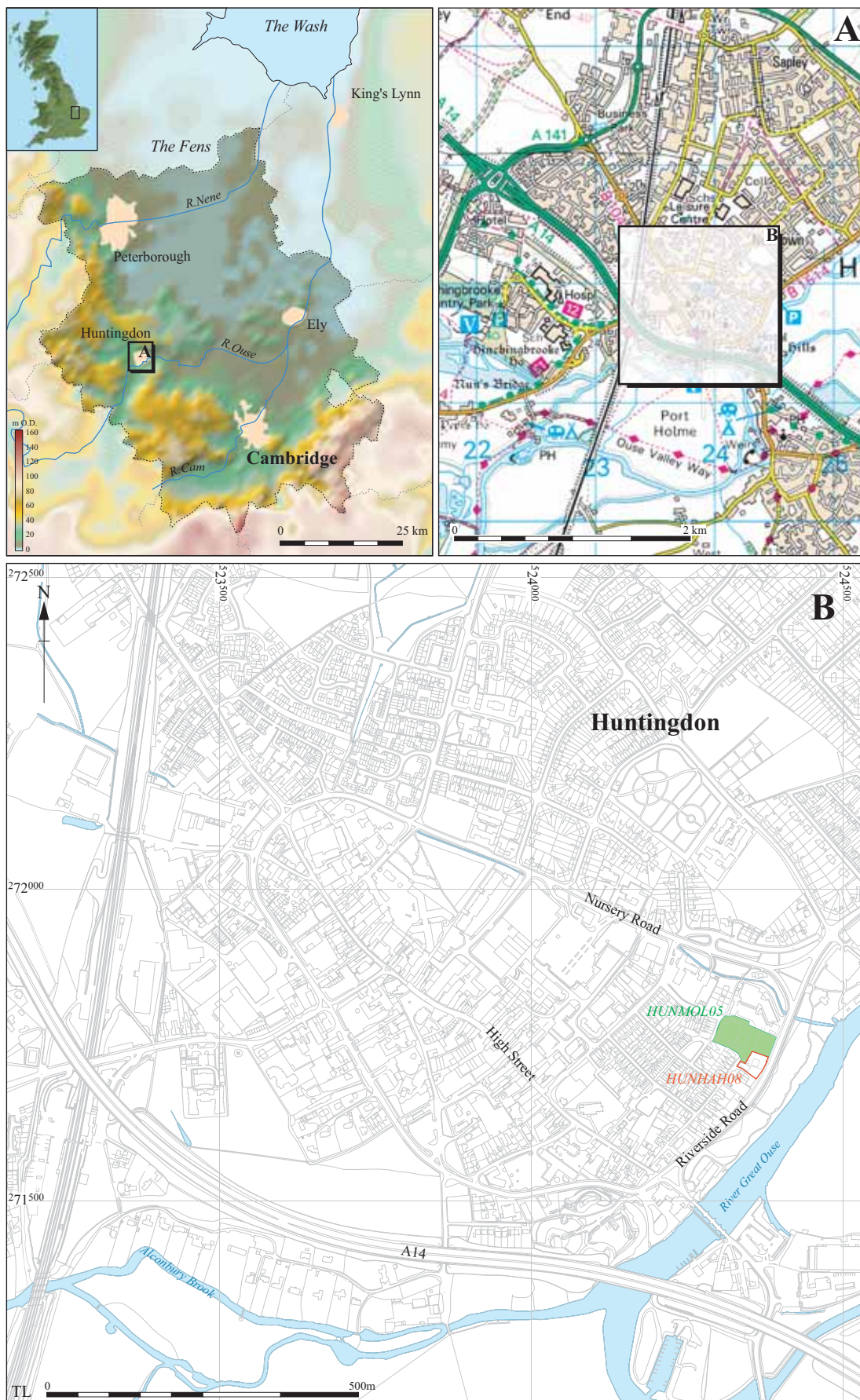
REC. NO	GRID REF	KEYS	PERIOD
00268	TL/256-/726-	Inhumation, cremation, brooch, pin, pottery, knife	BA ?, AS ?
00268a	TL/256-/726-	Axe	Neo
00268b	TL/256-/726-	Quern	IA / Ro
00867	TL/2397/7156	Pottery	Ro
00869	TL/2382/7185	Pottery	Ro
00871	TL/233-/716-	Coin	Ro
00888	TL/23--/72--	Coffin, inhumation	U
01054	TL/231-/728-	Moat, building, ridge and furrow	Med
01055	TL/2443/7178	Moat	Med
01439	TL/255-/728-	Worked flint, axe	Pa
01439a	TL/255-/728-	Worked flint	Neo
01687	TL/258-/733-	Worked flint	Pa
01688	TL/248-/728-	Worked flint	Pa
01690	TL/24--/72--	Worked flint, axe	Pa
01690a	TL/24--/72--	Worked flint	Neo
01774	TL/2409/7145	Castle, well, windmill, chapel, skeleton, battery	Med, P med
01774	TL/2409/7145	Castle, well, windmill, chapel, skeleton, battery	Med, P med
01847	TL/25--/72--	Arrowhead, worked flint	Neo
01912	TL/241-/716-	Worked flint	Ne
01946	TL 256-/725-	Axe, human, bone, urn, pin, knife, quern	BA, AS
01960	TL/253-/727-	Arrowhead	BA
01962	TL/25--/72--	Axe, palstave	BA
02733	TL/2437/7177	Roof tile	Ro
02733a	TL/2437/7177	Pottery	Med
02528	TL/261-/694-	Ridge and furrow	Med
02543	TL/235-/716-	Earthwork, bank, ditch, mound, ridge and furrow	Med ?, P med
02545	TL/2366/7138	Excavation	Ro
02545a	TL/248-/713-	Villa, kiln, tessellated, pavement, hearth, ditch, pit, wall plaster, tessera	Ro
02545b	TL/248-/713-	Church, cemetery, inhumation, carved stone, coin	AS
02545c	TL/248-/713-	Castle, siege, works, inhumation	Med
02545d	TL/248-/713-	Church, wind mill, architectural, fragment, tile, pottery	Med
02545e	TL/248-/713-	House, wind mill, gallows, pottery	P med
02547	TL/2476/7227	Gun battery, ditch	P med
02547a	TL/247-/723-	Worked flint	Neo
02547b	TL/247-/723-	Pottery	Ro
02547c	TL/247-/723-	Pottery	Med
02560	TL/23--/71--	Church	Med
02561	TL/23--/71--	Church	Med
02562	TL/23--/71--	Church	Med
02563	TL/23--/71--	Church	Med
02564	TL/23--/71--	Church	Med
02567	TL/237-/714-	Windmill	Med - P med
02568	TL/236-/714-	Windmill	Med - P med
02569	TL/23--/71--	Church	Med
02572	TL/23--/71--	Worked flint	Neo
02574	TL/23--/71--	Hospital	Med
02580	TL/23--/71--	Hospital	Med
02581	TL/23--/71--	Burgh	AS
02583	TL/23--/71--	Cistern	Ro
02586	TL/228-/714-	Inhumation, coin, pottery, hanging bowl, glass vessel, cult object	Ro
02593	TL/2370/7183	Church	Med
02594	TL/2406/7158	Church	Med
02595	TL/239-/719-	Church, bone	Med

02596	TL/23--/72--	Church	Med
02597	TL/2397/7156	Pottery, coin	Ro
02597a	TL/2397/7156	Pottery	IA
02597b	TL/2397/7156	Mortar	Med
02599	TL/235-/721-	Church	Med
02601	TL/233-/718-	Bowling green	P med
02602	TL/2362/7137	Coin	Ro
02603	TL/2355/7139	Coin	Ro
02604	TL/2356/7165	Arrowhead, pottery	Med
02604a	TL/2356/7165	Pottery	Ro
02605	TL/236-/719-	Pottery	AS
02606	TL/238-/718-	Pottery	AS
02607	TL/2399/7136	Coin	Ro
02608	TL/2397/7132	Coin	Ro
02609	TL/243-/702-	Pottery	Med
02613	TL/2368/7209	Key	Ro
02614	TL/238-/713-	Watermill	Med - P med
02621	TL/248-/727-	Windmill	Med - P med
02624	TL/2425/7159	Church	Med
02625	TL/2393/7171	Pottery, stone vessel	Ro
02625a	TL/2393/7171	Pottery, shoe	Med
02629	TL/245-/748-	Forest	Med
02635	TL/2397/7144	Cremation, pottery	Ro
02636	TL/2400/7153	Arrowhead, pottery	Med
02637	TL/2406/7152	Pottery	Ro
02638	TL/2406/7152	Pottery, coffin	Ro
02639	TL/2400/7166	House	P med
02639a	TL/2400/7166	Wall painting	P med
02643	TL/245-/717-	Artefact	Med
02648	TL/2423/7216	Priory, coffin, tile	Med
02649	TL/2391/7175	Church, inhumation, pottery, tile, carved stone, architectural, feature	Med
02652	TL/23--/71--	Coin	IA
02655	TL/2366/7196	Church, churchyard, building material	Med
02656	TL/2406/7158	House	P med
02675	TL/239-/717-	House, shop	P med
02676	TL/239-/717-	House	P med
02677	TL/238-/718-	House	P med
02678	TL/238-/718-	Inn	P med
02679	TL/2375/7182	House	P med
02680	TL/237-/719-	House, shop	P med
02681	TL/2374/7187	Inn	P med
02682	TL/2542/7264	Coin hoard	Med
02683	TL/2499/7245	Artefact	Pa
02690	TL/25--/73--	Axe	Mes
02696	TL/2469/7203	Coin	Ro
02700	TL/254-/725-	Coin, mill stone	Ro
02701	TL/2396/7217	Token	Med
02703	TL/2366/7204	House	P med
02703a	TL/2366/7204	Friary, wall, tile, architectural, fragment, plaster, carved wood	Med
02707	TL/2273/7148	Great house	P med
02707a	TL/2273/7148	Convent, window, arch, architectural, feature	Med
02710	TL/2575/7280	House	P med
02733	TL/2437/7177	Tile	Ro
02735	TL/258-/733-	Worked flint	Mes
02736	TL/2382/7180	Town hall	P med
02747	TL/260-/726-	Pottery	Ro
02764	TL/242-/711-	Seal	P med

02764a	TL/242-/711-	Coin	Ro
02764b	TL/242-/711	Church plate	Med
02774	TL/2397/7168	Pottery	P med
02805	TL/2373/7167	Pottery, inhumation	Med
03958	TL/2285/7315	Gallows, inhumation, human skeleton, pottery	Med, P med
03958a	TL/229-/732-	Pottery	Ro ?
04248	TL/2409/7164	Church	Med
04248a	TL/2409/7164	Church	AS
05559	TL/253-/727-	Worked flint	Pa
05774	TL/2530/7273	Worked flint	Pa
06824	TL/262-/708-	Rectangular, enclosure, enclosure	U
06918	TL/230-/729-	Hospital	Med
08117	TL/2---/7---	Worked flint	Neo / BA
08118	TL/2---/7---	Worked flint, arrowhead	BA
08660	TL/2360/7166	Human bone	U
08747	TL/232-/722-	Ridge and furrow	Med
08751	TL/227-/723-	Ridge and furrow, earthwork	Med, U
09200	TL/260-/720-	Enclosure	Ro
09597	TL/25--/72--	Spike	BA ?
09781	TL/2---/7---	Lock, bottle	P med
09871	TL/2497/7244	Worked flint	Pa
10486	TL/2388/7148	Pottery, ditch, animal bone, shell	Med
10486a	TL/2388/7148	Pottery	AS
11506	TL/2371/7194	Pit, pottery	Med
11740	TL/----/----	Ditch, plant remains	Preh
11741	TL/----/----	Inhumations, pits	Med
11907	TL/2371/7194	Rubbish pits, yard surfaces, structural remains	Med
11908	TL/2417/7185	Yard surface, rubbish pits, structural remains	Med
13020	TL/2425/7160	Rubbish pits, cess pits	AS
13021	TL/2425/7160	Cemetery	Med
14595	TL/2416/7164	Quarry and rubbish pits	Med
14832	TL/2377/7184	Church	Med
14924	TL/2411/7156	Church	P med
14925	TL/2399/7149	Church	Med
15040	TL/2402/7193	Ditches, pits, industrial activity	Med
15097	TL/2406/7158	WWII Building	Modern
15226	TL/2429/7131	Pillboxes	Modern
15227	TL/2446/7195	Anti-tank defences	Modern
15332	TL/239/718	Pits	AS
15333	TL/239/718	Pits	Med
15334	TL/239/718	Hearths, floors	Med
15649	TL/2396/7181	Tanning pit	Med
15658	TL/2387/7212	Structural evidence, pits, quarry pits	Med
15695	TL/2413/7170	Structural evidence, ditches	Med
16321	TL/2375/7173	Pits, postholes, cultivation layers	AS – P med
16322	TL/2377/7169	Pits, postholes, cultivation layers	AS – P med
16323	TL/2380/7165	Pits, postholes, cultivation layers	AS – P med
16324	TL/2383/7167	Pits, cultivation layers	Ro – P med
16329	TL/2380/7136	Pits, gullies, ditch	Ro
16330	TL/2395/7137	Cemetery, enclosure	Ro
16331	TL/2393/7137	Ditch, pits/postholes	AS – med
16635	TL/2435/7147	Steam Mills, Godmanchester Listed Building	P med
17084	TL/2433/7176	Flint working, Water channels, ditches, pits	Neo - Med
17112	TL/2413/7155	Structural evidence, pits, linears	Med – P med
17284	TL/2402/7156	Structural evidence, pits, ditches	Ro – P med
17378	TL/2418/7162	Structural evidence, pits, gullies	AS – P med

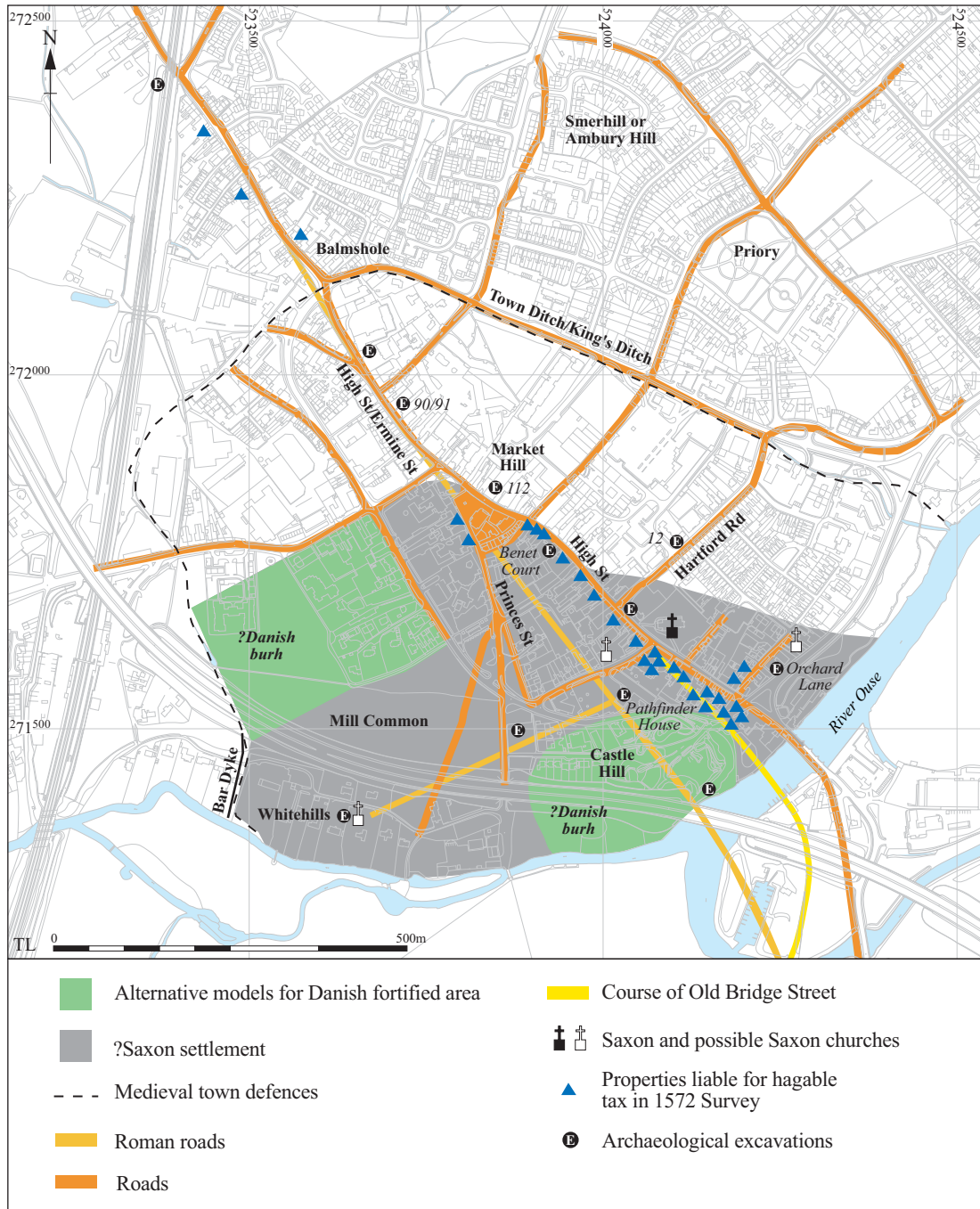
**Key to periods:**

IA	Iron Age
Med	Medieval
Mod	Modern
Pa	Palaeolithic
Pre	Prehistoric
P Med	Post-medieval
Ro	Roman
U	Undated



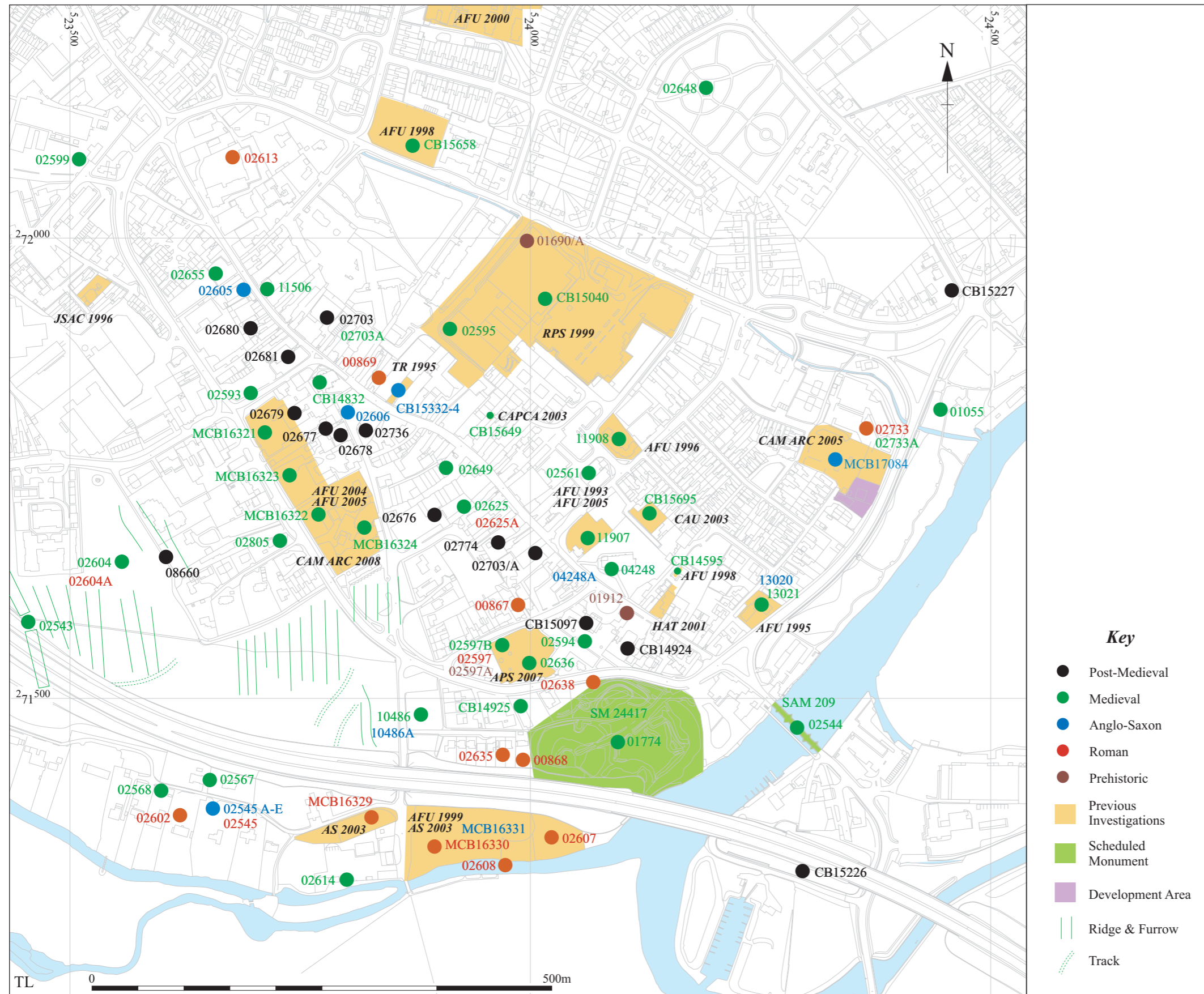
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Figure 1: Location of development area outlined (red) and previous excavation area (green)



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Figure 2: Models of Saxon Huntingdon



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Figure 3: Development area and CHER entries



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Figure 4: Continuation of ditch and channels from previous excavation HUNMOL05



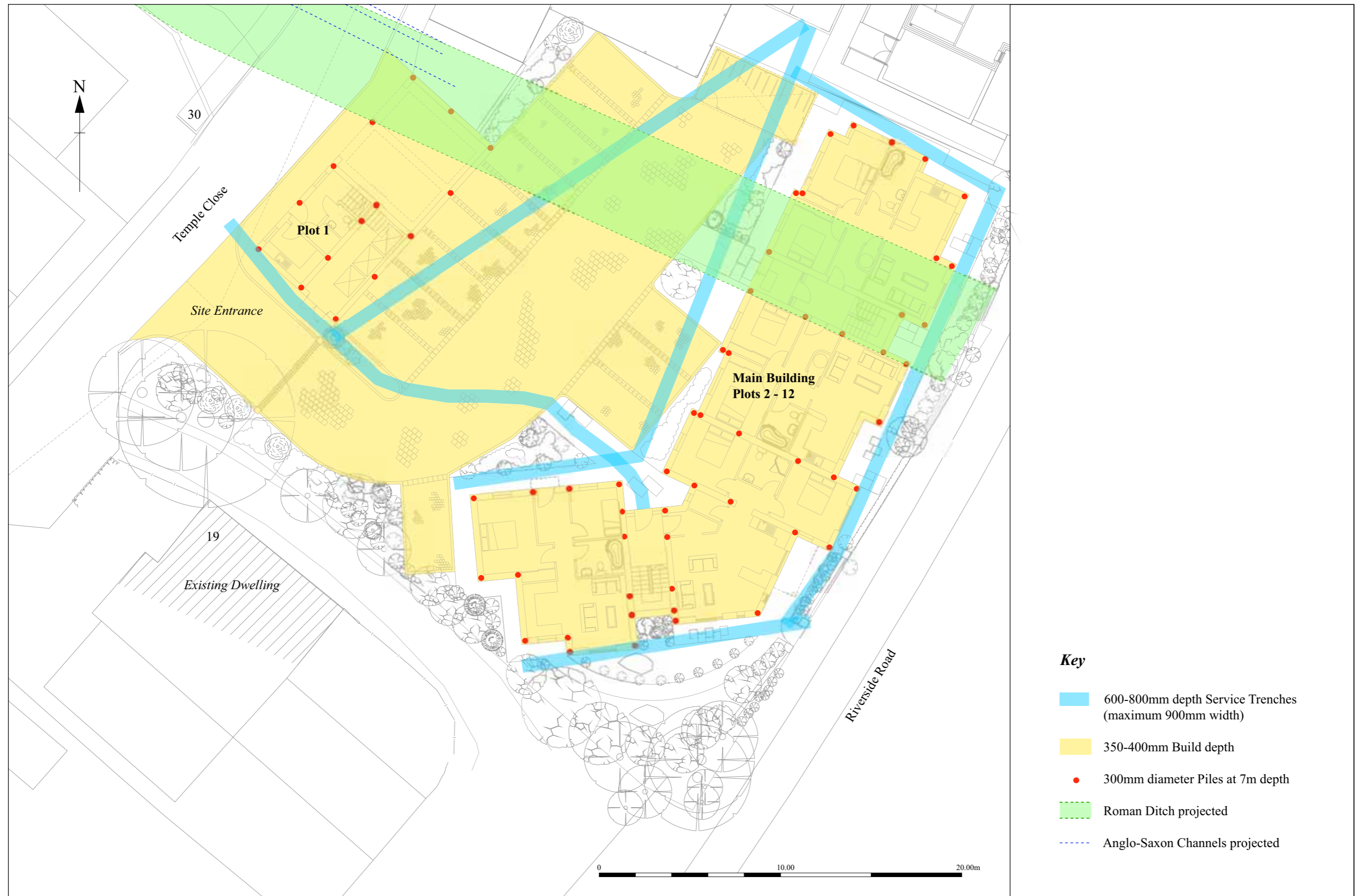


Figure 5: Proposed site plan (Wilmot Partnership Design ; Dwg No 2622) overlain with build depth and service trench locations

## The Development Area on Historic Maps

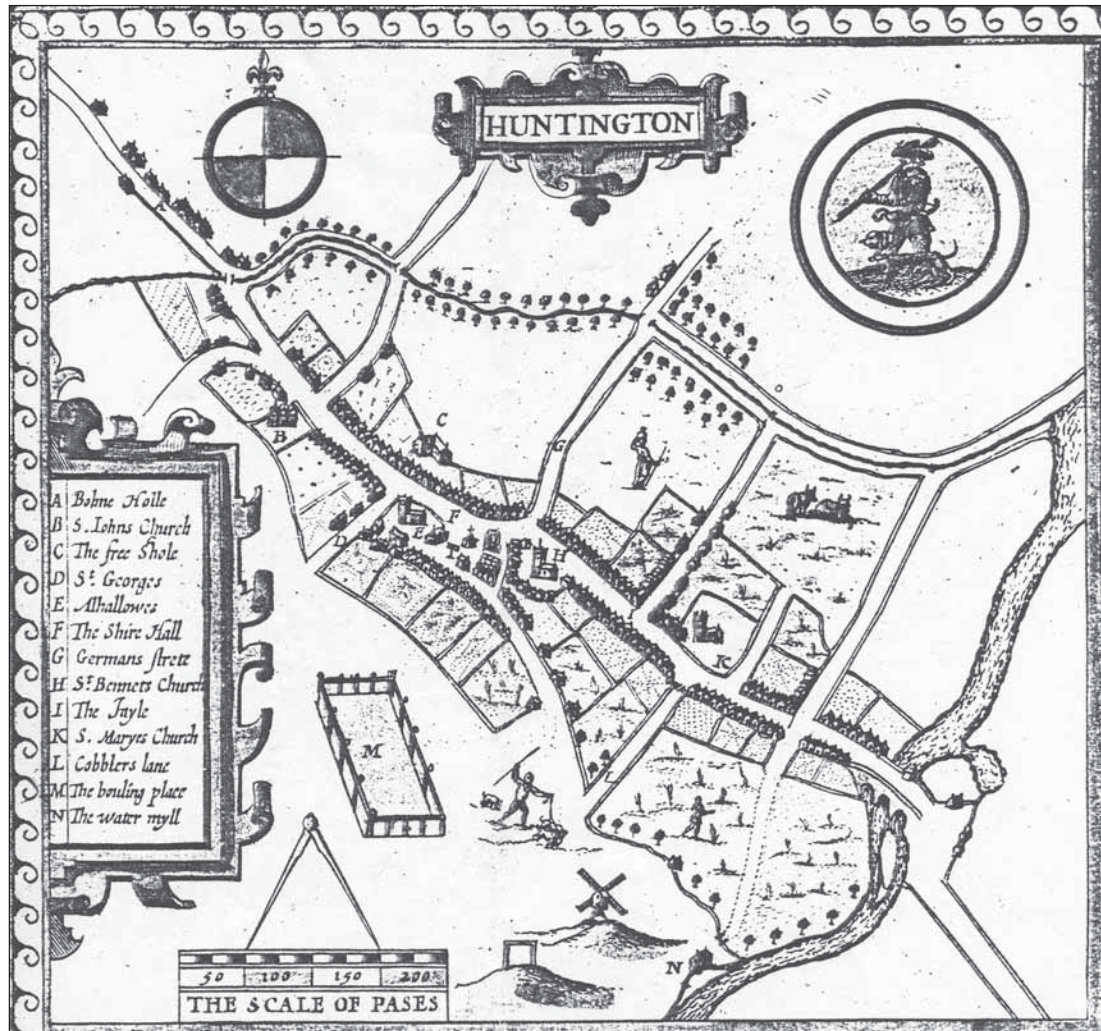


Figure 6: John Speed's map of Huntington 1610

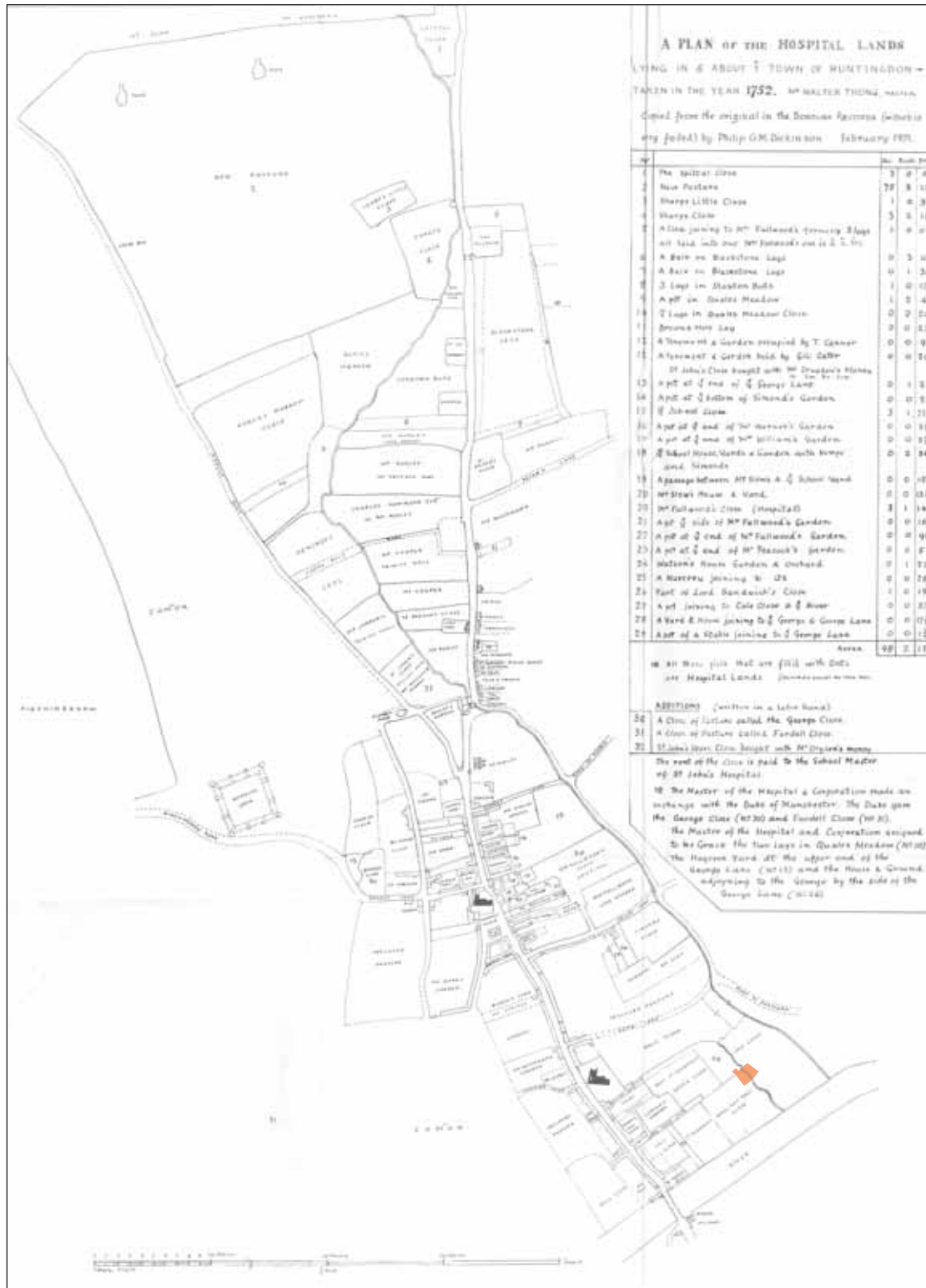


Figure 7: Plan of the Hospital Lands in Huntingdon 1752

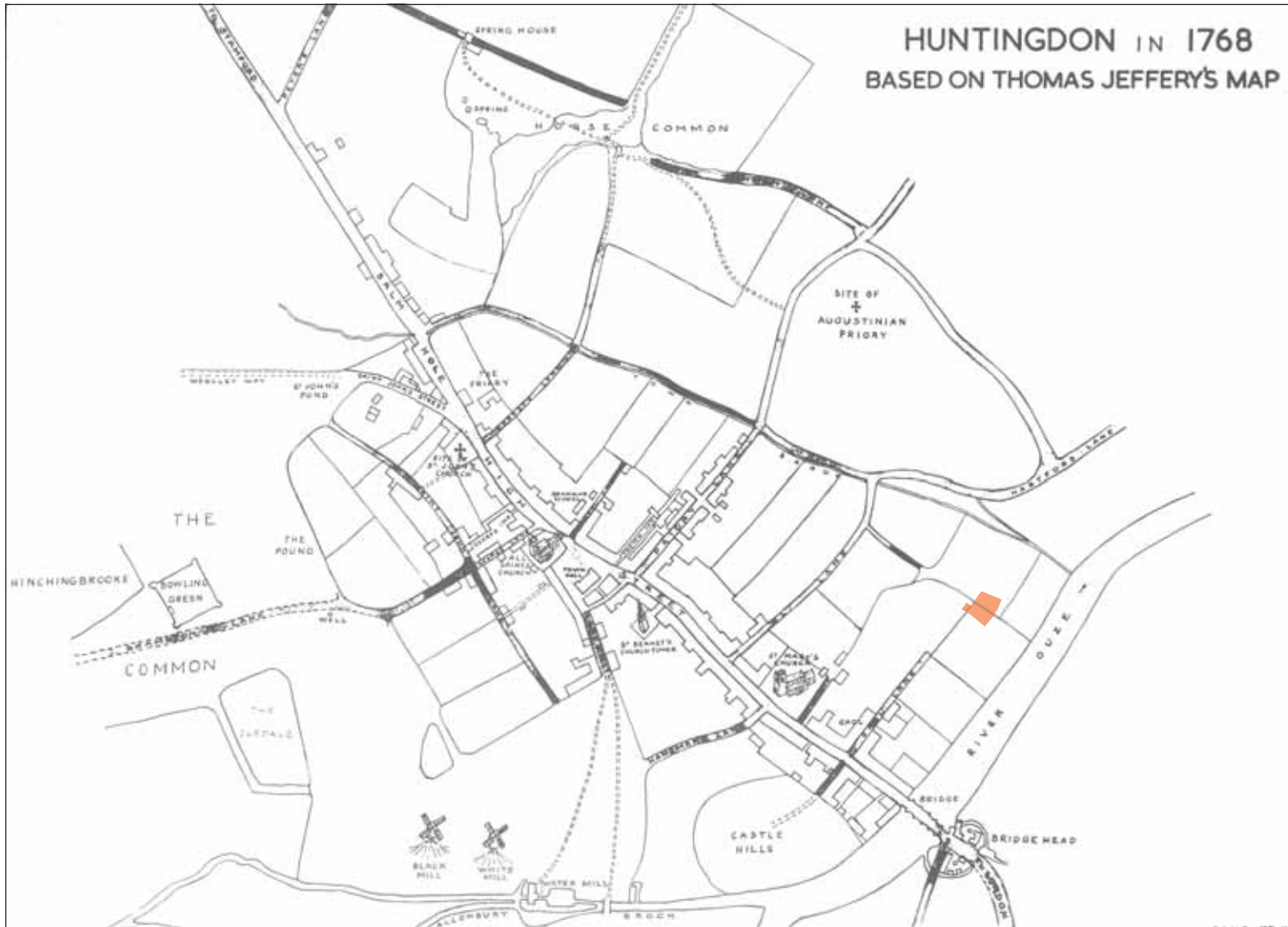
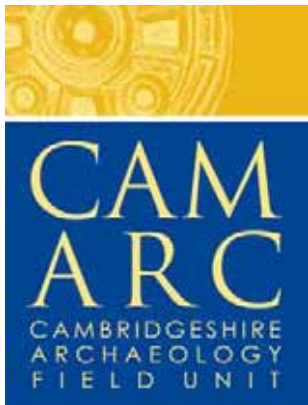


Figure 8: Huntingdon in 1768, based upon Thomas Jeffery's map



Figure 9: Development area on 1892 Ordnance Survey



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