

# Bletchley & Fenny Stratford

## Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Assessment Report



*Aylesbury Street, Fenny Stratford by J Hassell 1819*



The Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project was carried out between 2008 and 2012 by Buckinghamshire County Council with the sponsorship of English Heritage and the support of Milton Keynes Council

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Report produced by David Green and Ruth Beckley

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## Summary

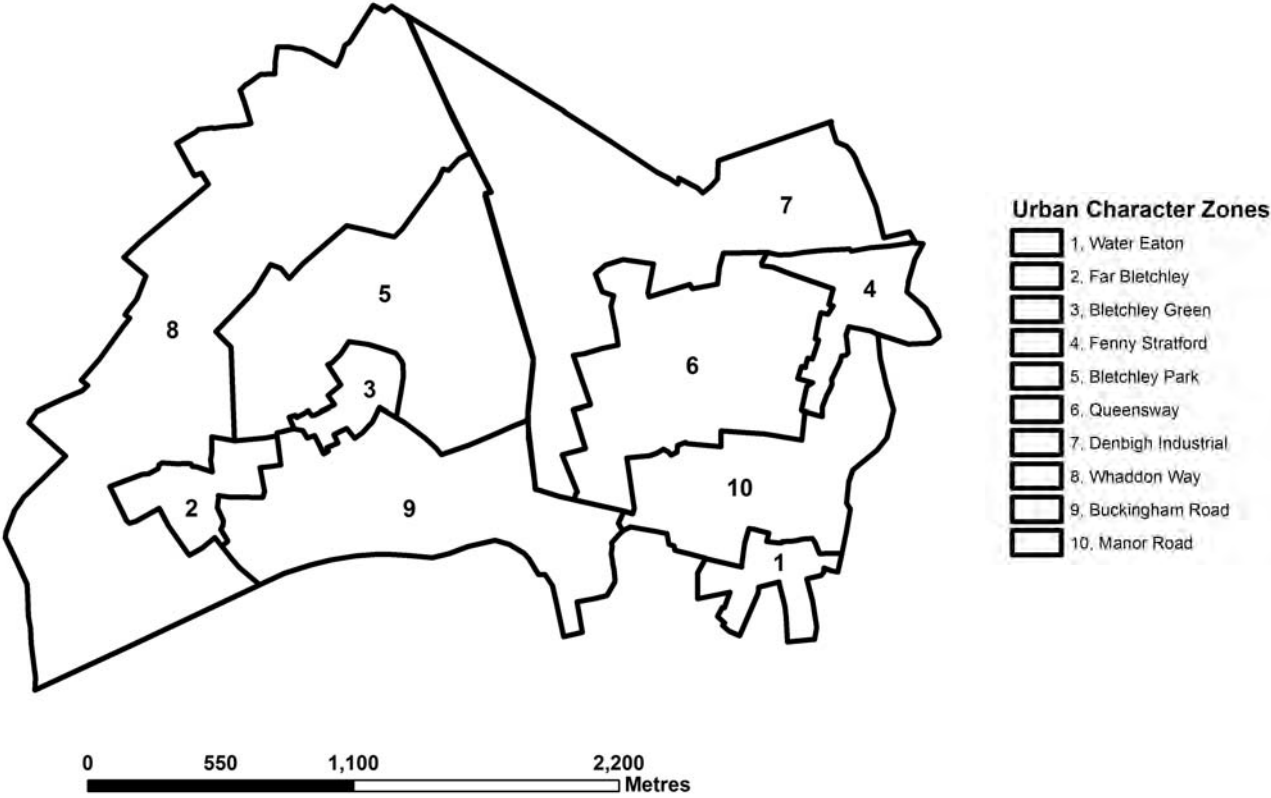
This report written as part of the Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project is intended to summarise the archaeological, topographical, historical and architectural evidence relating to the development of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford in order to provide an informed basis for conservation, research and the management of change within the urban environment. Emphasis is placed on identifying a research agenda for the towns and using a formalised method for classifying local townscape character. The Historic Towns methodology complements the well-established process of conservation area appraisal by its complete coverage, consideration of time-depth and emphasis on research potential. Each Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project report includes a summary of information for the town including key dates and facts (Table 1).

The two towns of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford were combined for the purposes of this report because their close historical and geographical association made independent study impractical, for similar reasons Water Eaton is also discussed to some extent. In 1086, Water Eaton was the principal manor in the parish although it is possible that small settlements did exist at Bletchley and Fenny Stratford (Table 1: Domesday). However, the market and fair were settled at Fenny Stratford and the town later achieved borough status (Table 1: Medieval). Throughout the medieval period the chapels at Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton were considered dependencies on the church at Old Bletchley. Then, while the principal manor was sited at Water Eaton in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, it had in all likelihood been moved to Bletchley Park by the 14<sup>th</sup> century following the creation of a deer park there (Table 1: Medieval).

The post-medieval period saw little expansion of the settlements at Bletchley or Fenny Stratford and in fact settlement decline has been recorded following outbreaks of plague and the failure of the market on several occasions, despite revivals such as the construction of a market house by Browne Willis in the 18<sup>th</sup> century (Table 1: Post Medieval). The post-medieval period saw some improvement to the communications network with the turnpiking of Watling Street in 1706, making it the first road in the county to be turnpiked.

The motivation for expansion began in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century with the introduction of the main railway line that eventually linked London with Birmingham, shortly followed by the Oxford to Cambridge Varsity making Bletchley an important rail junction and depot. This stimulated new industries including the introduction and subsequent growth of Fletton brickmaking (Table 1: Modern). The selection of Bletchley Park for the site of a secret code-breaking facility during World War II forms an important chapter in Bletchley's history but had little discernible effect on its urban development. Post-war, Bletchley expanded greatly with the creation of extensive new estates and an influx of new residents from bomb damaged areas of London. With the creation of Milton Keynes new town this process continued with Bletchley expanding to join the new town grid (Table 1: Modern).

The culmination of this report is the production of ten historic urban zones that can be used to indicate areas of significance relating to various facts of heritage. This includes areas that may benefit from more detailed archaeological or documentary research and areas with limited known archaeological potential.



Historic Urban Character Zones

Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Historic Town Assessment

Period		Bletchley	Fenny Stratford
Saxon (410-1066)	Mint	No	No
	Minster	No	No
	Royal Manor	No	No
	Burh status	No	No
	ASC Reference	No	No
Domesday (1086)	Domesday Reference	<i>Etone</i>	<i>Etone</i>
	Settlement type	small hamlet?	small hamlet?
Medieval (1066-1536)	Borough status	No	1370
	Burgage plots	No	1370 (Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem)
	Guild house/houses	No	Guild of St. Margaret & St. Catherine 1494
	Castle	No	No
	Civic structures	No	No
	1 <sup>st</sup> reference to town	1153 (Newton Longville Cartulary)	1252 Fair Charter
	Fair Charter	No	1252 Charter to John Grey (1252 Calendar Charter Roll)
	Church	St Mary's Church	St Margaret's Chapel
	Market Charter	No	1204 Grant to Roger de Caux (1204 Cartulary Roll)
	Monastic presence	No	No
	Manorial records	Yes	Yes
	Emparkment	deer park 14 <sup>th</sup> century	No
	Routeway connections	Buckingham Road: Roman secondary road	Watling Street: Roman primary road
	Inns/taverns (presence of)		One definite: The Swan (1472)
Industry – windmills, watermills	No	No	
Settlement type	poly focal village	planned town?	
Post Medieval (1536-1800)	Tanneries, breweries etc	No	No
	1577 Return of Vintners	6 for parish	See Bletchley
	Market Charter	No	Grant 1608 to town
	Market house	No	1716-1819
	Fair Charter	No	Grant 1608 to town
	Significant local industries	No	No
	Proximity to turnpike	Watling Street 1706-1866	Watling Street 1706-1866
	Industry – windmills, watermills	Windmill	No
	Population (1801)	569	469
Settlement type	poly focal village	planned town?	
Modern (Post 1800)	Railway station	Bletchley Station (Northampton-Hemel Hempstead main line)	Fenny Stratford Station (Bedford –Cambridge line)
	Modern development	Yes	Yes
	Canal Wharf	No	Yes
	Significant local industries	T.G. Reads / Bletchley Brick Co. / Flettons Ltd / London Brick Company (1890s-1991)	Akroyd Stuart, Engineering Clarke's Brickyard
	Other	Bletchley Park Intelligence Centre	No
	Population (2001)	Now included with Milton Keynes	Now included with Milton Keynes
Settlement type	railway town	railway town	

Table 1: Checklist for Bletchley & Fenny Stratford

## **I DESCRIPTION**

### **1 Introduction**

#### **1.1 Project Background and Purpose**

The Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project forms part of a national programme of projects funded by English Heritage (EH) based on the archaeology, topography and historic buildings of England's historic towns and cities.

This Historic Settlement Assessment Report for Bletchley with Fenny Stratford has been prepared by the Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service as part of the Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Project to inform and advise the planning process. This report has been compiled using a number of sources, including the Milton Keynes Historic Environment Record (MK HER), the List of Buildings of Architectural and Historical Interest and selected historical cartographic and documentary records. Site visits were also made to classify the character of the built environment. The preparation of this report has involved the addition of information to the database and the digitising of spatial data onto a Geographic Information System (GIS). In addition, this report presents proposals for the management of the historic settlement archaeological resource.

For the purposes of this project, settlement expansion in the Bletchley and Fenny Stratford area was characterised until 1970 and the formation of the Milton Keynes new town development plan. After this date, no further characterisation was carried out although modern redevelopment within this extent was characterised.

#### **1.2 Aims**

The overall aim of the project is to inform management of the historic environment within Buckinghamshire's urban areas. Specifically, it will

- Improve the quality and environmental sensitivity of development by enhancing the consistency, efficiency and effectiveness of the application of Planning Policy Guidance 15 and 16 covering the historic environment and archaeology respectively.
- Inform the preparation and review of conservation area appraisals
- Where appropriate, assist with the development of Town Schemes and urban regeneration projects
- Inform Local Development Frameworks, especially in the recognition of historic townscape character
- Act as a vehicle for engaging local communities by promoting civic pride and participation in local research and conservation projects.
- Build upon the original Historic Landscape Characterisation (HLC) for Buckinghamshire (completed in 2005) through the addition of more detailed characterisation of the urban environment.
- Address an agenda recognised in the Solent Thames Research Frameworks for Buckinghamshire (2006) regarding a lack of knowledge of the built environment and in particular the need for research into land use continuity and internal planning within Buckinghamshire's early towns.



## 2 Setting

### 2.1 Location, Topography & Geology

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford lie within the Milton Keynes Unitary Authority, forming the southern edge of the modern town of Milton Keynes (Figure 2). Newport Pagnell lies approximately ten miles north of the town while Aylesbury is 17 miles to the south. The 19<sup>th</sup> century parish of Bletchley included the settlements of Old Bletchley, Bletchley Town, Water Eaton and part of Fenny Stratford (parts of the town north of Watling Street lay within Simpson parish). Lands attributed to Bletchley totalled 1180 acres, those for Water Eaton and Fenny Stratford totalled 1040 acres (Sheahan, 1861). By 1895 Fenny Stratford was the principal parish settlement and was combined with Simpson parish to form an urban district, this was later extended to include Bletchley (Page, 1927).

The modern settlement of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford is considered part of the greater Milton Keynes town, however, it also covers several smaller administrative units including West Bletchley (historic settlements of Old Bletchley and Town), Bletchley and Fenny Stratford (historic settlements of Fenny Stratford & Water Eaton and modern Central Bletchley) and Simpson parish (part of Fenny Stratford). For the purposes of this report, the term 'Bletchley' will be used to refer to the historic parish level while the settlements will be referred to using their historic names.

The highest point in the parish (110m OD) lies to the west around Windmill Hill (historically in Tattenhoe parish) with the ground gently sloping east towards the railway junction (80m OD). The lowest point in the study area is at modern Central Bletchley and Water Eaton where the base of the shallow valley is marked by a Water Eaton brook. Fenny Stratford is located at around 80m OD on a slight rise (Figure 2). The river Ouzel flows on a north-south alignment through the east of the parish from Newport Pagnell past Fenny Stratford to Stoke Hammond. Several small tributaries drain on a west-east alignment from the clay hills around Windmill Hill towards the river Ouzel.

The bedrock geology mainly comprises Oxford Clay (Figure 3) with a superficial geology of Till deposits around Old Bletchley, Bletchley Town and Fenny Stratford and narrow bands of alluvium and terrace gravels following the river Ouzel and its tributaries (BGS). The alluvium is surrounded by bands of undifferentiated sand & gravel and clay & silt around Central Bletchley. The Soils Survey Layer (Cranfield, 2007), surveyed at a county level, classifies the soil around Old Bletchley and Bletchley town as slowly permeable clay soils with a calcareous subsoil (Soil Series 4.11 Typical Calcareous Pelosols). The soils around Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton are classified as slowly permeable loam over clay soils with significant clay enrichment (Soil Series 5.72 Stagnogleyic Argillic brown earths).

### 2.2 Historic Landscape

#### *Transport and Communications*

The earliest known routes in Bletchley include several Roman roads, of which, Watling Street (Figure 4: Route 1) is the principal routeway. Watling Street has been classified as a Roman Primary road by the Viatores (1964) that connected the major Roman towns of St Albans (*Verulamium*) to Towcester (*Lactodorum*) via the settlement of *Magiovinium* near Fenny Stratford (Viatores, 1964). The second major road linked Watling Street directly to Buckingham and Banbury along a route also thought to be Roman in origin (Figure 4: Route 2). The third major route runs on a north-south alignment from Wing to Northampton (Figure 4: Route 3). Other roads link directly to local sites including Tattenhoe Park to the west, Newton Longville to the south and Simpson to the north. Several roads and trackways were known to have bypassed Fenny Stratford, linking up to Watling Street at a more north-easterly point, these roads being necessary due to the impassability of Watling Street between Stony Stratford and Fenny Stratford in the winter months (Croft & Mynard, 1993b).

The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries saw significant changes to the communications network across the country with the introduction of Turnpike Trusts aimed at improving road transport as well as the development of first the canal industry and then the railway network. Watling Street was turnpiked in 1706 and continued to operate until 1866 (Edmonds et al, 1993). The Grand Junction Canal arrived 1799/1800, linking Fenny Stratford with London and Birmingham (Zeepvat, 1993a). The most significant event of the 19<sup>th</sup> century was the construction of the London and North Western Railway (LNWR) running north-south from London and Hemel Hempstead to Northampton through Bletchley, the first stations was opened in 1838 just east of Bletchley Park, the current station was opened in 1965 (Pevsner, 1994). A second track was later installed by LNWR in 1867 running northeast to southwest from Bedford to Bicester, with a station at Fenny Stratford.

#### *Rural Landscape*

## Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Historic Town Assessment

The 1718 map of the Willis estate (CBS: Ma 299/1T) gives an indication of early enclosure in the parish but it also suggests the presence of an open field system beyond the Willis estate through field name evidence with references to an 'Eaton Field' south of Eaton Brook and 'Bletchley Field' west of Rickley Lane. Several woodlands are also located close by including the now lost Rickley Wood by Watling Street north of Old Bletchley and Tattenhoe Park and Whaddon Chase to the west.

A significant proportion of the landscape was subject to enclosure in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and subsequent agricultural practices combined with extensive clay extraction and modern development have removed almost all traces of medieval field systems in Bletchley parish and its surrounding landscape (Figure 5). Small areas of ridge and furrow survive only to the south and east of Water Eaton.

Bletchley parish seems to have been a multi settlement parish with sites at Water Eaton, Old Bletchley and Bletchley Town at least, Croft & Mynard (1993b) suggest that the population figures given for Water Eaton in Domesday indicate a dispersed settlement pattern already established within the parish (Figure 6). Within modern Milton Keynes there are several other multi settlement parishes in neighbouring Shenley and Brickhill parishes. Only two deserted villages can be noted in the area, one at Tattenhoe which was deserted some time in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, and inhabited until the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Ivens, 1993) and another at Caldecotte.

### **3 Brief History of Settlement**

Water Eaton, as *Etone*, is the only settlement in Bletchley parish to be mentioned in Domesday. The first reference to the name as *Blechelai* comes from a document dated 1153 (Newton Longville Cartulary) and translates as 'Blaecca's Clearing' (Mawer & Stenton, 1925). The first reference to Fenny Stratford comes from the 1252 Charter granting a fair to John Grey (BOD: Calendar Charter Rolls 1226-57). The name is commonly taken to mean a 'ford on the street', the 'fenny' suffix was used to distinguish the town from other 'Stratford's' in the region and refers to the fenny or marshy ground by the river (Mawer & Stenton, 1925).

#### Saxon

Documentary evidence (Domesday mentions Water Eaton only) and known archaeological evidence (some Saxo-Norman pottery and a single spearhead) remains sparse for Bletchley parish. Although more significant evidence for Saxon occupation has been found at prior to the construction of a Tesco store at Fenny Stratford (FS9); where a number of sunken buildings and post structures were unearthed.

#### Medieval

It is in the medieval period from the 12<sup>th</sup> century onwards that documentary evidence becomes more abundant for the multiple settlements in Bletchley parish, providing the first reliable evidence of settlement at Far Bletchley, Church Green and at Fenny Stratford (Table 1). The two settlements at Bletchley seemingly remained small throughout the medieval period, probably due to their location along the less important Buckingham Road while Fenny Stratford continued to grow as a small market town achieving status as a borough in the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Page, 1927). Two parks are mentioned in the 14<sup>th</sup> century with reference to Water Eaton Manor, at least one of which was probably located at what is now Bletchley Park (Croft & Mynard, 1993a). Archaeological evidence for medieval activity around the Bletchley settlements remains sparse due to limited development within the small historic settlements. Two sites have been investigated close to Bletchley Town, only one of which produced evidence for medieval boundaries (BL23) and four close to Old Bletchley with evidence of medieval activity from the church site only (BL9). Previous archaeological investigation in Fenny Stratford covered six sites within the historic centre, two of which produced medieval evidence (FS1), a medieval occupation layer and (FS3), two medieval ditches.

#### Post Medieval

Despite seeing little in the way of action during the Civil War, the market at Fenny Stratford was discontinued for the duration of the war until 1660 only to be abandoned again following an outbreak of plague in 1665 (Page, 1927). The market fared badly until the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, going through several periods of abandonment (Bradbrook, 1924). The increased use of a secondary road connecting Newport Pagnell to Watling Street and bypassing Stony and Fenny Stratford also led to a decrease of importance for the parish (Croft & Mynard, 1993b), probably leading to some years of stagnation until the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. The introduction of the Grand Union Canal in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century went some way to reviving Fenny Stratford with the creation of two wharves to accommodate traffic on the canal.

#### Modern

The population within the parish began to grow from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards particularly from 1871 onwards (Figure 1). From 1871, population statistics for Water Eaton were combined with Fenny Stratford, in 1961 Bletchley was combined with Fenny Stratford and from 1971 onwards the parish was considered part of Milton Keynes. The creation of the major railway junction just to the east of Bletchley Park led to a shift in settlement focus to the east of the new railway closer to Fenny Stratford in what is now called Central Bletchley (Figure 7). In 1880 the market was re-established yet again, this time at a new site in Central Bletchley (Park Hotel) creating a new economic focus away from the historic town of Fenny Stratford (Bradbrook, 1927). In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century a number of brick works were established including The Fletton Brick Company, Water Eaton and Clarke's brickyard, Bletchley although most were subsumed into the London Brick Company who took over most of the works in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Fenny Stratford is also associated with a number of smaller industries including Akroyd Stuart, who manufactured one of the first heavy oil engines and the brush manufacturing which began in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and continued for over 60 years although as an employer was eclipsed by the larger industries. Fenny Stratford's other industries included a timber yard and saw mill on Simpson Road, an iron foundry.

During World War II, Bletchley Park was the centre for secret operations by what is now known as the Government Communications Headquarters, settlement was re-focused again with scores of temporary accommodation springing up around Bletchley Park and Old Bletchley (Figure 8). Fenny Stratford also contained one of Britain's first telephone repeater stations on Watling Street, just south of the Grand Union Canal. The station was powered by a locally produced Akroyd Stuart engine. Repeater stations were necessary as early long-distance telephone circuits had to be amplified around every 50 miles.

Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Historic Town Assessment

In the 1960s Bletchley was designated a London overspill area, leading to a number of council estates along the Buckingham Road area (Figure 8). Finally, from the late 1960s onwards Bletchley parish became part of the Milton Keynes new town.

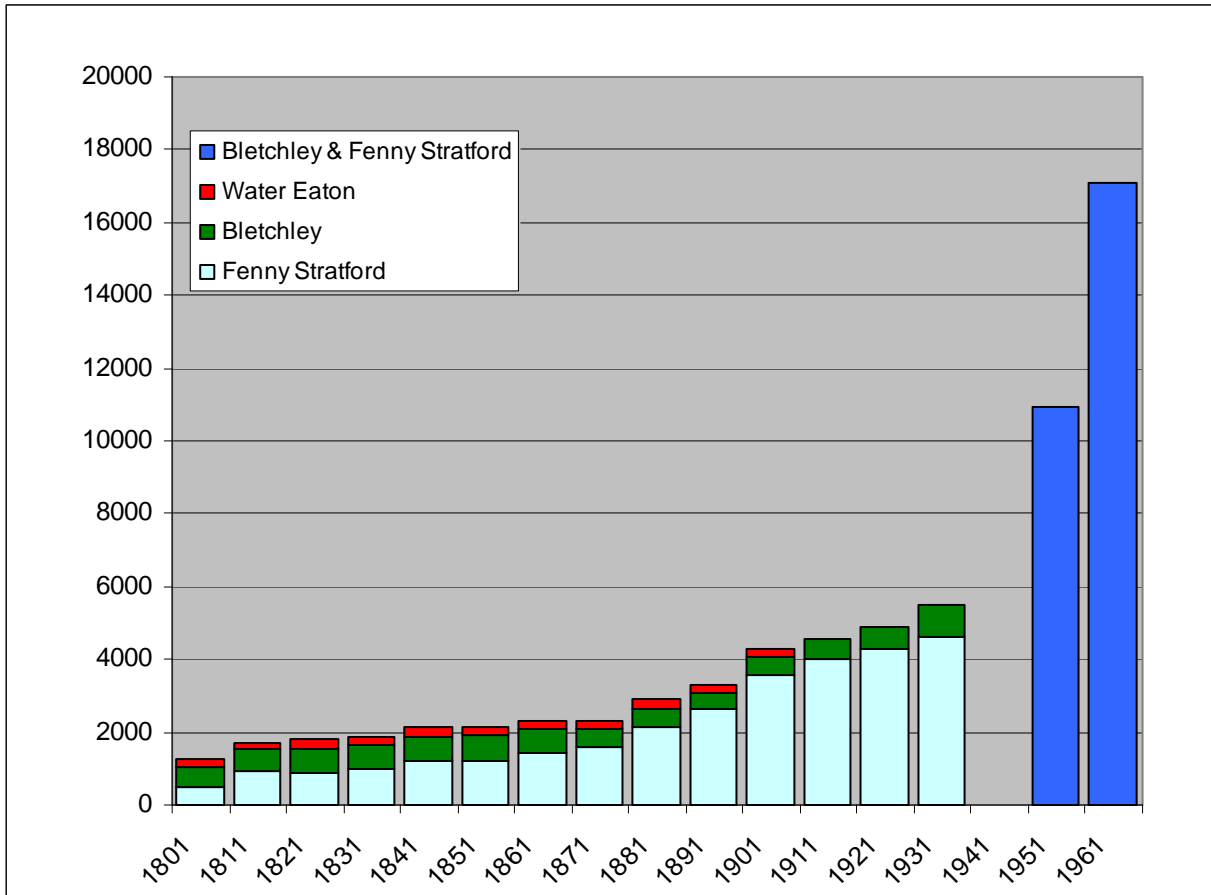


Figure 1: Graph showing population changes in Bletchley & Fenny Stratford 1801-1961



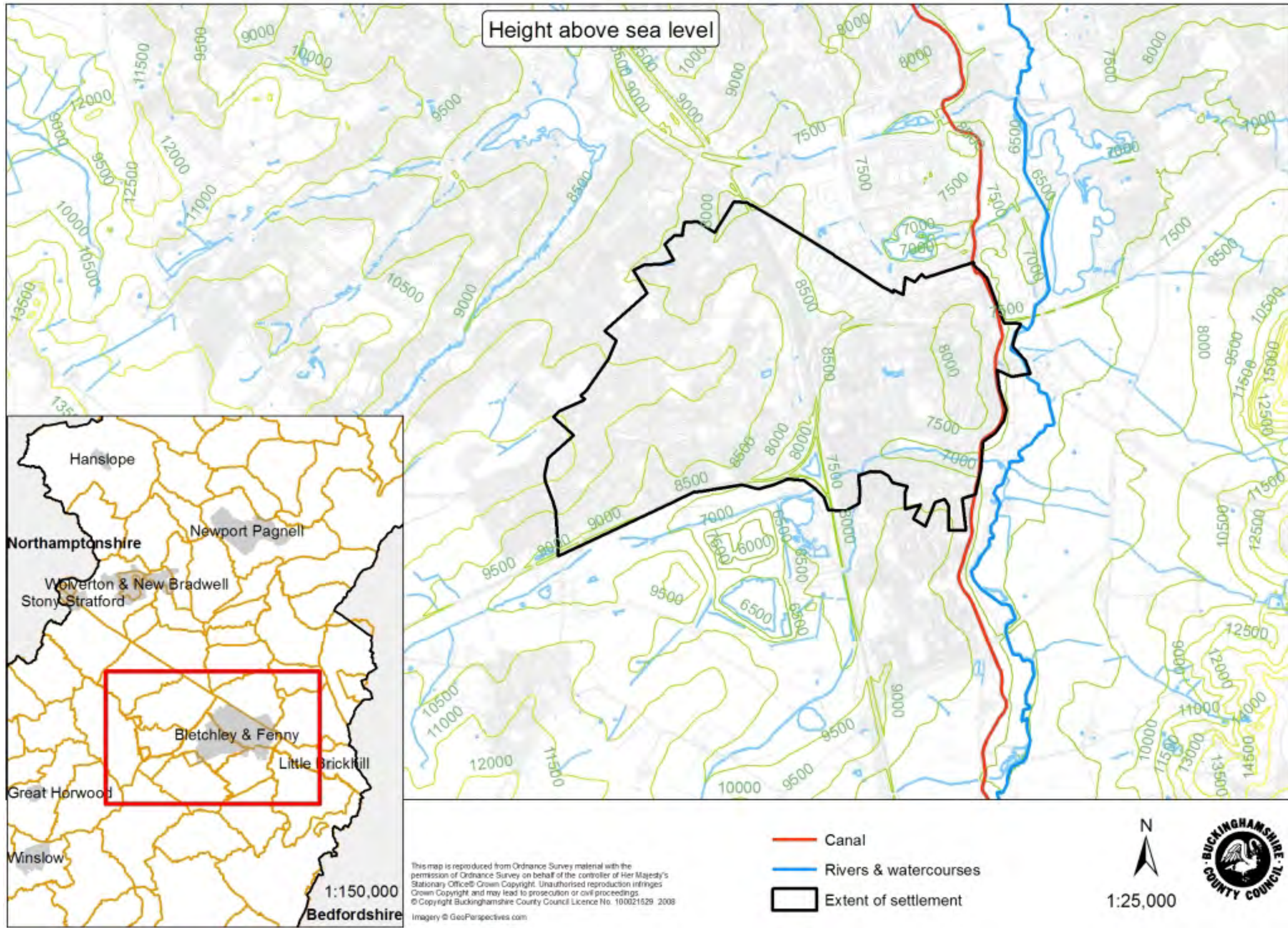


Figure 2: Bletchley in location



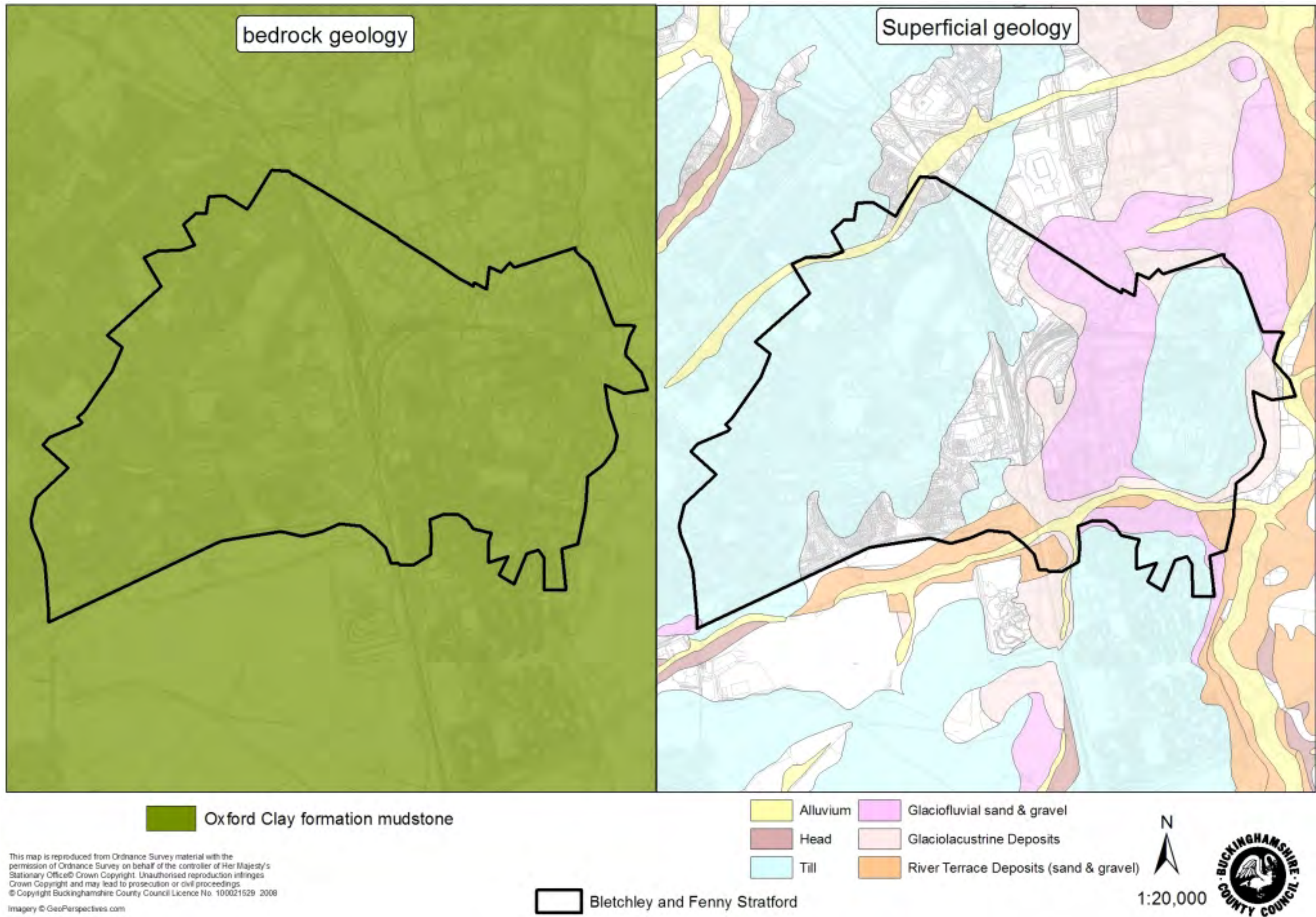


Figure 3: Geology of town (Copyright British Geological Survey)



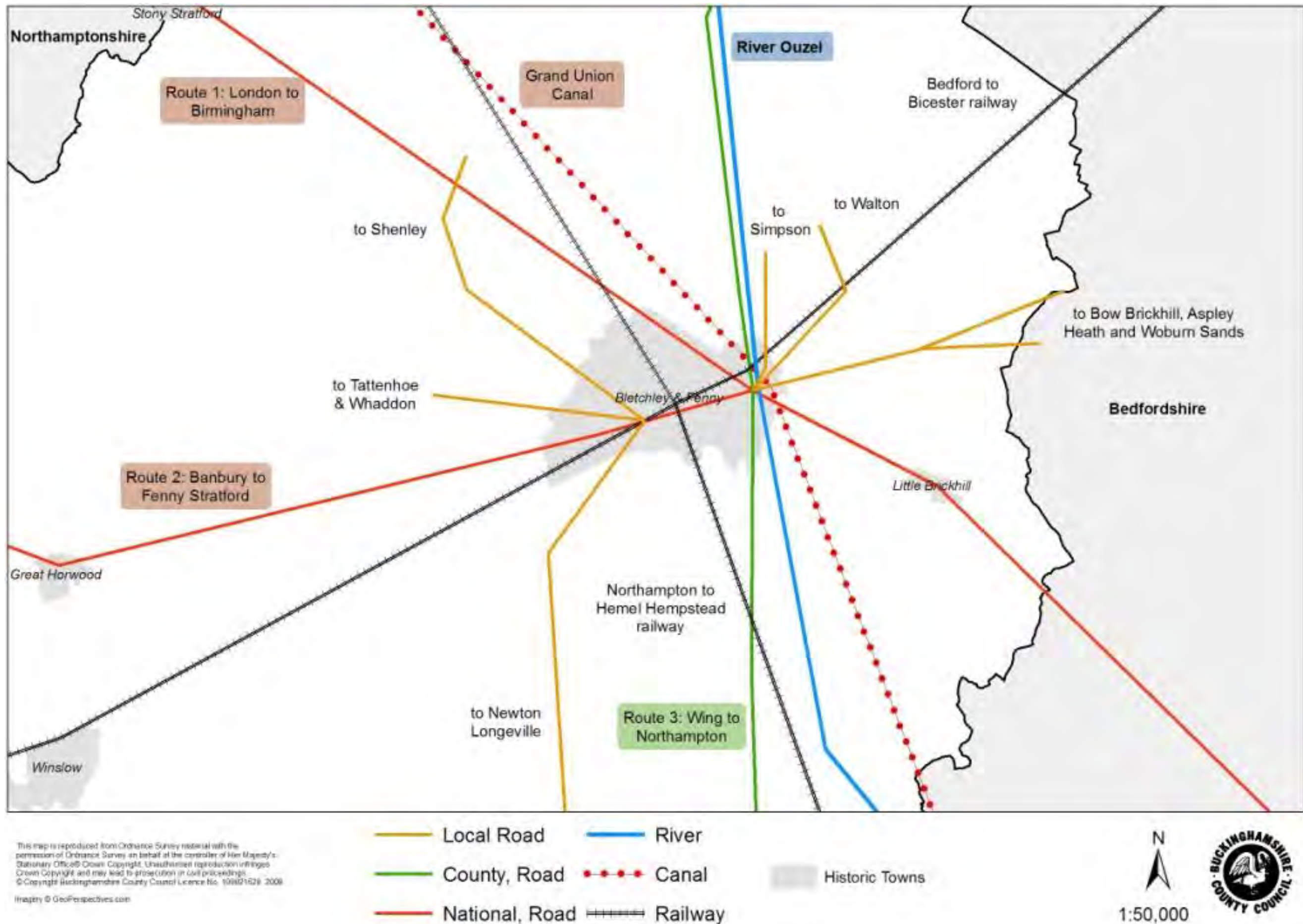
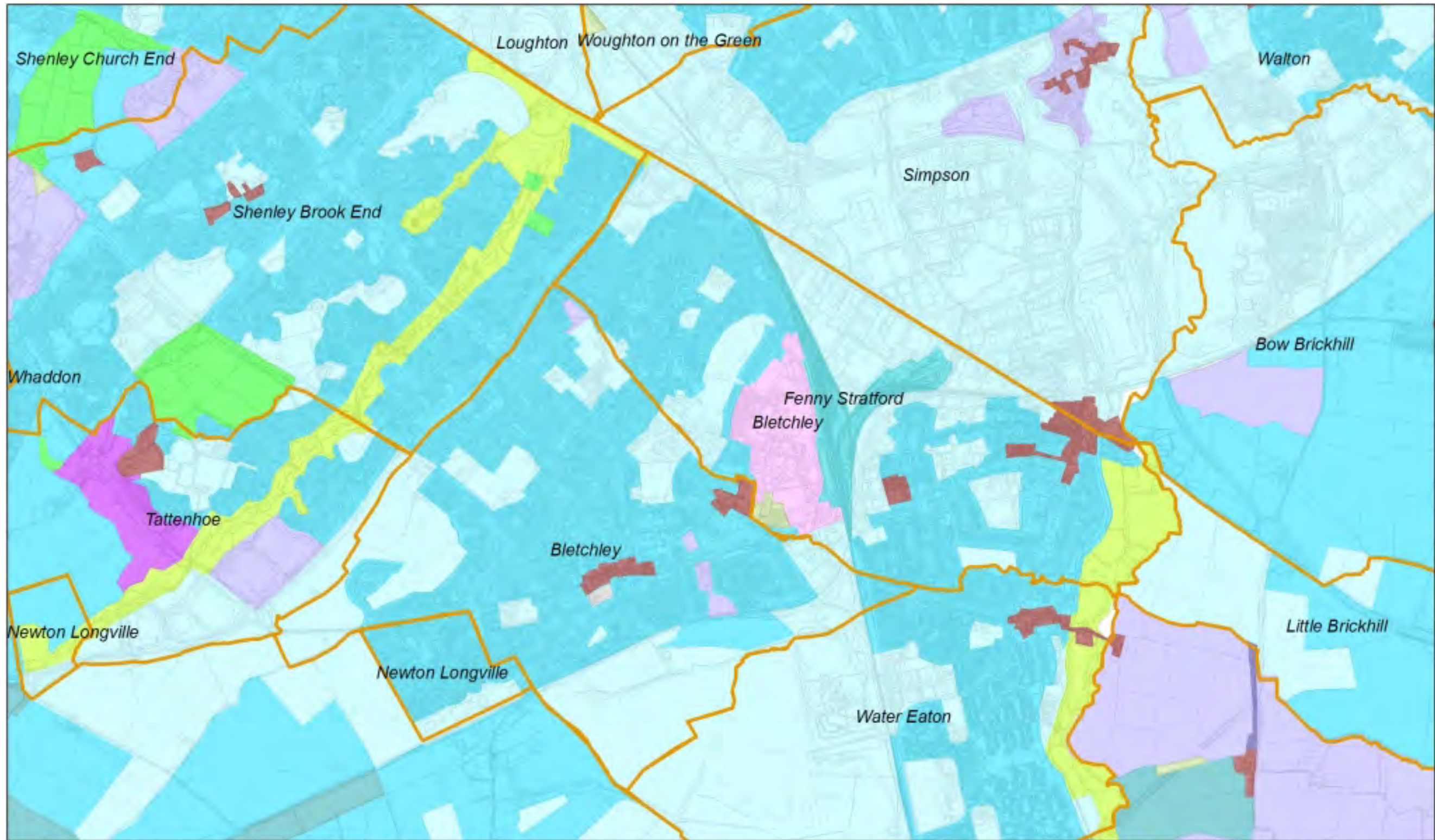


Figure 4: Diagram of Connections from Bletchley and Fenny Stratford (representational only)





- |                                 |                                 |                          |                                |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Assarts                         | pre 18th Century enclosure      | Enclosure (19th Century) | Parkland (16th 19th Centuries) | Woodland (Ancient Semi Natural) |
| Fossilised Strips               | Parliamentary Enclosure         | Heaths                   | Rowing Lake                    | Woodland secondary              |
| Crofts (Medieval/Post Medieval) | Parliamentary Enclosure (later) | Meadow                   | Settlement (Historic Core)     |                                 |

Parish boundaries

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Figure 5: Historic landscape characterisation in 1880



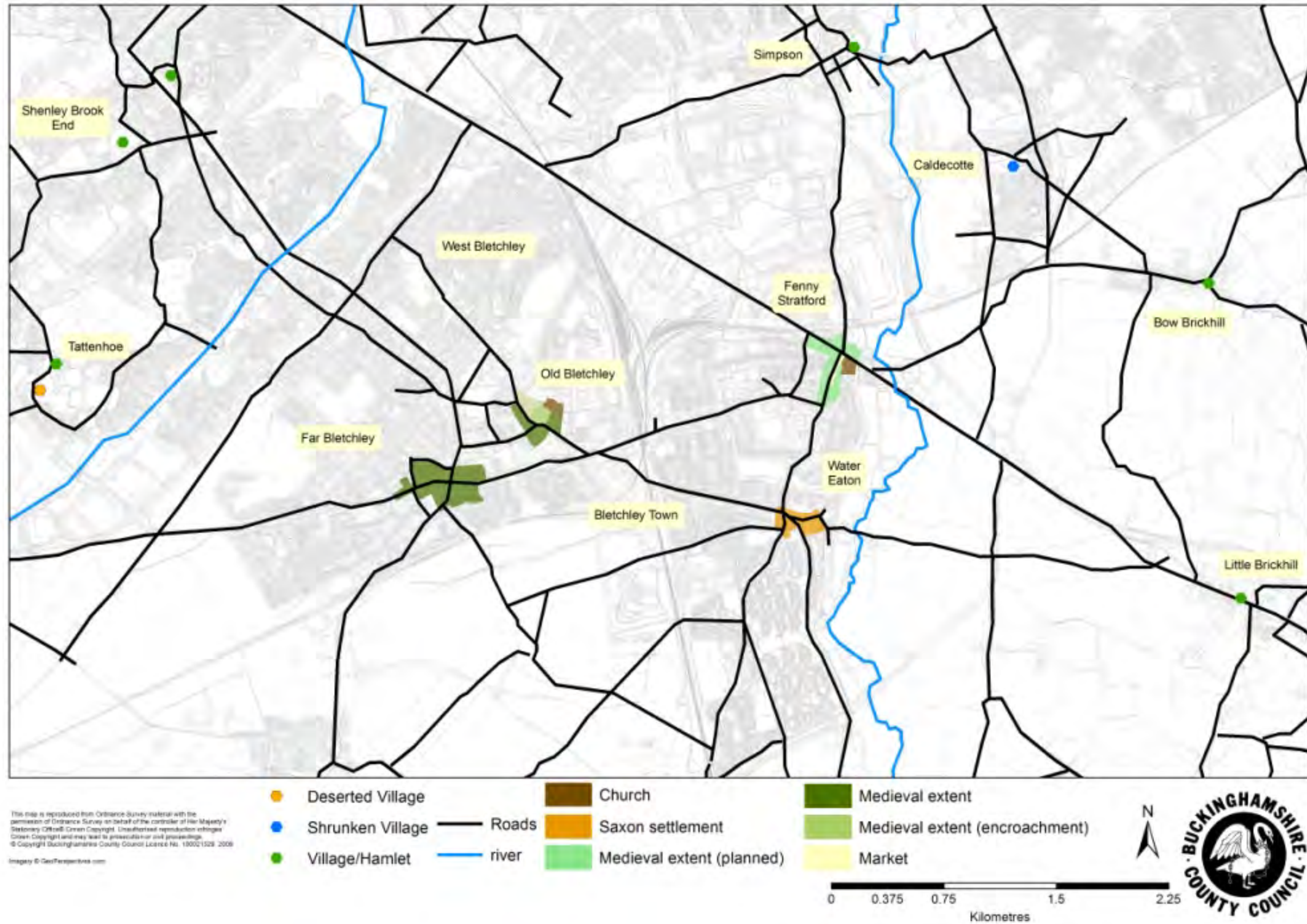


Figure 6: Dispersed settlement around Bletchley parish



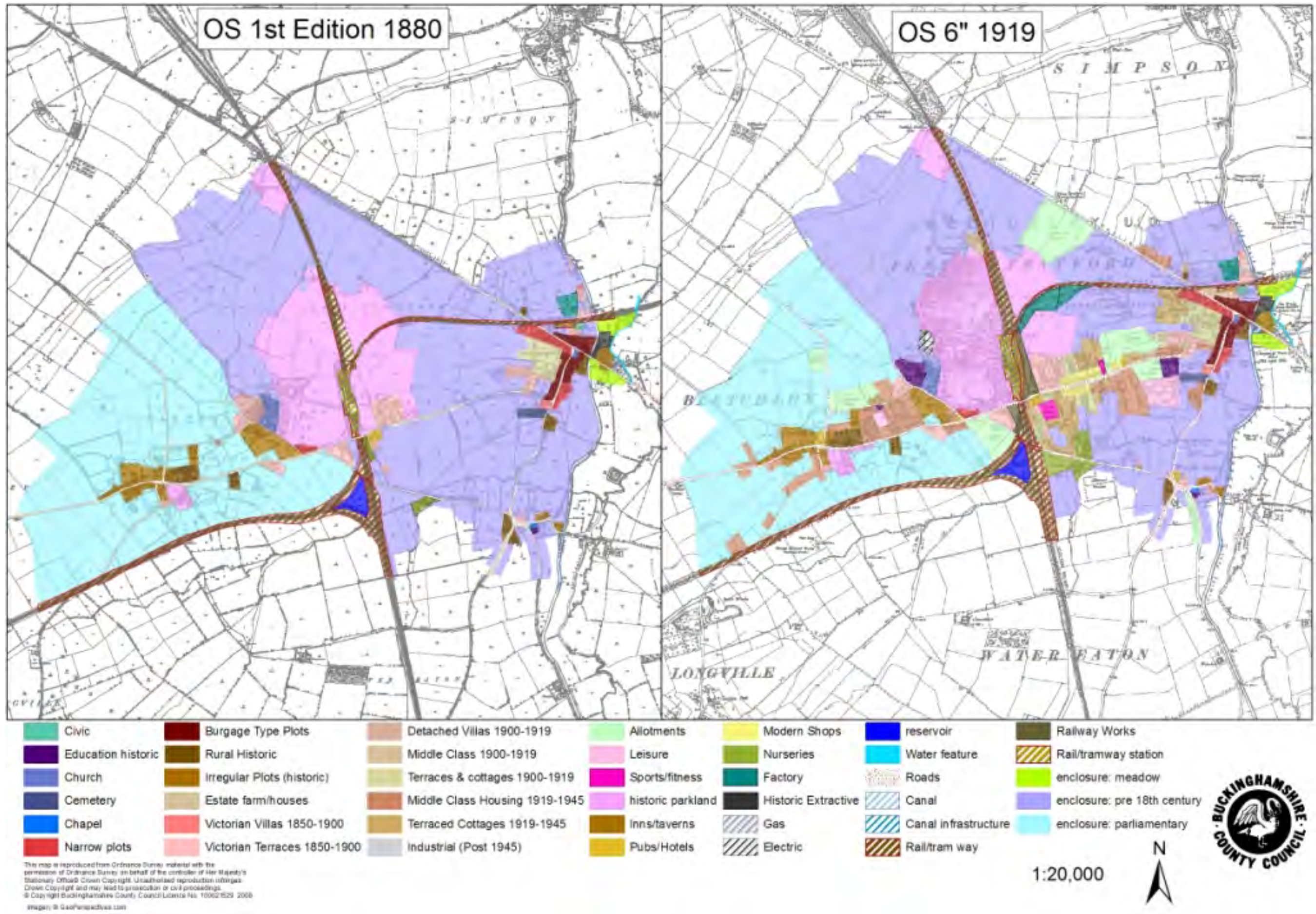


Figure 7: Town in the 1880s to 1920s



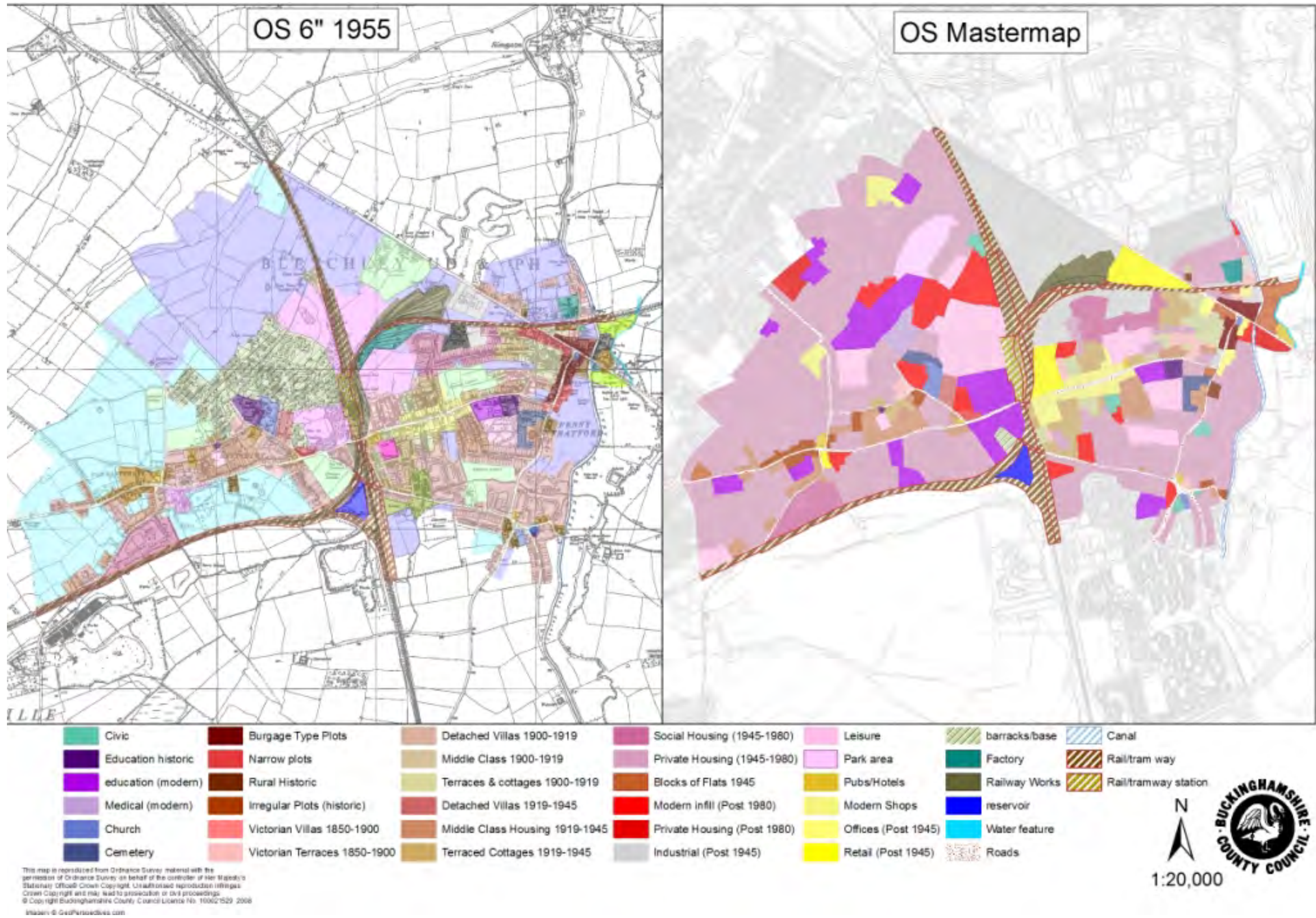


Figure 8: Town in the post war to modern period

## 4 Evidence

### 4.1 Historic Maps

The earliest county map to show Bletchley is the 1564 Saxton map of Buckinghamshire with the modern spelling of the name and only one settlement area for Old Bletchley and Bletchley Town (Figure 10). The map also records Fenny Stratford on the river Ouzel, along with a crossing point, Water Eaton is not mentioned. The earliest parish map dates to 1718 (CBS: Ma 299/1T) drawn for the Browne Willis estate at Bletchley Park it does not show the settlements at Bletchley although it does show some of the town and the bridge in Fenny Stratford as well as the mill at Water Eaton. The next map to show the settlement in detail in the 1813 Enclosure Map for Bletchley, Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton (CBS: IR/96Q). In the 1830s, a plan was drawn of the larger Bletchley parish including Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton depicting the proposed path of the LNWR railways (CBS: D/DU6/23). A plan of the estates of the Duncombe family within Buckinghamshire including Bletchley was later drawn up in 1863 that detailed the numbers of houses as well as the occupiers. The three 19<sup>th</sup> century maps are broadly similar in their depiction of Bletchley showing two settlements at Bletchley Town and Old Bletchley both with a small number of houses surrounding a junction (Figure 10).

### 4.2 Documentary Evidence

Historical Consultancy reports were produced by Matt Tompkins of the University of Leicester, the full report is included in Appendix 5.

Research into the historic records for the parish are compounded by the complexity of the manorial history with records held under Fenny Stratford, Water Eaton, Bletchley and Simpson. 19<sup>th</sup> century records are also recorded under Fenny Stratford while modern records from the 1960s onwards are combined with Milton Keynes town. A significant number of primary records relating to Bletchley have also been compiled and translated by Milton Keynes Archaeology Service and have been used here.

### 4.3 Built Heritage

There are a total of thirty one listed buildings in Old Bletchley and Bletchley Town, of which two – St Mary’s church and the Rectory Cottages – are Grade II\*, they are also the only medieval structures in the village, the church dates in part to the 13<sup>th</sup> century while dendro-chronology has confirmed that Rectory Cottages are late 15<sup>th</sup> century (Table 2). The majority of surviving post medieval (17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century) structures are concentrated around Bletchley Town while those in Old Bletchley are predominately 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century (Figure 9). There are a high number of 20<sup>th</sup> century structures primarily due to the inclusion of several of the World War II huts at Bletchley Park. The low number of surviving earlier buildings is perhaps indicative of early 20<sup>th</sup> century development in the village.

In Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton there are thirty four listed buildings, of which only one is Grade II\*. The Chantry House at No.11 & 13 Watling Street originally served as the guild house in the 15<sup>th</sup> century and it is the only surviving medieval structure in the town. There is a high number of 19<sup>th</sup> century structures included on the list for Fenny Stratford in part due to the designation of structures relating to the canal and the railway (Figure 11).

Address	Dendro-Chronology/tree felling date range	Type of structure	Laboratory
Rectory Cotts	1475	hammerbeam	?
Chantry House	1600 – 1645	Timber framed building with hammerbeam truss in 1 <sup>st</sup> floor hall.	London Guildhall

Table 2: Dendro-Chronology for buildings in Bletchley (Vernacular Architecture Group, 2002)

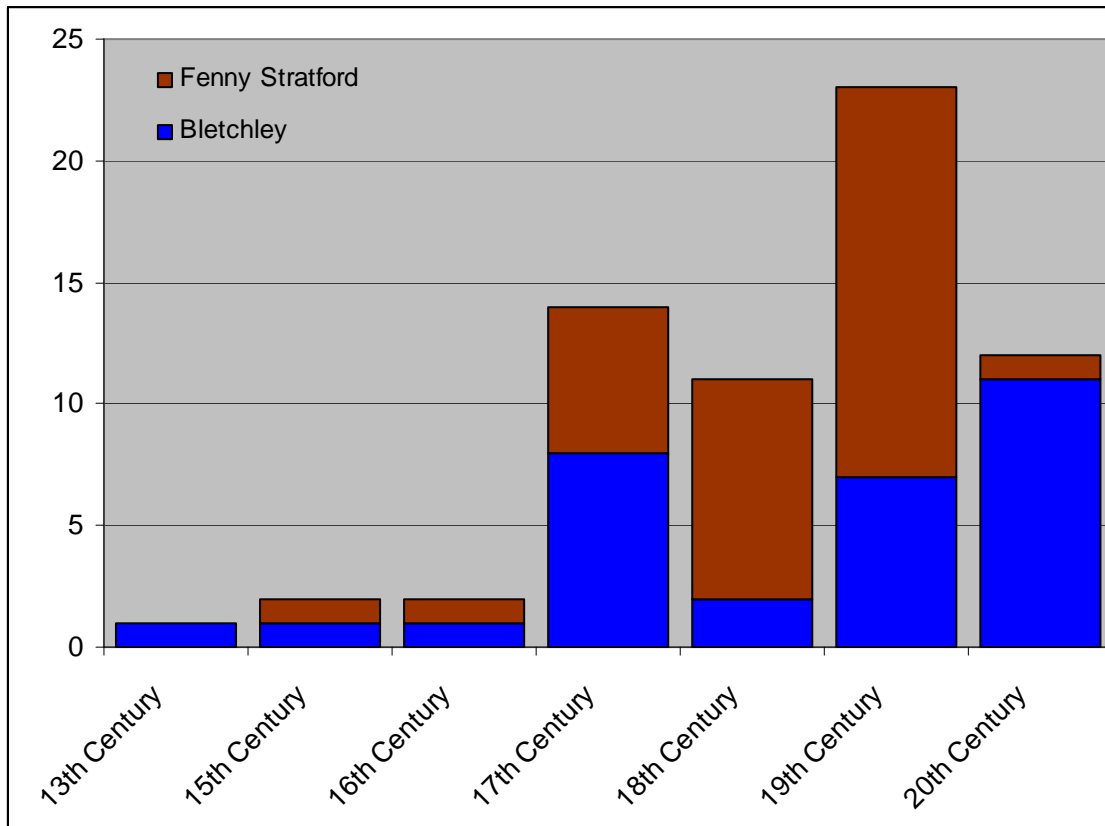


Figure 9: Listed Buildings by century



#### 4.4 Archaeological Evidence

Although not offering statutory protection, archaeological notification and heritage interest areas are a helpful tool for planning control as they highlight areas that are of known or suspected archaeological potential to planning control officers at a district and county council level.

A number of small scale archaeological investigations have been carried out in Bletchley parish, particularly since the development of Milton Keynes, however these have been concentrated away from the medieval settlements (Figure 12). Previous archaeological work has revealed a substantial amount of Iron Age and Roman evidence across the entire parish.

<b>BL1: Water Eaton Road T.A Site SP 8681 3333 (Griffiths R, 1964)</b>		<b>Excavation</b>	<b>MKEV23</b>
<b>Finds</b>	<b>Negative features (cut only)</b>	<b>Environmental evidence</b>	
St Neots type ware	None	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		None	
<b>Circumstances of investigation</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>		
Limited excavations carried out in proximity to known Roman road and the medieval village of Old Bletchley. Source: MK HER Archive: Unspecified	Summary report in MK HER did not specify conclusions from this report. Medieval evidence is limited to a few sherds.		
<b>BL2: Shenley Road Roman Site SP 8530 3430 (Griffiths R, 1965-1971)</b>		<b>Excavation</b>	<b>MKEV32</b>
<b>Finds</b>	<b>Negative features (cut only)</b>	<b>Environmental evidence</b>	
1965: Roman pottery 1 <sup>st</sup> – 4 <sup>th</sup> century 1967: Tile and wall plaster Romano British pottery sherds one coin bronze stud	1965: possible beam slots 1967: ditched enclosure	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		1965: Cobbled surface 1967: building foundations -2 walls 1967: 3 <sup>rd</sup> century occupation layer 1971: corn drier (T Shaped)	
<b>Circumstances of investigation</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>		
Several seasons of excavation carried out on site along Shenley Road. Source: Published summary in B.A.S. Monograph No.1. 1987. Archive: County Museum, Aylesbury	Although the site was excavated over a period of several years, the individual excavations remained small scale making interpretation difficult. It is estimated that the site was occupied from the early 2 <sup>nd</sup> to late centuries with limited evidence of 1 <sup>st</sup> century activity. Based on the finds recovered the report suggests the site was used for domestic settlement.		
<b>BL3: Holne Chase, Buckingham Road SP 8632 3320 (Griffiths R, April 1965)</b>		<b>Salvage</b>	<b>MKEV31</b>
<b>Finds</b>	<b>Negative features (cut only)</b>	<b>Environmental evidence</b>	
4 <sup>th</sup> century pottery	Several ditches (Roman)	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		2 stone building foundations	
<b>Circumstances of investigation</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>		
Salvage excavation at a site along the probable line of a Roman road at Holne Chase. Source: Published summary in Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Archive: County Museum, Aylesbury	The excavations revealed the foundations of two stone built structures. One contained a kiln and may have had an industrial function while associated finds from the second building indicate domestic use. Both structures contained made floor surfaces, the domestic structure's had a well made cobbled floor.		
<b>BL4: Whaddon Way and Westminster Drive SP 8590 3438 (Griffiths R, August 1965)</b>		<b>Watching Brief</b>	<b>MKEV34</b>
<b>Finds</b>	<b>Negative features (cut only)</b>	<b>Environmental evidence</b>	
Samian (Roman) pottery sherds	None	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	

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		None	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Watching brief carried out supervising the laying of a mains trench at the junction of two roads. Source: MK HER Archive: Unspecified	A number of Samian type pottery sherds were recorded during a watching brief.		
BL5: Sherwood Drive SP 88547 34409 (Mynard D, 1973)		Salvage	MKEV86
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
Roman flue tiles Post medieval tile & brick Pottery (1 <sup>st</sup> century AD) coin (Tasciovanus 1 <sup>st</sup> century BC)	Ditch (2 <sup>nd</sup> century AD)	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural) 2 building foundations (4 <sup>th</sup> century)	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Published summary in Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Monograph Archive: Milton Keynes District Council	Site may represent a minor agricultural settlement that expanded during the 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> centuries.		
BL6: Elmers, Church Green Road SP 8630 3365 (Zeevat R, 1978)		Trial Trenching	MKEV306
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
Medieval pottery (un-quantified) Victorian pottery (un-quantified)	1 pit 2 ditches	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural) None	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Trial trenching carried out within the grounds of Elmers House and its associated Victorian garden. Source: MK HER Archive: Unspecified	The evaluation of the associated finds suggest a 17 <sup>th</sup> century date for the site and may have related to an earlier garden.		
BL7: St Mary's Church SP (Williams R, 1984)		Salvage	MKEV181
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
medieval floor tiles (Little Brickhill and Wessex types)	None	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural) 6 18 <sup>th</sup> century vaults	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: MK HER Archive: Unspecified	Watching brief undertaken during the removal and relaying of the floor, archaeological features were limited to 18 <sup>th</sup> century vaults and floor memorials although evidence for medieval floor tiling was recovered.		
BL8: Bletchley Park SP 8654 3425 (Carstairs, P, 1992)		Trial Trenching	MKEV162
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
1 sherd Iron Age/Roman pottery Roman pottery (1 <sup>st</sup> century AD) quern stone	9 ditches (Roman) 3 ditches (post medieval)	oyster shell	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural) Corn drier flue stone layer	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Despite some evidence for mid 20 <sup>th</sup> century disturbance by GPO trainees, the site revealed some evidence for Roman settlement within Bletchley Park including a possible corn drier indicating malting or industrial activity. One of the post medieval ditches appears substantial enough to be part of a moat possibly for a lodge recorded in the park during the 16 <sup>th</sup> century or the 18 <sup>th</sup> century Water House.		
BL9: Bletchley Park SP 8650 3400 (Lovell J, 1994)		Trial Trenching	MKEV451
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
None	2 ditches (undated)	None	
		Above ground structures	

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		None
		Positive features (above natural)
		None
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion	
Source: Summary published in South Midlands Archaeology Archive: Milton Keynes District Council	No datable evidence was recovered from the site.	
BL11: Bletchley Park Stables SP 8637 3394 (Woodfield P, 2000)		Building Survey   MKEV573
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence
None	None	None
		Above ground structures
		None
		Positive features (above natural)
		19 <sup>th</sup> century stables
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion	
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Photographic survey of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century stables associated with Bletchley Park	
BL12: Bletchley Park House SP 86467 33988 (Oxford Archaeology, 2001)		Building Survey   MKEV574
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence
None	None	None
		Above ground structures
		None
		Positive features (above natural)
		19 <sup>th</sup> century house WWII blocks
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion	
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Photographic survey of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century buildings associated with Bletchley Park	
BL14: Bletchley Park North SP 8650 3434 (Lisboa I, 2002)		Excavation   MKEV604
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence
	several ditches (Late Iron Age)	None
		Above ground structures
		None
		Positive features (above natural)
		None
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion	
Source: MK HER Archive: Unspecified	Evidence from excavation suggests the ditches were re-used in the Roman period. Also evidence of Roman activity dating to 2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> century.	
BL13: Salvation Army, Buckingham Road SP 8568 3322 (Abrams J, 2002)		Trial Trenching   MKEV640
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence
1 sherd Roman pottery	1 ditch (undated) 2 pits (modern)	None
		Above ground structures
		None
		Positive features (above natural)
		None
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion	
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Significant modern intervention meant it was impossible to get an accurate picture of the archaeological features.	
BL15: Wilton Road SP 8651 3359. (Wilson N & Zeepvat R, 2003)		Building Survey   MKEV780
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence
	None	None
		Above ground structures
		None
		Positive features (above natural)
		3 structures (WWII)
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion	
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Building survey of the remains of several dormitory buildings erected for World War II Bletchley Park. Although the buildings were demolished in the 1990s the foundations remain.	
BL17: Sherwood Drive, Geophysics Survey SP 86465 34390 (MK HER, 2003)		Geophysics   MKEV750



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Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
	None	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		None	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Geophysics undertaken by English Heritage produced some magnetic and resistivity anomalies within the study area, but nothing to suggest a Roman site.		
BL18: Bletchley Park South East SP 8656 3376 (Lisboa I, 2004)		Building Survey	MKEV946
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
	None	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		foundations for 3 huts	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	The survey recorded the foundations of three World War II huts highlighting significant post war alteration to the huts.		
BL19: Bletchley Park South East SP 8656 3376 (Lisboa I, 2004)		Geophysics	MKEV947
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
	None	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		None	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Geophysics undertaken by English Heritage produced some magnetic and resistivity anomalies within the study area, but nothing to suggest a Roman site.		
BL20: 49 Whaddon Way SP 8492 3334 (Ivens R & Lisboa I, 2003)		Trial Trenching	MKEV969
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
	1 gully/ditch 5 features (unidentified)	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		None	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	No datable evidence was gathered from this site although its proximity to known Roman sites at Shenley Road suggest a possible Roman date.		
BL21: 139-143 Buckingham Road SP 8542 3318 (Trott K, 2006)		Excavation	MKEV1067
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
clay pipes 3 sherds Roman pottery 3 sherds St Neots type ware 3 sherds Potterspury type ware 2 sherds Thetford type ware	13 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century boundaries	oyster shell	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		None	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Several phases of medieval boundaries were revealed during excavation in advance of redevelopment. Possible late medieval re-organisation of boundaries is also indicated.		
BL22b: Romans Field School, Shenley Road SP 8526 3432 (Taylor A, 2007)		Excavation	MKEV1137
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
4 sherds Roman pottery	1 ditch (Roman) 1 ditch (undated)	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		None	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report	Two phases of work at the school did not reveal much additional Roman features.		

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Archive: Unspecified		
Fenny Stratford		
FS1: 12 Oakwood Drive SP 8805 3331 (Griffiths R, 1964)		Excavation MKEV 483
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence
medieval sherds	None	None
		Above ground structures
		None
		Positive features (above natural)
	None	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion	
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Trial trenching in the garden of Number 12 revealed a dark silty layer containing medieval finds.	
FS3: 24 Stoke Road SP 8795 3294 (Griffiths R, 1965)		Excavation MKEV 930
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence
12 <sup>th</sup> /13 <sup>th</sup> century pottery sherds	2 ditches	None
		Above ground structures
		None
		Positive features (above natural)
	None	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion	
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Excavations revealed two ditches tentatively dated to the medieval period.	
FS4: A5 Corner Site SP 8824 3414 (MKAU, 1978)		Watching Brief MKEV 309
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence
medieval pottery sherds glass bottle iron shoe making kit	1 pit (post medieval)	None
		Above ground structures
		None
		Positive features (above natural)
	None	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion	
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	A watching brief during works at the corner of Watling Street and Aylesbury Street identified a single post medieval pit.	
FS5: Guildhall & Chantry House SP 8829 3406 (MKAU, 1984)		Watching Brief MKEV 358
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence
None	None	None
		Above ground structures
		None
		Positive features (above natural)
	15 <sup>th</sup> century structure 17 <sup>th</sup> century structure 19 <sup>th</sup> century alteration	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion	
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Building survey carried out in advance of conversion of property to offices. Building determined to be a medieval timber framed jettied structure initially independent of the neighbouring Bull Inn. The frontage was rebuilt at the start of the 17 <sup>th</sup> century.	
FS6: Chantry House SP 8829 3406 (Croft R, 1985)		Watching Brief MKEV 1188
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence
1 sherd medieval pottery	None	None
		Above ground structures
		None
		Positive features (above natural)
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion	
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Ground floor of section fronting Watling Street revealed a clay floor, rotted joists, a brick sill for a partition, beam slot and a stone slab used as a hearth base. No medieval floors revealed.	
FS10: Fenny Marina SP 8840 3400 (Archaeological Solutions and Consultancy, 1998)		Trial Trenching MKEV 403
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence
	None	None

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		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		None	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: MK HER Archive: Unspecified	Trial trenching at the site of Fenny Marina revealed evidence for a 19 <sup>th</sup> century wharf basin.		
FS11: 20-26 Watling Street SP 8829 3411 (Woodfield P, 2000)		Watching Brief	MKEV 427
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
post medieval pottery	None	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		brick foundations	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Small scale trial trenching in advance of building extension revealed primarily post medieval finds and features.		
FS12: 39 Aylesbury Street SP 8813 3394 (Lisboa I, 2004)		Watching Brief	MKEV 869
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
None	brick lined pit	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		2 parallel stone walls	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Watching brief at this site recorded evidence of an earlier structure recorded on the 1813 Enclosure map. The walls remain undated however.		
FS13: 26-28 Aylesbury Street SP 8819 3387 (Hennessy B, 2006)		Excavation	MKEV 1051
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
60 inhumations	None	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		None	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Site revealed remains of a Baptist Chapel marked on 19 <sup>th</sup> century and approximately 53 graves.		
FS14: Reckitts Colour Site SP 8841 3414 (Hancock A, 2006)		Excavation	MKEV 450
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
None	None	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		3 19 <sup>th</sup> century limekilns	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Excavation revealed the remains of the 19 <sup>th</sup> century canal dock and associated buildings.		
FS15: The Villa, Reckitts Colour Site SP 8836 3406 (Zeepvat B, 2007)		Watching Brief	MKEV 1148
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
None	None	None	
		Above ground structures	
		None	
		Positive features (above natural)	
		18 <sup>th</sup> century house	
		19 <sup>th</sup> century canal wharf	
Circumstances of investigation	Conclusion		
Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report Archive: Unspecified	Building survey carried out on the villa house attached to the 19 <sup>th</sup> century canal wharf.		

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Some archaeological investigations within the historic settlement did not find any significant archaeological features, most likely due to either the extent of modern redevelopment in the area or to the limited nature of the archaeological activity.

Code	MKEV	Activity type	Address	NGR	Date	Summary
BL10	192	Trial Trenching	Denbigh School, Shenley Road	SP 8534 3443	1994	Negative – too small scale (BCMAS)
BL16	772	Trial Trenching	Old Rectory	SP 8634 3377	2003	(Ivens R & Lisboa I)
BL22a	1125	Trial Trenching	Romans Field School	SP 8526 3432	2007	Negative – no archaeological evidence (C Rouse)
BL23	1138	Watching Brief	153 Shenley Road	SP 8531 3418	2007	Negative – too small scale (Richards J)
FS7	374	Watching Brief	St Martins Church	SP 8825 3406	1987	Negative – too small scale (Mynard D)
FS8	450	Watching Brief	Reckitts Colour Site	SP 8839 3407	1996	Negative – no archaeological evidence (BCMAS)

In addition to those sites within the historic settlement, several archaeological events of interest have been carried out close to Bletchley and Fenny Stratford.

FS 2: Saffron Gardens SP (Waugh <i>et al</i> , 1974)		Excavation	MKEV 22
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Environmental evidence	
Belgic Pottery Belgic metalwork	three post holes with beam slots ditches & gullies pits & depressions	Bone	
Circumstances on investigation	Conclusion		
Area was excavated in 1964 in advance of re-zoning of the site as a rubbish dump by Bletchley UDC. This report mainly concentrates on the pottery found, Source: Published summary in <i>Records of Buckinghamshire Archaeological Journal</i> Archive: County Museum, Aylesbury	Most features provided some datable evidence in the form of Belgic pottery or metalwork. The three post holes were interpreted as part of a revetment used to strengthen the former river bank. The summary report does not specify the exact date and nature of this site.		
FS9: Fenny Lock SP8845 3460 (Cannon <i>et al</i> , 2001)		Excavation	MKEV 598
Finds	Negative features (cut only)	Positive features (above natural)	Environmental evidence
<i>Mesolithic</i> struck flint <i>Neolithic</i> struck flint 36 sherds pottery leaf shaped arrowhead <i>Bronze Age</i> struck flint 53 sherds pottery & 1 urn <i>Iron Age</i> struck flint 1328 sherds pottery <i>Roman</i> 185 coins 1 <sup>st</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> centuries 4 inhumation burials 2 cremation burials 3 possible human burials 5565 sherds pottery <i>Saxon</i> 247 sherds pottery <i>Medieval</i> 5 coins & 1 sherd pottery <i>Undated</i> 8 post medieval coins quernstones 200 fragments metalwork	<i>Prehistoric</i> 2 pits & 2 postholes <i>Neolithic</i> Bowl shaped pit & 2 <sup>nd</sup> pit <i>Bronze Age</i> oval pit & 8 other pits 2 post built roundhouses 2 other possible structures <i>Iron Age</i> 18 pits & 4 ring gullies pit alignment of c28 pits 1 roundhouse? 2 fence lines & windbreak? Post 4 post built structures 4 hearths <i>Roman</i> 2 large ditches forming enclosure and trackway roundhouse 3 ring gullies field systems & paddocks 11 pits & 1 barrel pit rectilinear enclosures curvilinear enclosures L shaped gully forming 5 enclosures	<i>Roman</i> building foundations 1 <sup>st</sup> to 4 <sup>th</sup> centuries	<i>Bronze Age</i> cremated bone un-worked red deer antler animal bone <i>Roman</i> 827 fragments animal bone cremated human bone from 3 contexts <i>Saxon</i> 24 fragments animal bone <i>Medieval</i> fragments animal bone <i>Undated</i> 180 fragments animal bone prehistoric 158 fragments animal bone

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705 sherds pottery 2 fragments glass & 1 bead 308 sherds pottery prehistoric struck flint prehistoric 3 coins prehistoric	<i>Saxon</i> 1 sunken feature building 1 possible sunken building post built structures <i>Medieval</i> ridge and furrow		
Circumstances on investigation	Conclusion		
Site subject to field walking and trial trenching in the 1970s that produced finds and features dating from the prehistoric to medieval periods. Source: Published article in <i>Records of Buckinghamshire</i> Archaeological Journal Archive: County Museum, Aylesbury	The primary phase of prehistoric activity at this site seems to be the Bronze Age to Iron Age although some activity has been recorded in the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. Signs of settlement activity first appears in the late Bronze Age with several possible structures and the first appearance of enclosures. Evidence for the middle Iron Age appears less conclusive, however, as although evidence for ring gullies and structures are present no evidence for enclosures, drove ways or linear features were recorded during the excavation. This is followed by a period of inactivity during the late Iron Age. Roman occupation appears from the late 1 <sup>st</sup> century until the mid 4 <sup>th</sup> century and the area appears to have been a domestic site. There is also evidence that at least part of the site was used as a burial ground. The presence of Saxon structures in close proximity to earlier Roman ones suggests a possible continuation of use of the site for domestic purposes during the 5 <sup>th</sup> -6 <sup>th</sup> centuries and the medieval period, the site seems to have been given over to agricultural purposes.		

### 4.5 Environmental Evidence

In assessing the potential for environmental remains, it should be remembered that an urban environment can provide extremes in preservation. On the one hand proximity to the groundwater table within a historic core may lead to anoxic conditions and therefore good preservation potential for organic materials whereas on the other hand frequent below ground disturbance as a result of redevelopment and construction combined with modern industrial pollution can also lead to extremely poor preservation of organic materials (French, 2003).

As yet no environmental sampling has been carried out on archaeological sites within Bletchley or Fenny Stratford. However, excavations at nearby Fenny Lock, (FS8) have shown good preservation of animal and human bone. The potential for waterlogged deposits could be high at Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton where the settlements lie upon glaciofluvial deposits and terraces of the River Ouzel and within the current flood zones.



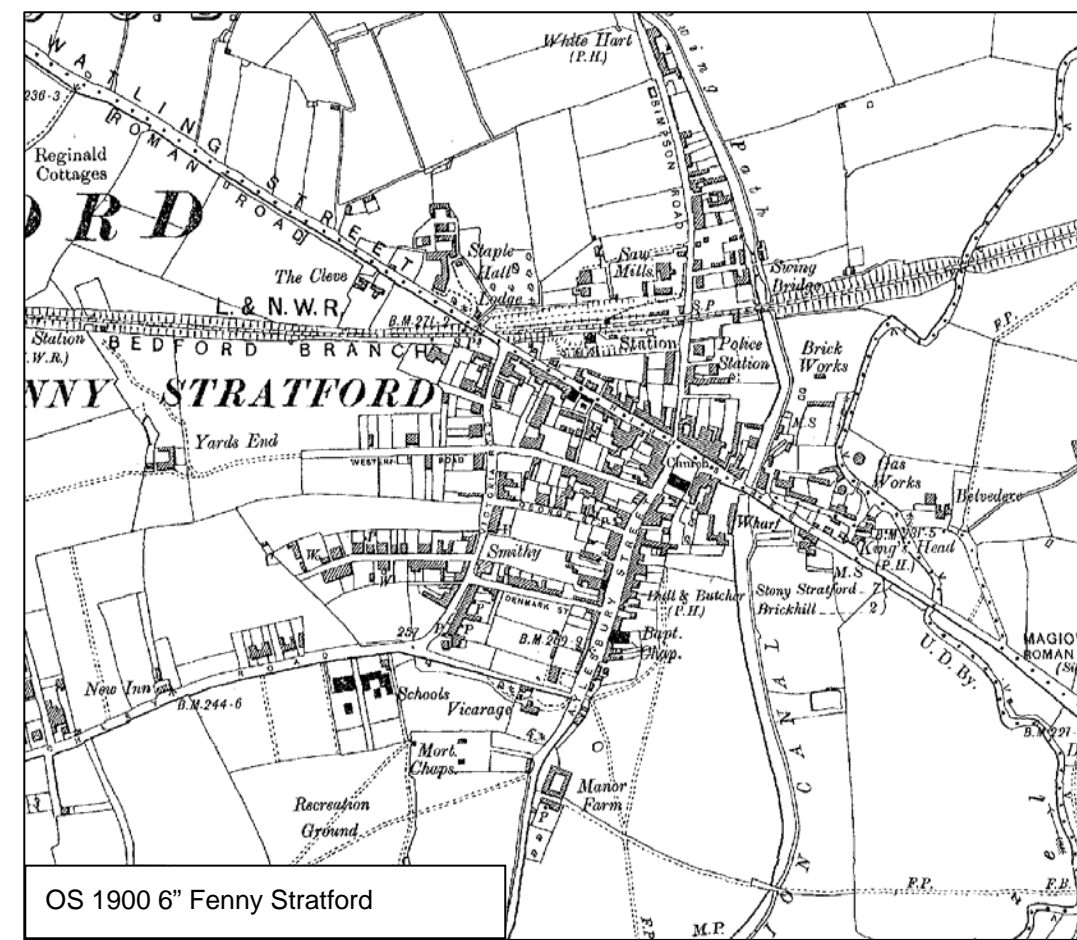
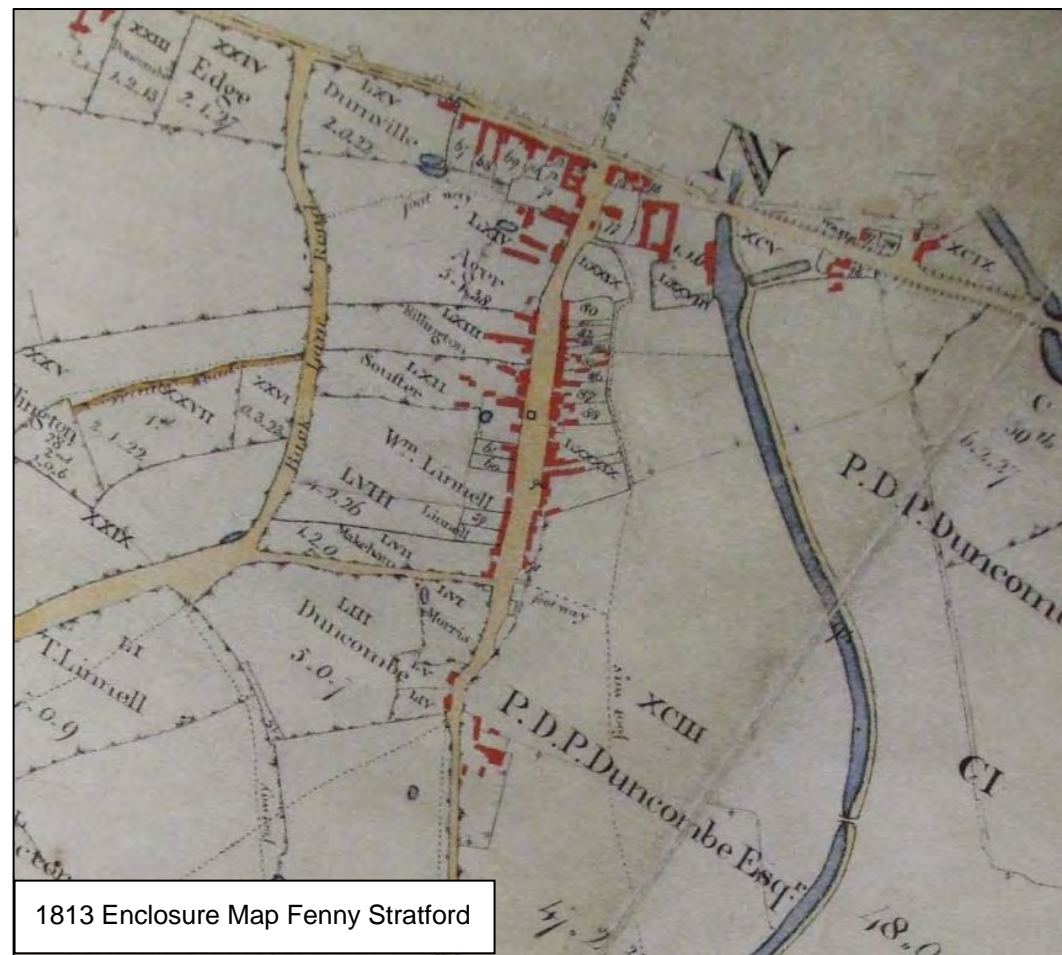
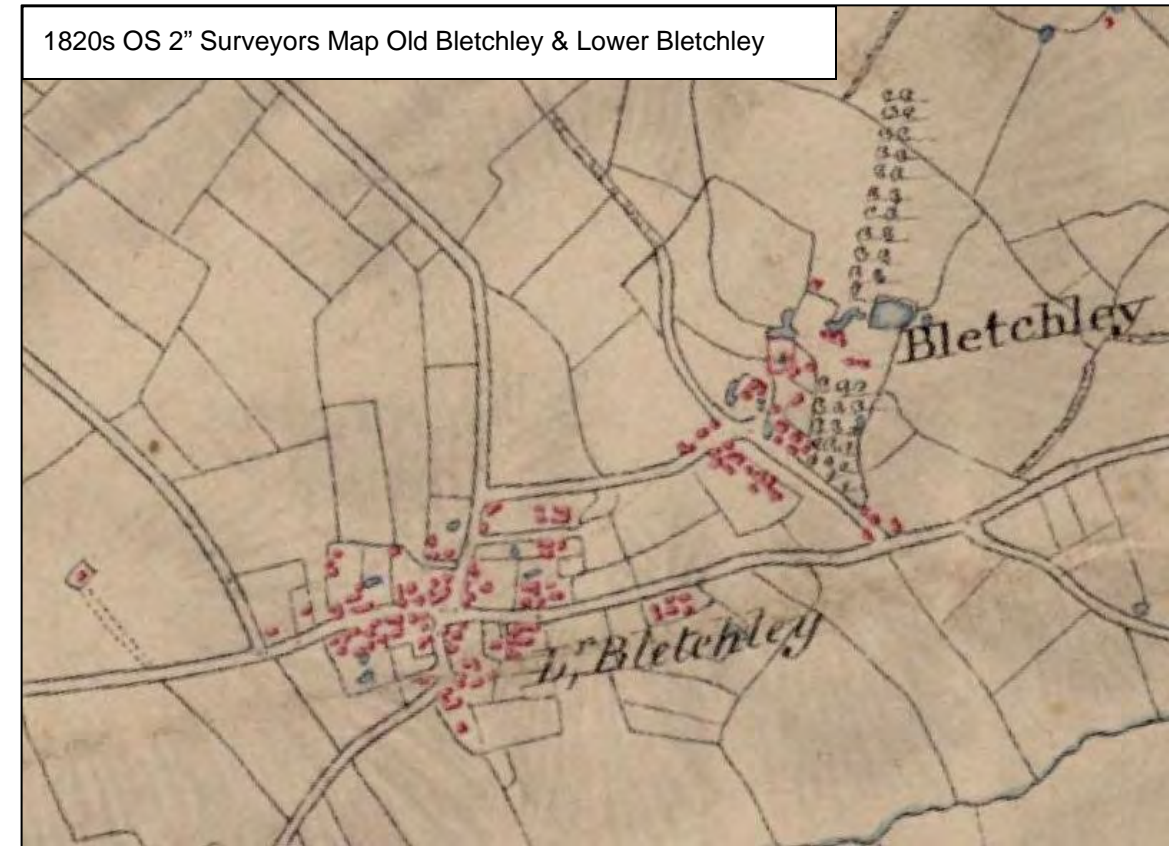
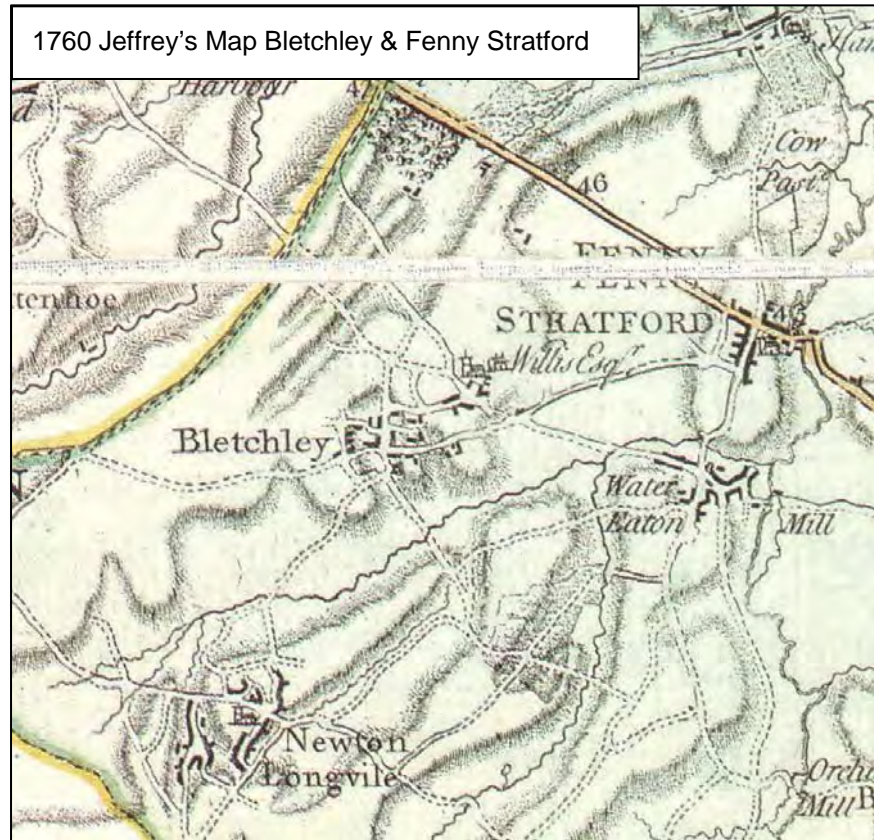


Figure 10: Historic maps:



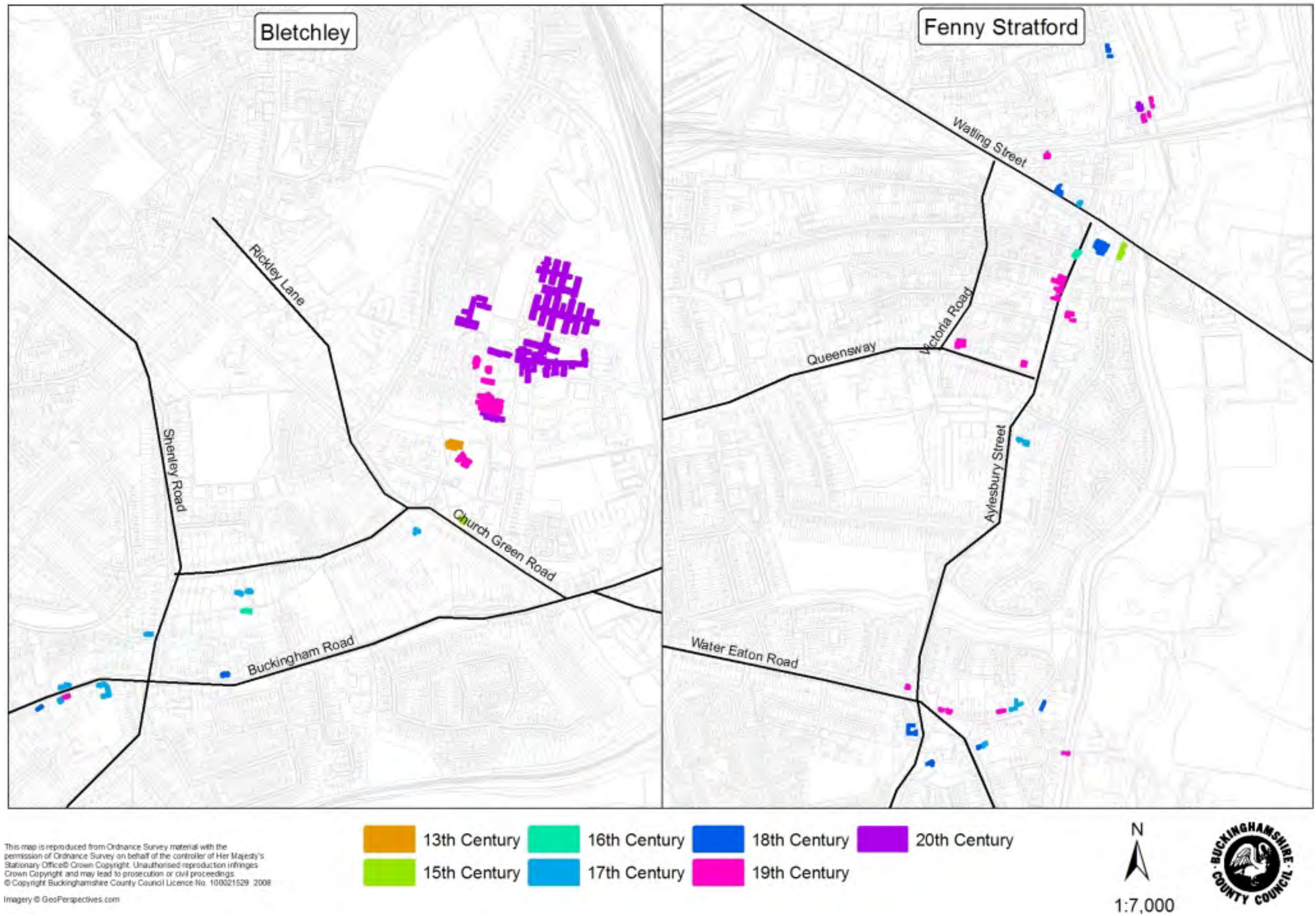
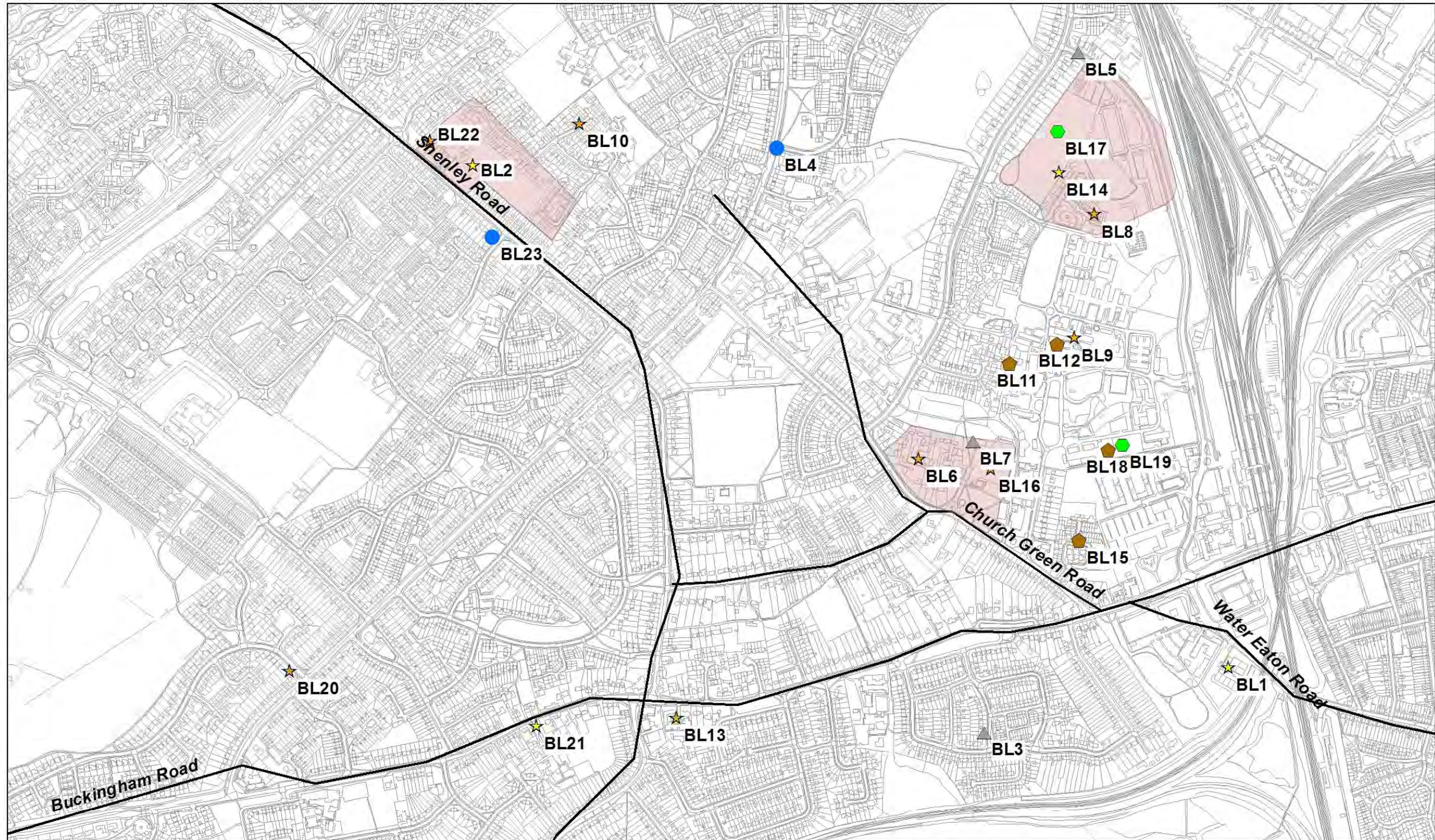


Figure 11: Image of Listed Buildings by century.





Heritage Interest Areas

- Building Survey
- Geophysics
- Trial Trenching
- Excavation
- Salvage
- Watching Brief

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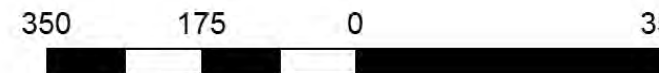
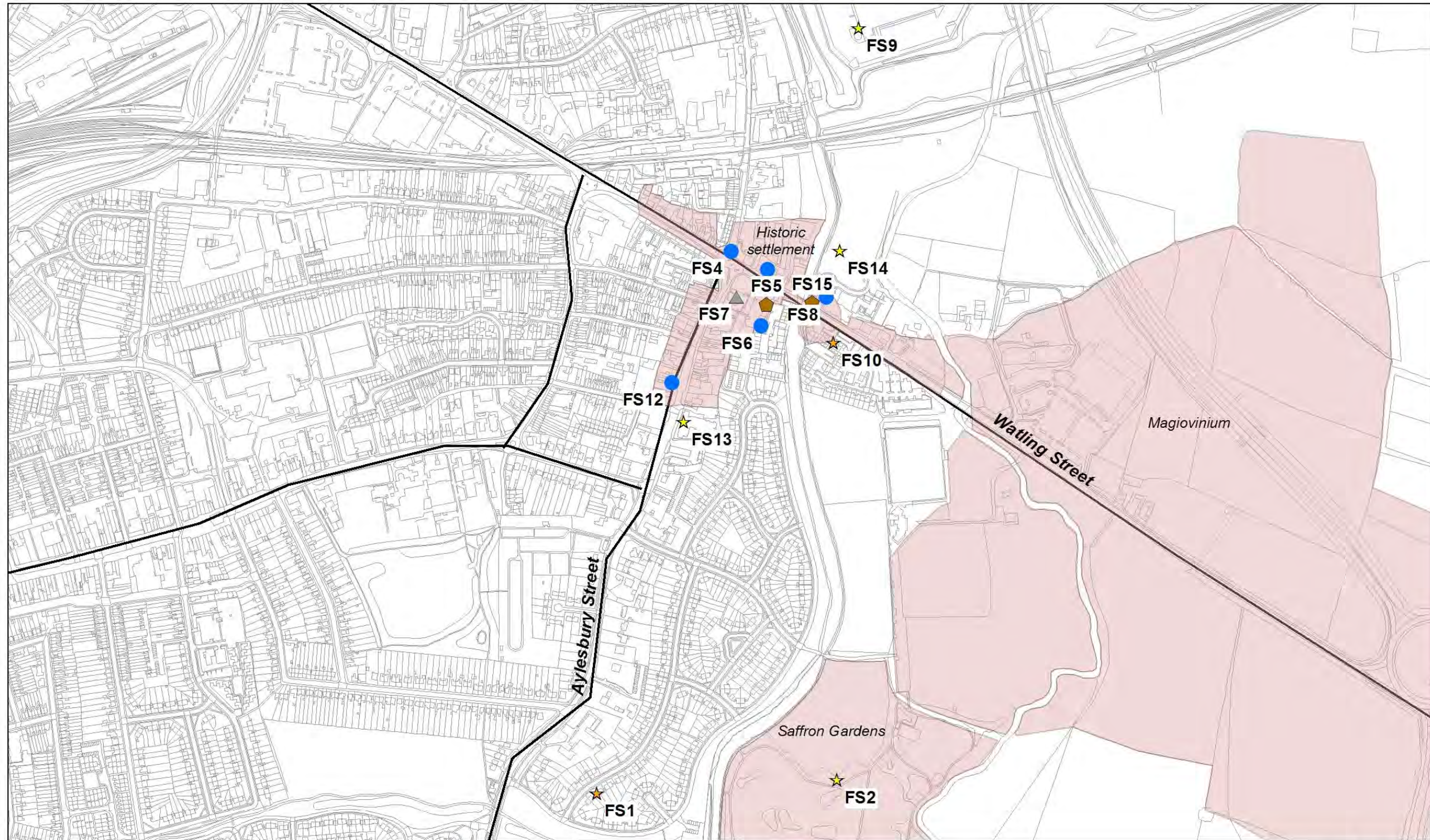


Figure 12: Location of archaeological investigations in Bletchley





- Heritage Interest Areas
- Building Survey
- Geophysics
- Trial Trenching
- Excavation
- Salvage
- Watching Brief

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Figure 13: Location of archaeological investigations in Fenny Stratford



## 5 Archaeological & Historical Development

### 5.1 Prehistoric period (c.10,000 BC – AD 43)

Evidence for the prehistoric period is currently limited with only one site within the study area recording archaeological evidence. Excavations at Bletchley Park (BL14: Lisboa I, 2002) revealed evidence of a series of Late Iron Age ditches that were re-used during the Roman period.

While no prehistoric sites have so far been recorded within the project extent, several Iron Age occupation sites have been recorded at the parish level (Figure 20). A multi-period site was also excavated at Fenny Lock in 1996 (FS9). The evidence suggests occupation along the river in the Middle Bronze Age into the Early Iron Age with a possibly gradual de-population of the site into the Mid/Late Iron Age (Cannon *et al*, 2001).

A second Late Iron Age site at Saffron Gardens (FS2) near Water Eaton was excavated in the 1960s by R Griffiths [MK HER 304100000]. This site revealed a small riverside settlement, significant quantities of Iron Age pottery and a single inhumation (Waugh, H *et al*, 1974). It has been argued that the site was occupied by a native Belgic community (Pengelly in Markham, 1973) It has also been suggested that Saffron Gardens was later abandoned in favour of *Magiovinium* following the Roman Conquest (Waugh, H *et al*, 1974). At Milton Keynes Preparatory school on Tattenhoe Lane, a possible late Iron Age or Roman round house settlement was also excavated in 1972 along with several ditches [MK HER 327300000].

### 5.2 Roman synthesis and components (AD 43 – 410)

At least two Roman roads pass through Bletchley parish and meet each other at Fenny Stratford; the first was the major route running on a northwest-southeast alignment from Dunstable (*Durocobrivis*) to Towcester (*Lactodurum*), now called Watling Street (Zeepvat, 1993b). Several minor Roman roads are also recorded in the area including the Buckingham Road (Viatores Number 166) as it passes through Bletchley Town linking Buckingham and Banbury with Watling Street (Figure 20). A possible third route runs north from Watling Street to Olney and Northampton (Viatores Number 175), however there is no supporting evidence for this.

The only known Roman town in Buckinghamshire is also located on Watling Street, a short distance from Fenny Stratford at Dropshort Farm (*Magiovinium*). As *Magiovinium* has been discussed in greater detail elsewhere (Neal, 1987; Hunn, 1995) only a short summary will be provided here. The initial excavations in 1978-1980 revealed evidence for the construction of a possible fort and vicus which preceded a small defended town with regular plots and some substantial buildings within. Outside the town industrial buildings (smithies etc) fronted Watling Street; these were later cleared away, perhaps in association with construction of the town's defences. There was also an extensive system of fields surrounding the town and evidence that Watling Street was later re-aligned to avoid the fort (Neal D, 1987). Later phases of development at *Magiovinium* saw an alteration to the alignment of the field systems as well as infilling of the ditches bounding Watling Street for redevelopment for industrial purposes. Settlement finally began to contract in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> century to 4<sup>th</sup> century with the abandonment of some plots, the industrial area was taken up to create a cemetery (*ibid*). Further extra-mural excavations in the 1990s revealed evidence for timber housing as well possible shops and inns fronting onto the road (Hunn A, 1995).

Smaller rural settlements and farmsteads have been identified across the wider area. The principal sites are Shenley Road (BL2), Holne Chase (BL3), Sherwood Drive (BL5) and Fenny Lock (FS9). The Shenley Road site was excavated in the 1960s by Griffiths and comprised a ditched enclosure and occupation site dating to the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, associated finds including coins and pottery (Williams, 1987b). Subsequent excavations in the immediate area have uncovered building foundations on the south side of the road contemporary with the site, a mid 4<sup>th</sup> century corn drier to the north of the original site (BL5) and several ditches of a possible Roman date (BL20). Excavations at Fenny Lock (FS9) revealed settlement evidence from the late 1<sup>st</sup> century to mid 4<sup>th</sup> century when at least part of the site was then used as a cemetery. This is in addition to the significant prehistoric activity noted above.

Holne Chase (BL3) is located directly along the Buckingham Road and was subject to rapid but limited excavation in the 1960s by R. Griffiths (Williams, 1987a). This site revealed the foundation trenches for two buildings that probably formed part of a Romano-British farmstead along this minor road to Watling Street. The first building contained traces of a good cobbled floor dated to the 4<sup>th</sup> century as well as evidence for a kiln site. The second, larger building was located approximately 100m northeast of the first and contained evidence for internal walls. The walls themselves were constructed of limestone blocks with flint while the floor was packed gravel. In addition, several ditches of a Roman date were also recorded across the site (*ibid*).

Sherwood Drive is located directly to the east of Bletchley Park and was excavated in early 1973 by R. Griffiths (Mynard, 1987a). This site confirmed the presence of two Roman buildings that probably formed part of a small agricultural settlement at Sherwood House spanning the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD (*ibid*).

A fourth rural settlement is located just outside the project area at Windmill Hill, excavated in 1970 the site revealed a series of linear features and structures dating to the Roman period (Mynard, 1987b). In all three structures and three additional corn driers were identified at the site. Two of the ditches have also been interpreted as a possible track way leading to the site while the others likely represent enclosures or field boundaries (*ibid*).

### 5.3 Saxon synthesis and components (AD 410 – 1066)

Little is known about settlement in Bletchley parish in the Saxon period and archaeological investigation in the area has so far revealed limited evidence for Saxon activity (Figure 20). A single Saxon spearhead was discovered just north of Old Bletchley near Standing Way and the site was later subject to trial trenching in 1975 (Evison, 1977). However while a series of Roman ditches dating to the 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> centuries were uncovered, no further Saxon evidence was recovered from the site (Williams R, 1987c). Neither Fenny Stratford or the Bletchley settlements are mentioned in Domesday; Water Eaton, listed as *Etone* was held by the Bishop of Coutances in 1086.

Archaeological remains recovered from excavations so far for the Saxon to medieval period are scarce and are spread across the parish. Table 3 indicates the location of known 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century pottery of St Neots and Potterspurty type, indicating a possible focus of early settlement around Water Eaton.

Site	St Neots type ware	Potterspurty type ware	Unspecified Saxon	Unspecified medieval
BL1 TA Centre	✓			✓
13 St Georges Road	✓			
FS2 Saffron Gardens	✓			
FS 3 Water Eaton, Stoke Road	✓			
FS9 Fenny Lock			✓	✓
Trees Square Road	✓			
78 Buckingham Road	✓	✓		
BL21 139 Buckingham Road				✓
Glastonbury Avenue		✓		
River Ouzel, opposite Dropshort Farm		✓		

*Table 3: Saxon-Medieval pottery evidence from Bletchley and Fenny Stratford*

### 5.4 Medieval synthesis and components (1066-1536)

#### *Settlement morphology*

Water Eaton can be characterised as a small hamlet based around the watermill located on the River Ouzel, as the only manor mentioned in Domesday it is the only settlement known to exist at the end of the Saxon period. A market was granted to de Caux in 1204, however, the hamlet's position away from the two main thoroughfares of Buckingham Road and Watling Street would have almost certainly guaranteed the market's failure, leading de Caux to choose a site some distance to the north at the junction of the two roads where a commonly used ford was located along Watling Street. The drive for growth at Water Eaton during the medieval period was effectively curtailed by the relocation of the economic centre of the parish to Fenny Stratford.

By the start of the 13<sup>th</sup> century, de Caux also held the neighbouring manor of Simpson whose lands extended as far as Watling Street on the north side as well as Eaton Manor which extended as far as the south side of Watling Street (Croft & Mynard, 1993a). It has been suggested that de Caux was then at liberty to lay out a number of burgage tenements at Fenny Stratford (*ibid*) either entirely creating the town or essentially redeveloping an earlier small settlement that may have formed at the crossroads. The principle area of medieval development seemed to be along Aylesbury Street however, rather than Watling Street (Legg, 1961). It is also worth noting that the first reference to Fenny Stratford comes from 1252 with the fair charter to the Grey family, the original market charter only mentioning Water Eaton.

Fenny Stratford in the medieval period essentially comprised of settlement formed along the junction of the two main roads (Figure 21). There is a good survival of plot boundaries to the north of Watling Street that may represent burgage type plots laid out in the 14<sup>th</sup> century when de Caux obtained Simpson Manor, but the main area of settlement was probably Aylesbury Street where the market was supposedly held (Croft & Mynard, 1993a). Surviving plot boundaries indicate burgage type plots on both roads with a higher level of survival north of Watling Street and on the east side of Aylesbury Street.

The characterisation of the Bletchley settlements, some distance to the north-west of Water Eaton is more problematic as it consisted of the two small hamlets of Old Bletchley and Far Bletchley (Figure 21). Old Bletchley is fairly reliably placed through documentary evidence (BOD: MS Willis 14 fol31a, dated 1535) as being the settlement centred around the Church.

Old Bletchley is located a short distance from the main Buckingham Road and the main focal point of the settlement is the church and adjacent small green. That the church was built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century at Old Bletchley suggests that some settlement was already in existence at the site while the first reference to a park nearby appears later in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Old Bletchley seems to have remained a small settlement throughout the medieval period essentially comprising of a cluster of houses around the central green. An ancient cross in need of repair was also recorded in Old Bletchley in the early 16<sup>th</sup> century near Elmers House which stood to the immediate south-west of the church (BOD: MS Willis 98 Fol 31).

Far Bletchley is located along the Buckingham Road at the junction with Shenley Road (Figure 21). This settlement essentially comprised of a cluster of farms around the junction and along Buckingham Road, many of which have since been demolished. Given that the hamlet had no church or manor site, the settlement probably grew as a way station along the Buckingham Road with more concentrated settlement along the Buckingham Road contrasting with larger, more irregular plots along Church Green Road and Newton Road.

### *Markets & Fairs*

The original market grant in 1204 allowed for a market near Water Eaton (then called *Etone*) and was made to Roger de Caux of Water Eaton Manor (BOD: MS Willis 98 Fol 14.6). Water Eaton itself being some distance from the major thoroughfares of the day, and Bletchley being similarly situated, it is probable that a site for the market was chosen at junction of Aylesbury Road with the busy Watling Street (Croft & Mynard, 1993a). The market fared well throughout the medieval period until 1642 when it was discontinued during the Civil War (BOD: MS Willis 98 Vol 1 Fol 41).

The fair was granted in 1252 by Charter to John Grey who then held the Manor of Water Eaton (BOD: Calendar Charter Rolls Vol 1 R13/Henry III). This Charter refers to the establishment of the fair at the town of Fenny Stratford. Later sources rarely refer to the fair, and it is difficult to establish whether it shared the same fate as the market.

### *The Borough*

Fenny Stratford is known as an ancient borough dating to the medieval period. The first reference to the borough of Fenny Stratford comes from a document of 1370 (Antiquaries Library: Calendar of Inquisitions Post Mortem Vol 13 Edward III) where the burgesses paid 40s rent to the manor of Bletchley for half the vill of Fenny Stratford (Page, 1927). The power and extent of autonomy the burgesses held seems to have been minimal however and limited to the guild (*ibid*).

*Guild of St Margaret and St Katherine [MK HER 372701000]*

The Guild of St Margaret and St Katherine was founded in 1493 by Roger and John Hobbs, presumably burgesses of Fenny Stratford (Brit.Lib: MSS fol 150a). The guild properties included a chantry chapel (now lost) in addition to the 15<sup>th</sup> century structure known as the Chantry House on Watling Street.

*St Mary's Church, Bletchley [MK HER 371102000]*

In contrast to the manorial descent, it was in Old Bletchley that the principle church for the parish was located, with daughter chapels at Water Eaton and Fenny Stratford. The earliest known date for St Mary's comes from 1153 in the Newton Longville Cartulary - Walter Giffard was obliged to give one tenth of the tithes of the church to the Priory of Newton Longville (BOD: MS Willis 98 fol 16). In 1295 it was necessary to re-consecrate the church grounds of St Mary's following 'desecration by bloodshed' (Document cited in Hill, 1965). The earliest elements of the church date to the 13<sup>th</sup> century although there is some suggestion of an earlier, 12<sup>th</sup> century, structure. St Mary's was restored and enlarged in the 18<sup>th</sup> century by Browne Willis.



*Figure 14: St Mary's Church, Bletchley*

*St Martin's Church, Fenny Stratford [MK HER 371301000]*

The current church at Fenny Stratford was built in the 18<sup>th</sup> century possibly on the site of St Margaret's Chapel (BOD: MS Willis 98 fol 32a).



*Figure 15: St Martins Church, Fenny Stratford*

*Manors*

The following summaries are taken primarily from the Victoria County History and are limited in the data they provide, the history of the manors in the parish is complex and a more detailed study is required to fully understand them. A complete catalogue of the available documentary evidence relating to medieval manors is now available online via the National Archives Manorial Documents Registry produced in 2008 by the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies and the National Archives.

*Manor of Water Eaton (VCH, 1927)*

As the only manor in Bletchley parish to be mentioned in Domesday, Water Eaton Manor probably including lands in Bletchley. Domesday records the transfer of the property to the Bishop of Coutances until 1092 when it was given by the king to Walter Giffard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Earl of Buckingham. On the death of Giffard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Buckingham in 1164, the estate passed into the hands of Richard fitz Gilbert. Roger de Caux held the estate by 1204, possibly originally as a tenant of fitz Gilbert who later took possession. De Caux combined the manor of Water Eaton

with the manor in neighbouring Simpson (Legge, 1962). By 1235 John Grey was Lord of the Manor of Water Eaton and it remained in the hands of the Grey family for the remainder of the medieval period.

*Manor of Old Bletchley (VCH, 1927)*

It is thought that this portion of land was included with Great Brickhill in the Domesday Survey as it was afterwards attached, with Great Brickhill to the Honour of Giffard. The manor had come into the possession of the Grey family by the early 13<sup>th</sup> century with whom it since descended as part of Water Eaton Manor.

*Manor of Fenny Stratford (VCH, 1927)*

Few references have been found concerning the Manor of Fenny Stratford and it is likely that it originally formed part of the Water Eaton Manor, only becoming a distinct portion following the introduction of a market there. It is mentioned in 1252 as being held by John Grey and from this point it descended with Water Eaton Manor.

*Trade, mills and industry*

No mills are recorded in Old Bletchley or Bletchley Town in the medieval period although Water Eaton was recorded as having a mill in Domesday, presumably at the same site as that recorded on the Willis estate map of 1718. The market at Fenny Stratford operated throughout the medieval period but remained small despite its location on the busy Watling Street.

*Hospitals & Schools*

No hospitals or schools are known for the medieval period in Bletchley or Fenny Stratford.

*Inns and Taverns*

At least one inn is known in Fenny Stratford during the medieval period when The Swan on Watling Street was fined in 1472 (BOD: Western MSS MS Willis 98 Fol 35).

*Medieval Routes*

The principal crossing point on the river Ouzel at Fenny Stratford was originally located some 100m north of its current position being relocated in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century following Thomas Telford's realignments and improvements to Watling Street (Croft & Mynard, 1993b). Place name evidence for Fenny Stratford suggests that the earliest crossing point consisted of a fording point only (Mawer & Stenton, 1925) with the first references to a bridge coming from the 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> centuries (Croft & Mynard, 1993a).

## 5.5 Post medieval synthesis and components (1536-1800)

*Town layout*

During the post medieval period it seems that the settlements in Bletchley parish did not change significantly (Figure 22). The failing market at Fenny Stratford halted settlement expansion at that site, and on occasion caused settlement contraction (Croft & Mynard, 1993a). Similarly, there is little evidence of expansion at either of the Bletchley settlements. A gibbet was recorded some distance from Old Bletchley at Rickley Wood north of Watling Street in 1659, it was taken down at the end of the 17<sup>th</sup> century (BOD: MS Willis 98 Vol 1 Fol 41).

Characterisation of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford indicate that the settlements changed little during the post medieval period with only a small expansion of settlement at Bletchley along the Buckingham Road (Figure 24). Fenny Stratford underwent some re-fronting and rebuilding during the post medieval period with several Georgian structures along Watling Street and Aylesbury Road, however Georgian architectural styles are now in the minority with far more Victorian or Edwardian structures in the historic core.

*Trade, mills and industry*

The principal industries throughout the post medieval period mainly comprised lace making or straw making for women and agricultural work for the men; although towards the end of this period the brick-making industry had its beginnings in the locality.

### *Inns and Taverns*

The Return of Vintners, Inn Keepers and Alehouse Keepers in Buckinghamshire (1577) records three inn holders and three alehouse keepers in the parish (CBS: D-X423/1).

### *Markets & Fairs*

The market fared badly with frequent periods of abandonment during the Civil War until 1660; again in 1665 until 1702 when it was revived by Browne Willis only to be abandoned again in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century (Legge, 1962). A shambles comprising an open-roofed building at least three bays in length is also recorded in 1730 on a Browne Willis sketch which shows the structure occupying the centre of the road towards the northern end of Aylesbury Street where it meets Watling Street (Croft & Mynard, 1993a).

A renewal of the market and fair grants were obtained jointly by the manorial lord and the burgesses of the town in 1608.

### *Roads & Turnpikes*

Watling Street from Fourn Hill north of Hockliffe in Bedfordshire through Fenny Stratford and north to Stony Stratford was turnpiked and paved in 1707. It was repaved and realigned in places by Telford in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Churches & Chapels*

There are no records of dissenting chapels in Bletchley or Fenny Stratford during the post-medieval period. A Visitation of the parish dated 1662 recorded eight people absenting themselves from church services in that year (CBS: D/A/V/6). A later visitation in 1669 recorded the presence of Baptists and Quakers in Bletchley (Broad J, 1993). The Gothic St Martins Church was built on or near to the site of the earlier St Margaret's Chapel in the 18<sup>th</sup> century for Browne Willis as memorial to his father and also as rejoinder to the rising nonconformity which offended his Anglo-Catholic sympathies (Pevsner, 1994).

### *Hospitals & Schools*

A single document from 1587 refers to a schoolmaster in Bletchley (1587 Register in Bennitt F, 1985) while in 1720 a charity school with the capacity for twenty children is also recorded (*ibid*).

### *Manors (VCH, 1927)*

By the end of the medieval period the manors of Water Eaton and Fenny Stratford had been combined under the Grey family of Wilton. It remained in their hands until 1616 when it passed into the possession of the Villiers of Buckingham. Old Bletchley and Simpson manors were held by the Grey family of Ruthin until the 17<sup>th</sup> century when the Bletchley portion was sold to the de Villiers. In 1674 the three manors of Bletchley, Water Eaton and Fenny Stratford were sold to the Willis family who retained the entire estate until 1767 when it was sold to Reverend Barton (later Duncombe) of Great Brickhill.

## 5.6 Modern synthesis and components (1800-Present)

### *Industry in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century (see Appendix 4 for details)*

Industry in the 19<sup>th</sup> century remained small, with the cessation of the market at the start of the century Fenny Stratford declined sharply and the range of employment types available was limited. However the most significant industry in Bletchley was brick making. The industry remained nationally important until the close of the century.

The data in Table 4 illustrates a summary of trade advertised in trade directories in the later 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, this data was limited to the historic Bletchley settlements and remained small with the largest proportion attributed to the agricultural or service professions that would have been typical for a rural settlements with a agriculturally based economy rather than an economic centre for the parish.

### *Brick making*

Despite Bletchley and Fenny Stratford's being underlain by Oxford clays, ideal for the brick making, the development of a brick making industry did not take off until the construction of the railway. Prior to organised industry that there had been a number of small brick yards making hand made bricks and had used the Grand Junction canal and the adjoining canal network to transport bricks to London and other parts of the country. One of the earliest recorded brickyards dates to 1860 when Samuel Bragg set up a small yard east of the canal next to the White Hart pub. There also documentary and cartographic evidence of Robert Holdom's brickyard which was established on Duncombe Street near Bletchley Station in 1870 (Markham 1975).

#### Clarke's Brickyards

Organised firm brickworks were established by William Edward Clarke in 1877 when he founded a lime and brick kilns at Water Eaton. Clarke was the son of Gregory Odell Clarke an entrepreneur who diversified into brick making, and founded a number of brickyards including one in nearby Simpson. Production was modest by modern standards and Clarke's yard seems to cease production around 1891 (Pike 1995).

#### Read & Andrews – Bletchley Brick Company

In 1890's a company called T.G. Read started making handmade bricks north of Newton Longville (Pike 1995). Unlike conventional brick works, Read and Andrews used the Fletton process; the name given to a method of brick making pioneered by brick makers in Peterborough who used deeper, shaley clay called Oxford Blue. The advantages of using clay from the lower Oxford clay belt are the uniformity of its formation and it did not need the addition of water to break it down, just heavy grinding. The natural moisture content and low plasticity also meant the unfired bricks were sufficiently strong enough to be stacked in a kiln straight away. Another unique advantage of the Oxford clay is its high carbon content which means once heated the bricks would virtually fire themselves. This method meant that more bricks could be produced more economically than conventional 'plastic' brick production (Markham 1975). By 1907 Read & Andrews Brick Works appear to monopolise local brick production as it is the only brick makers listed in the Bletchley area (Kelly's Directory 1907). In 1919 Read & Andrews changed the company name to the Bletchley Brick Company. The building boom of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century coupled with Bletchley's Fletton method of production made it a desirable location for brick making and soon the brick works caught the attention of the London Brick Company who took over the firm in 1925. The Bletchley works continued manufacturing bricks until the closure of the brickworks in 1990. The pits from where the clay was excavated were remodelled and now form a nature reserve called the Blue Lagoon with lakes, pathways, picnic areas and abundant wildlife.

#### Water Eaton Works – Flettons Ltd

The Water Eaton brickworks were the second largest brickworks in Bletchley/Fenny Stratford area. Built in 1929 by Flettons Limited, a large brick manufacturers based in Whittlesea, Peterborough who had originally pioneered the art of producing Fletton bricks. The works was built on Home Farm south of the Buckingham Road, Water Eaton and at its height was capable of producing 60 million bricks per annum (Markham 1975).

#### Skew Bridge Works – Flettons Ltd

In 1933 a new brick works was opened at Skew Bridge by Flettons Ltd, and became the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest brickworks in Bletchley. Unlike the other brickworks the Skew Bridge Works eschewed the use of the railway to transport bricks, preferring to use the road as this was less damaging to the load. As a consequence, the railway sidings fell into disuse and closed. The Skew Bridge Works was also bought by the London Brick Company and became known as the Jubilee Works. Although by the 1950s the deposits of clay at Skew Bridge became hard to access, being beneath 40 feet of overburden (Markham 1975). The clay deposits were less suitable for brick manufacture and works eventually closed in the 1970s.



## Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Historic Town Assessment

At the height of production in the 1930s the three brick works were making five million bricks per week (Markham 1975). The kilns were constantly burning and only stopped during the Second World War when the Bletchley works was shut down and the kilns were used as ammunition stores. Many workers were from overseas, mainly Italians, Poles and Ukrainians also German ex Prisoners of War.



*Figure 16: Clay digging at the London Brick Company's brick works, Bletchley c. 1920-1929*

	1853	1864	1877	1883	1895	1903	1911	1920	1935
Artisans/trades	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	0
Merchant/dealer	4	3	1	1	2	3	2	1	3
Agric/General	12	7	8	7	7	6	8	5	10
Professional	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	2
Service/Provision	10	8	9	6	7	7	10	6	12

Table 4: Summary of trade in Bletchley 1853-1935 (method adapted from Broad, 1992)

In the summary of trade for Fenny Stratford including what is now Central Bletchley indicates a wider range of available trades (Table 5). Fenny Stratford had long been used as a stopping point for coaches on their way to and from London, consequently a number of trades emerged to provide services for the visitors. However by the late 1840s the so called 'coaching age' rapidly declined due to the opening of the railways. The re-establishment of the market in 1880 and the growth of Central Bletchley is also indicated by a rise in trade listings. Few farmers are listed for Fenny Stratford while professional services and artistic based trades such as shoe makers or tailors are more common.

Beyond the retail trades and service industries, Fenny Stratford contained a number of small but notable industries in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, these included manufacture of heavy oil engines, brushes and paper coil.

Akroyd Stuart Works: Denmark Street & Victoria Road, Bletchley (gone)

Fenny Stratford is synonymous with the development of the hot bulb or heavy oil engine, a precursor of the modern diesel engine. Engineer Herbert Akroyd Stuart, began experimental work on oil engines in 1886 at his father's Bletchley Iron and Tin Plate Works. This led to his discovery of automatic ignition by hot compressed air, or compression ignition which was patented in 1890 and by 1891 the sole right to manufacture and develop Akroyd oil engines was acquired by Richard Hornsby & Sons in Grantham, Lincolnshire. The *Hornsby Akroyd Patent Oil Engine* was first sold commercially on July 8 1892. It was the first internal combustion engine to use a pressurized fuel injection system. The Hornsby engines #101 and #102 were installed at the Great Brickhill Waterworks in May 1892. Over 32,000 various copies of the type are subsequently sold (Markham 1975). There is a plaque commemorating the achievement of Akroyd Stuart at the westerly end of Denmark Street in Fenny Stratford opposite The Foundry public house.

Brush Works

Fenny Stratford's location on the railway made it a suitable location for manufacturing industries and in 1877 a Brush works was built on Tavistock Street, which became known as Roots brush factory in 1883. Within a few years there were several brush factories including M.A. Cook & Sons Brush Works, established in the late 1800s on the Victoria Road by the former employees of Roots factory. By the First World War brush manufacturing had a significant presence in the area but as an employer was eclipsed by the larger industries of brick making and the railways. In later years the famous Beacon brand was produced in Bletchley but when plastics took over from organic materials the factories began to close, the Roots factory was the last to close in the 1980's (Markham 1975).

	1853	1864	1877	1883	1895	1903	1911	1920	1935
Artisans/trades	15	12	10	10	16	14	18	20	18
Merchant/dealer	14	19	20	28	46	51	57	48	79
Agric/General	6	7	6	4	3	4	6	7	3
Professional	3	4	2	6	6	9	14	13	17
Service/Provision	39	46	37	50	59	66	77	57	75

Table 5: Summary of trade in Fenny Stratford 1853-1935 (method adapted from Broad, 1992)

*Civic and modern religious structures*

Several Nonconformist chapels are recorded in Bletchley and Fenny Stratford in the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century:

- Methodist Chapel (Primitive), Aylesbury Street. Opened 1866.
- Methodist Church, Queensway. Opened 1910.
- Methodist Chapel (Wesleyan), Newton Road, Far Bletchley. Shown on 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS sheet c.1880.
- Methodist Chapel (Wesleyan), Stoke Road, Water Eaton. Shown on 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS sheet c.1880.
- Methodist Chapel (Wesleyan), Watling Street, Fenny Stratford. Shown on 1<sup>st</sup> Edition OS sheet c.1880.
- Baptist Chapel, Aylesbury Street, Fenny Stratford. Demolished 1975 (Phillpotts et al n.d)

*Manors & Estates*

The manors of Water Eaton, Fenny Stratford and Bletchley remained in the hands of the Duncombe family until the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

*Canal and Railways*

The Grand Junction Canal came to Fenny Stratford in 1800. Associated with the canal are two 19<sup>th</sup> century wharves on the eastern side of the river Ouzel as well as a lock and lock keepers cottage north of the town in Simpson parish. After the canal construction the medieval line of Watling Street became increasingly impassable and the road was restored to its apparently original Roman path as part of Telford's London to Holyhead road improvements (Legg, 1961: 74).

The terminus at Denbigh Hall opened in 1838 following the construction of the London and Birmingham railway. This line was soon followed by the Bedford railway with a station opening in 1846 at Fenny Stratford and the Buckinghamshire railway in 1850 linking to Buckingham and eventually Oxford (Pevsner, 1993). Its positioning at the junction of these three lines made Bletchley an important railway town in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and also led to its eclipsing of Fenny Stratford as an urban centre, the urban district being renamed Bletchley (from Fenny Stratford) in 1911.

*Hospitals & Schools pre 1945*

Three schools are recorded in Fenny Stratford and Bletchley prior to the reorganisation of the education system in 1944:

- National School, High Street. 1817-1890.
- Fenny Stratford Board School (now Knowles School), Queensway. Opened 1890.
- Elmers School, Church Green Road. 1922-1939.
- School, Church Green Road. Opened 1840.

*Hospitals & Schools post 1945*

Numerous schools have subsequently opened in Bletchley parish, firstly as a result of Bletchley being designated as an overspill town for London and subsequently from its incorporation into Milton Keynes new town.

*Secular Buildings – the impact of modern infill*

Settlement in the parish has steadily been expanding since the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century; there has been a series of reasons for expansion including the following:

- In the late 19<sup>th</sup> century expansion occurred to the east of the main north-south railway line, in the area now called Central Bletchley. This settlement was primarily due to the boost in trade and traffic brought on by the railways. The impact to the historic settlements of

## Bletchley & Fenny Stratford Historic Town Assessment

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford was minimal at this time. Housing from this period largely consisted of red brick terraced housing.

- In the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century expansion was concentrated around Bletchley Park. This was the result primarily of the Park's status as the government's code breaking centre during World War II. Structures built in this period, however, largely consisted of temporary accommodation and barracks much of which has been lost under later development.
- During the post-war period Bletchley Council promoted the town to various London boroughs and several large council estates were built in West Bletchley e.g. The Counties, Castles and Rivers estates. This process of rapid expansion culminated in 1968 with the construction of the Lakes Estate for the Greater London Council between the old village of Water Eaton and the London to Birmingham railway line, as the newly designated Milton Keynes was being planned,



*Figure 17: Glamorgan Close, Bletchley*

- Finally, in 1967 with the designation of Milton Keynes 'new city', settlement expansion in Bletchley continued apace. Housing styles largely conformed to those already in place with only a recent trend towards exclusively semi-detached estates. The impact of modern development in Bletchley has been quite significant with little of the historic character of the settlement remaining beyond the conservation area (Figure 24).

*Bletchley Park*

With the existence of numerous summaries on the wartime history of Bletchley Park, only a short summary will be presented here.

First mentioned as a park in the 14<sup>th</sup> century and part of the de Greys Eaton Manor. Bletchley Park was later the location of a second manor house *Water Hall* constructed by Browne Willis in 1710 (Page, 1927 p.274). The Willis Estate map of 1718 gives an indication of the extent of the former medieval park. The current house dates to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century and was built by the then owners, the Leon family.



*Figure 18: Bletchley Park Mansion*

After the death of Sir Herbert Leon's wife the estate passed into government hands in 1938, being selected as the ideal location for the Government Code and Cipher School (GCCS – the forerunner of GCHQ). Throughout the war, Bletchley Park operated in secret with thousands of people working at the site as code-breakers.

With the end of the War, Bletchley Park was used for a number of different purposes until it ceased being used by GCHQ (as a training centre) in 1987.



*Figure 19: Block B, Bletchley Park*

In 1991 Bletchley Park Trust was founded with the aim of preserving and restoring the site for the enjoyment of the public.



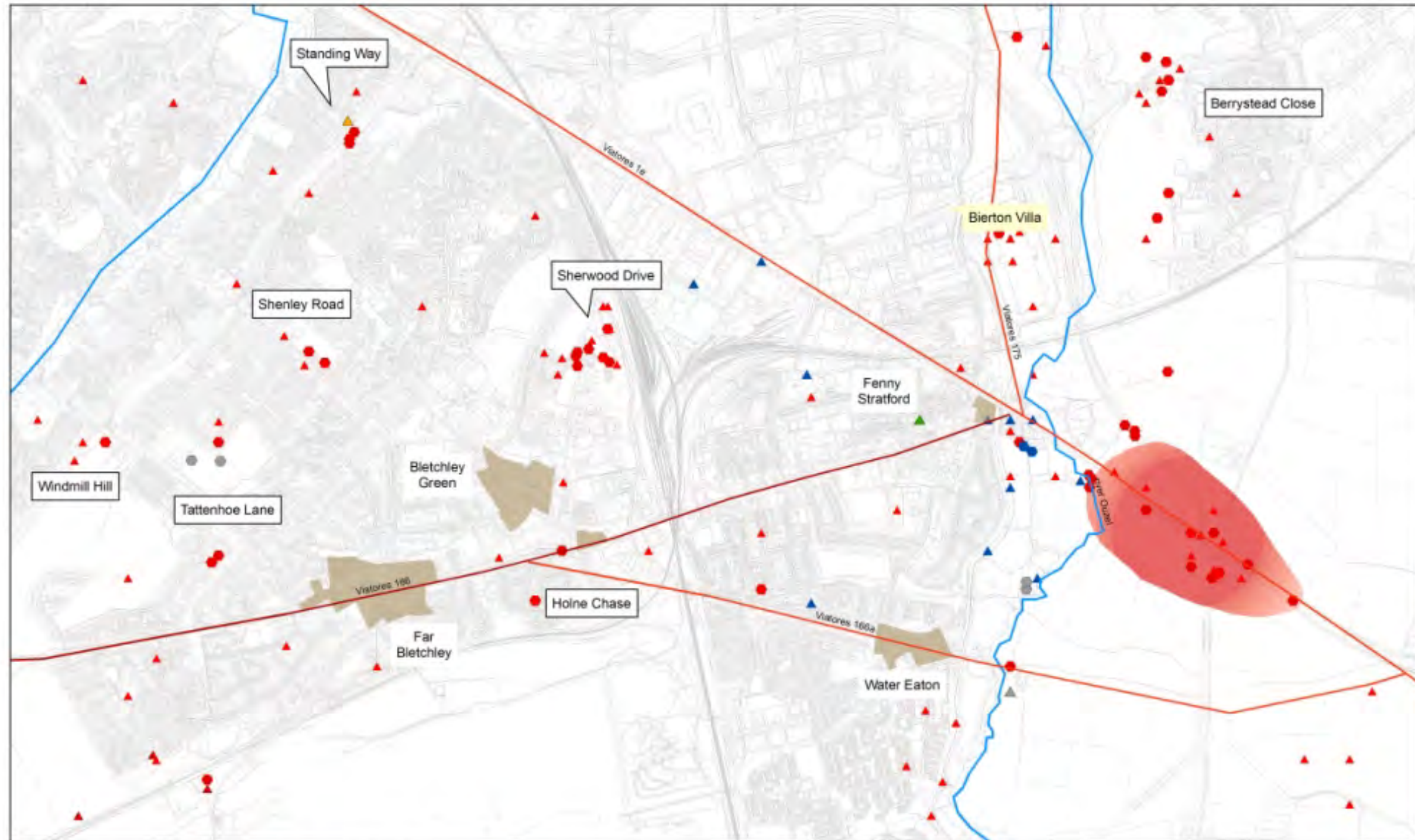


Figure 20: Prehistoric evidence



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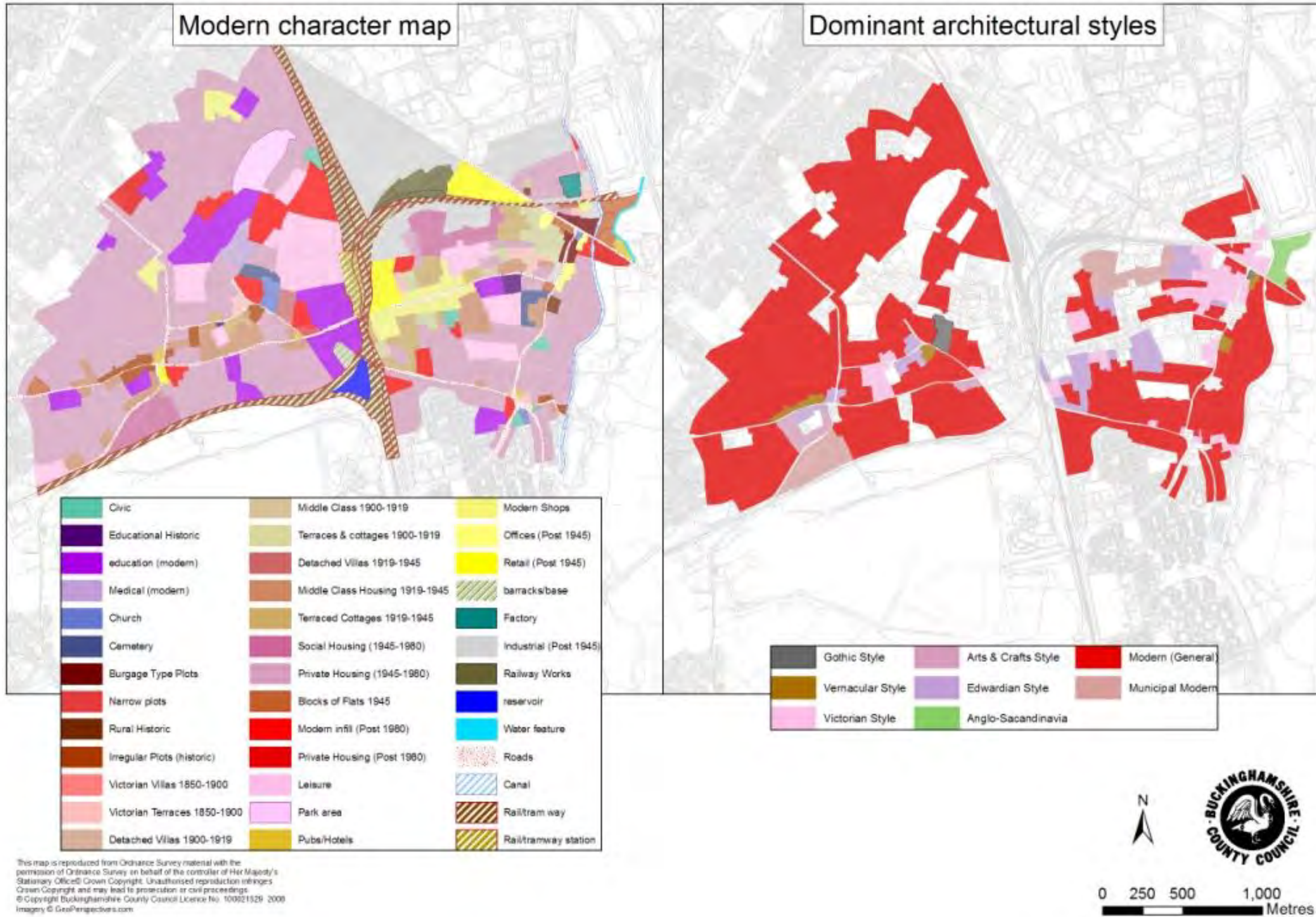
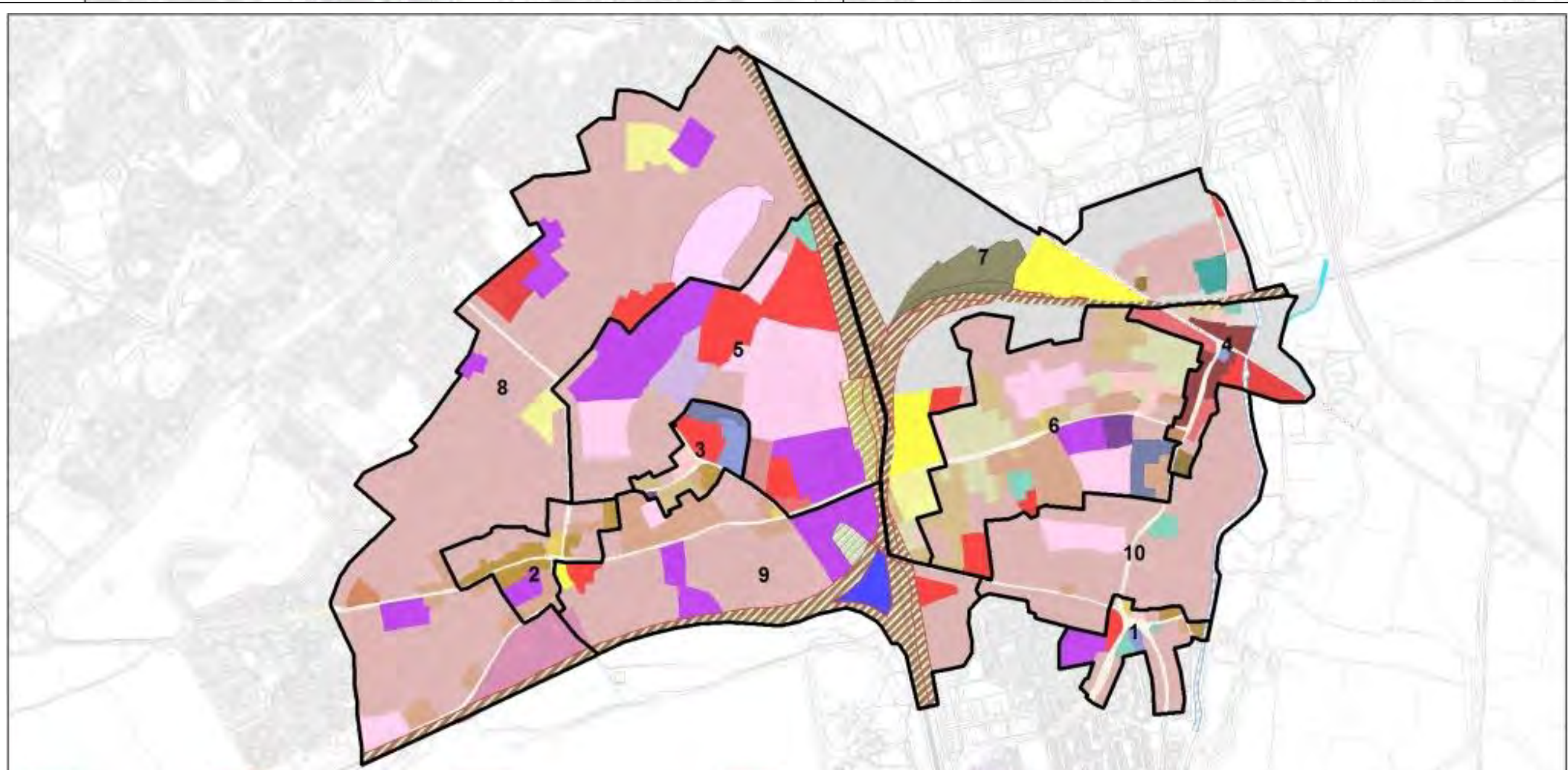


Figure 23: Character of the town and architectural styles



Dominant morphology      Dominant period development



Civic	Burgage Type Plots	Detached Villas 1900-1919	Social Housing (1945-1980)	Park area	Industrial (Post 1945)	Lane
Educational Historic	Narrow plots	Middle Class 1900-1919	Private Housing (1945-1980)	Pubs/Hotels	Railway Works	Canal
education (modern)	Rural Historic	Terraces & cottages 1900-1919	Blocks of Flats 1945	Modern Shops	reservoir	Rail/tram way
Medical (modern)	Irregular Plots (historic)	Detached Villas 1919-1945	Modern infill (Post 1980)	Retail (Post 1945)	Water feature	Rail/tramway station
Church	Victorian Villas 1850-1900	Middle Class Housing 1919-1945	Private Housing (Post 1980)	barracks/base	Roman road	
Cemetery	Victorian Terraces 1850-1900	Terraced Cottages 1919-1945	Leisure	Factory	Medium distance highway	

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- |                    |                    |                   |                       |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 1, Water Eaton     | 3, Bletchley Green | 5, Bletchley Park | 7, Denbigh Industrial | 9, Buckingham Road |
| 2, Lower Bletchley | 4, Fenny Stratford | 6, Queensway      | 8, Whaddon Way        | 10, Manor Road     |

N  
1:15,000



*Figure 25: Historic Character Zones for Bletchley*

## 6 Historic Urban Zones

### 6.1 Introduction

The process of characterising and analysing Buckinghamshire towns produces a large quantity of information at a 'fine-grained scale' e.g. the character of particular buildings, town plan forms and location of archaeological data. This multitude of information can be hard to assimilate. In order to distil this information into an understandable form, the project will define larger areas or Historic Urban Zones (HUZs) for each town; these zones provide a framework for summarising information in a spatially and written form. Each zone contains several sections including:

1. A summary of the zone including reasons for the demarcation of the zone.
2. An assessment of the known and potential archaeological interest for pre 20<sup>th</sup> century areas only.
3. An assessment of existing built character.

### 6.2 Historic Urban Zones

The creation of these zones begins with several discrete data sets including historical cartography and documentary sources; known archaeological work; buildings evidence (whether listed or not) and the modern urban character. From this a picture can be drawn of the changes that have occurred to the built character within a given area over a given period of time. Discrete areas of the town that then show broad similarities can be grouped as one zone.

After the survey results have been mapped into GIS the resulting data is analysed to discern any larger, distinctive patterns; principally build periods, urban types, styles or other distinctive attributes of buildings. Zone boundaries are defined based around areas of homogenous townscape, although occasionally there may be more diversity as a result of piecemeal change. Other considerations for defining these zones can be made from the other attribute data, including time depth and degree of preservation.

Several different datasets will feed into the creation process for urban zones under two broad headings; Historical and topographical modelling and built character.

Historical and topographical modelling covers a variety of sources including;

- Historical maps and documentary research – historical consultancy work, an analysis of historic routes and an analysis of manorial holdings where available
- Archaeological and environmental evidence – data stored in the HER, geological and soils databases provided by the BGS and Cranfield University and an analysis of the distribution of pottery fabrics for the Saxon and medieval periods

The Built Character heading incorporates the following sources;

- Built environment – English Heritage listed buildings and historic map research
- An analysis of the modern urban form – The historic urban character database produced for this project and designations such as Conservation Areas and Registered Parks and Gardens

### 6.3 Archaeological Assessment

The second part of the analysis examines the significance and potential of towns from an archaeological perspective, this assessment is undertaken by the analysis of archaeological and historical sources. Unlike the built environment, the focus of investigation is limited to the historic cores of settlements, where most archaeological evidence exists and the likelihood of archaeological discovery is at its greatest. The assessment includes consideration of the archaeological interest of above-ground buildings and structures, which may contain hidden elements which are earlier than their nominal date based on visible architectural details.

The method for evaluating archaeological significance is an adaptation of English Heritage's Monuments Protection Plan for urban areas (English Heritage 1992). For the character zones within the historic core an evaluation is made of particular attributes, these are: Period; Survival; Potential; Group Value and Diversity.



6.4 Historic Settlement

Zone 1: Water Eaton			
Summary			
<p>This zone is located on the southern edge of the project extent and comprises the historic hamlet of Water Eaton. Although little remains of the historic character of the hamlet, this zone and its surroundings may have a good potential for archaeological remains. Only one archaeological investigation has been carried out within Water Eaton to date (FS2) and was a small scale excavation that produced some medieval finds. The built heritage in this zone largely comprises of late 20<sup>th</sup> century development with a low survival of historic buildings. The geology primarily consists of sand and gravel overlying Oxford Clay mudstone.</p>			
Archaeological Assessment	Built Character		
<p><b>Period:</b> Early medieval foundations  <b>Survival:</b> medium-low: significant amount of development in this zone suggests that the survival of above ground remains are minimal. The previous excavation within this zone did uncover medieval remains while the wider landscape has provided Iron Age, Roman and medieval archaeology in particular.  <b>Group Value:</b> N/A  <b>Diversity:</b> first phase Saxon-20<sup>th</sup> century: little change recorded for settlement until 20<sup>th</sup> century second phase: modern expansion from Bletchley encroached in 1960s.  <b>Potential:</b> High? Proximity to river and canal indicates good possibility of waterlogged deposits; documentary sources indicate settlement remained small but constant throughout the medieval period low; low survival of built heritage</p>	<b>Morphology:</b>	Historic green settlement?	
	<b>Density:</b>	medium	
	<b>Character Types:</b>	Irregular Plots Victorian Terraces Middle Class 1919	Post 1945 housing Civic Pubs/hotels
	<b>Architectural styles:</b>	Vernacular Victorian	Modern
	<b>Plan Form styles:</b>	Modern terraces Semi detached	Detached
	<b>Build Materials:</b>	Machined red brick	Machined coloured brick
	<b>Roof Materials:</b>	Machined clay	Machined pan tile

Zone 2: Far Bletchley			
Summary			
<p>This zone lies just along the path of the Buckingham Road some distance to the west of Watling Street. The historic settlement in this zone likely developed as a stopping point in the early medieval period at the junction of Buckingham Road with Shenley Road. To date, only one excavation has been carried out within this zone, however it produced evidence for several phases of boundaries dating from the 13<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> century suggesting prolonged settlement throughout the medieval period (BL20). Characterisation of this zone has produced a somewhat fragmented pattern of development dating to the medieval to modern periods. There are several surviving 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings. 19<sup>th</sup> century boundaries and historic map analysis for this part of the parish indicate a dispersed settlement with large plots and isolated farms / cottages rather than a densely populated settlement centred on the crossroads.</p>			
Archaeological Assessment	Built Character		
<p><b>Period:</b> Medieval foundations 1100-1536  <b>Survival:</b> medium: significant amount of encroachment into the early plot boundaries and some replacement of built heritage.  <b>Group Value:</b> N/A  <b>Diversity:</b> first phase: medieval to modern: slow development of settlement from early medieval period to 20<sup>th</sup> century second phase: mid 20<sup>th</sup> century development  <b>Potential:</b> Good potential for archaeological remains, particularly from medieval and Roman periods.</p>	<b>Morphology:</b>	linear morphology	
	<b>Density:</b>	medium-high	
	<b>Character Types:</b>	Irregular plots Middle class 1919 Post 1945 housing	Education modern Pubs/hotels
	<b>Architectural styles:</b>	Vernacular Victorian Edwardian	Arts and Crafts Modern general
	<b>Plan Form styles:</b>	Wide frontage Semi detached	Detached Terraces
	<b>Build Materials:</b>	Machined red brick Machined coloured brick	Brick rendered Pebbled/shingled
	<b>Roof Materials:</b>	Machined Clay concrete	Handmade Clay



Zone 3: Old Bletchley			
Summary			
<p>Old Bletchley lies to the centre of the parish, some distance to the north of the Buckingham Road along the road to Rickley Wood. Like Far Bletchley, this settlement area first appeared in the 12<sup>th</sup> century and remained small throughout until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Adjacent Bletchley Park did not develop until the 16<sup>th</sup> century and it is unclear why Old Bletchley developed in this location. Three small scale excavations (BL8; BL11; BL16) and one watching brief (BL9) have been carried out in this zone to date. The excavations were sited in areas of historic open space, none of which produced significant archaeological remains.</p>			
Archaeological Assessment	Built Character		
<p><b>Period:</b> Medieval foundations 1100-1536  <b>Survival:</b> medium – significant encroachment on open space in the settlement, limited redevelopment of the built heritage  <b>Group Value:</b> Ecclesiastical?  <b>Diversity:</b> first phase: medieval to modern: slow development of settlement from early medieval period to 20<sup>th</sup> century                      second phase: mid 20<sup>th</sup> century development  <b>Potential:</b> medium – high for medieval – post-medieval.</p>	<b>Morphology:</b>	Green settlement	
	<b>Density:</b>	medium	
	<b>Character Types:</b>	Irregular plots Victorian terraces Middle class 1919	Terraces 1919 Post 1945 housing Religious
	<b>Architectural styles:</b>	Vernacular Edwardian	Modern general
	<b>Plan Form styles:</b>	Wide frontage Detached	Semi detached Terraces
	<b>Build Materials:</b>	Box frame & render Machined red brick	Machined coloured brick
	<b>Roof Materials:</b>	Thatch	Machined clay

Zone 4: Fenny Stratford			
Summary			
<p>This zone encompasses the historic borough of Fenny Stratford. First appearing in documentary references from the mid 13<sup>th</sup> century it is thought that the town was laid out by the landowner of the time as an economic centre for the parish. There is a good survival of historic boundaries within the borough (Figure 21), although the built heritage primarily dates from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century. Previous archaeological work within the borough has produced mixed results with some evidence for medieval and post medieval activity and some negative trial trenching, particularly on smaller scale sites.</p>			
Archaeological Assessment	Built Character		
<p><b>Period:</b> Medieval foundations 1100-1536  <b>Survival:</b> medium – significant 19<sup>th</sup> century and modern redevelopment in some areas of the borough  <b>Group Value:</b> N/A  <b>Diversity:</b> first phase: laying out of burgage tenements in the 13<sup>th</sup> century                      second phase: 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century redevelopment along historic plot boundaries                      third phase: modern redevelopment and encroachment along edges of the borough  <b>Potential:</b> medium – high for LIA / Romano-British                      medium – high for medieval – post-medieval.</p>	<b>Morphology:</b>	linear; Linear market	
	<b>Density:</b>	high	
	<b>Character Types:</b>	Burgage type plots Blocks of flats post 1945 housing	Commercial & industrial Religious Pubs/hotels
	<b>Architectural styles:</b>	Vernacular Victorian	Modern Anglo-Scandinavian
	<b>Plan Form styles:</b>	Narrow frontage Wide frontage Terraces	Flats Detached
	<b>Build Materials:</b>	Box frame & render Machined red brick	Machined coloured brick Brick painted
	<b>Roof Materials:</b>	Handmade clay Machined clay	Slate artificial Slate natural

## Bletchley Historic Town Assessment

<b>Zone 5: Bletchley Park</b>				
Summary				
This zone is defined by the extent of settlement closely associated with wartime Bletchley Park and includes temporary accommodation as well as the huts and blocks that comprised Bletchley Park in the 1940s. Several excavations within the Park have also provided evidence of Roman activity in the region (BL10; BL12; B114).				
Archaeological Assessment	Built Character			
<b>Period:</b> Post medieval <b>Survival:</b> Medium High – Extent of designed landscape associated with park unknown; some loss/disrepair to wartime Bletchley Park structures <b>Group Value:</b> Military <b>Diversity:</b> First phase: creation of park in 17 <sup>th</sup> century second phase: some adaptation to park buildings in the 18 <sup>th</sup> century under Willis third phase: adaptation of the park in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century for a series of uses beginning with an electrical works in the 1920s until the present day. <b>Potential:</b> High potential for modern archaeology relating to World War II site; High potential for Roman archaeology particularly in the less developed northern extent of the park.	<b>Morphology:</b>	Looped network; linear		
	<b>Density:</b>	Medium		
	<b>Character Types:</b>	Historic parkland Leisure Medical	Educational Villas 1919 Post 1945 housing	
	<b>Architectural styles:</b>	Modern general		
	<b>Plan Form styles:</b>	Detached	Semi detached	
	<b>Build Materials:</b>	Machined red brick	Machined coloured brick	
	<b>Roof Materials:</b>	Machined clay		

<b>Zone 6: Queensway</b>				
Summary				
This zone comprises 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> century development along Queensway (Buckingham Road) following the establishment of the railway. In the 1920s the economic centre of the settlement was moved to this location at what is now known as Central Bletchley.				
Archaeological Assessment	Built Character			
<b>Period:</b> Post 1800 <b>Survival:</b> Uncertain <b>Group Value:</b> N/A <b>Diversity:</b> first phase of development from late 19 <sup>th</sup> century until late 20 <sup>th</sup> century second phase of development identified as redevelopment of the commercial area along Queensway. <b>Potential:</b> Unknown. No excavations have been carried out in this zone as yet.	<b>Morphology:</b>	Rectilinear; linear		
	<b>Density:</b>	High		
	<b>Character Types:</b>	Terraces 1900 Terraces 1919 Middle class 1919 Social housing Post 1945 housing	Commercial Leisure Civic Educational Religious	
	<b>Architectural styles:</b>	Victorian Edwardian	Municipal modern Modern general	
	<b>Plan Form styles:</b>	Terraces Semi detached	Detached Flats	
	<b>Build Materials:</b>	Machined red brick	Machined coloured brick	
	<b>Roof Materials:</b>	Machined clay		

6.5 Modern Settlement

Zone 7: Denbigh Industrial			
<b>Summary</b>			
This zone includes the modern industrial estates built along the path of Watling Street as well as a significant proportion of the railway line and works that bisect the parish.			
<b>Built Character</b>			
Size	115.91ha	Density	high
Plot boundaries	N/A	Building features	N/A
Build materials	N/A	Roof materials	N/A
<b>Morphology</b>		<b>Plan Form styles</b>	
Linear		N/A	
<b>Character Types</b>			<b>Architectural style</b>
Industrial	Commercial	Railway	Railway works
			N/A

Zone 8: Whaddon Way			
<b>Summary</b>			
Whaddon Way is located primarily to the north of Buckingham Road and represents a long arc of 1960s and 1970s development connecting Buckingham Road with Watling Street. Archaeological work in this area has uncovered evidence of Roman activity particularly around Shenley Road and Windmill Hill.			
<b>Built Character</b>			
Size	184.83ha	Density	high
Plot boundaries	Open	Building features	None
Build materials	Machined red brick	Machined coloured brick	
Roof materials	Machined Clay	Pan tile machined	
<b>Morphology</b>		<b>Plan Form styles</b>	
Looped networked	Winding roads	Semi-detached	Detached
		Flats	Terraces
<b>Character Types</b>			<b>Architectural style</b>
Educational & Medical	Post 1945 housing	Middle class 1919	modern general
Commercial	Blocks of flats	Leisure	

Zone 9: Buckingham Road			
<b>Summary</b>			
This zone is defined by the extent of modern development along Buckingham Road from Far Bletchley as far as the railway.			
<b>Built Character</b>			
Size	75.47ha	Density	high
Plot boundaries	Brick	Building features	None
Build materials	Machined red brick	Brick rendered	Machined coloured brick
Roof materials	Machined Clay	Tile concrete	Pan tile machined
<b>Morphology</b>		<b>Plan Form styles</b>	
Looped network	Linear	Semi detached	Detached
		Terraces	Bungalows
<b>Character Types</b>			<b>Architectural style</b>
Railway	Educational	Middle class 1919	Edwardian
Reservoir	Military barracks (T.A)	Post 1945 housing	Modern general

Zone 10: Manor Road			
<b>Summary</b>			
Development in this zone was primarily funded in the 1960s by Bletchley Urban Council and the Greater London Council prior to the conception of the Milton Keynes development plan.			
<b>Built Character</b>			
Size	50.77ha	Density	high
Plot boundaries		Building features	None
Build materials	Machined red brick	Brick rendered	Machined coloured brick
Roof materials	Machined Clay	Tile Cement	Pan tile machined
<b>Morphology</b>		<b>Plan Form styles</b>	
Looped network	Linear	Semi detached	Detached
		Terraces	Bungalows
<b>Character Types</b>			<b>Architectural style</b>
Leisure	Educational	Middle class 1919	Modern general
Civic	Religious	Post 1945 housing	



## **II ASSESSMENT**

### **7 Summary and Potential**

#### 7.1 Conservation Areas (CA)

The only conservation area within the towns of Bletchley and Fenny Stratford is at Bletchley Park (Figure 26). This conservation area was designated in 1992 and includes the surviving area of the wartime GCCS HQ at Bletchley Park as well as the small settlement of Old Bletchley.

#### 7.2 Historic Character

Within the majority of the project area covered with modern (20<sup>th</sup> century) development little remains of the historic character of the settlements in Bletchley outside the conservation area (above). However, there are significant survivals of pre-19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in and around Far Bletchley, Water Eaton and Church Green Road. The historic character of Fenny Stratford fares better with a higher level of preservation at the town centre. A significant area of late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century settlement also remains to the east of the railway junction along Queensway.

#### 7.3 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments in Bletchley or Fenny Stratford. *Magiovinium*, south-east of Fenny Stratford is the nearest Scheduled Ancient Monument, first scheduled in 1966 (SAM No. MK 82).

#### 7.4 Archaeological Potential

Archaeological fieldwork within Bletchley and Fenny Stratford has been extensive, with numerous excavations and watching briefs undertaken in advance of both major developments and smaller scale works.

Overall the potential for discovery of archaeological features remains mixed, the extent of modern development may curtail future discoveries despite the known potential for Roman evidence within these zones. The potential for archaeological features within the historic settlements remains difficult to assess due to the lack of previous work. The areas with the greatest potential are:

Zone 4 Fenny Stratford has the potential for yielding important archaeological evidence for the Roman period, given its position as a crossing point of the Ouzel and its proximity to the former settlement of *Magiovinium*. There is also the possibility of medieval and post-medieval deposits associated with the historic borough of Fenny Stratford.

Zone 3 – Old Bletchley for medieval and post medieval

Zone 1: Water Eaton, which appears to be the focus of settlement dating back to at least the Anglo-Saxon period. The proximity of the hamlet to the river and canal means there is some potential for waterlogged deposits.

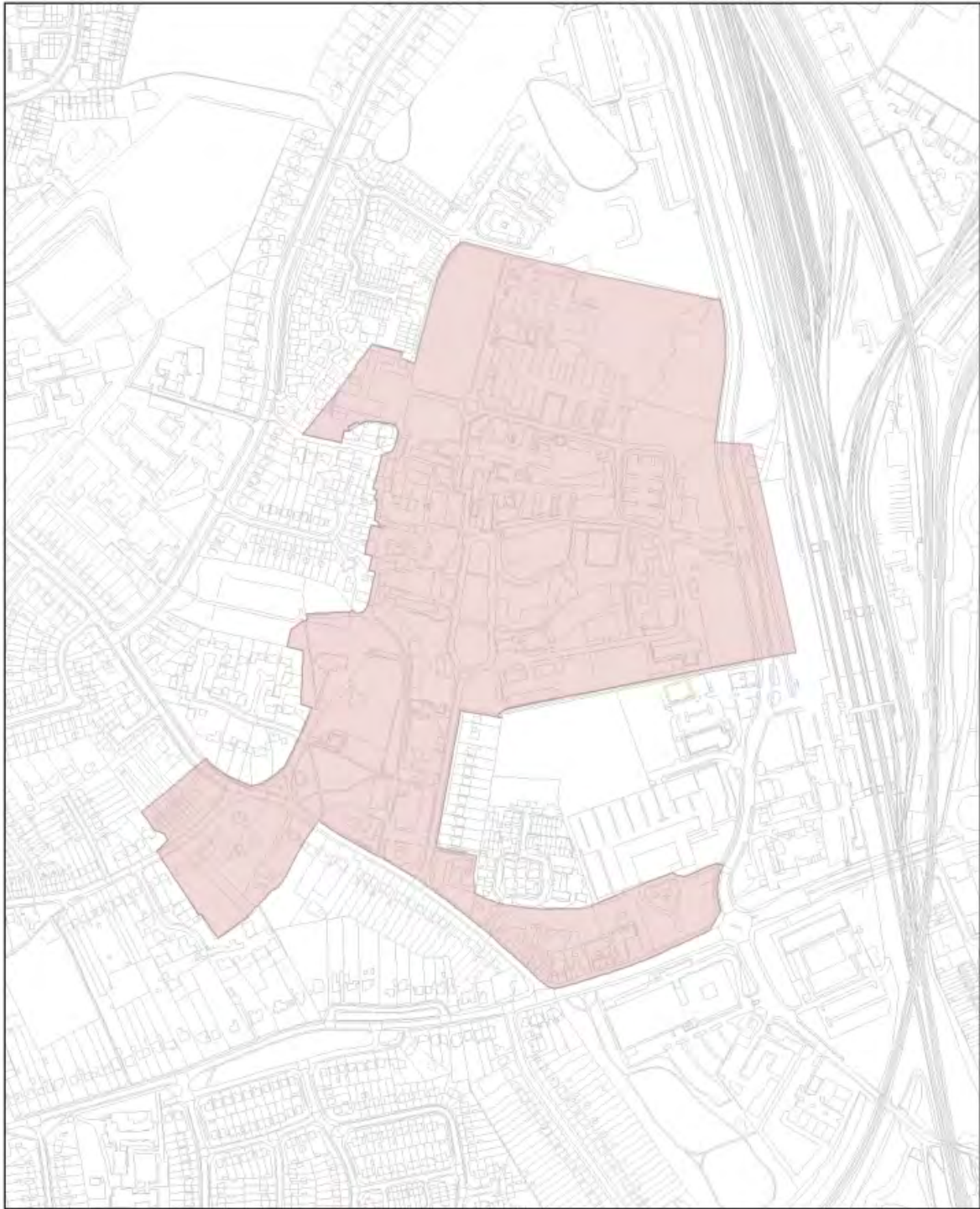
Bletchley Park (Zone 5) important modern archaeology associated with intelligence operations during World War II in addition to the historic manor house and park.


The remaining zones within the historic core (2, 3 and 6) also have significant archaeological potential for the Roman to medieval periods.

Specific areas of high archaeological potential are also identified by Heritage Interest Areas mapped by Milton Keynes Council.

#### 7.5 Registered Parks and Gardens

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens in Bletchley or Fenny Stratford.



 Conservation Area

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Figure 26: Extent of the conservation area, 1992

### **III RESEARCH AGENDA**

#### **8 Research Agenda**

Understanding the development and function of the medieval and post-medieval market town and the testing of theories on social action, economy, politics etc. have been highlighted as an important area of study at the national level (English Heritage, 1997) and at regional and local level (Solent-Thames Research Framework, forthcoming).

##### **Prehistoric**

- To investigate the possibility of earlier settlement in and around the town.

##### **Roman**

- Is there evidence for Romano-British occupation in the area of Fenny Stratford?

##### **Anglo-Saxon**

- Collection of a wider range of environmental evidence tied to an improved understanding of land use.
- Origins of Saxon settlement in Water Eaton and Bletchley.
- Reasons for lack of early parish church in Water Eaton.

##### **Medieval**

- Determine when the plots and street layout of Old Bletchley and Fenny Stratford were established.
- Dates of establishment of the watermill / leats / fisheries.
- Status of chapel(s) in Fenny Stratford
- Establish Fenny Stratford's position within the hierarchy of regional urban centres.
- What evidence can we find for commercial, craft or industrial activities in the fabric of buildings, archaeological remains and the documentary record?

##### **Post Medieval / Modern**

- The impact on Fenny Stratford of changes to transport modes during the 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- Research into wartime Bletchley
- The origins and development of the brick industry
- Inns and brewing.
- Post World War 2 expansion.



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#### 9.5 Abbreviations

BGS	British Geological Survey
BOD	Bodleian Library
Brit.Lib	British Library
CBS	Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HLC	Historic Landscape Characterisation
MK HER	Milton Keynes Historic Environment Record
OD	Ordnance Datum
OS	Ordnance Survey

## 10 **Addresses**

Name	Address	Contact Details
Buckinghamshire County Archaeological Service.	Buckinghamshire County Council, County Hall, Walton Street, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, HP20 1UY	Tel. 01296-382072
English Heritage South East Region	English Heritage, Eastgate Court, 195-205 High Street, GUILDFORD, Surrey GU1 3EH	Tel. 01483 252000



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Milton Keynes Council	Conservation & Archaeology, Civic Offices Milton Keynes Council, 1 Saxon Gate East Central Milton Keynes, MK9 3EJ	Tel. 01908 254259
Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society	Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society County Museum, Church Street Aylesbury, HP20 2QP	Website: <a href="http://www.bucksas.org.uk">www.bucksas.org.uk</a>

## 11 Appendix 1: Chronology & Glossary of Terms

### 11.1 Chronology (taken from Unlocking Buckinghamshire's Past Website)

For the purposes of this study the period divisions correspond to those used by the Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes Historic Environment Records.

Broad Period	Chronology	Specific periods	
Prehistoric	10,000 BC – AD 43	Palaeolithic	Pre 10,000 BC
		Mesolithic	10,000 – 4000 BC
		Neolithic	4000 – 2350 BC
		Bronze Age	2350 – 700 BC
		Iron Age	700 BC – AD 43
Roman	55 BC	Roman Expedition by Julius Caesar	
	AD 43 – AD 410	Claudian Invasion	AD 43
Saxon	AD 410 – 1066	First recorded Viking raids	AD 789
Medieval	1066 – 1536	Battle of Hastings – Norman Conquest	1066
		Wars of the Roses – Start of Tudor period	1485
		Built Environment: Medieval	Pre 1536
Post Medieval	1536 – 1800	Act of for suppressing of minor houses	1524
		Dissolution of the Monasteries	1536 and 1539
		Civil War	1642-1651
		Built Environment: Post Medieval	1536-1850
		Built Environment: Later Post Medieval	1700-1850
		Victorian Period	1837-1901
Modern	1800 - Present	World War I	1914-1918
		World War II	1939-1945
		Cold War	1946-1989
		Built Environment: Early Modern	1850-1945
		Built Environment: Post War period	1945-1980
		Built Environment: Late modern-21 <sup>st</sup> Century	Post 1980

### 11.2 Glossary of Terms

Terms	Definition
Charter (market)	Official charter granted by the sovereign to legitimise a corporate body such as a borough or to grant rights to a percentage of the revenue from a market or fair to a private individual
Conservation Area	An area of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance (Planning Act 1990)
Deer Park	A deer park was an area of land approximately 120 acres or larger in size that was enclosed either by a wall or more often by an embankment or park pale and were exclusively used for hunting deer (Cantor & Hatherley, 1979). Deer parks were commonly owned by, or were originally owned by, the Crown although increasingly during the medieval period licences allowing the creation of deer parks were granted to nobles by the Crown ( <i>ibid</i> ).
Domesday	Rapid survey of the agricultural estates and manorial holdings for England. Produced in 1086 for William the Conqueror following the Norman Conquest.
Enclosure Award	Acts of Parliament were introduced to enclose (erect fencing) open fields and commons. Main period of enclosure by Act was 1750-1860, carried out on a parish basis.
Evaluation	Archaeological evaluation is made up of a number of different techniques that are tailored to assess the archaeological potential of a site, often before planning permission is given. Evaluation usually involves one or more processes from the following: desk based assessment, test-pitting, fieldwalking, geophysical survey, topographical survey or trial trenching,
Excavation	Archaeological investigation whereby below ground deposits are uncovered, recorded and either removed or preserved in situ. Ultimately destructive.
Find spot	Location where a specific artefact was found
Ridge-and-furrow	Ridge and furrow is the term used to describe the earthen banks and troughs that are

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	created through the action of prolonged ploughing. The action of the plough caused earth to build up in regularly spaced banks along the length of the field
St Neots Pottery	Fabric or type of pottery dating to early medieval period, named after St Neots, Cambs. where it originates from (11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> centuries)
Trial Trenching	Trial-trenching refers to the archaeological sampling of a site before planning permission is given to determine the presence, date, geographical spread and condition of any buried archaeological remains in order to decide whether further archaeological investigation needs to happen after planning permission is given and what form this will take
Manor	An official manor is based around a unit of jurisdiction rather than a geographical area and can include small sections of land spread across a parish, or several parishes. Typically a manor requires a lordship in possession of a coat of arms and who must hold a court for the manor. Can date from Saxon to modern period.
Turnpike Trust	Essentially the privatisation of stretches of roads by Act of Parliament whereby the Trust was charged with the proper maintenance and repair of their allotted road and in return they constructed toll gates and houses along the route to charge travellers.
Watching Brief	A watching brief is the term applied to the task of monitoring non-archaeological work (construction/demolition/quarrying) in order to record and/or preserve any archaeological remains that may be disturbed



## 12 Appendix 1: HER Records

### 12.1 Monuments HER Report

HER No.	Name	Summary	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Easting	Northing
169014000	Belvedere Nursery. Magiovinium	Rectilinear enclosures	Roman		488750	233700
304100000	Saffron Gardens, Bletchley	Occupation site	Later Iron Age		488470	233250
304101000	Saffron Gardens, Bletchley	Sunken building ?	Later Iron Age		488470	233250
304101001	Saffron Gardens, Bletchley		Later Iron Age		488470	233250
304102000	Saffron Gardens, Bletchley	House ?	Later Iron Age		488470	233250
304103000	Saffron Gardens, Bletchley	Ditch(es)	Later Iron Age		488470	233250
304104000	Saffron Gardens, Bletchley	Inhumation	Later Iron Age		488470	233250
304503000	Holne Chase, Bletchley	Building	Roman 2nd century		486300	233200
304600000	Shenley Road, Bletchley	Occupation site	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	485300	234300
304600300	Shenley Road, Bletchley	Painted wall plaster	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	485370	234250
304601000	Shenley Road, Bletchley	Deserted Settlement	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	485300	234300
304602000	Shenley Road, Bletchley	Ditch	Roman 2nd century	Roman 3rd Century	485300	234300
304603000	Shenley Road, Bletchley		Roman 2nd century		485300	234300
304604000	Shenley Road, Bletchley	Round house gully ?	Roman 2nd century	Roman 3rd Century	485300	234300
304605000	Shenley Road, Bletchley	Walls - stone	Roman 2nd century		485300	234300
304606000	Shenley Road, Bletchley	Corn Drying oven	Roman 4th century		485300	234300
304607000	Shenley Road, Bletchley	Flagged area	Roman 4th century		485300	234300
304608000	Shenley Road. Bletchley	Evaluation - negative		Roman 4th Century	485300	234300
305300000	Brookland Road, Fenny Stratford.	Inhumation Cemetery	Roman 2nd century		487300	233250
305800000	house foundations	Deserted settlement	Roman		484870	233370
305801000	House foundations	Building ?	Roman		484870	233370
305802000	ditches	Enclosure	Roman		484870	233370
305803000	Pits	Enclosure	Roman		484870	233370
305804000	Enclosure	Enclosure	Roman		484900	233400
309600000	Windmill Hill, Bletchley	Farmstead	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	488440	233900
309601000	Windmill Hill, Bletchley	Corn Drying oven	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	484400	233900
309601001	Windmill Hill, Bletchley	Droeway	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	484400	233900
310002000	Sherwood Drive, Bletchley	Wall ?	Roman 1st century	Roman 4th Century	486620	234400

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310005000	Bletchley Park evaluation trench 5 (1992)	Ditch	Roman		486601	234274
310006000	Bletchley Park evaluation Trench 3 (1992)	Ditch	Roman		486518	243353
310007000	Bletchley Park evaluation trench 4	Ditch	Roman		486537	234311
310008000	Bletchley Park evaluation trench 1	Ditch	Roman		486487	234236
310009000	Bletchley Park evaluation trench 2 (1992)	Ditch	Roman		486480	234281
310009000	Bletchley Park evaluation trench 7 (1992)	Corn drier	Roman		486628	234253
310011000	Bletchley Park evaluation trench 4	Ditch	Uncertain		486541	234301
310012000	Bletchley Park evaluation trench 9 (1992)	Pit or ditch terminal?	Uncertain		486527	234266
310013000	Bletchley Park evaluation trench 1 (1992)	Ditch			486492	234234
310013000	Bletchley Park evaluation trench 2 (1992)	Ditch	Uncertain		486482	234284
323600000	Bletchley	Cervus elephas - vertebrae	Pleistocene		488000	234000
323700000	Bletchley	Elephas primegenius - tusk	Pleistocene		488000	234000
327300000	Tattenhoe Lane/Shenley Road	Round house settlement	Later Iron Age	Roman	484900	233900
350200100	Water Eaton Manor	Manor	Early Medieval	11th Century	488470	233250
360100000	Saffron Gardens, Bletchley	Manor House	13th century	16th Century	488410	233200
360100100	Water Eaton Manor	Manor	Medieval	Post Medieval	488410	233320
360101000	Saffron Garden, Bletchley	Moat	12th century	13th Century	488470	233250
360102000	Saffron Gardens, Bletchley	Fishpond ?	Medieval	Post Medieval	488500	233320
360700000	12 Oakwood Drive, Bletchley	Occupation site	13th century	14th Century	488050	233310
360800000	Fenny Stratford Cemetery		12th century		487900	233600
361200000	Rectory Cottages, Bletchley	Hammer beam	15th century		486326	233620
361400000	Tree's Square, Bletchley	Occupation site	Medieval		485640	233240
367000000	Rectory Garden, Bletchley	Dovecote	Medieval	18th Century	486300	233700
370500000	Bletchley Park Gardens	Formal garden	19th century		486459	233869
370500000	Water Hall / Bletchley Park	Manor House	18th century		486380	233875
370500001	Bletchley Park House	House	19th century		486380	233875
370501000	Bletchley Park	Deer Park	Medieval	Post Medieval	486500	233900
370501001	Bletchley Park	Keeper's lodge	18th century		486500	233900
370502000	Bletchley Park evaluation trench 3 (1992)	Ditch	Post Medieval		486514	234360
370503000	Bletchley Park evaluation trench 3 (1992)		Post Medieval		486519	234343
371100000	St. Mary's Church.	Parish Church	Medieval	Post Medieval	486308	233788
371300000	St. Margaret's Chapel	Chantry Chapel	Medieval	Post Medieval	488252	234066
371302000	St. Martin's Church	Parish Church	Medieval	Post Medieval	488252	234066

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372700000	Fenny Stratford	Guildhall	15th century	16th Century	488298	234050
393800000	"Elmers", Church Green Road	Pit; ditch	17th century		486300	233650
394600000	Fenny Stratford	Oil engine	20th century		488370	234030
394601000	Fenny Stratford	Oil engine	20th century		488370	234030
411905000	Fenny Stratford, canal	Wharf	19th century		488384	234000
608000000	Ton Yard Wharf, Fenny Stratford	Brickworks	19th century		488420	233890
608700000	Duncombe St, Bletchley	Brickworks	19th century		486950	233470
702300000	6 Tattenhoe Lane		Post Medieval		485229	233235
706402000	Bletchley Park: substation	Electricity Sub station	20th century		486415	233975
706407000	Bletchley Park Electricity Station	Electricity transformer sub-station	20th century		486375	233999
706410000	Bletchley Park Hut 8 / 18	Decipherment Building	20th century		486468	233944
706412000	Bletchley Park Air Raid shelter	Air raid shelter	20th century		486351	233819
706413000	Bletchley Park Hut 3	Decipherment Building	20th century		486458	233995
706418000	Bletchley Park Generator House	Generator House	20th century		486468	234026
706419000	Bletchley Park Oil Tank	Oil Tank	20th century		486495	234020
706420000	Bletchley park back-up generator	Generator House	20th century		486670	233971
706424000	Bletchley Park Chauffeur's Hut	Garage	20th century		486480	233755
706425000	Bletchley Park Motor Pool building	Garage	20th century		486526	233754
706426000	Bletchley Park Motor Pool building	Garage	20th century		486497	233774
706428000	Bletchley Park M.O.W. workshops	Workshop	20th century		486528	233788
706430000	Bletchley Park "F" Block annexe	Decipherment Building	20th century		486410	234040
706431000	Bletchley Park "F" Block	Decipherment Building	20th century	20th century	486420	234110
706431001	Bletchley Park "F" Block	Wall	20th century		486442	234177
706434000	Service Tunnel between blocks B & C,		20th century	Extant	486605	233968
706435000	Bletchley Park: HMS Pembroke 5	Barracks	20th century	20th century	486495	233596
706801000	Bletchley Park ditch	Ditch	Uncertain		486363	234232
706802000	Bletchley Park ditch	Ditch	Uncertain		486376	234246
855500000	Site of building		Uncertain	Uncertain	488000	233400
855600000	Site of building		Uncertain	Uncertain	488440	233990
855900000	Site of building		Uncertain	Uncertain	487890	234320



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### 12.2 Find Spots

HER	Earliest Date	Latest Date	Details		Easting	Northing
30960400	Roman	Roman	unassigned	sculpture	484400	233900
260900001	Roman				483890	232780
261700000	Post Medieval				485099	234008
300100000	Lower Palaeolithic		tools and equipment	cutting equipment	487500	234200
300200000	Lower Palaeolithic		tools and equipment	cutting equipment	488520	233300
300201000	Lower Palaeolithic		tools and equipment	cutting equipment	488520	233300
300400000	Bronze Age		Armour & weapons	Projectile	488400	233400
300500000	Bronze Age		Armour & weapons	Projectile	487530	233190
300600000	Bronze Age		Armour & weapons	Projectile	487000	234600
300700000	Bronze Age		Armour & weapons	Projectile	488300	233480
301500000	Lower Palaeolithic			lithic	487000	234600
301600000	Lower Palaeolithic			lithic	488300	234000
301601000	Lower Palaeolithic				488300	234000
301602000	Lower Palaeolithic				488300	234000
304105000	Later Iron Age	Roman 4th Century	currency	Coin	488470	233250
304106000	Later Iron Age		Container	Pottery	488470	233250
304200000	Later Iron Age	Later Iron Age	Container	Pottery	486000	233000
304500000	Roman	Roman 2nd Century	Agriculture and subsistence		486300	233200
304500001	Roman 2nd century	Roman 3rd Century			486300	233200
304501000	Roman 4th century				486300	233200
304501001	Roman 4th century				486300	233200
304502000	Roman 1st century		Unassigned	Building	486300	233200
304502001	Roman 1st century				486300	233200
304502002	Roman 1st century		Container	Pottery	486300	233200
304503001	Roman 2nd century		currency	Coin	486300	233200
304503002	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	Container	Pottery	486300	233200
304504000	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century			486300	233200
304504001	Roman 2nd century		currency	Coin	486300	233200
304504002	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	Container	Pottery	486300	233200
304504003	Roman 2nd century		Container	Pottery	486300	233200
304504004	Roman 2nd century				486300	233200

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304504005	Roman			roofing material	486300	233200
304504006	Roman		architecture	Tile	486300	233200
304504007	Roman 4th century		currency	Coin	486300	233200
304504008	Roman		Architectural component	Walling - surface	486300	233200
304504009	Roman				486300	233200
304600101	Roman		Container	Pottery	485280	234240
304600102	Roman 2nd century		currency	Coin	485280	234240
304600103	Roman 2nd century	Roman 3rd Century			485280	234240
304600201	Roman 2nd century			Coin	485190	234370
304600301	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century			485370	234250
304602010	Roman 2nd century		Container	Pottery	485300	234300
304700000	Roman		Container	Pottery	486400	234200
304800000	Roman		Container	Pottery	485800	234500
305100000	Roman 3rd century		currency	Coin	486800	233420
305300001	Roman 2nd century				487300	233250
305300002	Roman 2nd century		Container	Pottery: grave goods	487300	233250
305300003	Roman 2nd century		currency	Coin	487300	233500
305600000	Roman		Container	Pottery	486300	234900
305800001	Roman		Container	Pottery	484870	233370
309601002	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	tools and equipment	Cutting equipment	484400	233900
309601003	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	Container	Pottery	484400	233900
309602000	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	Container	Pottery	484500	233300
309700000	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	Container	Pottery	485600	232910
310000000	Roman 1st century	Roman 4th Century	Agriculture and subsistence		486550	234350
310001000	Roman 1st century	Roman 4th Century	Architecture		486620	234500
310001001	Later Iron Age		currency	Coin	486600	234500
310002001	Roman 1st century	Roman 4th Century	Container	Pottery	486620	234400
310003000	Roman		currency	Coin	486630	234400
310003001	Roman		Container	Pottery	486630	234400
310003002	Roman		dress and personal accessories	Jewellery	486630	234400
310003003	Roman		dress and personal accessories	Jewellery	486630	234400
310004000	Roman		dress and personal accessories	Jewellery	486600	234500
310005002	Later Iron Age	Roman	Container	Pottery	486601	234274

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311900000	Roman		Container	Pottery	486140	233390
317200000	Roman 1st century	Roman 4th Century			488400	233750
317202000	Roman 2nd century	Roman 4th Century	currency	Coin	488400	233950
317202001	Roman				488400	233950
317203000	Roman		currency	Coin	488400	233950
324900000	Lower Palaeolithic				488500	234000
325300000	Roman	Medieval	Container	Pottery	487900	233600
325700000	Prehistoric		tools and equipment	lithic implement	487300	234700
325800000	Prehistoric		tools and equipment	lithic implement	487000	234000
325900000	Prehistoric		tools and equipment	lithic implement	488000	234000
326600000	Roman	Medieval	Container	Pottery	485200	233000
327301000	Later Iron Age	Roman	Container	Pottery	484900	233990
333300000	Roman				488710	233730
333300001	Roman		Container	Pottery	488710	233730
339600000	Roman 3rd century	Roman 4th Century	currency	Coin	487300	234700
339602000	Roman		dress and personal accessories	jewellery	487520	234100
350200000	Early Medieval 11th century		Container	Pottery	488470	233250
360103000	Medieval	Medieval 13th Century	Container	Pottery	488470	233250
360300000	Medieval 13th century	Medieval 14th Century	Container	Pottery	486300	234800
360504000	Medieval 13th century		tools and equipment	Marking equipment	483400	234800
360504010	Medieval		Unassigned	M. D. assemblage	483400	234800
360600000	Medieval 13th century		Container	Pottery	486140	233390
360701000	Medieval 13th century	Medieval 14th Century	Container	Pottery	488050	233310
360801000	Medieval 12th century	Medieval 14th Century	Container	Pottery	487900	233600
360900000	Early Medieval 11th century	Medieval 14th Century	Container	Pottery	485200	233000
361100000	Medieval 13th century	Medieval 14th Century	Container	Pottery	486060	235480
361201000	Medieval 13th century	Medieval 14th Century	Container	Pottery	486310	233630
361202000	Medieval 13th century	Medieval 14th Century	Container	Pottery	486310	233630
361401000	Early Medieval 11th century	Medieval	Container	Pottery	485640	233240
361402000	Medieval 12th century	Medieval 13th Century	Container	Pottery	485600	233170
361600000	Medieval 13th century	Medieval 14th Century	Container	Pottery	488030	233600
361700000	Medieval 12th century	Medieval	Container	Pottery	486812	233334
393801000	Post medieval 17th century	17th Century	Container	Pottery	486300	233650



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396200000	Post Medieval				488740	233710
396200001	Post Medieval		Architecture	none	488740	233710
396200002	Uncertain		tools and equipment	grinding equipment	488740	233710
396200003	Medieval	Modern			488740	233710
398902000	Medieval	Post Medieval	Container	Pottery	488270	233980
399300000	Post Medieval		Container	Pottery	486140	233390
607200000	Roman	Multi-period	Unassigned	M.D. Assemblage	488300	234000
607200001	Post Medieval				488300	234000
607200002	Roman				488300	234000
607200003	Uncertain				488300	234000
613701001	Neolithic	later Bronze Age			486690	230840
705100001	Roman 3rd century	Roman 4th Century	Architecture	Tile	488400	232800
705100002	Roman 1st century		container	pottery	488400	232800
705100003	Roman 1st century	Roman 4th Century	Container	unassigned	488400	232800
705100004	Roman 3rd century		currency	coin	488400	232800
706405000	Modern 20th century		armour and weapons	Ammunition	486415	234024
706810001	Later Iron Age		Container	pottery	486667	234230
706820001	Roman		Container	pottery	486661	234243
706820002	Roman		Container	pottery	486418	234271
706820003	Roman		Container	pottery	486339	234295
706820004	Roman		Container	pottery	486424	233723
	Neolithic		tools and equipment	lithic implement	486500	234370
	Neolithic	Bronze Age	tools and equipment	lithic implement	488400	233700
	Neolithic		tools and equipment	cutting equipment	487000	234600
	Neolithic	Bronze Age	tools and equipment	lithic implement	488000	234000

### 12.3 Listed Buildings

EH REF	Grade	Address	Description	Period	NGR
45382	II	The Bull, Aylesbury Street	Public House	19th century	SP8818233918
45383	B	St Martins Church, Aylesbury Street	Church	18th century	SP8825434069
45384	II	Bracknell House, Aylesbury Street	House	19th century	SP8808333811
45385	II	43 Aylesbury Street	House	19th century	SP8814733954
45386	II	The Maltster's Arms, Aylesbury Street	Public House	19th century	SP8815433975

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45387	II	49, 51 Aylesbury Street	Shop	19th century	SP8816433994
45388	II	59 Aylesbury Street	House	16th century	SP8820234051
45389	II	128 Buckingham Road	Farmhouse - timber framed	18th century	SP8579933281
45390	II	170, Buckingham Road	Cottage - timber framed	17th century	SP8558033298
45391	II	Brooklands Farm, Buckingham Road	Farmhouse - timber framed	17th century	SP8553433259
45392	II	139 Buckingham Road	House	19th century	SP8544633231
45393	II	141 Buckingham Road	House - timber framed	17th century	SP8543833224
45394	II	Elm Farm, Buckingham Road	Farmhouse - timber framed	18th century	SP8539133207
45395	II*	Rectory Cottages, Church Green Road	Cottages	15th century	SP8632633620
45396	II	Stable Block, Rectory, Church Green Road	Stable	19th century	SP8633333749
45397	B	St Mary's Church, Church Green Road	Church	13th century	SP8630533789
45398	II	Freefolk Cottage, Church Green Road	House	17th century	SP8622233595
45399	II	Well House, Church Green Road	House - timber framed	17th century	SP8585333465
45400	II	Walnut Tree, Church Green Road	House - timber framed	17th century	SP8583033460
45401	II	Yew Tree, Church Green Road	House - timber framed	16th century	SP8584933420
45402	II	Home Farm, Drayton Road	House	18th century	SP8784332993
45403	II	Sycamore Farm, Drayton Road	House	18th century	SP8787832929
45404	II	60 Watling St	House	18th century	SP8816534188
45405	II	Bollards, 60 Watling St	Iron bollards	20th century	SP8815834184
45406	II	48 Watling St	Public House	17th century	SP8820934167
45407	II*	11, 13 Watling St	Chantry	15th century	SP8830034058
45408	II	8 Larch Grove	Cottage	18th century	SP8812733059
45409	II	Manor Farm, Manor Road	Farmhouse - timber framed	17th century	SP8809133633
45410	II	1-7 Mill Road	Estate cottages	19th century	SP8789733049
45411	II	29-33 Mill Road	Estate cottages	19th century	SP8802733042
45412	II	37, 39 Mill Road	Cottage - timber framed	17th century	SP8805433047
45413	II	41 Mill Road	House - timber framed	17th century	SP8806733058
45414	II	Canal Bridge	Brick Bridge	19th century	SP8817532950
45415	II	Mill, Mill Road	Mill House	19th century	SP8831832929
45416	II	The Elms, Queensway	House	19th century	SP8793833849
45417	II	15 Shenley Road	House - timber framed	17th century	SP8563433370
45418	II	Fenny Stratford Station	Station - timber framed	19th century	SP8813534269
45419	II	Red Lion, Simpson Road	Public House	20th century	SP8833934376

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45420	II	Pine View, Simpson Road	Cottages	20th century	SP8834834352
45421	II	Lock, Simpson Road	Lock	18th century	SP8835734372
45422	II	Canalside Cottage, Simpson Road	Lock keepers cottage	20th century	SP8836734378
45423	II	Pump House, Simpson Road	Toll House	19th century	SP8836434394
45425	II	Fenny Lodge, Simpson Road	Lodge	18th century	SP8826834507
45437	II	5 Stoke Road	House	18th century	SP8799732971
45438	II	7 Stoke Road	House - timber framed	17th century	SP8798632965
45439	II	Denbigh Hall railway bridge	Bridge	19th century	SP8632835313
45440	II	The Chestnuts, Water Eaton Road	House	19th century	SP8782733096
45454	II	Bletchley Park House	Large House	19th century	SP8639033873
486101	II	The Bungalow & attached buildings, Bletchley Park	House & Stable	20th century	SP8635633949
487036	II	Gatehouse, Bletchley Park	Gatehouse	20th century	SP8637733929
487037	II	1-3 Bletchley Park	Cottages	20th century	SP8638433953
492043	II	Block B Bletchley Park	Decipherment Building	20th century	SP8659333966
493066	II	Block H Bletchley Park	Decipherment Building	20th century	SP8633834055
493331	II	Block D Bletchley Park	Decipherment Building	20th century	SP8654434076
493531	II	Block A Bletchley Park	Decipherment Building	20th century	SP8653133959
493537	II	Hut 1 Bletchley Park	Decipherment Building	20th century	SP8645433940
493539	II	Hut 3 Bletchley Park	Decipherment Building	20th century	SP8645933987
493540	II	Hut 4 Bletchley Park	Decipherment Building	20th century	SP8639433848
493541	II	Hut 6 Bletchley Park	Decipherment Building	20th century	SP8645833972
493542	II	Hut 8 Bletchley Park	Decipherment Building	20th century	SP8646933943
493544	II	Hut 11 Bletchley Park	Decipherment Building	20th century	SP8642333986
493545	II	Hut 11a Bletchley Park	Decipherment Building	20th century	SP8639633993



### 13 Appendix 4: Trade Listings and Population Data

#### Trade Directories: Bletchley

Artisan/trades	P.C.	1853	1864	1877	1883	1895	1903	1911	1920	1935
Shoe/boot maker	4	1		1						
Weaver	2									
Tailor	2		1	1	1	2	1	1	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>
Merchant/Dealer	P.C.	1853	1864	1877	1883	1895	1903	1911	1920	1935
Brewery	1					1	1	1		
Dealer	1	3	2			1	1		1	
Grocer		1	1	1	1		1	1		2
Printers										1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
Agric/General	P.C.	1853	1864	1877	1883	1895	1903	1911	1920	1935
Farmer	12	12	7	8	7	7	6	8	5	10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>10</b>
Professional	P.C.	1853	1864	1877	1883	1895	1903	1911	1920	1935
Architect										1
Auctioneer								1	1	1
Surgeon/physician		1	1							
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>
Service/Provisions	P.C.	1853	1864	1877	1883	1895	1903	1911	1920	1935
Baker		1		1						
Beer Retailer		1								
Blacksmith	1	1	1	1	1					
Bricklayer/builder										1
Butcher				1						2
Carpenter	4	2		1		2				
Glazier	1									
Gardener								2		2
Hotel/Inn				1		1	1	1	1	1
Ins Agent			1							1
Pub		3	4	3	4	3	3	3	3	3
Saddler							1	2		
School		1	1				1		1	1
Wheelwright	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>

† Posse Comitatus, 1798.

#### Trade Directories: Fenny Stratford

Artisan/trades	1830	1844	1853	1864	1877	1883	1895	1903	1911	1920	1935
Brush maker						1	2	2		2	2
Furniture maker							1				1
Iron founder						1					
Jeweller											1
Milliner/peroke			1							1	2
Photographer							1	1			1
Shoe/boot maker	1	5	8	7	6	7	8	7		13	8
Straw hat maker		3	2	2							
Tailor	2	4	4	3	3	1	4	4		4	3
Upholsterer					1						
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>18</b>
Merchant/Dealer	1830	1844	1853	1864	1877	1883	1895	1903	1911	1920	1935
Brewery		2	1	2		1	1	1			
Chemist					1	1	2	3		3	3
Confectioner				2	1	1	1	1		2	9

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Dealer	5	3	3	4	9	10	16	22		21	32
Draper		2	5	6	5	6	9	8		8	13
Fishmonger							2	2		4	3
Florist						1				1	
Grocer	2	4	4	3	1	5	8	9		4	14
Ironmonger	1	1	1	1	3	2	4	2		2	2
Nurserymen							1	2		2	2
Printers						1	1			1	1
Wharfingers				1							
Wine Merchant		1						1		1	
TOTAL	8	13	14	19	20	28	46	51	0	48	79
Agric/General	1830	1844	1853	1864	1877	1883	1895	1903	1911	1920	1935
Agric Engineer					1	1	1	1		1	
Farmer			6	7	5	3	2	3		6	2
Vet											1
TOTAL	0	0	6	7	6	4	3	4	0	7	3
Professional	1830	1844	1853	1864	1877	1883	1895	1903	1911	1920	1935
Accountant											2
Architect								1		2	
Auctioneer						1	1			1	1
Banker						1		1			2
Dentist										2	3
Solicitor				1		2	1	2		4	1
Surgeon/physician	1	2	3	3	2	2	4	5		4	5
Surveyor											1
TOTAL	1	2	3	4	2	6	6	9	0	13	15
Service/Provisions	1830	1844	1853	1864	1877	1883	1895	1903	1911	1920	1935
Baker	2	5	2	3	3	5	2	2		2	3
Beer Retailer		1	2	1	1	1	2	3		3	2
Blacksmith	2	3	2	1	2	2	3	2		3	2
Bricklayer/builder				4	2	4	6	3		7	10
Brick/tile maker				2							
Butcher	4	6	5	5	5	7	10	7		6	5
Café							1	5		3	3
Carpenter	2	3	1				1	2		2	1
Carrier			4	4		2	2	2			2
Chimney sweep			1				1				
Coach Builder							2	1			
Cooper			1								
Engineer											6
Hairdresser		2	1	1	1	1	3	3		3	7
Hotel/Inn	1	1			5	2	7	3		9	2
Ind-generic								1		2	8
Ins Agent	1	1		4		5		3		3	6
Laundry					1	1	1	1			
Mason			1	1		1	1	2			
Miller				1	1	1	1	2		1	
Plumber/electrician			1	1	3	3	2	6		1	2
Pub	8	10	9	11	9	9	7	10		6	10
Saddler	1	2	3	1	1	1	2	2			2
School	2	2	2	4	1	3	3	4		2	3
Watchmaker			2		1	1	2	2		3	1
Wheelwright	2	2	2	2	1	1				1	
TOTAL	25	38	39	46	37	50	59	66		57	75

## Bletchley Historic Town Report

### *Population Figures Bletchley & Fenny Stratford*

Date	1801	1811	1821	1831	1841	1851	1861	1871
Population	569	622	639	619	685	674	668	1862
Date	1881	1891	1901	1911	1921	1931	1951	1961
Population	514	456	497	543	607	866	10,919	17,095

1941: No Data recorded

1971-Present: Settlement included with Milton Keynes

Population Figures taken from the following sources:

<http://www.genuki.org.uk/> for 1801-1901

Pevsner for 1921; 1951

<http://www.visionofbritain.org.uk> for 1911; 1931; 1961; 1971

[buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/](http://buckscc.gov.uk/bcc/) for 2001



## **14 Appendix 5: Historical Consultancy Report**

Produced by Matt Tompkins of the University of Leicester

### 14.1 Background

Fenny Stratford's urban origins are uncertain. There was a small Roman town, Magiovinium, on the south side of the Ouzel, but there is no evidence of continuity between that and the medieval town of Fenny Stratford, on its north side. Domesday Book gives no hint of an urban settlement and a market charter granted in 1204 referred not to Fenny Stratford but to the manor of Water Eaton, of which Fenny Stratford then formed part. However in 1252 a charter for a fair specifically referred to Fenny Stratford, and thereafter references to the town become numerous. By 1307 it had become a borough, and although it seems to have lacked formal self-governing institutions, it nevertheless achieved a certain measure of self-government (presumably helped by the fact that it lay in two different manors – see below); in 1383-1403 grants of pontage were made to the men of the town collectively, in 1493 a corporate gild with a common seal was established by royal Patent, and in 1608 a new market charter was obtained by the inhabitants.i

During the late seventeenth, eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries the town declined, eventually almost to village status. In 1798 almost half (46%) the adult male population were farmers, servants or labourers, though the remainder did include a surveyor, clock-maker, barber, two excise officers and no less than five breeches-makers. Everything changed in the last three decades of the nineteenth century, when a detached industrial suburb developed half a mile to the west, around the new railway junction and works which had been built halfway between the town and the village of Bletchley. In 1898 Fenny Stratford's urban district was enlarged to incorporate this new suburb (along with the ancient village of Bletchley), but by 1911 the town's centre of balance had shifted so much to its former suburb that it was renamed Bletchley Urban District.ii

Up to that point Fenny Stratford's jurisdictional situation had been complex, principally due to the fact that Watling Street, which formed its High Street, was the boundary between the parishes of Bletchley and Simpson, and probably also between two different manors. Its parochial status was particularly confused and unstable. Though it was undoubtedly a medieval town, Fenny Stratford had no parish of its own until the 1880s. Its Bletchley side intermittently had a chapel, and when it did was a chapelry of the parish of Bletchley, though from 1730 at least it seems to have operated as a township, with its own churchwarden (only one) and overseers etc. The Simpson side, however, was a mere hamlet or endship of the parish of Simpson, though its residents may occasionally have joined with those of the Bletchley side in some civic expenses.iii

The Bletchley side of Fenny Stratford was a separate manor, though always in common ownership with at least one of the other two manors in the parish (Bletchley itself and Water Eaton), in consequence of which the distinctions between them were often blurred. Only the manor of Water Eaton was mentioned in Domesday Book, as Etone, an estate of ten hides, of which Fenny Stratford was probably part. Fenny Stratford probably became a separate manor at some time between 1204 (when the market charter referred to the manor of Water Eaton) and 1252 (when the fair charter was for the manor of Fenny Stratford), but as it and Water Eaton were always in the same ownership its separate manorial status was presumably just an administrative recognition of the town's distinctive nature.

In 1086 the manors of Water Eaton and Simpson were held by the bishop of Coutances, but were forfeited after his rebellion. By the end of the twelfth century they had come into the hands of the de Caux family, who may have founded the town (it was Roger de Caux who obtained the market charter in 1204) and in the early thirteenth century passed to the Greys. In 1323 they were divided between two brothers, Bletchley and Simpson going to the Grey of Ruthin branch and Water Eaton and Fenny Stratford to Grey of Wilton. Despite various forfeitures and other vicissitudes the Greys of Wilton retained Water Eaton and Fenny Stratford until 1616, when both were finally lost to the Villiers, dukes of Buckingham. The de Villiers shortly afterwards acquired the manor of Bletchley, and thereafter those three manors (but not Simpson) remained in common ownership, often treated as a single manor called Bletchley. In 1674 the Villiers sold them all to the Willis family, who in about

## Bletchley Historic Town Report

1770 sold them to the Bartons. At the start of the twentieth century the Bartons, now calling themselves Duncombe, were still the owners.

It is not entirely certain that the boundary between the manors of Fenny Stratford and Simpson followed the parochial boundary down the middle of Fenny Stratford High Street, but it seems likely that it did - certainly a 1781 estate map, captioned 'The manor of Simpson', depicts the entire parish, including the part of Fenny Stratford north of the High Street. Of course, the question may not have arisen while the manors were still in the same ownership, but after the division of 1332 the two were never reunited and the boundary would have become significant. In the middle of the sixteenth century Simpson was sold by the Greys of Ruthin, and thereafter passed through a variety of hands, the manorial rights falling early into desuetude. Few of the manor's records have survived, and nothing has been seen which indicates whether it exercised rights over part of the town, or if it did whether its urban part was treated any differently from the rest, but a Grey of Wilton Inquisition post Mortem of 1370, which recorded that the manor of Fenny Stratford only received rents from a moiety of the town, does suggest that the town's lordship was divided.<sup>iv</sup>

The Bletchley side was undoubtedly the larger, dominant part, however. In 1725 there were 71 houses on the Bletchley side and only 26 in Simpson parish; the 1781 map of Simpson manor shows even fewer. In the modern period, and possibly also in the middle ages, the town's central place was not the High Street but Cross St (modern Aylesbury St), running southwards off the High Street at a right-angle, where its principal institutions – the church, the market – were to be found.<sup>v</sup>

Because of these complexities records of Fenny Stratford must be looked for under a variety of names: Fenny Stratford, Water Eaton, Bletchley, and Simpson. For example, in the 1524 lay subsidy the town's inhabitants were returned in two separate entries, headed 'Fenny Stratford in Bletchley' and 'Fenny Stratford in Simpson', with separate entries for Bletchley, Water Eaton and Simpson. In the 1332 subsidy, however, there was no entry for either part of Fenny Stratford, which were presumably included in those for 'Water Eaton with members' and 'Simpson', and the 1340 Ninth on Wool return similarly had entries only for Bletchley and Simpson. In other tax returns Fenny Stratford did have its own entry, with others for Water Eaton or Bletchley (or both) and Simpson – but it is likely that the Fenny Stratford entry related to the Bletchley side only and the Simpson side was again subsumed in the Simpson entry.

### 14.2 Medieval Records (to 1500)

#### *Manorial records*

Note: the following manors were all, at various times, in common ownership, when the distinctions between them were not always maintained, and their names became somewhat interchangeable. Consequently any of the documents below may deal with the town of Fenny Stratford.

#### Water Eaton

Court rolls and *compoti* (with Fenny Stratford) 14C-15C : Gtr Manchester CRO, E4/25/16

Court rolls, 1326-1357, with accounts 1396-1401 and rental 1340: GMCRO, E4/25/14

Court rolls (with Fenny Stratford), c.1334-1470: GMCRO, E4/25/15

Reeve's account, 1335, court roll, 1394: GMCRO, E4/25/13

Court rolls (with other manors), 1375-7: Bodleian, MS DD Ch c.27A

Account rolls (7), 1370-7: CBS, D/BASM 9/7-12

Account rolls (9), 1381-95: CBS, D/BASM 9/13-21

Both accounts are discussed in E. Hollis, 'Farm accounts – late fourteenth century', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 12 (1927-33), pp. 165-92.

Court roll (8 courts), 1371-82: CBS, D/BASM 9/1 (translation, c1930, in D/BASM 9/55)

Discussed in W. Bradbrook, 'Manor court rolls of Fenny Stratford and Etone (Bletchley)', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 11 (1919-26), pp. 289-314.

Court rolls (7 courts), 1371-1391: British Library, Add. Roll 59361-59372

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### Fenny Stratford

Court rolls and *compoti* (with Water Eaton), 14C-15C : Gtr Manchester CRO, E4/25/16

Bailiff's account of Simpson (with other Grey manors and estates) , mentions market tolls, so covers Fenny Stratford?, 1323-4: TNA:PRO, SC6/1119/2

Court rolls (with Water Eaton), c.1334-1470: GMCRO, E4/25/15  
Court roll, 1372-1396: CBS, D/BASM 9/2 (a translation, made c. 1930: CBS, D/BASM 9/55)

Discussed in Bradbrook, 'Manor court rolls', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 11 (1919-26), pp. 289-314.

### Bletchley

Bailiff's account (with other Grey manors and estates), 1332-4: TNA:PRO, SC6/1119/3

Receiver general's account (with other Grey of Ruthin lands), 1444-6: TNA:PRO, SC 6/1119/4

Court roll, with Simpson, 1494: CBS, D/BASM 9/3

### Simpson

Bailiff's account (with other Grey manors and estates), 1323-4: TNA:PRO, SC6/1119/2

Receiver general's account (with other Grey of Ruthin lands), 1444-6: TNA:PRO, SC 6/1119/4

Court roll, with Bletchley, 1494: CBS, D/BASM 9/3

The following Inquisitions post Mortem of three lords Grey contain extents of some of the above manors:

Reginald Grey, 1308: TNA:PRO, C 134/3/5 (1 Edw II, no. 54)

Calendared in *Cal. Inq. p. M., 5: Edward II, 1307-16* (London, 1908), no. 53, p. 18.

John Grey, 1324: TNA:PRO, C 134/82/9 (17 Edw II, no. 74)

Calendared in *Cal. Inq. p. M., 6: Edward II, 1316-27* (London, 1910), no. 517., p. 312

Reginald Grey of Wilton, 1370: TNA:PRO, C 132/31/1 (44 Edw III, 1<sup>st</sup> nos., no. 30)

Calendared in *Cal. Inq. p. M., 13: Edward III, 1370-73* (London, 1954), no. 30, p. 22.

### Hundred Rolls

1254-55, 1274-6 rolls: *Rotuli Hundredorum*, Record Commission (London, 1812), i, pp. 30, 40 (the more useful 1279-80 roll does not survive for Fenny Stratford/Bletchley or Simpson).

### Tax Records

FS = Fenny Stratford WE = Water Eaton B = Bletchley S = Simpson

w.m. = with members

Containing assessments on named individuals

1332, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/242/4 rot. 48 (S).

1332, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/242/84 m. 5 (WE w.m., S).

Both above transcribed in A.C. Chibnall, *Early Taxation Returns. Taxation of Personal Property in 1332 and later*, BRS 14 (1966), pp. 91, 95.

1332, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/378/17 (WE w.m.).

1334?, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/77/23, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

The total assessed is in Chibnall, *Early Taxation Returns*, p. 100.

1336-40, Twentieth, TNA:PRO, E179/242/64, rot. 4 (WE).

1340, two Ninths and Fifteenths and tax on wool, TNA:PRO, E179/77/9, rot. 1d, 4 (S, B).

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1380, clerical Tenth and Poll tax, TNA:PRO, E179/35/12, rot. 1, m. 3; rot. 1d, m. 3d (S).

1406, clerical Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/38/660, m. 1d (S).

*Containing communal assessments only*

1217?, Carucage, TNA:PRO, E179/242/109, rot. 1 (S).

1220 or earlier, Carucage, TNA:PRO, E179/239/241, m.3 (WE, S).

1216-72, uncertain tax, TNA:PRO, E179/239/243, m.3d (B).

1334, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/378/24, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1336-7, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/378/27, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1337, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/77/4, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

The total assessed is in R. Glasscock (ed.), *The Lay Subsidy of 1334*(London, 1975), pp.15-22, and Chibnall, *Early Taxation Returns*, p. 100.

1338, three Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/6, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).

1339, three Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/7, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1340, two Ninths and Fifteenths and tax on wool, TNA:PRO, E179/77/8, m. 2d, 4, (S, B). Printed in *Nonarum Inquisitiones in Curia Scaccarii temp: regis Edwardi III*, Record Commission (London, 1807).

1342, two Ninths and Fifteenths and tax on wool, TNA:PRO, E179/77/11, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1346, two Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/13, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1347, two Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/14, m. 2 (WE w.m., S).

1348, two Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/15, m. 1 (WE w.m., S).

1349, three Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/16, m.2 (WE w.m., S).

1351, three Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/17, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1352, three Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/18, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1352, three Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/21, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1353, three Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/19, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1354, three Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/20, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1380, one and a half Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/25, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1388, half a Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/77/27, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1393, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/77/28, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1393, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/77/29, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1395, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/77/30, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1398, one and a half Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/31, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1432, one and one third Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/52, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

1446, one and a half Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/77/65, m.1 (WE w.m., S).

The total assessed is in Chibnall, *Early Taxation Returns*, p. 100.

1449, half a Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/77/66 (WE w.m., S).

1461, clerical Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/139/668, m. 2 (S).



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(The assessments for 1217, 1332, 1334, 1337 and 1446 are included in: A.C. Chibnall, *Early Taxation Returns. Taxation of Personal Property in 1332 and later*, BRS,14 (1966), pp. 91, 95, 100, 113)

### *Parish records*

None.

### *Other Ecclesiastical records*

Records of the archdeaconry of Buckingham

Miscellaneous registers 1483-1523: CBS, D-A/We/1 (relate to the whole county).

Printed in E.M. Elvey (ed.), *The Courts of the Archdeaconry of Buckingham 1483-1523*, BRS 19 (1975).

Visitation books, 1492-1788: CBS, D-A/V (relate to the whole county).

Other Fenny Stratford and Bletchley records (not an exhaustive list)

- Topographical and antiquarian notes and papers on, inter alia, Bletchley and district, mid-late 18C: British Library, William Cole Coll., Add. MS 5821.

- 19<sup>th</sup>-century antiquarian extracts from deeds, public records, wills etc, authorship nk, relating to Whaddon and neighbouring places, including Fenny Stratford and Bletchley, 1272-1838: British Library, Add. 37069.

- Deed relating to a burgage in Fenny Stratford, 1317: CBS, D/P39.

- Exchequer: King's Remembrancer: Ancient Deeds, Series D: Inventory of the goods late of John de Grey delivered by Simon de Baldreston, guardian of his lands, etc., to the executors of his will, within the manors of [inter alia] Water Eaton, Simpson, c1323 : TNA:PRO, E 210/1539.

- Grant of 1a. of arable in Water Eaton, 1358: CBS, D/P59

- Deed relating to messuage, garden in Fenny Stratford, 1397: CBS, D/P107.

- 2 deed relating to lands in Fenny Stratford, 1409: CBS, D/P129-30.

- 4 deeds relating to burgages in Fenny Stratford, 1416, 1432, 1451, 1476: CBS, D/P151, 169, 194, 230.

- Inquisition into dispute over messuages in Fenny Stratford, Parker v. Peyntour alias Stratton, 1429: *Cal. Pat. 1422-9*, p. 554.

- Grant of a croft in Water Eaton, 1432: CBS, D/P169

- Grant of a messuage in Water Eaton with a virgate of land, 1469: CBS, D-X629/1.

- Deed relating to arable piece in Fenny Stratford called Arcadewell, 1475: CBS, D/P229.

- 13 deeds relating to holdings in Simpson, 13-15C: CBs, see Parish Card Index

### 14.3 Early Modern Records (1500-1800)

#### *Manorial records*

Water Eaton

Legal documents (with 14C account and court roll), c.1550: GtrManCRO, E4/25/13  
Survey (with other manors) (1 vol.), 1699 (additions to 1740): CBS, D/BASM 9/6

Estreat roll (with other manors), 1679: CBS, D/BASM 9/22

Admissions and surrenders (1 bundle), 1679-1733: CBS, D/BASM 9/23-54

Court book, with rental, 1806, and survey, 1808 (with other manors), 1776-1832: CBS, D/BASM 9/5

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Manorial deeds and papers (with Fenny Stratford and Bletchley), 1769-93: CBS, D-DU, Bundle 1, nos. 179-184

Bye-laws (with Fenny Stratford and Bletchley), 1781: CBS, D 59/7/13

Quit rental (with other manors) (in bundle with other items), 1824-5: CBS, D/B 95b

Fenny Stratford

Survey, with other manors (vol) (with additions to 1740), 1669: CBS, D/BASM 9/6

Estreat roll, with other manors, 1679: CBS, D/BASM 9/22

Court roll, with Bletchley, 1679: CBS, D/BASM 9/4

Bye laws, 1717: CBS, D 59/7/12

Court book (with rental, 1806, and survey, 1808), with other manors 1776-1832: CBS, D/BASM 9/5

Bye laws, with Bletchley and Water Eaton 1781: CBS, D 59/7/13

Quit rental, with other manors (in bundle with other items) 1824-1825: CBS, D/B 95

Bletchley

Admissions and surrenders (with other manors) (1 bundle), 1647-1733: CBS,

D/BASM 9/23-54

Survey (with other manors) (1 vol.), 1669 (with additions to 1740): CBS, D/BASM 9/6

Estreat roll (with other manors), 1679: CBS, D/BASM 9/22

Court roll (with Fenny Stratford), 1679: CBS, D/BASM 9/4

Manorial papers, 18C: CBS, PR 19/28/1

Manorial deeds and papers (with Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton), 1769-93: CBS, D-DU, Bundle 1, nos. 179-184

Bye laws (with Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton), 1781: CBS, D 59/7/13

Court book with rental, 1806, and survey, 1808 (with other manors), 1776-1832: CBS, D/BASM 9/5

Quit rental (with other manors) (in bundle with other items), 1824 -5: CBS, D/B 95

Simpson

Court roll with quit rents and ameracements, 1771: CBS, D/BASM 65

Map of the manor, 1781: CBS, BAS maps 70

*Tax records*

FS = Fenny Stratford    WE = Water Eaton    B = Bletchley    S = Simpson

w.m. = with members

Containing assessments on named individuals

1523, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/78/91, m. 2, m. 5 (FS) 1 name only. Printed in Chibnall, 1524, p. 95

1524, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/78/92, rot. 7, 9 (B, WE, FS, S). Fenny Stratford has 2 entries, one each for the Bletchley and Simpson sides. Printed in A.C. Chibnall and A. Vere Woodman. (eds.), *Subsidy Roll for the County of Buckingham Anno 1524*, BRS 8 (1950), pp. 70-1, 84-5.

1524, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/78/99, rot. 3, 7 (B, S with FS).

1540-1, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/78/156 (FS, WE with B, S).

1544, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/78/130, m. 2, 9 (S, FS, WE, ?B).

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- 1545, Benevolence, TNA:PRO, E179/78/140, rot. 2 (B, S).
- 1545, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/78/159, m. 1d (FS, B, S). Extracts printed in Bradbrook, *History*.
- 1546, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/78/151, m. 1 (B, WE, FS, S).
- 1546, two Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/78/144, m.1 (WE w.m., S).
- 1547, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/78/152, rot. 6, m. 2 (B, WE, FS, S).
- 1549, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/79/163, rot. 9, m. 1, 2 (B, WE, FS, S).
- 1550, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/79/164, rot. 6 (B with WE, FS, S).
- 1551, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/79/165, rot. 1 (B with FS, S).
- 1594, three Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/79/220, m. 2 (WE, B, FS). Extracts in Bradbrook, *History*.
- 1594, Assessment for the above: CBS, D-X398/1
- 1598, three Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/79/241, m. 1, 4 (WE, B, FS, S).
- 1599, three Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/79/234, m. 1, 3 (B, WE, FS, S).
- 1599, Assessment for the above: CBS, D-X398/3
- 1600, three Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/79/239, m. 1, 4 (B, WE, FS, S).
- 1609, three Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/79/258, m. 2, 4 (WE w.m., S).
- 1609, Assessment for the above: CBS, D-X398/4
- 1611, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/79/268, rot. 2d (S).
- 1622, 2 Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/79/269, rot. 3d (S).
- 1625, three Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/79/281, rot. 1d, 3d (WE w.m., S).
- 1625, Assessment for the above: CBS, D-X398/5
- 1628, five Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/80/290, rot. 1d (WE w.m.).
- 1628, five Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/80/293, rot. 1d, 3 (WE w.m., S).
- 1628, Assessment for the above: CBS, D-X398/2
- 1641, four Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/80/296, rot. 4, 6 (S, WE w.m.).
- 1641, two Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/80/307, rot. 1d, 3d (WE w.m., S).
- 1641, Assessment for the above: CBS, D-X398/6
- 1662, Hearth tax, TNA:PRO, E179/80/349, rot. 3, 3d, 11d (WE, FS, S).  
(CBS, Local Studies Library has a microfilm copy)
- 1662, Hearth tax, TNA:PRO, E179/80/351, rot. 7d (S).
- 1663, four Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/79/267 Part 6, rot. 2d, 3d (WE w.m., S).
- 1664, four Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/80/334, rot. 3d, 4 (WE w.m., S).
- 1664, Assessment for the above: CBS, D-X398/7
- 1671-2, Hearth tax, TNA:PRO, E179/80/362, m. 16, 26 (S, B parishes).
- 1779, Land Tax assessments (B, WE, FS): CBS, PR 19/28/2
- Containing communal assessments only
- Hen VIII, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/78/158, m.1 (WE w.m., S).
- 1544, four Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/78/116, rot. 2 (WE w.m., S).

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- 1547, two Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/78/143, rot. 6 (WE w.m., S).  
1553, two Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/171 (WE w.m., S).  
Eliz, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/79/250, rot. 1d (WE w.m., S).  
1559, two Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/183, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).  
1572, Subsidy, CBS, D/DV/6/8.  
1587, two Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/204, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).  
1588, two Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/203, rot. 2 (WE w.m., S).  
1591, four Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/208 Part 1, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).  
1593, six Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/211, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).  
1596, six Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/215, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).  
1598, six Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/222, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).  
1599, six Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/224, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).  
early 17C, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/79/248 (WE w.m., S).  
early 17C, Fifteenth and Tenth, TNA:PRO, E179/79/252, m.1 (WE w.m., S).  
1604, eight Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/242A, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).  
1605, eight Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/243, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).  
1606, six Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/261, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).  
1610, six Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/255, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).  
1610, three Subsidies, TNA:PRO, E179/388/12 Part 13 (S).  
1624, three Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/271, rot. 1 (WE w.m., S).  
1625, three Fifteenths and Tenths, TNA:PRO, E179/79/273, rot. 1 (WE w.m.).  
1641, four Subsidies TNA:PRO, E179/79/267 Part 1, rot. 1d, (WE w.m.).  
1657, Assessment for the army and navy, TNA:PRO, E179/80/325A (WE w.m., S).  
1658, Assessment for the army and navy, TNA:PRO, E179/80/325, m.1 (WE w. m, S).  
1660, Assessment to defend the Commonwealth, TNA:PRO, E179/80/331 (WE w.m., S).  
1669, Poll tax, TNA:PRO, E179/80/342 (WE w.m., S).  
1671, Subsidy, TNA:PRO, E179/299/8 Part 1, m. 1, 7 (WE, S).  
The summary of this document is transcribed in Chibnall, *Early Taxation Returns*.  
1678, Poll tax, WTNA:PRO, E179/80/344 (WE w.m., S).  
1781, Land Tax Assessment: CBS, D-DU/3/78 (FS)  
c1780-1832, Land Tax Assessments: CBS, Q/RPL

### *Parish records*

#### Registers

Fenny Stratford: Baptisms, marriages and burials, 1730-20C: CBS, PR 75A/1/1

Bishops Transcripts 1575-1831: CBS, D-A/83, 199/31A

Bletchley: Baptisms, marriages and burials, 1577-20C: CBS, PR 19/1/1-33

Bishops Transcripts 1575-1829: CBS, D-A/T20, T21, 198/15



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Simpson: Baptisms, marriages and burials, 1719-20C: CBS, PR 180/1/1-8 Bishops Transcripts 1575-1837: CBS, D-A/T/168/2, /T/202/16.

### Glebe Terriers

Fenny Stratford: 1740: CBS, D-A/Gt/4/7

Bletchley: 1707, 1724: CBS, PR 19/3/1 1724 terrier printed in Cole's *Bletchley Diary*.

Simpson: 1674, 1693, 1706, 1724: CBS, D-A/Gt/8/11/1-4 1625, 1700, 1703, 1724, 1784, 1822: Lincoln Diocesan Registry xiv/92, xv/44 Inventory, 1782: CBS, D-A/Gt/8/11/5

### Churchwardens, Overseers

Fenny Stratford: overseers 'accounts, 1653-87: CBS, PR 19/12/1

Extracts printed in Bradbrook, 'Fenny Stratford in the seventeenth century'.

Bletchley: Poor Law indemnity certificates, removal orders from/to Beds parishes, 1691-1815: Beds and Luton Archives, P15/10/2, P49/13/1/15, P49/13/1/38,

P30/13/1/2/113, P30/13/2

Simpson: churchwardens' account book, 1778-1879: CBS, PR 180/5/1

'Feoffee Estate' account book, 1783-1873: CBS, PR 180/25/1

'list of parish records held in church': CBS, Edward Legg file, B.23

### *Charities*

Bletchley and Water Eaton charities, parish records, 1708-1837: CBS, PR 19/25/1-3

Bletchley and Fenny Stratford charities, Commissioners for Charitable Uses' records, 1621/2, 1655, 1677, 1710-11: TNA:PRO, C 93/9/16, /23/3, 36/20, 350/16

Simpson charities, Commissioners for Charitable Uses' records, 1669/70, 1677/8, 1703/4: TNA:PRO, C 93/31/9, /36/20, /50/3

### Other

List of institutions to Bletchley rectorship, 1605-1768: CBS, PR 19/3/1

Bletchley Parish Church. 3 plans, n.d: CBS, D-X686/4.

Bletchley Inclosure Award, 1813: CBS, IR96

### Ecclesiastical records and returns of religion

#### *Probate*

Apart from wills proved in the PCC, which are not considered here, Fenny Stratford and Bletchley wills would have been proved in the court of the archdeaconry of Buckingham or, very occasionally, in the Consistory Court of Lincoln. No Buckingham archdeaconry wills survive from before the last decades of the fifteenth century, however. All pre-1660 wills are indexed in:

J. Hunt, R. Bettridge & A. Toplis, *Index to Probate Records of the Archdeaconry Court of Buckingham 1483-1660 and of the Buckinghamshire Peculiars 1420-1660*, BRS 32 (2001).

For later periods indexes to probate records of the archdeaconry court of Buckingham are available at the CBS.

#### Other records of the archdeaconry of Buckingham

Miscellaneous registers 1483-1523: CBS, D-A/We/1 (relate to the whole county).

Printed in E.M. Elvey (ed.), *The Courts of the Archdeaconry of Buckingham 1483-1523*, BRS, 19 (1975).

Visitation books, 1492-1788: CBS, D-A/V (relate to the whole county).

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Archdeaconry church inspection, 1637: CBS, D/A/V15.

Misc items including churchwardens and some probate inventories, 1542-1851: CBS, D-A/X

Depositions of witnesses and defendants, 1578-1687: CBS, D-A/C/23-4

Miscellaneous court papers, 1600-38: CBS, D-A/C/25-28

Marriage bonds and allegations, 1623, 1663-1849: CBS, D-A/M

Fee books and accounts, 1717-1863: CBS, D-A/Fm/1-10

### *Other records*

Surveys of Bletchley and Simpson Rectories (and Fenny Stratford chapelry), 1647–56: Lambeth Palace Library, COMM/12A/3, fos. 67, 69.

1563, 1605 diocesan returns: A. Dyer and D.M. Palliser (eds.), *The Diocesan Population Returns for 1563 and 1603*, Records of Social and Economic History, N.S. 31 (2005), pp. 238, 363.

Anne Whiteman (ed.), *The Compton Census of 1676 : a Critical Edition*, Records of Social and Economic History, NS 10 (1986), p. 370-1.

### Military surveys and musters

1522 Military Survey: A.C. Chibnall (ed.), *The Certificate of Musters for Buckinghamshire in 1522*, BRS 17 (1973), pp. 322-4. (Simpson's return is missing.)

1535 muster roll: TNA:PRO E 101/58/16, and see R.T. Baldwin, *The Certificate of Musters for Buckinghamshire, 1535* (unpub. transcript, PRO Library, 1989)

Buckinghamshire Posse Comitatus 1798: I.F.W. Beckett, *The Buckinghamshire Posse Comitatus 1798*, BRS 22 (1985), pp. 294-7, 310-12, 323, 325.

### County records with Fenny Stratford and Bletchley entries

- Return of vintners, innholders and alehousekeepers in Bucks (transcript), 1577: CBS,

D-X423/1. The list of names can be found in the A2A catalogue, and is printed in Bradbrook, *History*.

- Registers of licensed victuallers, 1753-1828: CBS, Q/RLV

- Land Tax Assessments, c1780-1832: CBS, Q/RPL

Quarter Sessions - for Fenny Stratford and Bletchley references in these, see: W. le Hardy and G.L. Reckitt (eds),

*County of Buckingham Calendar to the Sessions Records, 1678-1733*, 8 vols (Aylesbury, 1933-87).

Indexes for later periods are available at CBS.

### Other Fenny Stratford and Bletchley records

#### *Lists of residents*

John Wilson (ed.), *Buckinghamshire Contributions for Ireland 1642 ...*, BRS 21 (1983), pp. 15-16, 23, 24.

List of householders, by street, 1725: British Library, William Cole Coll., Add. MS 5821.

Printed in Bradbrook, *History of Fenny Stratford*.

#### *Title deeds (not an exhaustive list)*

- The BAS Collection at CBS contains many title deeds to properties in Fenny Stratford, Bletchley and Simpson, including the manor of Simpson, 17-19C: CBS, BAS Coll.

- 6 deeds relating to holdings in Simpson, 16C: CBs, see Parish Card Index

- Deed relating to Cokk on the Hope Inn in Fenny Stratford, 1501: CBS, D/P270.

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- deeds relating to the manor of Simpson, 1559-75: CBS, D/P342, 353-7, 362
- Property in Bletchley (Walducks' Hill] (35 deeds), 1625-85: CBS, D-X100/1-35.
- Various Duncumbe estate properties in Water Eaton, 1626-1884: CBS, D-DU Bundle 1, nos. 1-403, D-DU/3
- 18 deeds and documents relating to property in Bletchley, 1630-1874: CBS, D-X281/1, 2.
- 2 deed relating to properties in Fenny Stratford, 11647, 1678: CBS, D-X 1670/1,2.
- 4 deeds relating to property in Bletchley, 1652, 1725-1879: CBS, D-X188.
- Deeds and documents relating to Westbury Estate properties in Bletchley and Water Eaton, 1651-1755: CBS, D169/13, 16, 18, 38, 39.
- 4 deeds relating to estates, including the manor, in Simpson (Hanmer, Warren etc), 1691-19C: CBS, D/B 55, 87-9, 122.
- Deeds relating to 7½ a. in Water Eaton fields, 1693: CBS, D/Dv3/157.
- Final Concord relating to lands in Bletchley, Newport Pagnell and Olney, 1697/8: CBS, D 27/88.
- 12 deeds relating to various small properties in Fenny Stratford, 1697-1868: CBS, D/DV/3/75, 76, 81-90.
- Deeds relating to messuage, orchard and meadow in Fenny Stratford, 1699-1801: CBS, D/B 93.
- 6 deeds to a cottage in Fenny Stratford, 1700-50: CBS, D117/176-81
- Deeds of Duncombe Estate lands at Water Eaton, 1701-1732: CBS, D/B/71.
- Deeds of Ager family estate in Fenny Stratford, 1701-1859: CBS, D59/1-9, D/X 735
- Deeds relating to property in Fenny Stratford, 1719-1908: CBS, D-X 1502.
- 3 title deeds to property in Bletchley, 1736, 1765, 1899: CBS, D 97/9.
- Final concord concerning the manor of Water Eaton, 1744: British Library, Add. Ch. 76397.
- Deeds of cottages and land in Simpson, 1771-1904: CBS, D-X698.
- Deeds relating to the Red House, Fenny Stratford, 1780-1969: CBS, D-X 1595.
- Admission to a copyhold messuage, 1784: D59/12.
- 2 terriers, 2 sales particulars, 2 mortgages, late 18C – 1827: CBS, PR 19/28/3-8.
- 3 deeds to premises in Bletchley, 1736-1899: CBS, D97/9.

### *Chancery, Star Chamber, Exchequer records (not an exhaustive list)*

- Star Chamber: Richard Parker v. James Mynshow, bailiff of Fenny Stratford, William Phyllyppes, and others concerning carrying of grain from land occupied by plaintiff in Fenny Stratford to Lord Grey of Wilton's barn at Eton, 1509x47: TNA:PRO, STAC 2/29/122.
- Star Chamber: Elizabeth, late the wife of Thomas Piggott serjeant-at-law v Thomas Cottes, John Phyllyp, (Felp), John Hamys of Simpson and others concerning pulling down a messuage called the Cocke of the Houpe in Fenny Stratford by command of Lord Grey of Wilton, 1509x47: TNA:PRO, STAC 2/35/52
- Chancery records: Thomas Lichfeld v. Florence Brett, late the wife of lord Grey of Wilton.: Agistment of the park of Bletchley, 1511-19: TNA:PRO, C 1/1507/33.
- Chancery records: Parke v. Lye, Ipswell, Couley: detention of deeds of lands in Fenny Stratford and elsewhere, 1515-18: TNA:PRO, C 1/437/36.
- Chancery records: Lord Grey of Wilton v. John Abrahall: manors of [inter alia] Water-Hall, Eaton, and Bletchley, 1518x1529: TNA:PRO, C 1/516/20.
- Chancery records: Gresham v. Palmer: detention of deeds and waste of lands in Stanbridge, Beds, and Fenny Stratford, 1533-8: TNA:PRO, C 1/801/36-37.

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- Chancery records: Pygot v. Pygot and Wyllet: messuage and lands in Fenny Stratford, 1553-5: TNA:PRO, C 1/1373/94.
- Exchequer: King's Remembrancer: Ancient Deeds, Series D: Lord Grey of Wilton to William Shepley of Fenny Stratford, yeoman: Assignment of lease of lands in [inter alia] Bletchley, Simpson, 11 Eliz [1568/9] : TNA:PRO, E 210/10201.
- Star Chamber: John Bury v. Thomas Hore, William Mere, and Christopher Atkinson concerning an affray at Water-Eaton, 1558x1603: TNA:PRO, STAC 7/10/39.
- Exchequer: King's Remembrancer: Inquisition as to the possessions of Thomas, Lord Grey of Wilton, attainted, in [inter alia] Bletchley, Fenny Stratford and Water Eaton., ?c1603: TNA:PRO, E 178/3572.
- Exchequer, King's Remembrancer, Depositions in case of Tayler v. Massingbeard, Coles: Rectory of Bletchley. Custom of tything, tithes due in 1641-4, 1651-52: TNA:PRO, E 134/1651-52/Hil2. – likely to be informative about parochial status of Fenny Stratford in Bletchley parish.
- Chancery records: Hampson and Hampson v Hale and Whitfield: Bletchley. Bill and two answers, 1652: TNA:PRO, C 10/16/68.
- Exchequer, King's Remembrancer, Depositions in case of Hawes v. Goodman, Lucas: Rectory and parish of Simpson, township of Simpson, endship of Fenny Stratford. Tithes, 1728/9: TNA:PRO, E 134/2Geo2/East1. – likely to be informative about parochial status of Fenny Stratford in Simpson parish.

### *Miscellaneous*

- Topographical and antiquarian notes and papers on, inter alia, Bletchley and district, mid-late 18C: British Library, William Cole Coll., Add. MS 5821.
- Survey of properties in (inter alia) Fenny Stratford and Bletchley, 1611-12: Herts Archives and Local Studies, DE/HL/12314.
- Appointment of surveyors of timber to E. of Antrim's estate in Whaddon, Bletchley, 1639/9: CBS, D/X1279.
- Letter to Sir William Campion, commander of the Royalist garrison at Boarstall, from Sir Thomas Fairfax, written at Water Eaton, 3 June 1646: E Sussex RO, DAN/104.
- Duncombe Estate papers, Railway, Official, Estate, Misc, dates nk: CBS, D-DU Bundle 6.
- F.G. Stokes (ed.), *The Bletchley Diary of the Rev. William Cole 1765-67* (London, 1931).
- 19<sup>th</sup>-century antiquarian extracts from deeds, public records, wills etc, authorship nk, relating to Whaddon and neighbouring places, including Fenny Stratford and Bletchley, 1272-1838: British Library, Add. 37069.

### Maps

- Browne Willis of Whaddon Hall's estate in Bletchley (with field names, acreages), 1718: CBS, Ma 299/1T
- The same in Water Eaton, Fenny Stratford: CBS, Ma 299/2T, MaR 44/3
- Manor of Simpson, 1781: CBS, BAS maps 70 (and a tracing: Ma261/1T)
- Bow Brickhill, incl. Fenny Stratford, Inclosure map (and 2 copies), 1793: CBS, IR/27R, D 59/1-2, D-B/270
- Bletchley Inclosure map, 1813: CBS, IR/96Q

### Trade Directories

No pre-nineteenth-century Directory has an entry for Bletchley. For Fenny Stratford, see *The Universal British Directory of Trade and Commerce Vol 3* (London, 1794) pp. 102-3.

### Local Newspapers



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No newspapers were printed in Buckinghamshire until the nineteenth century.

### 14.4 Modern Records (Post 1800)

Due to the volume of records existing from this period only those likely to cast a light on housing by-laws and the installation of services are recorded, in accordance with the 'Brief for Historical Documentary Research'. A list of useful secondary sources covering the period is also included.

#### Housing by-laws and Installation of services

In the nineteenth century Initially local government control seems to have been exercised by the vestries and overseers of the chapelry of Fenny Stratford (in the town) and the parishes of Bletchley and Simpson, but from 1858 until 1895-8, when the entire parishes of Fenny Stratford (recently created in the 1880s), Simpson and Bletchley (less Water Eaton, which followed in 1934) and Simpson were incorporated into the new Fenny Stratford Urban District (renamed Bletchley UDC in 1911), a variety of bodies exercised a fleeting jurisdiction in Fenny Stratford; a Burial Board, a Sanitary Committee, and a Water Supply Committee. The records of all these bodies have been deposited at the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies and those which seem likely to bear directly on housing by-laws and installation of services are listed below, along with others which might just be useful.

#### *Records of Bletchley UDC and its predecessor bodies*

##### Bletchley parish

Churchwardens' accounts (1 vol.), 1811-62: CBS, PR19/5/1

Churchwardens' accounts and vestry minutes (1 vol.), 1863-1913: CBS, PR19/5/1

Vestry minutes and churchwardens' accounts (1 vol.), 1913-56: CBS, PR19/8/1

##### Simpson parish

Simpson overseers' poor rate assessment book, 1899-1900: CBS, PR 180/11/1

Simpson 'Feoffee Estate' account book, 1783-1873: CBS, PR 180/25/1

##### Fenny Stratford chapelry/parish

Fenny Stratford Vestry minute book, 1862-94 (with churchwardens' accounts 1861-89 and Underwoods charity accounts 1865-88) : CBS, DC14/39/2

Fenny Stratford Burial Board minute book, 1858-95: CBS, DC14/39/3

Fenny Stratford Parochial Sanitary Committee minute books, 1879-95: CBS, DC14/39/4,5

Fenny Stratford Water Supply Committee minute books, 1888-91: CBS, DC14/39/6,7

Fenny Stratford overseers, bundle of vouchers, 1897: CBS, DC14/39/11

Correspondence about water supply of Fenny Stratford and District Water Supply Joint Committee, 1889-1898. : CBS, DC14/38/2

Fenny Stratford and District Water Supply Committee minute book, May-Dec 1896. : CBS, DC14/38/3

##### Fenny Stratford, later Bletchley UDC

Fenny Stratford and (from 1911) Bletchley UDC minute books, 1895-1974: CBS, DC14/1/2-57

Water/ Waterworks Committee minute books, 1915-1932: CBS, DC14/1/58

Highways and Works Committee minute books, 1915-1932: CBS, DC14/1/59

Various committees' minute books, 1918-1932: CBS, DC14/1/60

Correspondence, copies of building by-laws and regulations, 1926-67: CBS, DC14/1/68, 69

By-laws on common lodging houses, 1896: CBS, DC14/1/75

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Bucks CC by-laws for prevention of nuisances, 1930: CBS, DC14/1/76

Bucks CC by-laws and regulations, 1939: CBS, DC14/1/77/4

By-laws concerning the recreation ground, 1902: CBS, DC14/1/77/1

Regulations and charges for water-supply, 1936: CBS, DC14/1/77/3

Mortgages to Public Works Loan Commissioners, 1902-22: CBS, DC14/2/1-4

Waterworks, water supply, sewerage, drainage. 1907-1971: CBS, DC14/10/4 - 17.

Development and property, 1920-1970: CBS, DC14/10/18 - 72.

Canals (inc. copies of Acts 1793, 1805) 1922-1956: CBS, DC14/10/73 - 76.

Annual audit and District Auditor. 1927-1968: CBS, DC14/10/77 - 82.

Footpaths, rights of way, roads: general, diversion, stopping-up, extinguishing. 1927-1968: CBS, DC14/10/83 - 95.

Recreation grounds, bathing places, swimming pools. 1929-1974: CBS, DC14/10/96 - 103.

Boundary reviews. 1930-1964: CBS, DC14/10/104-110.

Burial grounds. 1930-1968: CBS, DC14/10/111-113.

Bletchley-Bedford railway. 1955-1973: CBS, DC14/10/114-117.

All other subjects. 1894-1974: CBS, DC14/10/118-167.

Treasurer's accounts, ledgers, wages accounts, rate books, valuations etc 1906-1960s: CBS, DC14/11-15

Housing records of tenants etc, almost nothing before 1926. : CBS, DC14/18

Drainage map (OS 25"), 1900. : CBS, DC14/22/1

Plan of Sandhouse waterworks and mains, 1944-59. : CBS, DC14/22/4

Register of factories, 1908-64: CBS, DC14/29/1

Annual reports of Medical Officer and sanitary Inspector, 1910-71: CBS, DC14/31/1

### *Installation of services*

#### Water

In 1892 the Fenny Stratford Parochial Sanitary Committee established water works at Great Brickhill, but by 1911 the town had expanded so much that a new supply, drawn from a well at Sandhouse in Woburn, had to be created by the new UDC's Waterworks Committee. In 1902 sewage works were completed. The records of both committees are listed above.

In about 1960 the borough water supply was taken over by the Buckinghamshire Water Board (which became part of Anglian Water in 1973). The only records of the Board which have been found are:

Seal book, 1942-5: CBS, AR 89/2006

Map of Bucks Water Board area, 1 inch to 1 mile, 1960: CBS, DC13/38/12

Misc. records rel. to engineering projects, incl. contracts, bills of quantities and specifications, 1961-73: CBS, D/X 1370.

#### Electricity

From the Kelly's Directories of 1903 and 1928-39 it appears that Bletchley was first supplied with electricity in about 1930, by the Northampton Electric Light and Power Company. That company was nationalised in 1948 (becoming part of the East Midlands Electricity Board, later Powergen). The whereabouts of its archives is not known, but the following has been found:

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Signed minute book of general and board meetings, 1936-48: Univ of Nottingham Dept of MSS, BEN 1-3.

Companies Registration Office file: TNA:PRO, BT 31/31154/28640

### Gas

The town was lighted with gas from 1857, by the Fenny Stratford Gas Light and Coke Company Ltd. In 1928 it was taken over by the British Gas Light Company, which in 1948 was privatised as part of the Eastern Gas Board (and is now Transco Plc). Its records are probably now in the Transco Archives, but the following have also been found:

Printed annual report and balance sheet of the Fenny Stratford Gas Light and Coke Company Ltd, 1860 and 1910: Beds and Luton Archives, HN10/361/Warren1, 9

Fenny Stratford Gas Light and Coke Co's file at Companies Registry: TNA:PRO, BT 41/237/1351.

### Telephone

The telephone exchange opened in 1905 (BT Archives Post Office Circulars 1905, p. 461).

### Railway

The London and Birmingham Railway line had a station close to Old Bletchley village, completed 1838-40. In 1846-9 two branch line lines were built, connecting Bletchley to Bedford and Cambridge (with a station in Fenny Stratford), and to Buckingham and Oxford.

### Useful secondary sources

William Bradbrook, *History of Fenny Stratford, Bucks.* (Leighton Buzzard, post-1911).

William Bradbrook, 'Manor court rolls of Fenny Stratford and Etone (Bletchley)', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 11 (1919-26), pp. 289-314.

William Bradbrook, 'Fenny Stratford in the seventeenth century', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 12 (1927-33), pp. 6-23.

E. Hollis, 'Farm accounts – late fourteenth century', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 12 (1927-33), pp. 165-92. Based on Water Eaton manorial accounts.

F.G. Stokes (ed.), *The Bletchley Diary of the Rev. William Cole, 1765-67* (London, 1931). Rector of Bletchley.

F.W. Bennitt, *Bletchley* (Leighton Buzzard, 1933).

A.J. Shelton, 'Bletchley: the results of planned expansion' (unpub. BA thesis, Univ of Manchester, 1963). Copy in CBS, Local Studies Lib.

Peter S. Richards, *Bletchley: the Influence of Railways on Town Growth* (1964).

Edward Legg, 'The street development of Fenny Stratford', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 17 (1961-5), pp. 72-81.

Edward Legg, 'Canal settlement in Fenny Stratford', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 19 (1971-4), pp. 67-72.

Edward Legg, 'Education in Fenny Stratford', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 22 (1980), pp. 33-47.

M. Reed, 'Decline and recovery in a provincial urban network: Buckinghamshire towns, 1350-1800', in M. Reed (ed.), *English Towns in Decline 1350 to 1800* (1986), pp. 11, 17, 28, 35-8.

Edward Legg, 'Water Eaton mill', *Records of Buckinghamshire* 45 (2005), pp. 161-8.

### 14.5 Key issues and recommendations for further study

No social and economic history of Fenny Stratford and Bletchley has been written, yet its origins, as a town in divided ownership, only partly a deliberate seigniorial foundation, are unusual and interesting (though not unique - its neighbour Stony Stratford was similarly divided). The sources for

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its medieval heyday are not abundant, but there are probably sufficient for something to be discovered about the nature of its government, in particular the extent to which it was able to create institutions of self-government independent of its manorial lord (certainly something better than the rather inadequate discussion in the VCH), and the reasons for its long, slow decline in the late medieval and early modern periods.

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<sup>i</sup> *VCH Bucks, iv* (London, 1927), pp. 274-83.

<sup>ii</sup> *VCH Bucks*; Bradbrook, *History of Fenny Stratford*; Reed, 'Buckinghamshire towns, 1350-1800', pp. 28, 38.

<sup>iii</sup> Bradbrook, 'Fenny Stratford in the seventeenth century'.

<sup>iv</sup> *VCH Bucks*; (1781 map), CBS, BAS maps 70; (1370 inquisition) *Cal. Inq. p. M., 13: Edward III, 1370-73* (London, 1954), no. 30, p. 22

<sup>v</sup> (List of householders, 1725) British Library, William Cole Coll., Add. MS 5821 (printed in Bradbrook, *History of Fenny Stratford*); Bradbrook, 'Fenny Stratford in the seventeenth century'.