

# Olney

## Buckinghamshire Historic Towns Assessment Report



*Olney from the south-east, 1930 – Britain from Above @ English Heritage*



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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## 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 Olney 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 town and on a semi-quantitative method for defining local townscape character. The Historic Towns methodology complements the well-established process of conservation area appraisal by its complete coverage, greater 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 project forms part of an extensive historic and natural environment characterisation programme by Buckinghamshire County Council.

Olney is situated in next to by the river Ouse. There appear to have been some early antecedents as there is evidence for a substantial Roman settlement to the north of town at Ashfurlong.

Olney is one of the earliest documented settlements in the county, with a charter dating back to AD 979 records the boundary extent of Ollanege thought to mean 'Ola's Island'. Olney is also thought to be the venue of the Witan or meeting of the king's council in 1016. Before the conquest, Olney belonged to Borgret, a power lord and descendant of the King of Mercia. It appears that the early settlement was focussed at the southern end of the town, around the church, mill, market place and river. However local tradition asserts that that an early church and possibly some sort of settlement was located at the northern end of the town at the present Castle Inn, although this is yet to be proven archaeologically.

Following the Conquest, Olney, or Olnei, was held by Geoffrey, Bishop of Coutances, a loyal supporter of King William I (the Conqueror). After William's death Geoffrey supported William's son Robert and lost his lands when William's other son, William Rufus was crowned. These lands were subsequently given to the Earl of Chester.

By the 13<sup>th</sup> century Olney had grown from a large village to a planned borough, first mention of which is in 1237. The borough is distinctive, delineated by the High Street, with long burgage plots laid out at right angles and enveloped by the parallel back streets of East and West Street. The town possessed a weekly market and annual fair.

During the Civil war Olney aligned itself to the Parliamentary cause; along with Newport Pagnell the town was thought to be of strategic importance and a garrison of soldiers was stationed there. In 1643 there was a skirmish at Olney Bridge, as Royalist forces from Northampton failed in their attempt to drive out the Parliamentarians from the town.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century Olney became associated with its famous residents, the poet William Cowper who lived here from 1767 to 1786 and John Newton the town's curate from 1764 - 1780. During that time both men collaborated to write the 'Olney Hymns', and Cowper is acknowledged as producing some of his greatest work. Olney was also of considerable importance as a coaching town in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and by 1754 contained 27 inns.

Olney became renowned for its Lace making although the industry went into decline by the late 18<sup>th</sup> 19<sup>th</sup> century and the town was said to be poor and depressed, it was not known for any prosperous enterprises. The 19<sup>th</sup> century census returns indicate that the townfolk were mainly employed in the poorly paid farming, shoemaking and lace industries or in local retail and construction trades such as butchery, bakery, brewing, carpentry and building.

Fortunes changed in the late 19th century with the opening of the Northampton to Bedford railway line in 1872. This was the catalyst for industrialisation in the town most notably the Hinde & Mann, Cowleys and Drages shoe factories. This arguably initiated the decline of the cottage shoe industry conducted in the workshops attached to many houses throughout the town. The shoe factories themselves declined during the first half of the twentieth century, particularly after the First World War, but some smaller concerns did survive in Olney until the 1960's. The main industry to survive in Olney was the Peabody or Cowper tannery located at the southern end of the town, although the business also waned during the depression.

By the second half of the twentieth century, Olney developed substantially as a dormitory development for surrounding towns; Milton Keynes, Bedford and Northampton. Extensive residential developments to the west of the town all but swamped the existing town which up until then comprised a long, wide, north-south high street, with two back streets (East Street and West Street) and a handful of side streets at its north and south ends. Despite the accretions of modern development and the influence of Milton Keynes, Olney still retains its identity and historic character as an active country town. The High Street and Market Place still remain an active focus for commerce and trade.

The culmination of this report is the production of nine historic urban zones that can be used to indicate areas of known archaeological potential; areas that may benefit from more detailed archaeological or documentary research and areas with limited known archaeological potential.

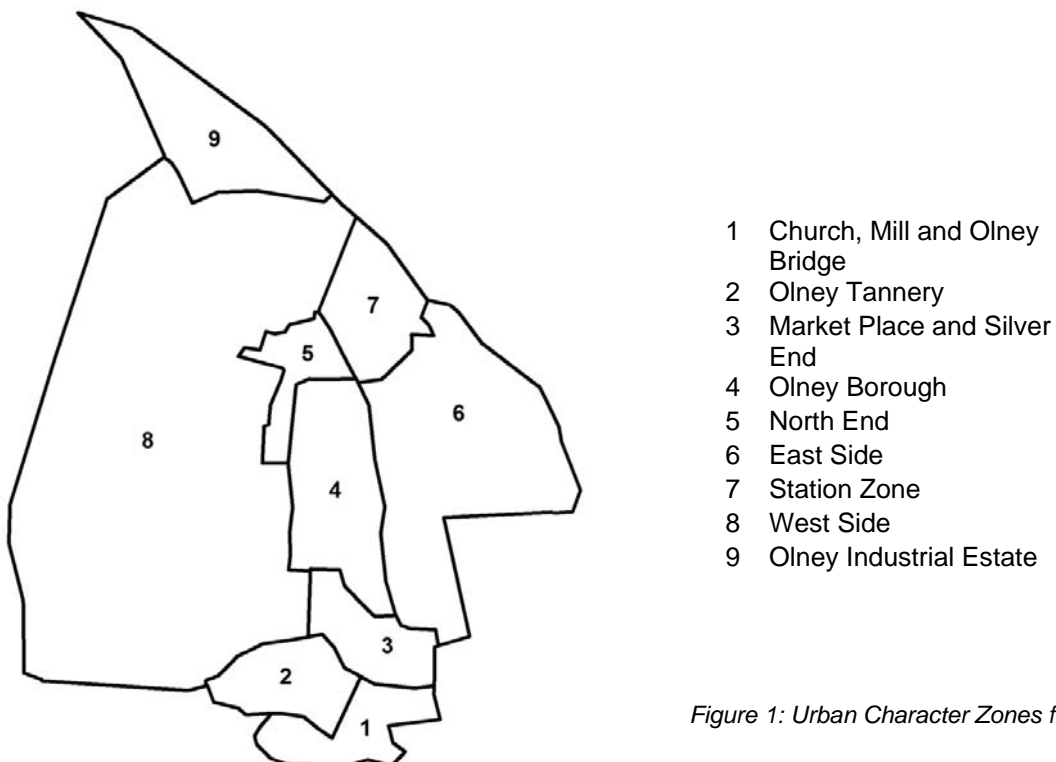


Figure 1: Urban Character Zones for Olney

Olney Historic Town Assessment

| Period                       | Olney                                     |   |
|------------------------------|---|---|
| Saxon<br>(410-1066)          | Mint                                      | No  |
|                              | Minster                                   | No  |
|                              | Royal Manor                               | No  |
|                              | Burh status                               | No  |
|                              | ASC Reference                             | AD 979 as <i>Ollanega</i>   |
| Domesday<br>(1086)           | Domesday Reference                        | Yes   |
|                              | Number of Manors                          | One   |
|                              | Watermills                                | One mill  |
|                              | Domesday population (recorded households) | 24 villagers; 5 smallholders; 5 slaves                                  |
|                              | Settlement type                           | town?   |
| 'Medieval<br>(1066-1536)     | Borough status                            | 1237  |
|                              | Burgage plots                             | Yes   |
|                              | Guild house/fraternity                    | No  |
|                              | Castle                                    | No?   |
|                              | Civic structures                          | No?   |
|                              | Fair Charter                              | 1316 Charter to Ralph Basset  |
|                              | Church                                    | St Peter & St Paul's church   |
|                              | Market Charter                            | 1223 Prescriptive to Earl of Chester                                    |
|                              | Market House                              | Butchers Shambles 1440-1  |
|                              | Monastic presence                         | No  |
|                              | Manorial records                          | No  |
|                              | Routeway connections                      |   |
|                              | Inns/taverns (reference of)               | N/A   |
| Windmills/watermills         | 2 mills                                   |   |
| Settlement type              | Borough                                   |   |
| Post Medieval<br>(1536-1800) | Industry                                  | Lace industry (from 17 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>Tanning                |
|                              | 1577 Return of Vintners                   | 1 vintner; 1 inn holder; 8 alehouse keepers                             |
|                              | Market Charter                            | continued   |
|                              | Market house                              | Shiel Hall, Market Square   |
|                              | Fair Charter                              | continued   |
|                              | Inns                                      | The Cock  |
|                              | Watermills                                | One Town mill site  |
|                              | Proximity to turnpike                     | 1754 Newport Pagnell to Olney<br>1790 Cold Brayfield to Newport Pagnell |
|                              | Enclosure date                            | 1767 parish<br>1803 pasture in Olney parish                             |
|                              | Population (1801)                         | 2003  |
| Settlement type              | Borough                                   |   |
| Modern<br>(Post 1800)        | Railway station                           | Yes (now dismantled)  |
|                              | Modern development                        | Yes – Aspreys development   |
|                              | Canal Wharf                               | No  |
|                              | Significant local industries              | Shoe industry (19 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>Tanning                     |
|                              | Population (2001)                         | 6032  |
| Settlement type              | Medium market town                        |   |

Table 1: Checklist for Olney

## **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 Olney 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 Buckinghamshire Historic Environment Record (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.

#### 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.



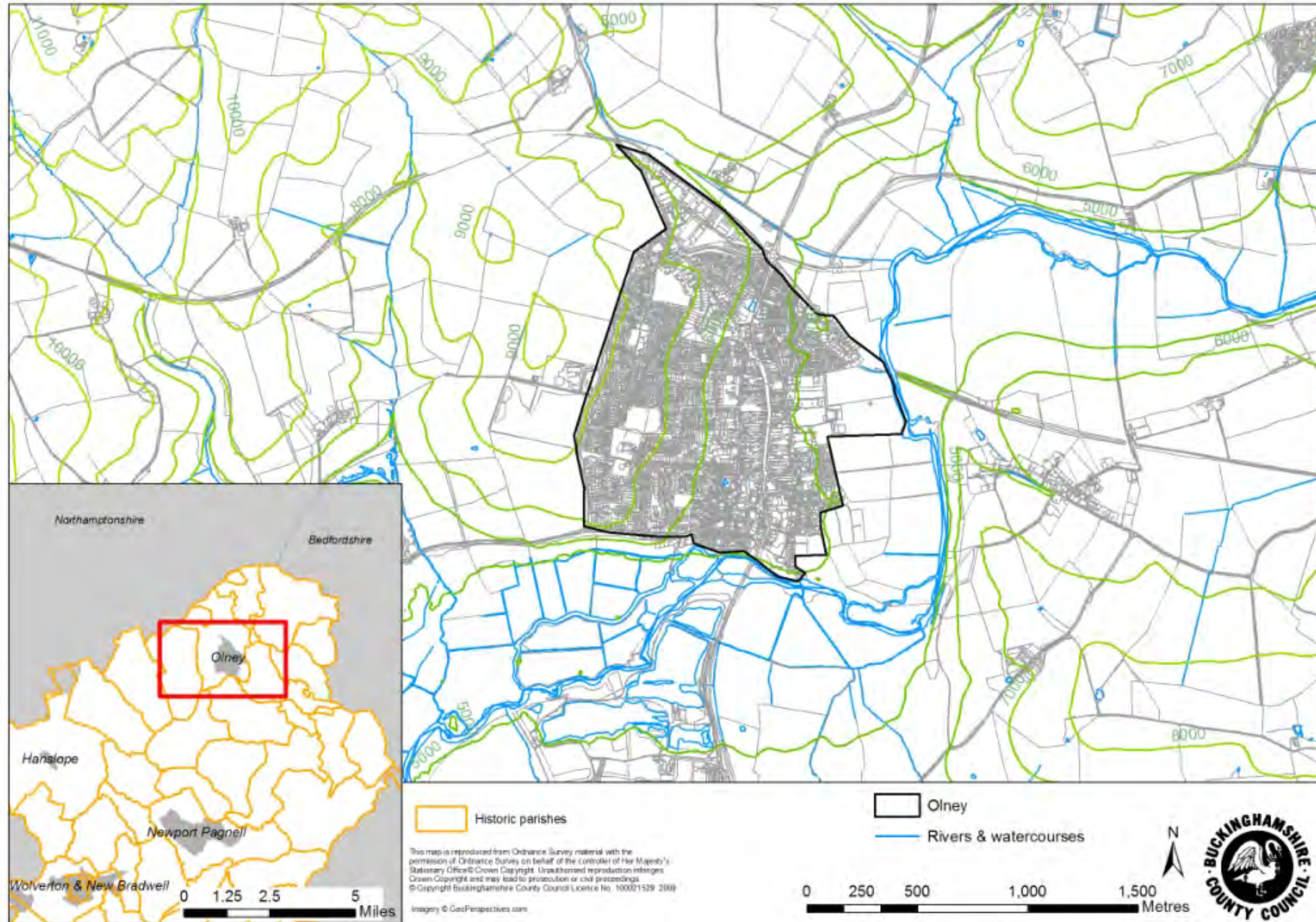
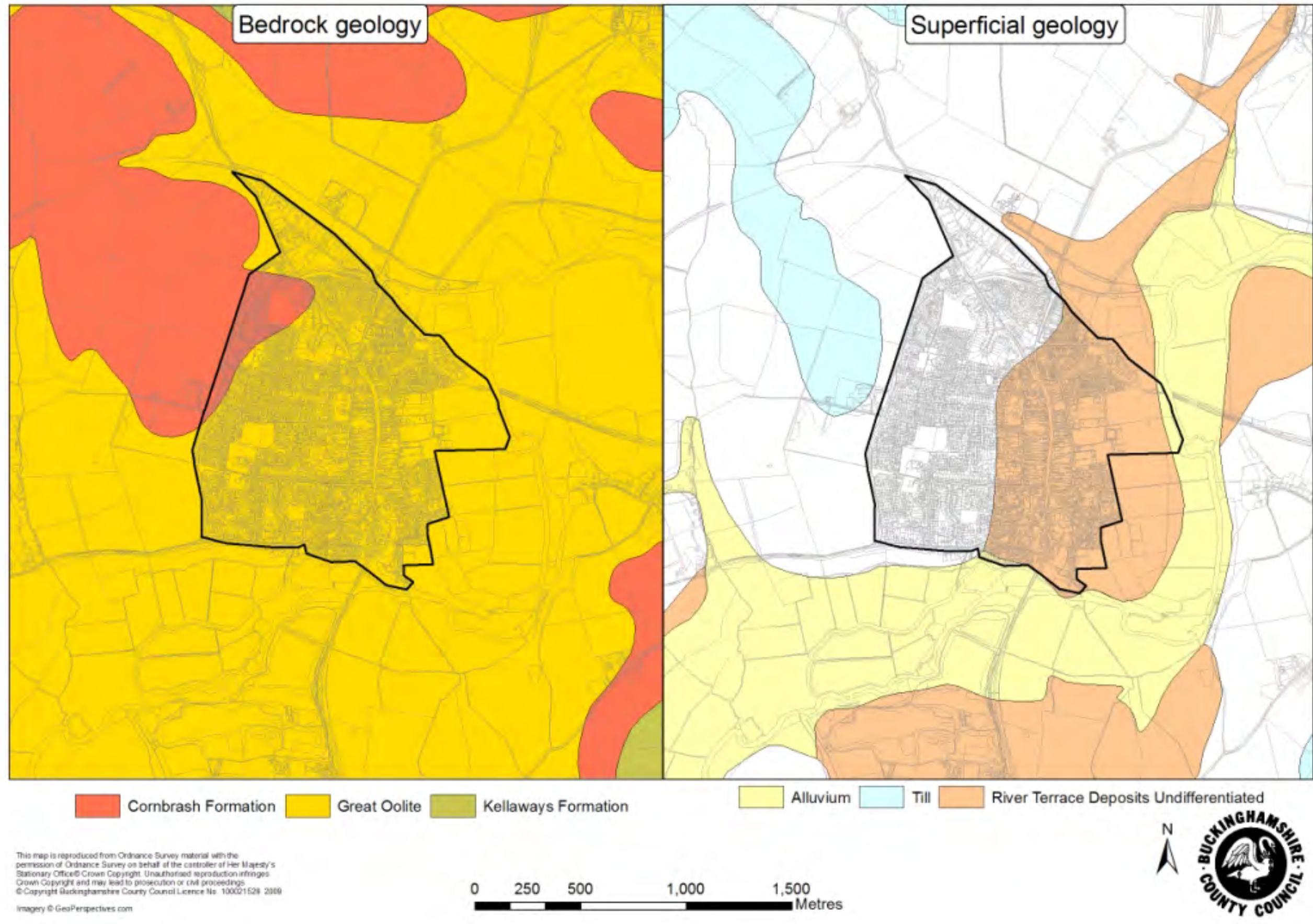
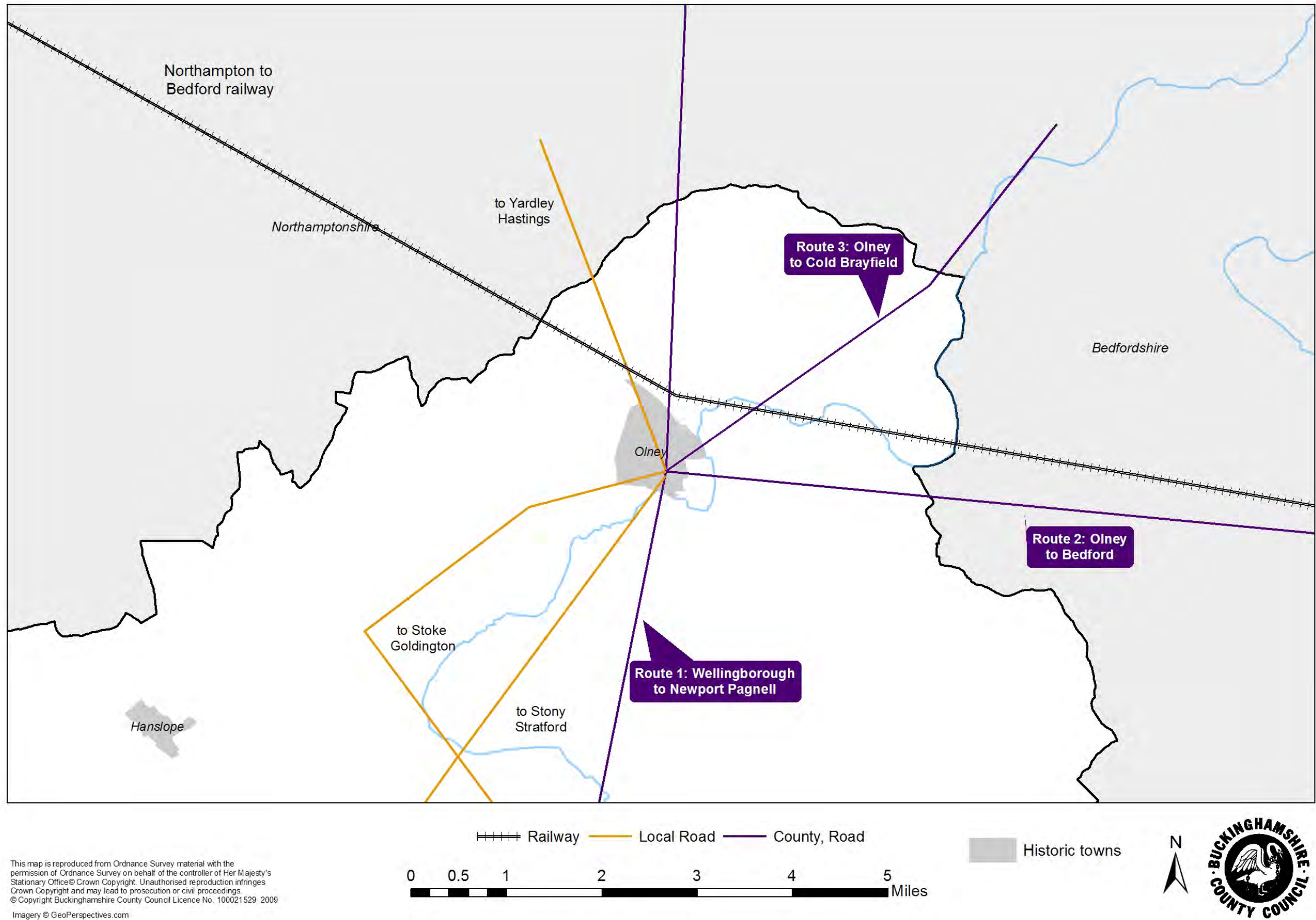


Figure 2: Olney in location



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Figure 3: Geology of town (BGS)



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Figure 4: Diagram of Connections from Olney (representational only)

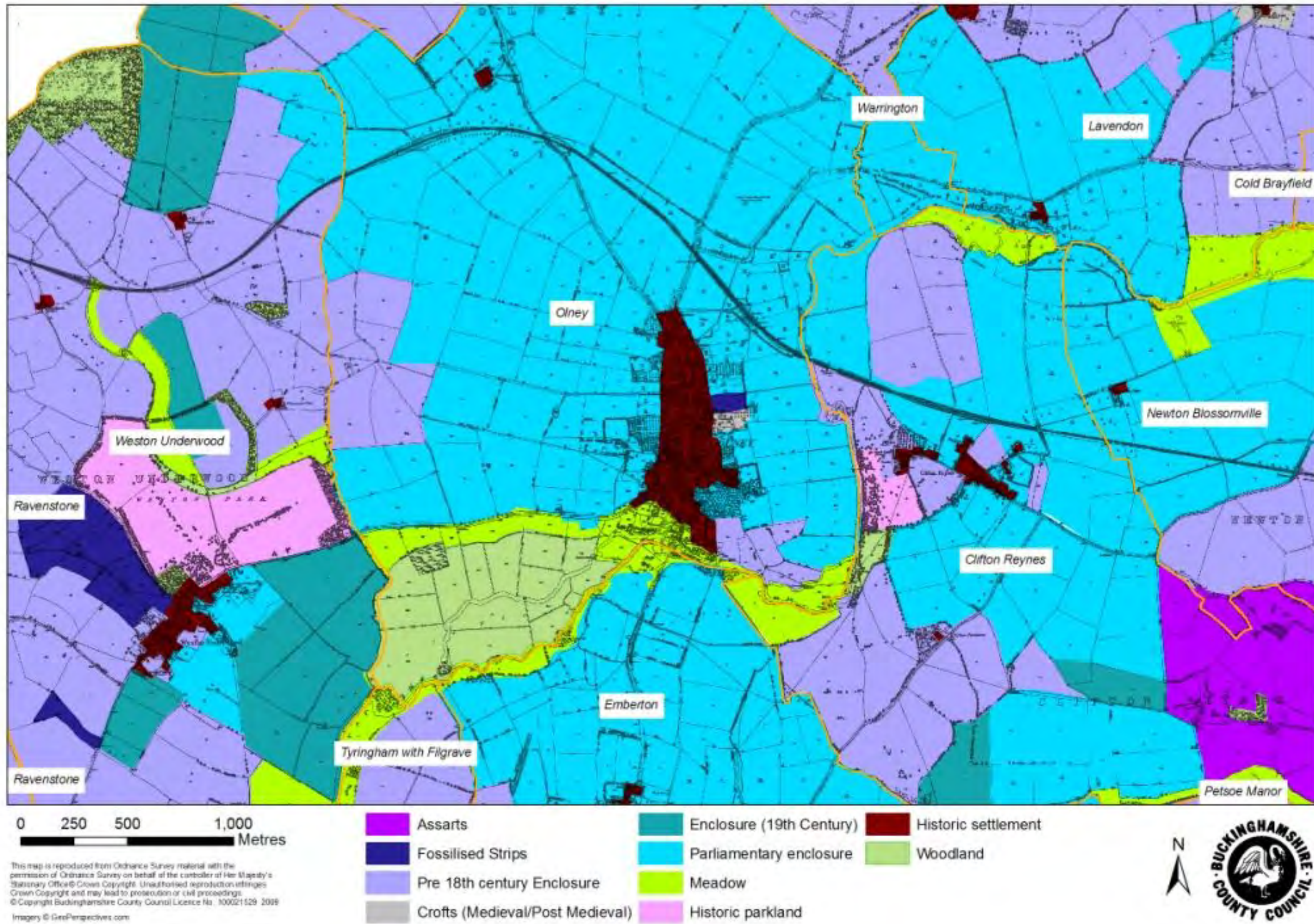


Figure 5: Town in the wider historic landscape using routes and Bucks HLC

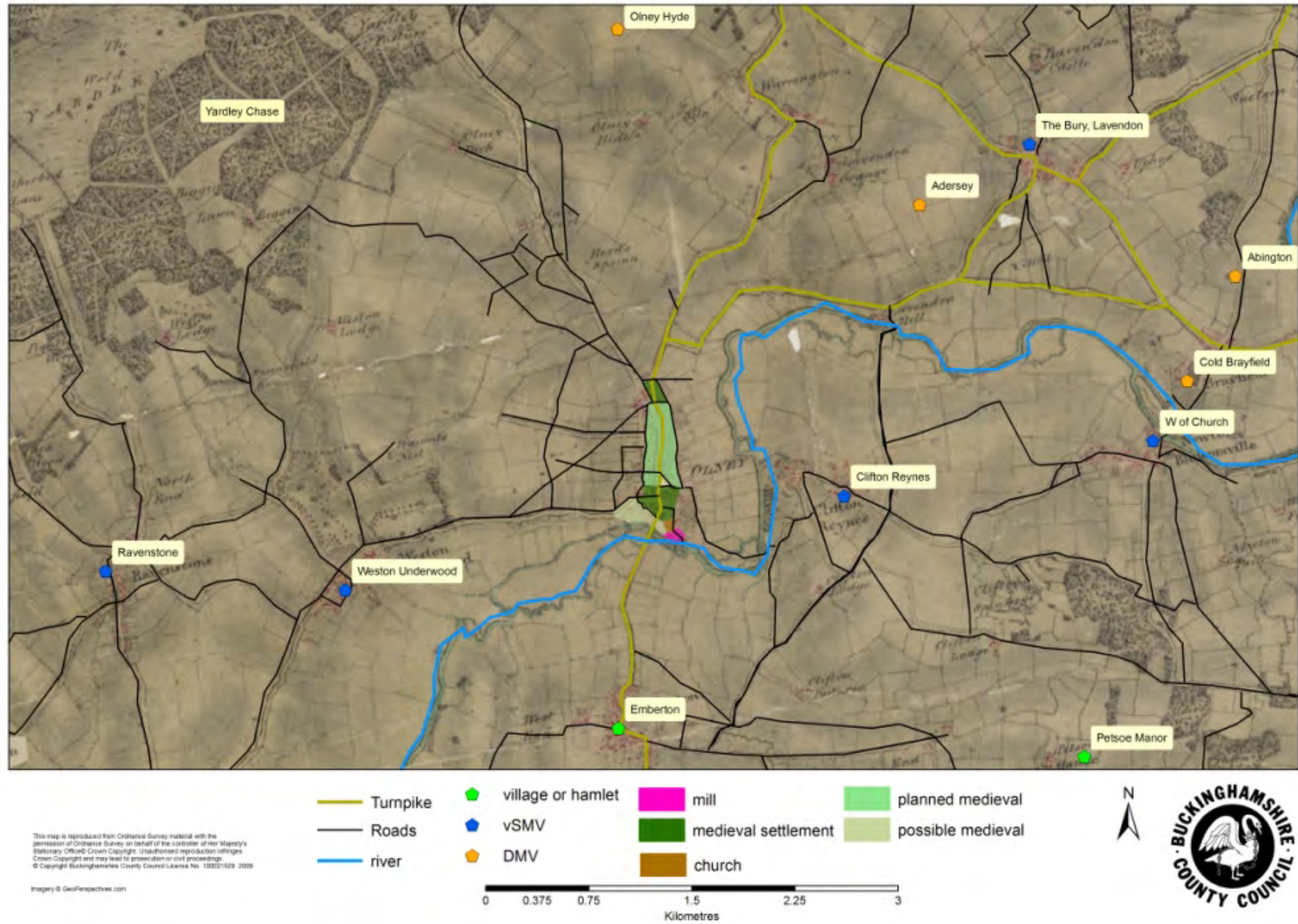


Figure 6: Dispersed settlement around Olney

## **2 Setting**

### 2.1 Location, Topography & Geology

Olney is located within the unitary authority of Milton Keynes on the border of Northants and Buckinghamshire and close to Bedfordshire. The church is located on the north bank of the River Great Ouse while the town extends north of the church as far as the former railway line. Olney is located some thirteen miles south of Northampton and 29 miles north of Aylesbury. Significant modern settlement development has occurred to the west of the town.

Olney is a linear settlement forming along the main road from Newport Pagnell to Kettering and Wellingborough. East Street is located at a height of around 50m OD (Ordnance Datum) rising to a height of 80m OD at Aspreys Road on the western edge of the town.

The principal bedrock geology comprises Great Oolite Limestone across the town with some Cornbrash limestone in the north. The limestone has a significant visual impact on the town with the vast majority of the historic buildings along the High Street being constructed in limestone. There are overlying superficial layers of undifferentiated river terrace deposits east of the High Street. The Soils Survey Layer (Cranfield, 2007), surveyed at a county level, classifies the soil around Olney as clay over limestone (Soil Series 5.11 Typical brown calcareous earths) across the majority of the town and deep loam around the church (Soil Series 5.72 Stagnogleyic argillic brown earths).

### 2.2 Wider Landscape

#### *Transport and Communications*

The principal historic route runs from Newport Pagnell to Kettering via Wellingborough on a north south alignment through Olney. The road was turnpiked in 1754 under the Kettering and Newport Pagnell Turnpike Trust and continued to operate until 1878 (Edmonds et al, 1993). A second road was turnpiked in 1790 from Bromham (Beds) to Northampton via Cold Brayfield. This route formed a crossroads with the north-south road to the north of Olney in Warrington parish..

The railway was opened in 1872 and operated by the London, Midland and Scotland Railway and connected Northampton and Bedford via Olney. By 1885 the line had been absorbed by Midland Railway who added a passenger service to the line in 1892. The station continued to operate until 1962 when it was closed to passengers. In 1964 the station closed to goods also, the line has now been partially removed. The site of the station has since been redeveloped for modern housing.

#### *Rural Landscape*

The parish of Olney extends from the River Great Ouse in the south some 2.3 miles as far as the county boundary with Northamptonshire. Olney Park parish remains a small enclave within the principal parish with it's origins as a deer park held in the medieval period. In the 19<sup>th</sup> century, Olney parish was largely divided between pre 18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure to the west and Parliamentary enclosure (subsequent divisions) to the east. Pre-18<sup>th</sup> century irregular enclosure is common in Buckinghamshire and dates from the medieval period or the 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> centuries. This landscape type is of medium sensitivity and is declining rapidly largely as a result of hedgerow loss and 'prairification' Parliamentary enclosures date primarily to the 19<sup>th</sup> century and are fairly common. They derive from the alteration and division of plots immediately after Parliamentary enclosure. Meadowland surrounds the river Great Ouse to the south of the town; this landscape type is associated with a wide range of water management features such as mills, leats, moats and channels.

The modern landscape has seen significant preservation of the pre 18<sup>th</sup> century landscape while the Parliamentary field systems have seen some loss through the removal of hedgerows to create modern prairie fields. Olney has grown significantly since the 19<sup>th</sup> century with some areas of Victorian and Edwardian housing to the north around the railway station followed by much larger areas of 20<sup>th</sup> century development leading off from East and West Streets.

### 3 Evidence

#### 3.1 Historic Maps

Characterisation for this project was primarily undertaken using the Ordnance Survey series of maps from the OS 2" Surveyors drawing of the 1820s to the current Mastermap data. Also used were county and regional maps including Jeffrey's map of the county (1760) and Bryant's map of the county (1820). No historic maps depicting Olney itself have been found although there are several 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century maps of Olney Park.

#### 3.2 Documentary Evidence

The full report, produced by Kim Taylor-Moore of the University of Leicester, is available in Appendix 4.

There are several surviving medieval manorial documents referring to Olney along with documents relating to the borough. A survey taken in 1570 details some 30 burgesses and half-burgesses in the town. Records from the 16<sup>th</sup> century considerably increase in volume with the first mention of a significant lace making industry in Olney from the mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.

#### 3.3 Built Heritage

There are 114 listed buildings in Olney including one Grade I listed building and four Grade II\* listed building. St Peter and St Paul's Church is a Grade I listed building dating largely to the 14<sup>th</sup> century while four 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings including the Vicarage, 11 High Street South, 67 High Street and 30 Market Place. The majority of the buildings (76) date to the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries with a further 36 dating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There is a high level of homogeneity among the buildings of Olney, particularly along the High Street where the overwhelming majority have been constructed from local limestone.

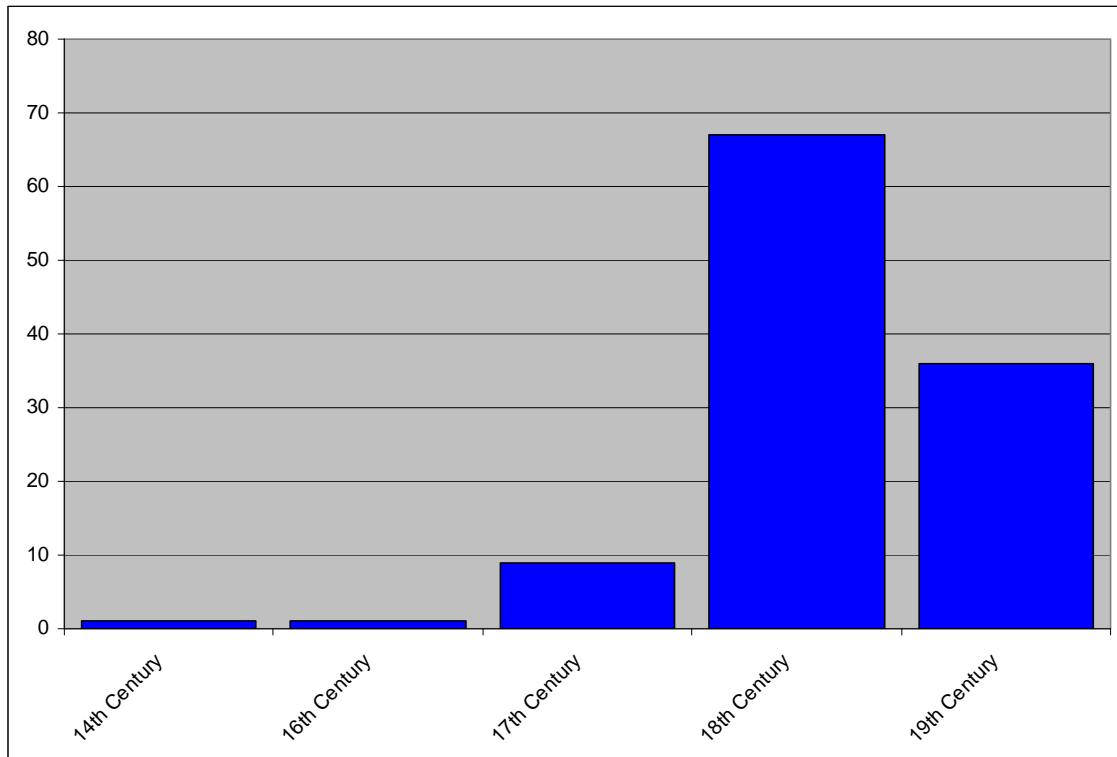


Figure 7: Listed Buildings by century

### 3.4 Archaeological Evidence

The results of previous archaeological investigation within Olney have shown some promising results; several investigations have uncovered evidence for pre burgage tenement plots at the southern end of the town around the Market Square (OL5; OL7; OL16; OL25). Archaeological work in the town has also been used to good effect for testing theories about the development of the town and the location of documented structures. Documentary references have suggested that an early church and graveyard was located at the northern end of the High Street at Dartmouth Road Farm, however excavations in 1988 (OL1), found no evidence for such a structure. Fourteen investigations, primarily watching briefs have proved negative; approximately half have attributed this to significant modern disturbance.

Although not offering statutory protection, archaeological notification areas are a helpful tool for planning control as they highlight areas that are of known archaeological potential to planning officers at Milton Keynes council.

| OL1: Dartmouth Road Farm NGR (Collard M, 1988)  |   | MKEV652                           |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Finds   | Negative features (cut only)  | Environmental evidence            |
| 62 sherds medieval pottery (12 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century)   | None  | None                              |
|   |   | Above ground structures           |
|   |   | None                              |
|   |   | Positive features (above natural) |
|   | None  |                                   |
| Circumstances of investigation  | Conclusion  |                                   |
| Intervention Type: Excavation<br>Source: Published article in Records of Buckinghamshire Archaeological Journal<br>Archive: County Museum | Previous discoveries of human remains at this site in the 19 <sup>th</sup> century indicated the possibility of an early church at this site. Local legend also suggests the present church replaced an earlier one that had fallen into disrepair. Evaluation excavation accordingly carried out on this site after proposals for redevelopment however this recovered no evidence of human remains. Conclusion of report is that a graveyard beneath the neighbouring cottages was not large enough to extend into Dartmouth Road Farm. |                                   |
| OL3: Mill House, Church Street NGR 8905 5088 (Weaver S, August 1997)  |   | MKEV793                           |
| Finds   | Negative features (cut only)  | Environmental evidence            |
| None  | mill race (post medieval)<br>archway (undated)  | None                              |
|   |   | Above ground structures           |
|   |   | None                              |
|   |   | Positive features (above natural) |
|   |   | limestone wall                    |
| Circumstances of investigation  | Conclusion  |                                   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum                                  | significant lack of datable evidence recovered from this site made interpretation difficult. Evidence relating to the post medieval mill was recovered.   |                                   |
| OL4: St Peter and St Paul's Church NGR 8898 5096 (May 1998)   |   | MKEV797                           |
| Finds   | Negative features (cut only)  | Environmental evidence            |
| inhumations   | French drain<br>soakaway  | None                              |
|   |   | Above ground structures           |
|   |   | None                              |
|   |   | Positive features (above natural) |
|   |   | None                              |
| Circumstances of investigation  | Conclusion  |                                   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum                                  | Watching brief within the churchyard revealed evidence of graveyard inhumations   |                                   |



Olney Historic Town Assessment

| OL5: 8 & 9 Rose Court NGR 8899 5131 (Lisboa I, December 1998)   |  | MKEV411  |
|---|--|--|
| Finds   | Negative features (cut only)   | Environmental evidence   |
| 33 sherds pottery (medieval)  | 1 pit (12 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>1 pit (13 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>pits (post medieval)<br>sunken structure with hearth pits (post medieval)<br>limestone hearth (11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century) | None   |
|   |  | Above ground structures  |
|   |  | None   |
|   |  | Positive features (above natural)<br>stone house foundations (pre burgage)<br>boundary wall (14 <sup>th</sup> /16 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>wall foundations (post medieval)<br>yard surfaces (post medieval)  |
| Circumstances of investigation  |  | Conclusion   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum            |  | This investigation recovered evidence of settlement prior to the organisation of the town into burgage plots, supporting the theory that the market place was an area of Saxon to medieval settlement that was later re-organised in the 13 <sup>th</sup> century. The early layout of wall foundations and boundaries further suggests that the town underwent significant spatial re-organisation as a result of its new status. |
| OL6: Hoppers Hill NGR (Jones C, May 1999)   |  | MKEV419  |
| Finds   | Negative features (cut only)   | Environmental evidence   |
| 7 sherds post medieval pottery  | quarry (post medieval)<br>possible infilled pond   | None   |
|   |  | Above ground structures  |
|   |  | None   |
|   |  | Positive features (above natural)<br>None  |
| Circumstances of investigation  |  | Conclusion   |
| Intervention Type: Trial Trenching<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum           |  | Limited evidence for post medieval quarrying. Also evidence of filled in pond.   |
| OL7: Dagnell House NGR 88859 51265 (December 1999)  |  | MKEV426  |
| Finds   | Negative features (cut only)   | Environmental evidence   |
| None  | well (post medieval)<br>pit (post medieval)  | None   |
|   |  | Above ground structures  |
|   |  | None   |
|   |  | Positive features (above natural)<br>stone wall (medieval)   |
| Circumstances of investigation  |  | Conclusion   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum            |  | Some evidence for 13 <sup>th</sup> century alluvial flooding was uncovered from the site. Foundations for a substantial stone wall some 2.5m wide were also uncovered on an east-west alignment with 2-4 Market Place rather than Dagnell House. The post medieval period saw the construction of Dagnell House along with several walls and an orchard. It is suggested that this was the approximate site of Whithills Manor.    |
| OL8: Limehouse and Tunns Cottage NGR 88875 510029 (Albone J, 2000)  |  | MKEV503  |
| Finds   | Negative features (cut only)   | Environmental evidence   |
| Pottery<br>- SNC1 St Neots Type 1 1000-1200 (1 sherd)<br>- TLMS18 Late Medieval Oxidised Ware (1450-1500) (1 sherd) | None   | Cattle bone/ horn sheep & oyster in good condition   |
|   |  | Above ground structures  |
|   |  | None   |

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| - TLMS12 Red earthenware 16 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century<br>- PM3 Staffordshire reverse slipware (1 sherds)<br>- PM13 Red Painted earthenware 4 sherds<br>- PM24 Pearlware Unglazed 2 sherds<br>- MC1 Shelly Coarseware (100-1400) 1 sherd |   | Positive features (above natural)<br>limestone wall beneath house     |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>   | <b>Conclusion</b>   |   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum  | Evidence of a limestone wall predating the current 18 <sup>th</sup> century house as well as possible evidence for tanning. Small quantity of medieval pottery of 11 <sup>th</sup> & 12 <sup>th</sup> century date recovered from later deposits.                                     |   |
| <b>OL9: 5 Market Place NGR 88876 51277 (March 2000)</b>   |   | <b>MKEV432</b>  |
| <b>Finds</b>  | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>   | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| None  | None  | None  |
|   |   | Above ground structures   |
|   |   | None  |
|   |   | Positive features (above natural)                                     |
|   |   | walls (medieval/post medieval)<br>latrine foundations (post medieval) |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>   | <b>Conclusion</b>   |   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum  | Site revealed evidence of late medieval to post medieval wall foundations aligned with the existing standing buildings on the plot as well as evidence for post medieval latrines   |   |
| <b>OL13: 1 Market Place NGR 88861 51264 (Lisboa I, November 2001)</b>   |   | <b>MKEV680</b>  |
| <b>Finds</b>  | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>   | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| Iron slag<br>Pottery<br>- MC1 Northants 207 or Oxon type<br>C11 <sup>th</sup> -C13 <sup>th</sup> pottery 11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century (unquantified)(5 sherds)<br>- MC3 Olney Hyde A type (1 sherd)<br>- MSC1 Sandy ware (3 sherds)     | 1 large pit (medieval)  | substantial quantities of charcoal                                    |
|   |   | Above ground structures   |
|   |   | None  |
|   |   | Positive features (above natural)                                     |
|   |   | stone wall foundation (post medieval)                                 |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>   | <b>Conclusion</b>   |   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum  | Site revealed evidence of a substantial stone wall on a NW-SE alignment similar to that identified at Dagnell House (OL7). Site showed that substantial archaeological deposits are still encountered underneath modern buildings and truncation. Some association with iron working. |   |
| <b>OL14: Timpsons Row NGR 89100 51385 (Phoenix Consulting, December 2001)</b>   |   | <b>MKEV533</b>  |
| <b>Finds</b>  | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>   | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| 24 sherds pottery (Roman)   | 1 pit<br>2 tree bore holes  | oyster shell  |
|   |   | Above ground structures   |
|   |   | None  |
|   |   | Positive features (above natural)                                     |
|   |   | None  |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>   | <b>Conclusion</b>   |   |
| Intervention Type: Trial Trenching<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | Despite residual finds of Roman pottery, there was a significant level of modern disturbance at the site.   |   |
| <b>OL15: Holes Lane Farm NGR 88928 51876 (Failes R, 2002)</b>   |   | <b>MKEV783</b>  |
| <b>Finds</b>  | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>   | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| None  | None  | None  |
|   |   | Above ground structures   |
|   |   | 18 <sup>th</sup> century stables<br>2 18 <sup>th</sup> century barns  |

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|  |   | Positive features (above natural)  |
|  |   | None   |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>  | <b>Conclusion</b>   |  |
| Intervention Type: Building Survey<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum  | building survey of farm building comprising a stable and 2 barns  |  |
| <b>OL16: 24 Market Place NGR 88990 51290 (Albion, February 2002)</b>   |   | <b>MKEV547</b>   |
| <b>Finds</b>   | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>   | <b>Environmental evidence</b>  |
| Pottery - medieval<br>- MC3 Olney Hyde 'A' type (15 sherds)<br>- MSC1 medieval sandy type (1 sherd)<br>- MSC4 medieval Lyveden type(1 sherd)<br>P15 sherds pottery - post medieval<br>- PM8 Fine Glazed Earthenware (9 sherds)<br>- PM16 Black glazed coarseware (2 sherds)<br>- PM32 Westerwald (2 sherds)<br>- PM2 Staffordshire slipware (2 sherds)<br>pottery modern (4 sherds)<br>Ceramic building material<br>Small finds<br>- copper button (post medieval)<br>- copper alloy mount/fitting<br>- Iron nails | 2 pits (1150-1250)<br>1 pit (1250-1400)   | 34 fragments of animal bone<br>charcoal<br>nut shells (hazelnuts)<br>wheat |
|  |   | <b>Above ground structures</b>   |
|  |   | None   |
|  |   | <b>Positive features (above natural)</b>                                   |
|  |   | 3 foundation trenches (post medieval)<br>property boundary (post medieval) |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>  | <b>Conclusion</b>   |  |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | The earliest features identified at this site was a series of substantial pits that continue beyond the present northern boundary and suggests a different spatial organisation in the earlier medieval period that was then re-organised for burgage plots. Faunal remains recovered from medieval and post medieval features survive in a fair to good condition with some surface erosion. |  |
| <b>OL17: Old Barn, East Street NGR 89006 51654 (OA, May 2002)</b>  |   | <b>MKEV580</b>   |
| <b>Finds</b>   | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>   | <b>Environmental evidence</b>  |
| 1 sherd pottery Olney Hyde 'A' type (1100-1400 AD)<br>- MC1 Shelly coarseware (1100-1400 AD) (1 sherd)   | 1 rubbish pit (medieval)<br>1 Cess pit  | 23 fragments of Animal bone  |
|  |   | <b>Above ground structures</b>   |
|  |   | None   |
|  |   | <b>Positive features (above natural)</b>                                   |
|  |   | 1 stone wall (medieval)  |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>  | <b>Conclusion</b>   |  |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report. House extension.<br>Archive: County Museum   | Limited evidence for medieval activity in the area to the rear of the High Street South side.   |  |
| <b>OL18: 100-102 High Street NGR 88979 51775 (Lisboa I, July 2002)</b>   |   | <b>MKEV881</b>   |
| <b>Finds</b>   | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>   | <b>Environmental evidence</b>  |
| Medieval pottery<br>- MC1 Medieval Shelly Ware (1 sherd)<br>- MC3 Olney Hyde 'A' ware (3 sherds)<br>- MS9 Brill (1 sherd)<br>- TLMS12 Red earthenware<br>Post Medieval pottery<br>- PM8  | cess pit (13 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>pits (post medieval)<br>2 post holes   | None   |
|  |   | <b>Above ground structures</b>   |
|  |   | 16 <sup>th</sup> century barn  |
|  |   | <b>Positive features (above natural)</b>                                   |
|  |   | yard surface 16 <sup>th</sup> century<br>2 boundary walls                  |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>  | <b>Conclusion</b>   |  |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief  | Limited evidence for medieval activity to the rear of burgage   |  |

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| Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | plots along the High Street consisting of outbuildings and rubbish dumps.   |   |
| OL19: Cowper Tannery NGR 88746 51112 (Stevens C, August 2002)   |   | MKEV621   |
| Finds   | Negative features (cut only)  | Environmental evidence  |
| worked flint (Neolithic to Bronze Age) 5 fragments<br>- Early-middle Saxon re-deposited (450-850 AD) A total of 8 sherds of which:<br>F1 Fine sand (6 sherds)<br>F2 Granitic (2 sherds)<br>Medieval Pottery<br>- SNC1 (1) St Neots type (10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> century) (2 sherds)<br>- SNC1 (2) St Neots type (11 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> century) (15 sherds)<br>- MC1 Olney Hyde 'A' type (12 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> century) (375 sherds)<br>- MS3 Great Brickhill type (11 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century) (5 sherds)<br>- MC6 Potterspurty type (mid 13 <sup>th</sup> -17 <sup>th</sup> century) (13 sherds)<br>- TLMS Great Brickhill type (14 <sup>th</sup> -16 <sup>th</sup> century) 3 sherds<br>post medieval pottery<br>- PM5 slipware C17 <sup>th</sup> (4 sherds)<br>- PM16 Black glazed coarsewares (2 sherds)<br>modern pottery<br>Finds<br>slag | 1 pit (11 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>3 gullies (12 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>1 ditch (12 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>1 pit (12 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>2 postholes (12 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>ditch & gully (13 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>2 gullies (undated)<br>postholes (undated)  |   |
|   |   | animal bone<br>1070 of 422 unstratified<br>Pig cattle sheep goat in equal proportions reasonable preservation on burning two<br>butchery – waste disposal |
|   |   | Above ground structures   |
|   |   | None  |
|   |   | Positive features (above natural)   |
|   |   | wall (undated)  |
| Circumstances of investigation  | Conclusion  |   |
| Intervention Type: Trial Trenching<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | The greatest concentration of archaeology appeared to come from the east of the site close to Bridge Street, the majority of which was dated to the 12 <sup>th</sup> century. It is possible that some of the gullies mark the boundaries to burgage or tenement plots, several of which respect the alignment of the existing road network. Some evidence of metalworking on the site. |   |
| OL20: 14 Market Place NGR 88966 51341(Lisboa I, October 2002)   |   | MKEV630   |
| Finds   | Negative features (cut only)  | Environmental evidence  |
| <u>Medieval Pottery</u><br>- MC1 Oxford C10 <sup>th</sup> – C13 <sup>th</sup> (1 sherd)<br>- pottery 13 <sup>th</sup> -19 <sup>th</sup> century MC3 Olney Hyde type A (5 sherds)<br>- MS9 Brill Boarstall C13 <sup>th</sup> C15 <sup>th</sup> (1 sherd)<br>- TLMS12 Brill earthenware C16 <sup>th</sup> C17 <sup>th</sup> (4 sherds)<br>- Lyveden Stanion B ware C13 <sup>th</sup> – C15 <sup>th</sup> (1 sherd)  | 3 pits (medieval)   | Small assemblage of animal bone (4 pieces)  |
|   |   | Above ground structures   |
|   |   | None  |
|   |   | Positive features (above natural)   |
|   |   | 2 wall foundations<br>yard surface (post medieval)  |
| Circumstances of investigation  | Conclusion  |   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum  | Limited watching brief uncovered some evidence for medieval activity, however the dating evidence was minimal.  |   |
| OL21: Cowper Tannery NGR 88746 51112 (Northants Archaeology, 2002)  |   | MKEV620   |
| Finds   | Negative features (cut only)  | Environmental evidence  |
|   |   | Above ground structures   |

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|   |  | 19 <sup>th</sup> century buildings  |
|   |  | Positive features (above natural)   |
|   |  |   |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>   | <b>Conclusion</b>  |   |
| Intervention Type: Building Survey<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | Building survey of Cowper Tannery prior to demolition failed to find any evidence for pre 19 <sup>th</sup> century structures in the complex.  |   |
| OL22: 106 High Street NGR 88979 51799 (Ivens R, 4 <sup>th</sup> December 2002)  |  | MKEV855   |
| <b>Finds</b>  | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>  | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| Pottery<br><u>Roman Pottery</u> (1 sherd)<br><u>Medieval Pottery</u><br>- MC3 Olney Hyde A (10 sherds)<br>- MS6 Pottersbury Yardley Gobion (1 sherd)<br>- TLMS3 Late medieval reduced wares Great Brickhill (1 sherd)<br>- MC3 type roof tile (1 fragment)  | Gully (Roman)?<br>cess pit (medieval)  | Animal bone (poor quality)<br>Above ground structures<br>remains of post medieval stable<br>Positive features (above natural)<br>None   |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>   | <b>Conclusion</b>  |   |
| Intervention Type:<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | Limited evidence for medieval activity to the rear of the burgage plots along the High Street.   |   |
| OL24: Sillswood NGR 88210 51590 (Davies T, June 2003)   |  | MKEV773   |
| <b>Finds</b>  | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>  | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| 1 sherd 13 <sup>th</sup> century pottery<br>16 <sup>th</sup> century clay pipe<br>19 <sup>th</sup> century pottery<br>roof tile<br>burnt coal   | None   | None<br>Above ground structures<br>4 clay bonded stone walls<br>Positive features (above natural)<br>None   |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>   | <b>Conclusion</b>  |   |
| Intervention Type: Trial Trenching<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | possibly the site of an agricultural building shown on the 2 <sup>nd</sup> Surveyors map   |   |
| OL25: Cowper Tannery NGR 8873 5104 (July 2003)  |  | MKEV738   |
| <b>Finds</b>  | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>  | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| 49 fragments Iron Age flint<br>Iron Age pottery – middle to late IA (17 sherds)<br><u>Roman pottery (residual)</u><br>- Oxford colour coated ware (1 sherd)<br>- Greyware (abraded) (1 sherd)<br>Roman roof tile (residual) (3 fragments)<br>4 coins (Roman)<br><u>Early/middle Saxon pottery</u><br>- F1 Organic chaff tempered (1 sherd)<br>- F2 Sparse rounded (9 sherds)<br>- F3 Sandy fabric (7 sherds)<br>- F4 Sandy fabric (6 sherds)<br><u>Medieval pottery</u><br>- SNC1 St Neots type (C10 <sup>th</sup> -C12 <sup>th</sup> ) (16 sherds)<br>- MC3 Olney Hyde 'A' type (3125 sherds)<br>- Pottersbury type (102 sherds)<br>- MC9 Brill/Boarstall ware (12 sherds)<br>- MS3 Great Brickhill (11 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> century) (72 sherds) | 2 postholes (Iron Age)<br>1 pit (Iron Age)<br>linear cut with postholes (early-middle Saxon?)<br><i>10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> century</i><br>2 pits<br>posthole<br>hollowed path<br><i>11<sup>th</sup> century</i><br>post-built structure?<br>1 large pit<br>several gullies (possible boundaries)<br><i>12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> century</i><br>fence lines<br>quarry pits<br>well<br>7 rubbish/cess pits | animal bone made up of cattle,, horse, sheep/goat goose, chicken<br>Above ground structures<br>None<br>Positive features (above natural)<br>timber structure (11 <sup>th</sup> century)<br>iron smelting furnace base (medieval)<br>malting oven (late medieval)<br><i>Post Medieval</i><br>limestone wall foundations<br>stone building foundations<br>cobbed yard surface |

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| - MS19 Stanford type ware (2 sherds)<br>North Oxfordshire ware (11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century) (6 sherds)<br>- MSC6 Olney Hyde 'B' type ware<br>2 sherds late Saxon/early medieval type (11 <sup>th</sup> -13 <sup>th</sup> century) 2 sherds<br><u>Post medieval pottery</u><br>2 fragments of glass<br>136 sherds metalwork (Saxon to post medieval)  |  |   |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>  | <b>Conclusion</b>  |   |
| Intervention Type: Excavation<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | Excavations following demolition revealed limited evidence of Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman and early-middle Saxon remains. More definite evidence of occupation in the 10 <sup>th</sup> and 11 <sup>th</sup> centuries. Some evidence for pre burgage boundary plots as well as evidence for the re-organisation of plot boundaries in the 13 <sup>th</sup> century. |   |
| <b>OL26: Oakdown Crescent NGR 88707 51226 (Woodfield P, August 2003)</b>   |  | <b>MKEV757</b>  |
| <b>Finds</b>   | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>  | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| <u>Medieval Pottery</u><br>- Medieval shelly type ware (2 sherds)<br>- Potterspurty type ware (1 sherd)  | 2 cess pits (modern)   | None<br>Above ground structures<br>None<br>Positive features (above natural)<br>None  |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>  | <b>Conclusion</b>  |   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | Limited evidence for medieval activity along Weston Road on the periphery of the medieval settlement.  |   |
| <b>OL27: 33 High Street NGR 88898 51511 (Lisboa I, September 2003)</b>   |  | <b>MKEV779</b>  |
| <b>Finds</b>   | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>  | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| <u>Medieval Pottery</u><br>Olney Hyde 'A' type 11 sherds<br>Olney Hyde 'B' type 7 sherds<br>Great Brickhill type ware 4 sherds<br>Potterspurty type ware 6 sherds<br>medieval pottery 126 sherds<br>9 sherds post medieval pottery<br><u>Post Medieval Pottery</u><br>- PM2 Staffordshire slip ware (1 sherds)<br>- PM8 Lead-glazed earthenwares C17 <sup>th</sup> (7 sherds)<br>- PM 25 White earthenwares late 18 <sup>th</sup><br>- PM28 English brown salt-glazed earthenwares 17 <sup>th</sup> - 18 <sup>th</sup> | robber trench (medieval)<br>3 cess pits (medieval)<br>rubbish pit (medieval)   | Some animal bone<br>Above ground structures<br>None<br>Positive features (above natural)<br>wall foundations<br>gravel surface layer  |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>  | <b>Conclusion</b>  |   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | Evidence for urban activity in the form of several rubbish pits to the rear of the property along with substantial amount of medieval pottery.   |   |
| <b>OL30: East Street NGR 88994 51805 (Byard A, June 2004)</b>  |  | <b>MKEV862</b>  |
| <b>Finds</b>   | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>  | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| 49 sherds medieval pottery<br>67 sherds post medieval pottery  | possible boundary ditch  | None<br>Above ground structures<br>None<br>Positive features (above natural)<br>medieval path/trackway<br>post medieval path/trackway |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>  | <b>Conclusion</b>  |   |
|  | Limited evidence for a butchers or slaughterhouse to the rear  |   |

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| Intervention Type: Watching brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | of the plots on the High Street as well as evidence for a routeway running at approximately the same alignment as East Street from the medieval period at least. Routeway showed signs of deliberate construction with road levelling and surfacing.  |   |
| OL32: The Old Manse 51 High Street NGR 88910 51594 (Lisboa I, November 2004)   |   | MKEV992   |
| Finds  | Negative features (cut only)  | Environmental evidence  |
| Pottery (181 sherds)<br><u>Medieval Pottery</u><br>- SNC1 St Neots Type ware C10 <sup>th</sup> -12 <sup>th</sup> (1sherd)<br>- MC1 Shelly fabric 11 <sup>th</sup> to 12 <sup>th</sup> centuries (81 sherds)<br>-MSC1 Sandy Fabric C11-13 <sup>th</sup> (89 sherds)<br>-MS3 Medieval Sandy ware C11 <sup>th</sup> -15 <sup>th</sup> (2 sherds)<br>- TLMS3 Great Brickhill late C14 <sup>th</sup> mid C16 <sup>th</sup> (3 sherds)<br>Chimney C12 <sup>th</sup> -C13 <sup>th</sup>   | 3 pits (medieval to post medieval)  | None<br>Above ground structures<br>None<br>Positive features (above natural)<br>None  |
| Circumstances of investigation   | Conclusion  |   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | Watching brief on house extension revealed a wall and three pits of medieval to post-medieval date. One of the pits contained a substantial quantity of pottery of mainly 11th to 13th century date with some 14th century material. This feature also yielded a chimney pot of a probable 11th to 14th century date. The earlier pottery seems to represent the deliberate disposal of a considerable amount of structural as well as domestic pottery from a substantial high status house. |   |
| OL33: 18 High Street South NGR 88911 51204 (Lisboa I, November 2004)   |   | MKEV1006  |
| Finds  | Negative features (cut only)  | Environmental evidence  |
| None   | 1 post hole (undated)   | None<br>Above ground structures<br>boundary wall (post medieval)<br>Positive features (above natural)   |
| Circumstances of investigation   | Conclusion  |   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | Limited evidence of activity along the High Street, however the lack of datable evidence made interpretation of the results difficult.  |   |
| OL34: 27 East Street NGR 88956 51809 (Lisboa I, 2005)  |   | MKEV966   |
| Finds  | Negative features (cut only)  | Environmental evidence  |
| <u>Medieval pottery</u><br>- MC3 Olney Hyde 'A' type C11 <sup>th</sup> -C13 <sup>th</sup> (17 sherds)<br>- MSC1 C11 <sup>th</sup> -C15 <sup>th</sup> (1 sherd)<br>- MS3 Medieval Boundary ware (1 sherd)<br>- MS9 Brill Boarstall C13 <sup>th</sup> -C15 <sup>th</sup> (1sherd)<br>Great Brickhill type (1 sherd)<br>1 sherd North Oxfordshire type<br>- TLMS9 Brill Boarstall C15 <sup>th</sup> C16 <sup>th</sup> (2 sherds)<br><u>Post medieval pottery</u><br>- PM8 17 <sup>th</sup> (6 sherds)<br>- PM16 Black glazed coarse wares C17 <sup>th</sup> (1 sherd)<br>- PM28 Brown salt glazed earthenwares C17 <sup>th</sup> -C18 <sup>th</sup> (1 sherd)<br>- PM39 Brown glazed ware C16 <sup>th</sup> C17 <sup>th</sup> | Ditch (Roman)<br>cess pits (medieval)<br>pits (medieval)<br>possible boundary ditch (medieval)  | None<br>Above ground structures<br>19 <sup>th</sup> century foundations for cottages<br>Positive features (above natural)<br>possible T shaped kiln (Roman) |

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| (1 sherd)  |   |   |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>  | <b>Conclusion</b>   |   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | Trace evidence for a Roman kiln site as well as evidence for medieval activity and boundary ditches.  |   |
| OL36: Mill Close NGR 89010 50922 (Richmond A, August 2005)   |   | MKEV997   |
| <b>Finds</b>   | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>   | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| St Neots type ware (1 sherd)<br>Olney Hyde 'A' type (58 sherds)  | 1 pit (medieval)  | None  |
|  |   | Above ground structures   |
|  |   | None  |
|  |   | Positive features (above natural)   |
|  |   | None  |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>  | <b>Conclusion</b>   |   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum   | Limited evidence of medieval activity close to Olney mill site near St Peter & St Paul's Church.  |   |
| OL37: Aspreys NGR 88463 52404 (Webley L, October 2005)   |   | MKEV994   |
| <b>Finds</b>   | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>   | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| 29 worked flints (some residual)<br>Neolithic Bronze Age contexts<br><u>Iron Age Pottery (120 sherds)</u><br>- F1 Moderate coarse angular flint (3<br>F2 Moderate medium angular burnt flint moderate quartz sand (3 sherds)<br>- L1 Sparse coarse sub angular limestone, modular , voids from chaff & grass (1 sherd)<br>- S1 Sparse medium coarse bivalve shell (31 sherds)<br>- S2 Moderate medium coarse bivalve shell (53 sherds)<br>- S3 Common medium bivalve shell (26 sherds)<br><u>Medieval pottery</u><br>- MC1 Shelly wares<br>- MC3 Olney Hyde A type<br>- MS6 Potterspury C13 <sup>th</sup> -C15 <sup>th</sup> | pit alignment (Iron Age)<br>1 pit inhumation<br>ridge and furrow<br>quarry pits   | charred plant remains<br>Including straw seeds and cereal grains<br>insect fragments<br>Rodent bones<br>Molluscs<br>Animal bone 81 from 23 contexts<br>Sheep,goat. Bone condition fair to poor only 18 specimens identified |
|  |   | Above ground structures   |
|  |   | None  |
|  |   | Positive features (above natural)   |
|  |   | 1 crouched inhumation   |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>  | <b>Conclusion</b>   |   |
| Intervention Type: Trial Trenching<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Webley, L. 2007 An Iron Age Pit Alignment and Burial at Aspreys, Olney in Recs of Bucks –pp. 63 - 80<br>Archive: County Museum  | Iron Age pit alignment across the eastern part of the site with inserted secondary inhumation. Later activity included medieval agricultural and quarrying evidence.<br><br>Radiocarbon dates 780-480 cal BC/470-410 cal BC obtained from charcoal in the pits which suggests the pits were filled by the Iron Age.<br><br>Radiocarbon dates on the burials 350-300 cal BC/210-40 cal BC was obtained from the skeleton, placing it in the middle Iron Age. |   |
| OL43: Stone Barn, Lime Street NGR 88740 51172 (Thompson A, 2008)   |   | MKEV1160  |
| <b>Finds</b>   | <b>Negative features (cut only)</b>   | <b>Environmental evidence</b>   |
| 1 whetstone (medieval)<br>2 sherds pottery (post medieval)   | pits (modern)   | None  |
|  |   | Above ground structures   |
|  |   | None  |
|  |   | Positive features (above natural)   |
|  |   | None  |
| <b>Circumstances of investigation</b>  | <b>Conclusion</b>   |   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief  | Significant amount of post medieval and modern activity on  |   |



Olney Historic Town Assessment

|  |  |                                   |
|--|--|-----------------------------------|
| Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum  | site   |                                   |
| OL44: 20a West Street NGR 88740 51172 (Stratton S, 2008)   |  | MKEV1196                          |
| Finds  | Negative features (cut only)   | Environmental evidence            |
| None   | pits (post medieval)   | None                              |
|  |  | Above ground structures           |
|  |  | None                              |
|  |  | Positive features (above natural) |
|  |  | None                              |
| Circumstances of investigation   | Conclusion   |                                   |
| Intervention Type: Trial Trenching<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum                  | Limited post medieval activity along the periphery of the medieval extent of the town.   |                                   |
| OL45: Olney Sewage Effluent pipeline NGR SP8899 5246 (Farley 1975)   |  | MKEV1196                          |
| Finds  | Negative features (cut only)   | Environmental evidence            |
| Romano British pottery<br>- South Gaulish Drag .33<br>- Nene valley Barbotine Beaker<br>(accompanying one of the burials)? | 4 ditches (Romano British)<br>1 pit (Romano British)   | 2 adult male inhumations          |
|  |  | Above ground structures           |
|  |  | Positive features (above natural) |
|  |  | Limestone rubble wall             |
|  |  |                                   |
| Circumstances of investigation   | Conclusion   |                                   |
| Intervention Type: Watching Brief<br>Source: Unpublished Archaeological Report<br>Archive: County Museum                   | Two effluent pipe trenches were constructed close together on the south side of Ashfurlong just north of the brook in a west-east direction. At either end were substantial infilled Victorian gravel pits and between were 4 Romano-British ditches, a gully, burial, two pits and two adult male inhumations close together. A metre wide strip of unordered rubble was the only indication of a stone building. |                                   |

Several archaeological investigations within the historic settlement did not find any significant archaeological features, this may be due to either the extent of modern redevelopment and truncation in the area or to the limited nature of the archaeological investigation or simply a lack of previous activity on the site..

| Code | Activity type   | Address                                  | NGR         | Summary   |
|------|-----------------|--|-------------|---|
| OL2  | Watching Brief  | St Peter and St Paul's Church (MKEV 201) | 8896 5094   | Negative – no archaeological evidence (Oxford Archaeology, 1998)        |
| OL10 | Trial Trenching | 100 High Street (MKEV 550)               | 88987 51776 | Negative – modern disturbance (Ivens R, October 2001)                   |
| OL11 | Watching Brief  | 2 Yardley Road (MKEV 551)                | 88817 51976 | Negative – modern disturbance (Ivens R, 10 <sup>th</sup> October 2001)  |
| OL12 | Watching Brief  | 8 Silver End (MKEV 544)                  | 89016 51247 | Negative – modern disturbance (Ivens R, 27 <sup>th</sup> October 2001)  |
| OL23 | Watching Brief  | 5 High Street South (MKEV 645)           | 88905 51138 | Negative – modern disturbance (Ivens R, 18 <sup>th</sup> December 2002) |
| OL28 | Watching Brief  | 96 High Street (MKEV 863)                | 88948 51726 | Negative – no archaeological evidence (Fell D, February 2004)           |
| OL29 | Watching Brief  | 20 Bridge Street (MKEV 886)              | 88932 51066 | Negative – modern disturbance (Ivens R, April 2004)                     |
| OL31 | Watching Brief  | 28 West Street (MKEV 923)                | 88809 51629 | Negative – modern disturbance (Wilson N, September 2004)                |
| OL35 | Watching        | 29 Weston Road                           | 88801       | Negative – modern disturbance (May 2005)                                |

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

|      |                 |                             |                |   |
|------|-----------------|-----------------------------|----------------|---|
|      | Brief           | (MKEV 981)                  | 51190          |   |
| OL38 | Trial Trenching | Olney Link Road (MKEV 1039) | 88690<br>52380 | Negative – no archaeological evidence (December 2005)                           |
| OL39 | Watching Brief  | 32 Market Place (MKEV 1044) | 88955<br>51263 | Negative – no archaeological evidence (Wilson N, 8 <sup>th</sup> March 2006)    |
| OL40 | Watching Brief  | 12 West Street (MKEV 1060)  | 88817<br>51490 | Negative – no archaeological evidence (Woodfield P, 9 <sup>th</sup> March 2006) |
| OL41 | Trial Trenching | 15 High Street (MKEV 968)   | 88815<br>51440 | Negative – no archaeological evidence (Ivens R, 2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2006)    |
| OL42 | Watching Brief  | 23a East Street (MKEV 1139) | 88981<br>51746 | Negative – no archaeological evidence (Ivens R, 2007)                           |

### 3.5 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).

Olney's position near to the River Ouse and its flood plains would allow for the potential for preservation of organic archaeological and environmental remains. Soil samples were taken from some of the archaeological works carried out including (OL16) which showed the preservation of hazelnut and wheat samples. At the northern end of the town at the Aspreys site, (OL37) sampling showed the preservation of straw seeds, cereal grains and insect fragments. Animal bone has been recovered from a number of sites (OL16), (OL18), (OL20), (OL22), (OL25), (OL27) and (OL37). Site (OL25) in particular contained a substantial faunal assemblage ranging from cattle to fowl, while the Aspreys site (OL37) included molluscan evidence.

In general, sampling for environmental remains has been less widely practised in urban medieval and later contexts. It is this lack of sampling rather than poor survival of remains that explains the paucity of published evidence for the remainder of Olney.

The geology of the area is primarily composed of Oolitic limestone and Cornbrash, capped along the river by alluvial and river terrace deposits following the Ouse. Alluvium indicates a high potential for preservation of mollusc, shell and bone throughout most of Olney with good potential for waterlogged (anoxic) preservation. The presence of alluvial and terrace deposits to the south and east of the historic settlement will also allow for greater preservation, and perhaps waterlogged deposits.

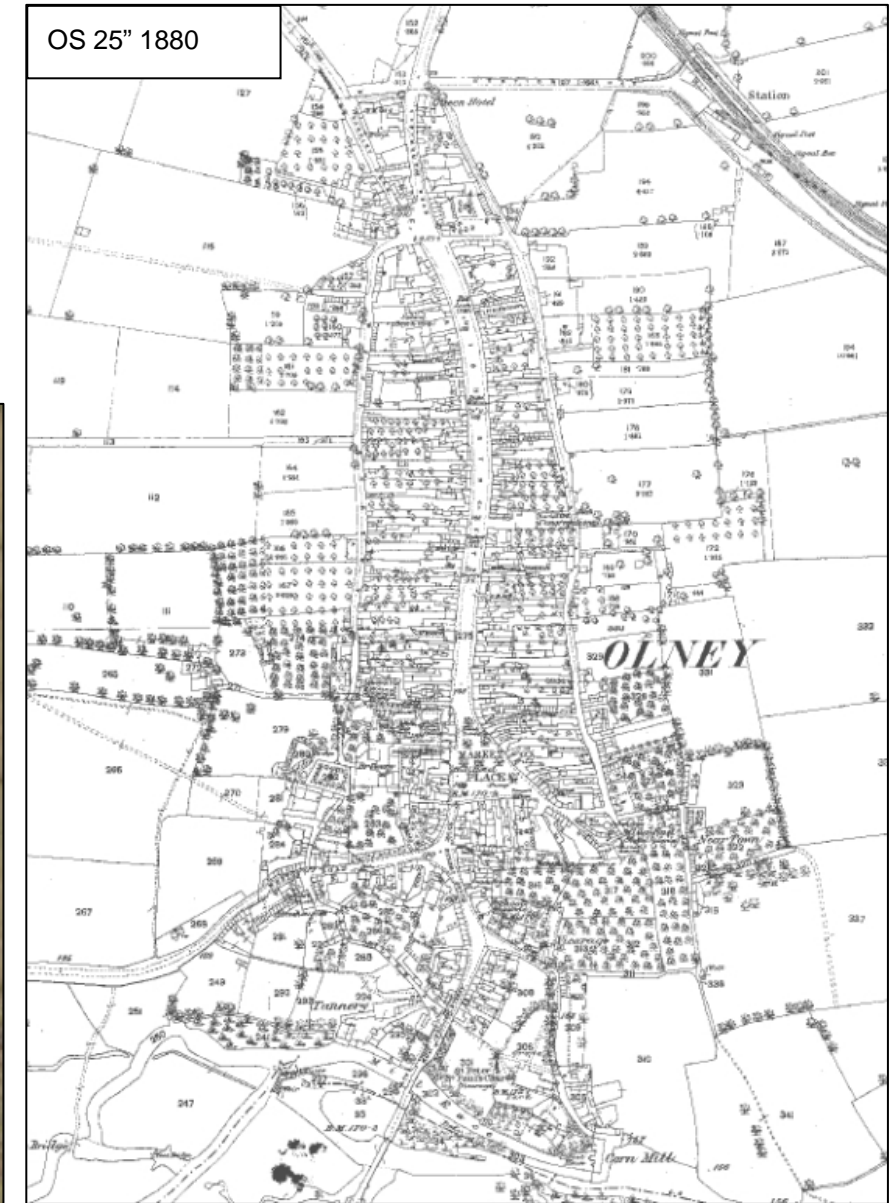
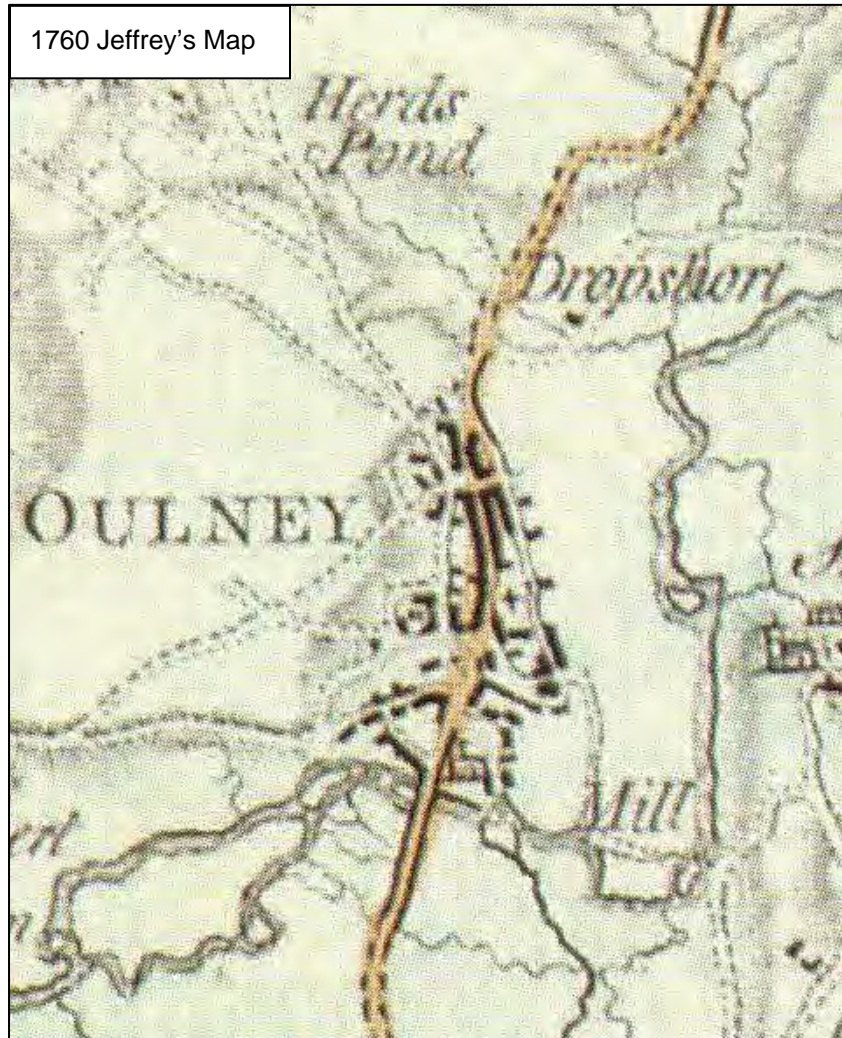


Figure 8: Historic maps:

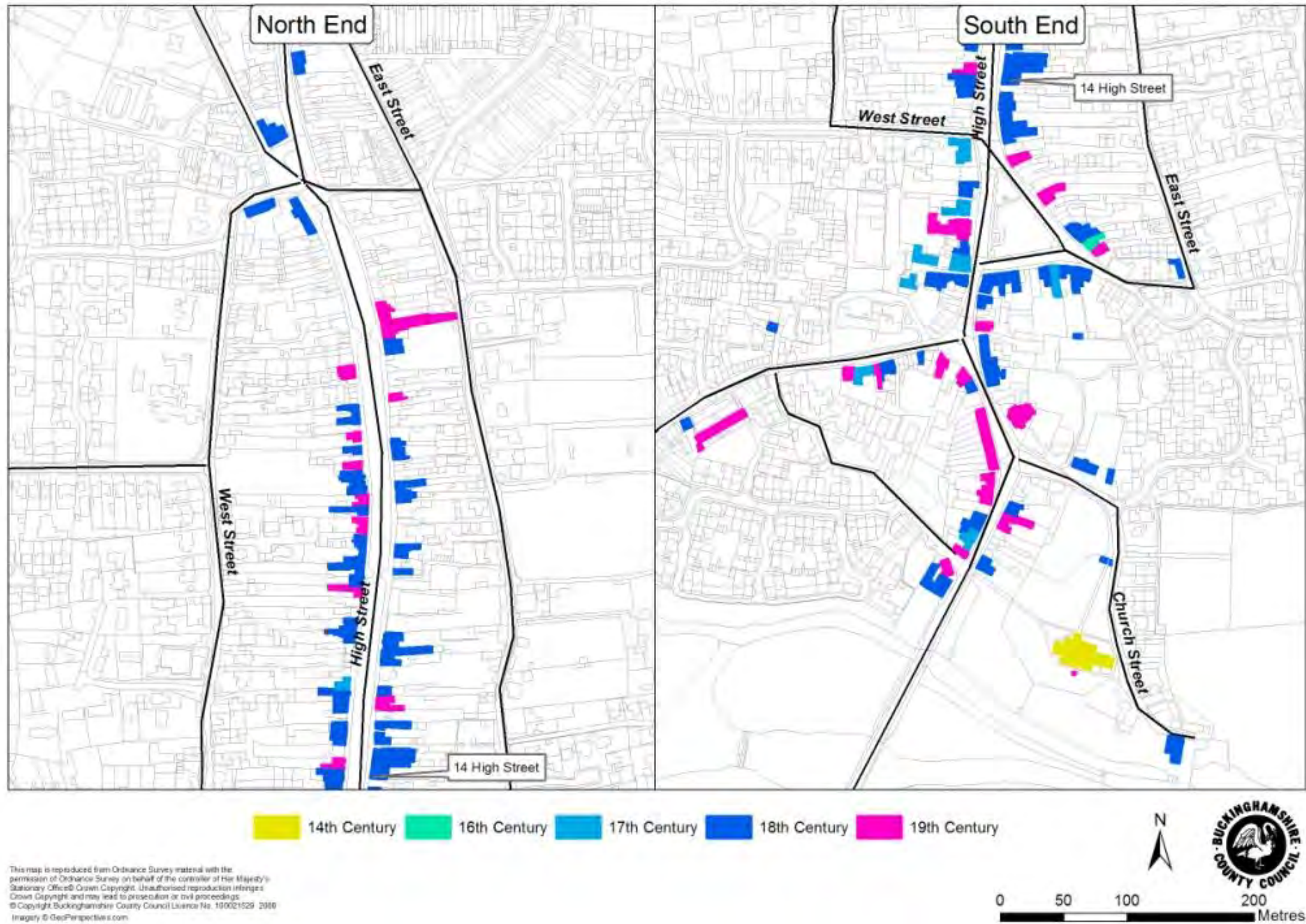
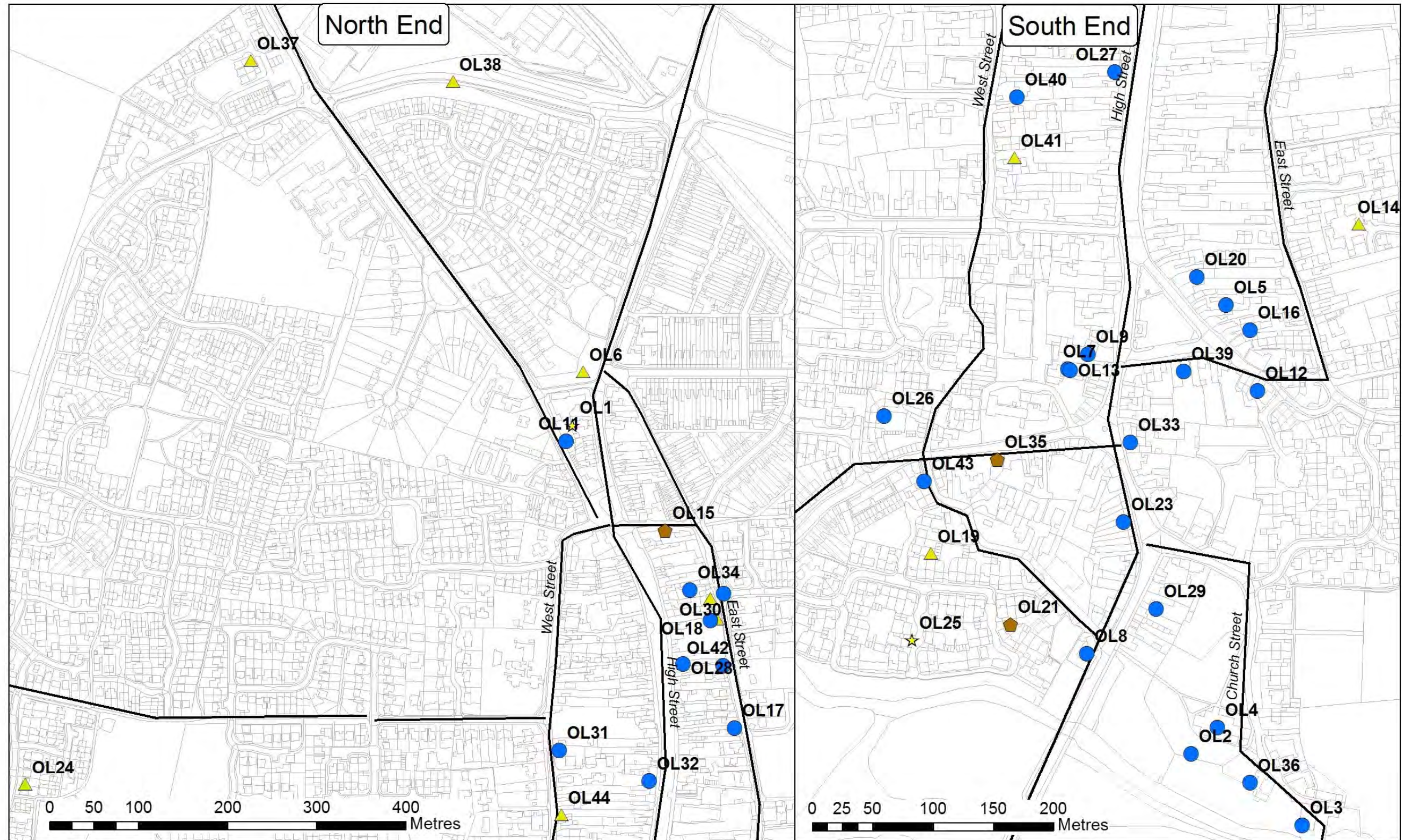


Figure 9: Listed Buildings by century.



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- Building Survey
- Trial Trenching
- Excavation
- Watching Brief



Figure 10: Location of events within the town

## **4 Archaeological & Historical Development**

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

To date there is some albeit limited evidence for prehistoric activity within Olney. The main source of information has been derived from archaeological intervention at the Cowper tannery (OL25), where Neolithic and Iron Age features and artefacts were revealed during excavation. Further Iron Age activity was found during excavation at Aspreys (OL37), which revealed a pit alignment containing a secondary inhumation. Apart from these two sites the majority of evidence for the prehistoric period comes from the landscape surrounding the town.

It appears that the landscape around the river Ouse was well utilised in prehistory. Aerial photographs of the area have shown evidence of a number of ring ditches, the majority are located in close proximity to the river and its tributaries usually on gravel terraces. These ditches are believed to be round barrows dating to the late Neolithic early Bronze Age. Some of the most notable sites are located half a kilometre east of Olney at Clifton Reynes: (HER 199700000) & (HER 115000000), Ashfurlong (HER 140300000), and to the south west of the town in Weston Underwood parish (HER 133500000).

There is also substantial evidence for Iron Age occupation around the town. A number of sites have been revealed in ad hoc excavations such as that at Emberton, while others have been discovered during the investigation of Romano-British sites, most notably at Ashfurlong (HER 113300000). There seems to be some sort of late Iron Age continuity on the sites at Ashfurlong and Emberton (HER 151100000) which evolve and develop in the Romano-British period. At Clifton Reynes where a number of post built round houses were discovered at (HER 128400001).

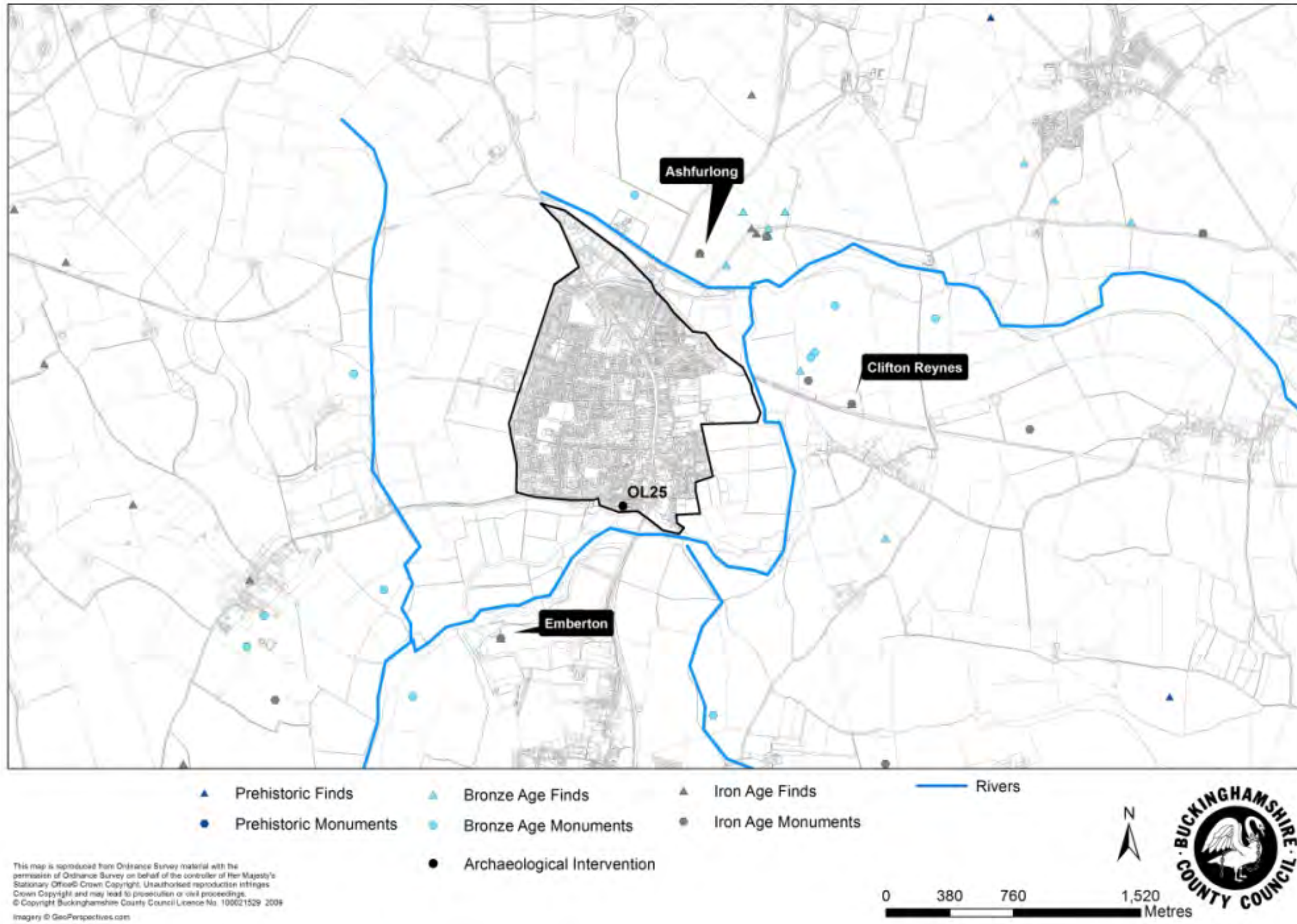


Figure 11: Prehistoric evidence

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

To date there have been a number of discoveries of Roman sites or artefacts within Olney parish. A 2<sup>nd</sup> century water channel/gully was discovered during an evaluation in the garden of 106 High Street, (OL22) and a ditch at East Street (OL36). The excavation at Cowper Tannery (OL25) produced significant amounts of Roman pottery which was largely residual. There have been a number of artefacts discovered within the town including coins and Roman pottery but nothing to suggest a settlement in the area of the town centre. However, the most significant Roman site has been found just beyond the bounds of the town. A short distance to the northeast is Ashfurlong, an extensive Roman settlement first noted in the 19<sup>th</sup> century when large amounts of pottery and considerable quantities of coins were observed in the fields. It is also reputed that a bronze figure of Mercury was also recovered (Sheahan 1862). There is also a dense scatter of building debris in an adjacent field including roofing tile, box and flue tile (HER 113201000). Aerial photographs of the site have revealed linear features that may be indicative of enclosures, field systems and a possible road (HER 113309000). Analysis of pottery and finds around the site has indicated a date range of the 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> centuries AD, (HER 113305000) although one field has yielded evidence for 1<sup>st</sup> century AD (HER 113309000). Apart from a few surveys, there has been no substantive excavation of Ashfurlong but from current evidence the site has been interpreted as a Roman village or proto-urban settlement, one of only two known in the county (Radford & Zeepvat 2009). As a consequence Ashfurlong is of national importance and this is reflected in its designation as a Scheduled Ancient Monument (SAM MK 127).

The approximate extent of the Ashfurlong settlement is not fully understood and it may have extended into Olney itself. Castle house at the north end of Olney is known locally as the old churchyard on account of burials unearthed there in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries; these graves have been traditionally attributed to an Anglo-Saxon or early medieval church as most are devoid of grave goods and are orientated east west (Sheahan 1862). However an alternative view is that these may well be part of a Roman burial ground outside the Ashfurlong settlement or a roadside cemetery (Pers. Comm. N Crank), although further research is needed to confirm this.

Beyond Ashfurlong there are a number of Roman sites in the landscape surrounding Olney. One kilometre to the east of the town at Rines Hill, Newton Blossomville, excavation evidence and aerial photographs have indicated the site of a Roman villa (HER 195303000). While at nearby Weston Underwood there is archaeological evidence of another possible villa, a number of Roman finds with Roman tegula and building materials have been found to the west of the village (HER 188600000). To the south of Olney there is evidence of another Roman settlement. Excavations at Emberton Park revealed Romano dripping wells; at the bottom of one well was a limestone slab with relief carving of Mercury (HER 11510100). Recent aerial photographic evidence has also revealed a further probable villa site to the south of Olney in Emberton parish (Pers. Comm. N Crank).

Ashfurlong and surrounding settlements were connected to a road network; a study undertaken by a group of antiquarians known as the Viatores postulated that there were two principal roads running through the area: the so called Viatores 171 and 175 (Viatores 1964). The most prominent route is the Viatores 175, which is believed to run from Peterborough via Ashfurlong through Olney south to Newport and Fenny Stratford; the course of the Viatores 171 ran northeast-southwest to Water Stratford. Despite criticisms of their interpretations, Viatores 175 seems to be an authentic route although parts of No. 171 have been questioned, (Simco 1984; Zeepvat 1987). Given the increasing number of Roman sites being discovered, it seems there must have been a network of lesser roads and routeways in use that connected places together.

So far we have some indication of a Roman settlement at Olney, although the proximity of sites discovered at Ashfurlong and Emberton shows that it is possible that some form of settlement may have existed in Olney itself, potentially towards the town's southern end perhaps at a crossing or fording point in the river Ouse.



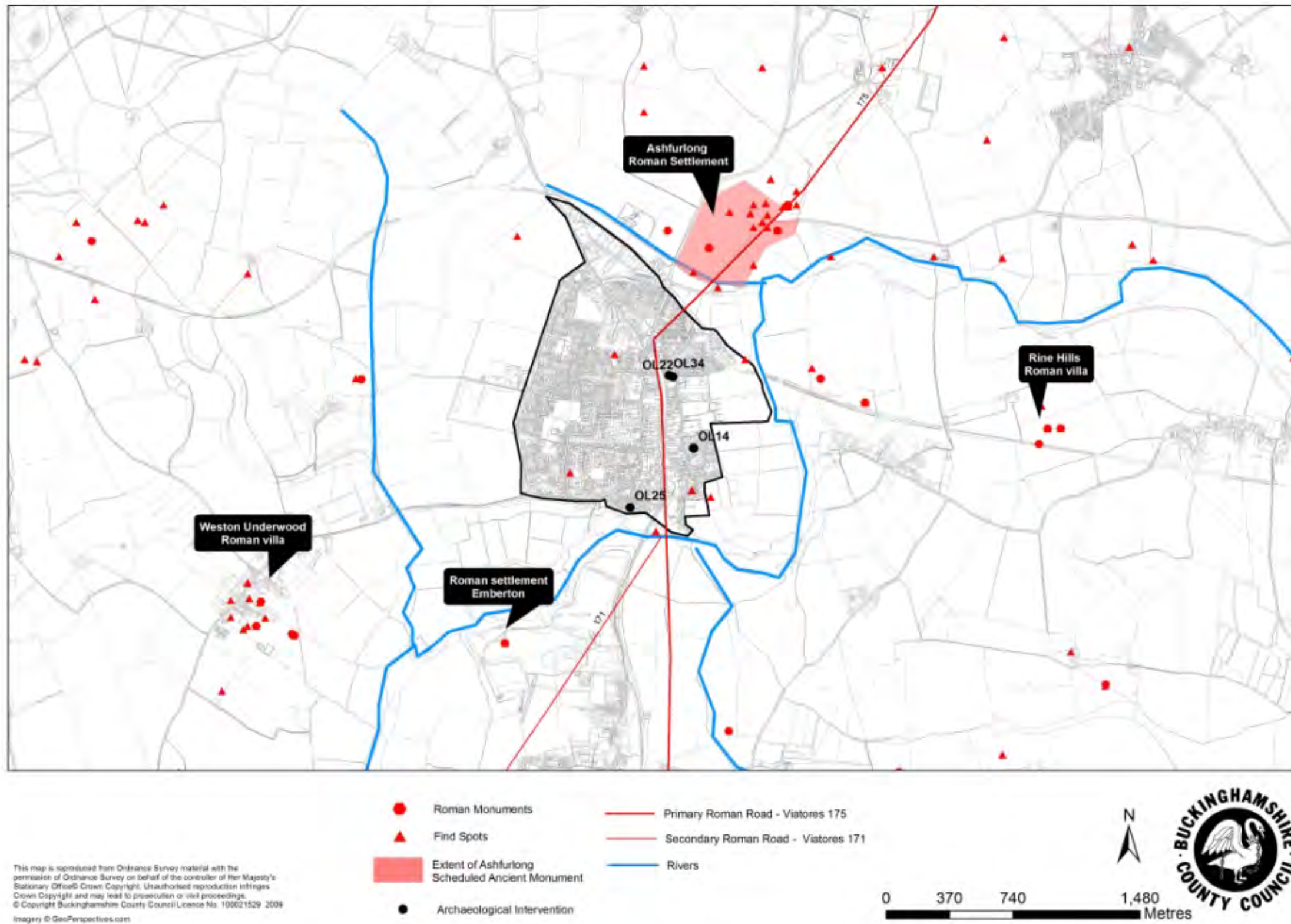


Figure 12: HER records for the Roman period

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

##### *Place name evidence*

Olney is first mentioned in AD 979 as *Ollanega* (Codex Diplomaticus Aevi Saxonici) when King Ethelred granted ten hides of land there to Aelfhere and again in Domesday as *Ollnei*. Surviving references to the charter bounds indicate that the medieval parish including Warrington approximately coincides with the Saxon grant (Baines A, 1979). The name is generally thought to mean 'Olla's Island', Olla being a 10<sup>th</sup> century Saxon name (Mawer & Stenton, 1925).

There is a further reference to the town in the early 11<sup>th</sup> century when in 1016 Olney was the venue for the Witan, a council summoned by Anglo-Saxon kings (Page 1927).

Apart from the Olney charter, the archaeological record has also managed to provide some evidence for the Saxon period in Olney. There have been several archaeological interventions which have yielded Saxon evidence, the most prominent and earliest is an excavation at the Cowper Tannery (OL25) which revealed a series of post holes and chaff tempered pottery dating to the middle Saxon period. More tentative evidence for the middle Saxon period has been found during a watching brief at Rose Court (OL5) where a sunken feature and hearth was interpreted as a potential sunken building or Grubenhau. Evidence for late Saxon period has been found in excavation at Limehouse and Tunns Cottage, (OL8).

##### *'The Old Churchyard' and Christian well*

At the opposite end of the town, where the High Street branches, is the triangular island between the Wellingborough and Yardley roads which has been known locally as 'The Old Churchyard', which is believed to be the original site of the parish church. This is not a recent tradition; a deed of the Castle Inn which lies at the southern end of the island refers to a parcel of land ground Old church Yard', (Sheahan 1862). In 1881 human burials orientated east west with complete skeletons were discovered during work to the rear of the inn, while the laying of services has unearthed more skeletons (Styles 1987). Subsequent excavations on this site failed to find evidence of burials or any structural remains of a church (Collard 1988). It has been suggested that the burials may be Romano-British and connected to the settlement at Ashfurlong.

In addition to the cemetery, Castle End is believed to have another early Christian association, as a spring known as the 'Christian well', mentioned on the 19<sup>th</sup> century tithe map (HER 503202000). There is no trace of the well although it is noted that there a fishpond is present adjacent to the pub (Collard 1988). The presence of the burials and the place name reference is not in itself enough evidence to suggest that the well is of Anglo Saxon date – the name may have originated in the medieval or post medieval periods. However, a well is referred to in the Olney Charter, of AD 979, as the "holy" or "saint's spring" (halgan welle). Baines (1979) in his work on Olney's charter bounds has conjectured that this well is located 1 km west of Olney on the Olney/Weston Underwood parish boundary (HER 544400000). The 'boundary' well was renowned for its purity in the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century and is referred to in Cowper's poem, *The Task*.

##### *Domesday*

Domesday contains one reference to Olney, the manor was held by Burgred pre Conquest and by Geoffrey the Bishop of Coutances after 1066. The total hidage attributed to the parish comprised ten hides (c.1200 acres) with land for ten ploughs, meadow for a further ten ploughs and woodland for 400 pigs. The entry for Olney also included reference to a mill worth 40s, and 200 eels thought to have been located on the site of the current mill house next to the church, and an eel farm. The total recorded population for the parish included 24 villagers, five small holders and five slaves (Morris, 1978).

Pre Domesday the manor of Olney was valued at £12, although after the Conquest the value had dropped to £7. One Freeman, who held 1 ½ virgates of land (c.45 acres), is recorded under Burgred (Morris, 1978).

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

### *Discussion - Town layout*

Considering both the historical and archaeological evidence, the settlement model for Olney in the Saxon period seems 'bi focal' in form, with evidence of settlement at the southern end and possible activity at its northern end (Figure 13). The southern settlement was located adjacent to the river Ouse probably evolved as a crossing or fording point of the river as well as being the location of the church and the town's mill, the extent may have encompassed the triangular market area. Olney's market is a triangular shape which perhaps indicates that the market was formed from the meeting of three roads, High Street, Weston Road and Silver End. From map analysis it appears the market place might have been somewhat larger, incorporating the area to the south of the market including Osborne Court and part of Silver Street to the west. Although Silver Street leads to East Street, this road might have formerly been a direct routeway to the village of Clifton Reynes.

At the northern end of Olney, at Castle Inn, there is much more tentative evidence for a settlement, the principal support for this theory being the discovery of burials in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries which were interpreted as indicating the presence of an early church. However, more recent excavation failed to find any evidence of a building (Collard 1988). To the south of Ashfurlong an excavation of ditch yielded a quantity of early-middle Saxon hand made pottery sherds (HER 827200000). This area is in close proximity to the former Roman settlement of Ashfurlong and there is a question whether there was some sort of settlement continuity from the Roman period and if so what particular form this took? Interestingly there is a lack of archaeological evidence for Saxon period in the centre of Olney, an area that coincides with the medieval planned town. Whether this perceived absence is genuine or that archaeological deposits for the Saxon period exist in these areas but have yet to be discovered.

| Site | Organic chaff tempered | Fine Sand (F1) | Granitic (F2) | St Neots Type (SNC1) |
|------|------------------------|----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| OL8  |                        |                |               | 1                    |
| OL19 |                        | 6              | 6             | 17                   |
| OL25 | 1                      |                |               | 16                   |
| OL32 |                        |                |               | 1                    |
| OL36 |                        |                |               | 1                    |

*Table 2: Quantities of Anglo Saxon pottery sherds found in Olney historic town (Source: HER)*

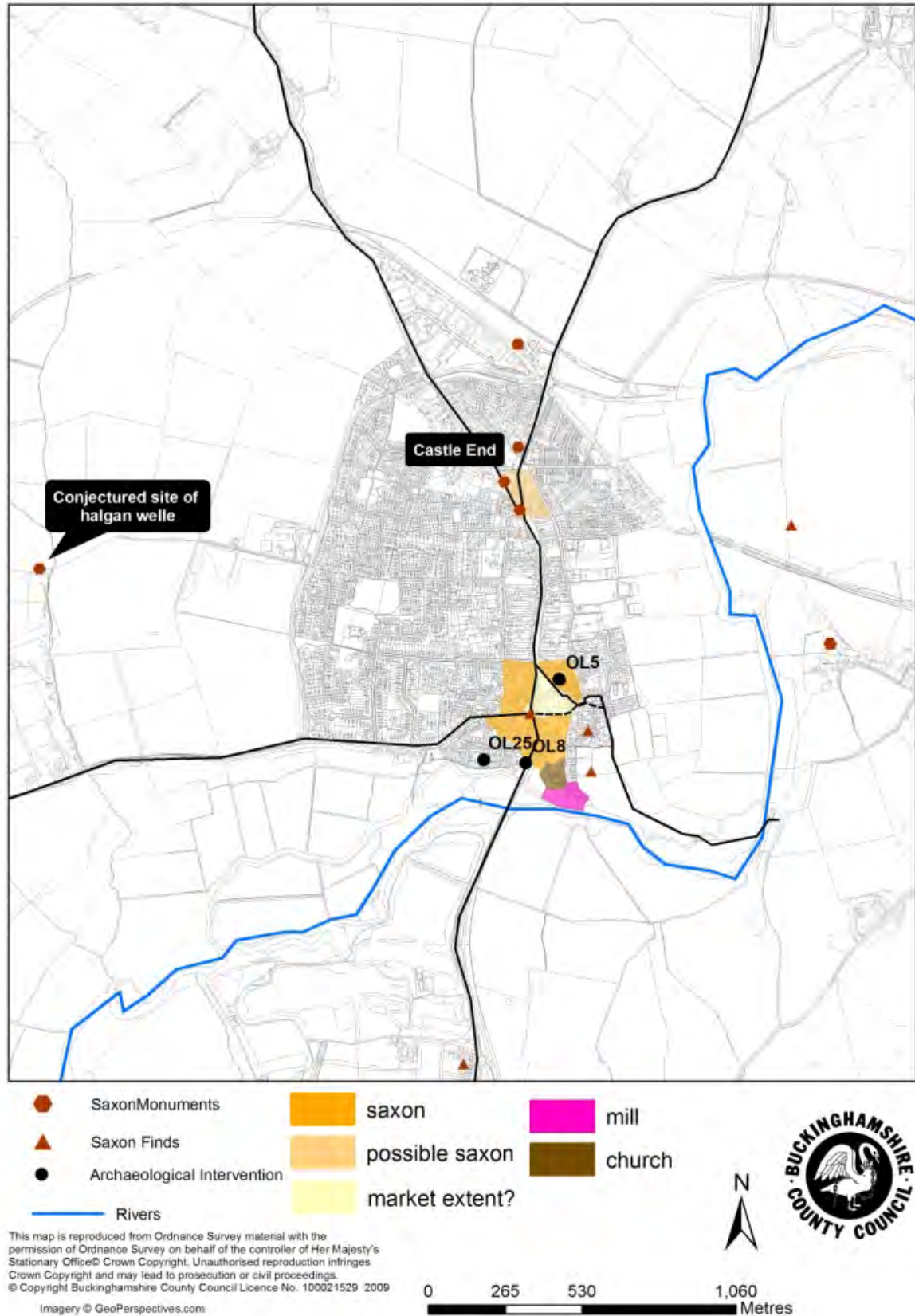


Figure 13: Possible extent of the town in the Saxon period

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

##### *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 around Olney 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.

##### *Olney Manor*

The manor that was first mentioned in AD 979 and assessed at ten hides was granted to the Bishop of Coutances by 1066 AD; however the Bishop's lands were seized by the Crown by 1162. Early in the 13<sup>th</sup> century it passed to Randal, Earl of Chester and on his death in 1232 Olney passed to Hugh Daubeney, Earl of Arundel. Olney passed again by inheritance in 1243 to Roger de Somery. In 1282 Somery's estate was held in trust by Roger's four heirs, three of which maintained the manor at Olney – Margaret, widow of Ralph Basset, Mabel with of Walter de Sully and Maud wife of Henry de Erdington. In 1339 it was conveyed through marriage to solely to the Basset family henceforth descending with the manor of Hanslope. In 1492 the manor reverted to the Crown until Charles I included it in a large grant to the citizens of London in 1628 (Page W, 1927).

##### *Warrington Manor*

First mentioned around 1232 when it was detached from the principal manor. It was reunited with Olney manor in 1353 under Ralph Basset until 1390 when it was seized by Henry Earl of Derby. It has since descended with the duchy of Lancaster (Page W, 1927).

##### *Markets and Fairs*

A Monday market, prescriptive, is first mentioned in 1205, remained until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was moved to Thursday and held every two weeks (Page W, 1927). The Fair was also prescriptive with later license obtained in 1316 by Ralph Lord Basset of Drayton for an annual fair to be held on 29<sup>th</sup> June in addition to another prescriptive fair at Easter (Page W, 1927). There is further reference to a market hall or town hall as well as a shambles in market space in 1440 (Page W, 1927). Not much is known about the administrative arrangements of the market it is not explicitly stated, it is thought that the burgesses collected the market and fair tolls (Page W, 1927)

##### *Borough*

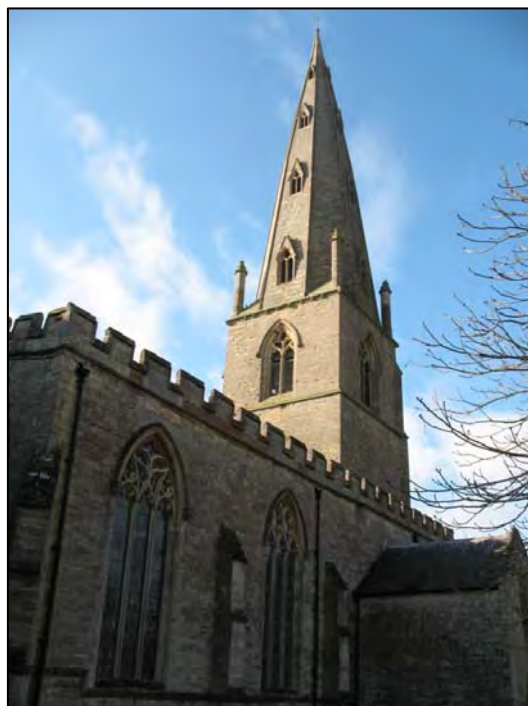
First mention of a borough at Olney comes from 1237 when there were around 56 burgesses (Page W, 1927) It was never incorporated and no burghal institutions survived in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Baines 1979).

*St Peter & St Paul's Church*

The imposing Grade I listed parish church of St Peter and St Paul lies to the south end of the town, close to the bridge over the river Ouse. The building is constructed in a decorated style and much of the fabric is believed to date to 1330 with the distinctive tall tower and spire dating to the later 14<sup>th</sup> century (Pevsner & Williamson, 1993: 587). The church has had a number of subsequent alterations particularly in the 19<sup>th</sup> century including the removal of the clerestory and rebuilding of south and north aisles.

The discovery of burials at the north end of Olney has led to speculation as to whether SS Peter and Paul was the original site of the Olney's church (see above ???). Archaeological survey and excavation may reveal evidence about the early history of the church but to date there has been only one watching brief in the church yard (OL4) which yielded archaeology dating to the post medieval period.

*Figure 14: St Peter & St Paul's Church*



*Olney manor house*

There is much debate about the exact location of Olney's medieval manor house. Olney Court a farm located 1 ½ km to the north east of the town is believed to be the seat of the feudal lords, (Sheehan 1861). Another interpretation is that the manor was located on or near the site of the Great House, an 18<sup>th</sup> century mansion located in between the church and mill which was demolished c.1830 (Page 1927)

*Olney Hyde*

Located only one mile north of the town is the deserted medieval settlement of Olney Hyde, this was originally part of the manor of Olney and was a major medieval pottery production centre, supplying pottery to towns in Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire and Northants. Olney Hyde produced two basic types of pottery fabric: Olney 'A', a limestone tempered ware of developed St Neots type, and Olney 'B', a sand tempered ware with some limestone. A portion of this extensive production area was examined by excavation in 1967 and 1969 which revealed a number of pottery kilns dating from 12<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> centuries. It is known that Olney Hyde formed part of the 10 hides in Olney given in the AD 979 charter, (Mynard 1967 and Baines 1981); however, the earliest documented reference to Olney Hyde is 1261 (Page 1927). It seems that the hamlet suffered from the effects of famine and the Black Death in the 14<sup>th</sup> century; the decline in fortune is reflected in the emparkment of land to the west of the hamlet for Olney Park in 1374, (see below). By 1411 the population of Olney Hyde was reduced to twelve customary tenants as well as freeman and cottagers (Page 1927, 432). The archaeological excavation also corroborates the date of decline, as a croft ceased to be occupied and house and kilns fell into disuse (Mynard 1986).

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

| Site | Olney Hyde A (MC3) | Olney Hyde B | Abingdon (OXAG) | Brill/Boarstall (MC9) | Medieval shelly ware (MC1) | Medieval sandy (MSC1) | Great Brickhill type | Potterspurty (MC6) | North Oxon (MSC1) |   | Medieval general |
|------|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|---|------------------|
| OL1  |                    |              |                 |                       |                            |                       |                      |                    |                   |   | 62               |
| OL5  |                    |              |                 |                       |                            |                       |                      |                    |                   |   | 33               |
| OL8  |                    |              |                 |                       |                            |                       |                      |                    |                   | 1 |                  |
| OL13 | 1                  |              |                 |                       |                            | 3                     |                      |                    | 5                 |   |                  |
| OL16 | 15                 |              |                 |                       |                            | 1                     |                      |                    |                   |   |                  |
| OL17 | 1                  |              |                 |                       | 1                          |                       |                      |                    |                   |   |                  |
| OL18 | 3                  |              |                 | 1                     | 1                          |                       |                      |                    |                   |   |                  |
| OL19 | 375                |              |                 |                       |                            |                       | 3                    | 13                 |                   |   |                  |
| OL20 | 5                  |              |                 | 5                     | 1                          |                       |                      |                    |                   |   |                  |
| OL22 | 10                 |              |                 |                       |                            |                       | 1                    | 1                  |                   |   |                  |
| OL24 |                    |              |                 |                       |                            |                       |                      |                    |                   |   | 1                |
| OL25 | 3125               | 2            |                 | 12                    |                            |                       | 72                   |                    | 6                 |   |                  |
| OL26 |                    |              |                 |                       | 2                          |                       |                      | 1                  |                   |   |                  |
| OL27 | 11                 | 7            |                 |                       |                            |                       | 4                    | 6                  |                   |   | 126              |
| OL30 |                    |              |                 |                       |                            |                       |                      |                    |                   |   | 49               |
| OL32 |                    |              |                 |                       | 81                         | 89                    | 3                    |                    |                   |   |                  |
| OL34 | 17                 |              |                 | 3                     |                            | 1                     | 1                    |                    |                   |   |                  |
| OL36 | 58                 |              |                 |                       |                            |                       |                      |                    |                   |   |                  |
| OL37 |                    |              |                 |                       | 1                          |                       |                      |                    |                   |   |                  |

Table 3: Quantities of medieval pottery sherds found in Olney historic town (Source: HER)

It is unsurprising that excavations in Olney have shown that the abundant medieval pottery types tend to be the locally sourced Olney Hyde wares. Although what is unusual is that most contexts there is relatively little Potterspurty ware which is so abundant in excavations in other north Buckinghamshire towns (Blinkhorn in Lisboa 2005).

### *Olney Park (NGR 487200 253600)*

A deer park was imparked by Ralph le Basset by royal licence in 1374. Beyond the park's ownership nothing further is known about the park in the medieval period however its history does continue into the post-medieval (see below).

### *Trade, mills and industry*

It is thought that the location for the medieval mill remained unchanged, located to the south east of the church. However manorial records state that two mills were appurtenant to the Manor in 1343-4 but only one by 1411-12. The introduction of the mill had some impact on the river Ouse with the creation of leet or mill stream. Although the mill stream has been improved and updated when the mill expanded in the post medieval period, it is believed that and some sort of water management was in existence in the medieval period (Sheahan, 1862: 578).

### *Olney Bridge*

In the open letters patent of King Edward III (1334) there is an entry of a patent (grant) for repairing Olney Bridge. The parish register states that the bridge was built in 1619 (Page 1927).

### *Inns and Taverns*

There are no inns or taverns documented as dating to the medieval period. However through Olney's location on the arterial road to Kettering it seems a certainty that the town contained a number of inns and taverns to accommodate the travellers and visitors to the town.

### *War of the Roses*

Olney is recorded as being the location for the capture of Edward IV by the Earl of Warwick after his defeat at Edgecote Moor in 1469. Local tradition has it that Edward used the church spire as a lookout for the appearance of the enemy (Sheahan 1862).

### *Olney Castle (reputed)*

Local tradition says that Olney once possessed a castle, at the north end of the town. Sheahan states that the likely location was a field known as Home Field which also coincides with

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

location of the spring known as the Christian well (Sheahan 1862). Home field was developed in the 20<sup>th</sup> century and is now covered by housing.

### *Vineyard*

In 1284 there are several mentions of the vineyard in Olney: 'part of le Wynyerd towards the highway extending from the bridge as it is divided by certain metes' and 'the purparty of le Wynyerd towards Langeford'. One cottage was also being rented by William le Vinerun for 12d, two hens and the service 'of a cottage' (CCR 1279-1288, pp. 289-94.).

### *Town layout*

The town layout of Olney can be broken down into four distinct plan elements: The church/ mill area, triangular market place, the High Street and Castle End area. The church/mill and triangular market area appear to be the oldest components of the town with probable origins in the Anglo Saxon period.

The morphology of the High Street was identified by Beresford (1967) as a classical example of medieval town planning, being a planned extension to the north of the Market Place and Church ends. Long narrow burgage plots are laid out at right angles either side of the High Street and are serviced at the rear by two back lanes, East Street and West Street. Olney's High Street layout is roughly symmetrical with the plot lengths roughly equal on the west and east sides, it is also arguably one of the best surviving examples of a medieval town planning in Buckinghamshire.

Archaeological evidence of medieval plots has provided an idea of the extent of medieval settlement. Evidence from the rear of 33 High Street (OL27) shows that by at least the 13<sup>th</sup> century this area of Olney was built and relatively intensively used. In addition archaeological evidence has given some limited insight into the status of medieval households; excavations at the Old Manse (OL 32), revealed evidence for a high status house including fine domestic pottery and the rare find of a c. 14<sup>th</sup> century chimney pot.



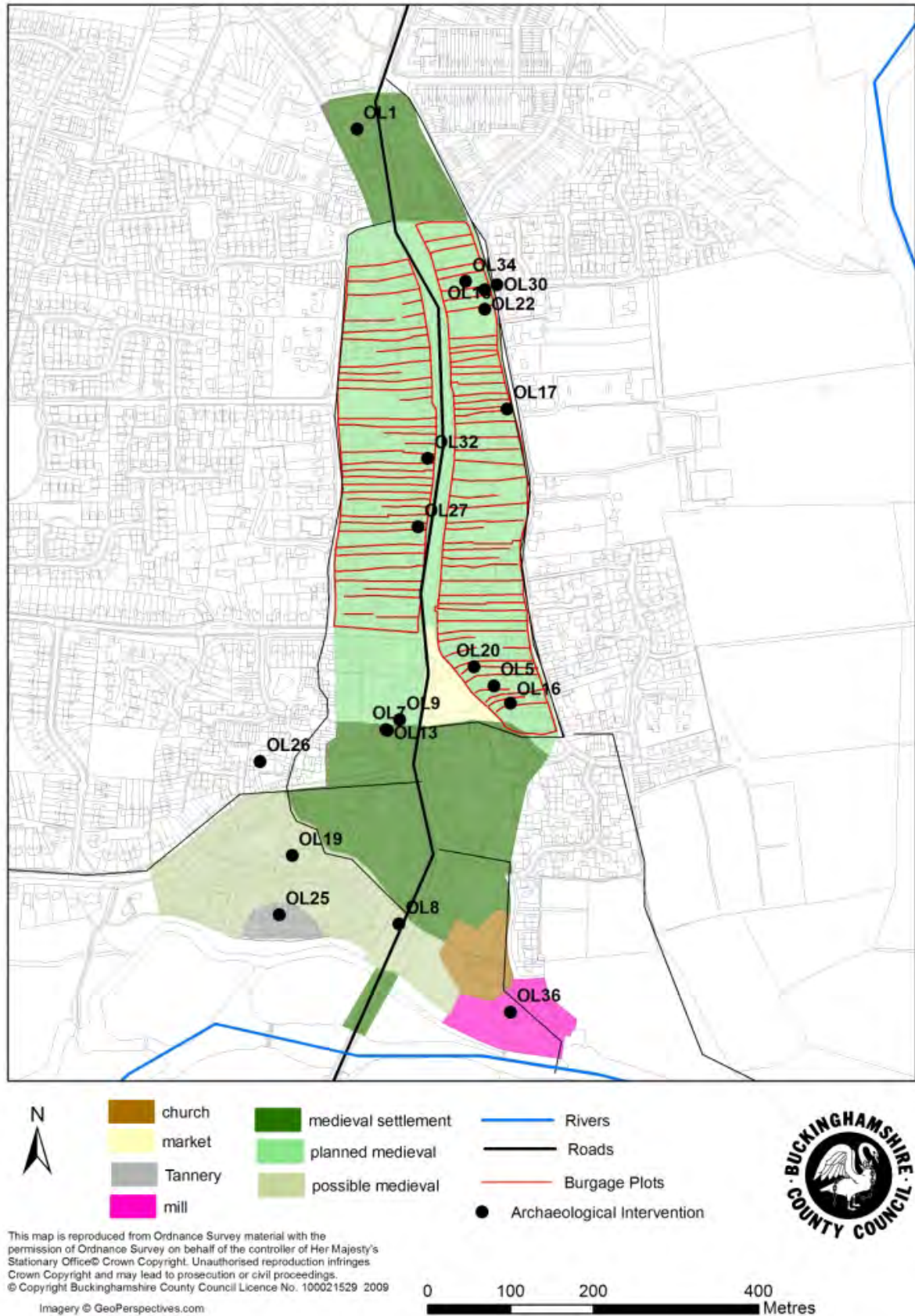


Figure 15: Possible extent of the town in the medieval period

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

##### *Manors*

##### **Olney Manor**

Olney manor was in the possession of the Earls of Warwick until the death of Anne, Countess of Warwick in 1492 the manor was then transferred to the Crown and remained in royal hands until 1629 when it formed part of the grant made by Charles I to the citizens of London. In 1639 the manor was purchased by a London merchant, Richard Nicoll whose descendents held on to the manor until 1755 when passed by the female line to the Earls of Dartmouth, (Page W, 1927).

##### **Warrington Manor**

By 1604 the manor was held by Sir George Throckmorton, remaining with his family until 1767 when it was sold to Lord Dartmouth. In 1798 it was sold to William Farrer of Cold Brayfield (Page W, 1927).

##### **Whithills Manor (reputed)**

First mentioned in the 16<sup>th</sup> century the name derived from a local family who held some land in the parish (Page W, 1927).

##### *Market Place - Shiel Hall, Shambles and Lock-up*

There are a number of references to the Shiel Hall which was positioned in centre of market place. It is believed that the building acted as both a market house and as a town hall. The building is depicted in an early 19<sup>th</sup> century painting but was destroyed around 1816 (Sheahan 1862). There also an obscure 18<sup>th</sup> century reference to a shambles near the market place (Page W, 1927)

In addition to the Shiel hall, it is known that the market place had a 'lock-up' to accommodate the drunk and disorderly and people who had committed minor crimes. The 'lock-up' is also depicted in two paintings, including one of 1821 which shows the building to be hexagonal in shape and built of brick and clay tile. It is not known when the 'lock-up' was demolished but it is thought to have coincided with the creation of the county police force in 1856.

##### *Trade, mills and industry*

##### **Tannery**

The earliest known documented reference to a tannery in Olney is in a will of 1729 which names Annie Roberson as the successor of a tannery (Page 1927). However, it is conceivable that a tannery had been in existence on or near this site for some considerable time. William Cowper also records a tannery in Olney in 1780 when one of his pet hares had to be rescued from a tanning pit (Sheahan 1862).

##### **Lace Industry**

The lace industry became established in the town in the 17<sup>th</sup> century due to an influx of refugees from the low countries, and lace buyers were based there from 1670s. The town suffered much poverty when the trade began to decline and in 1780 William Cowper, recorded that there were 'nearly 1200 lace makers in this beggarly town' (quoted in Sheahan 1861). Cowper was friends with John Newton who was the town's Curate in 1767 and was engaged on a mission to help 'poor ignorant lace makers' (quoted in Markham 1973). The lace making industry began to wane in by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, superseded by the machine production of lace in Nottingham.

##### *Roads & Turnpikes*

Olney was on the Kettering to Newport Pagnell Turnpike which was established in 1747.

##### *Inns and Taverns*

In 1754 there were reputed to be twenty-seven inns in the town and four known maltings (Knight 1981). Most of these inns catered for the coaching trade as well as for the locals. One of the earliest is the Cross Keys Inn named as early as 1556 (Page W, 1927)

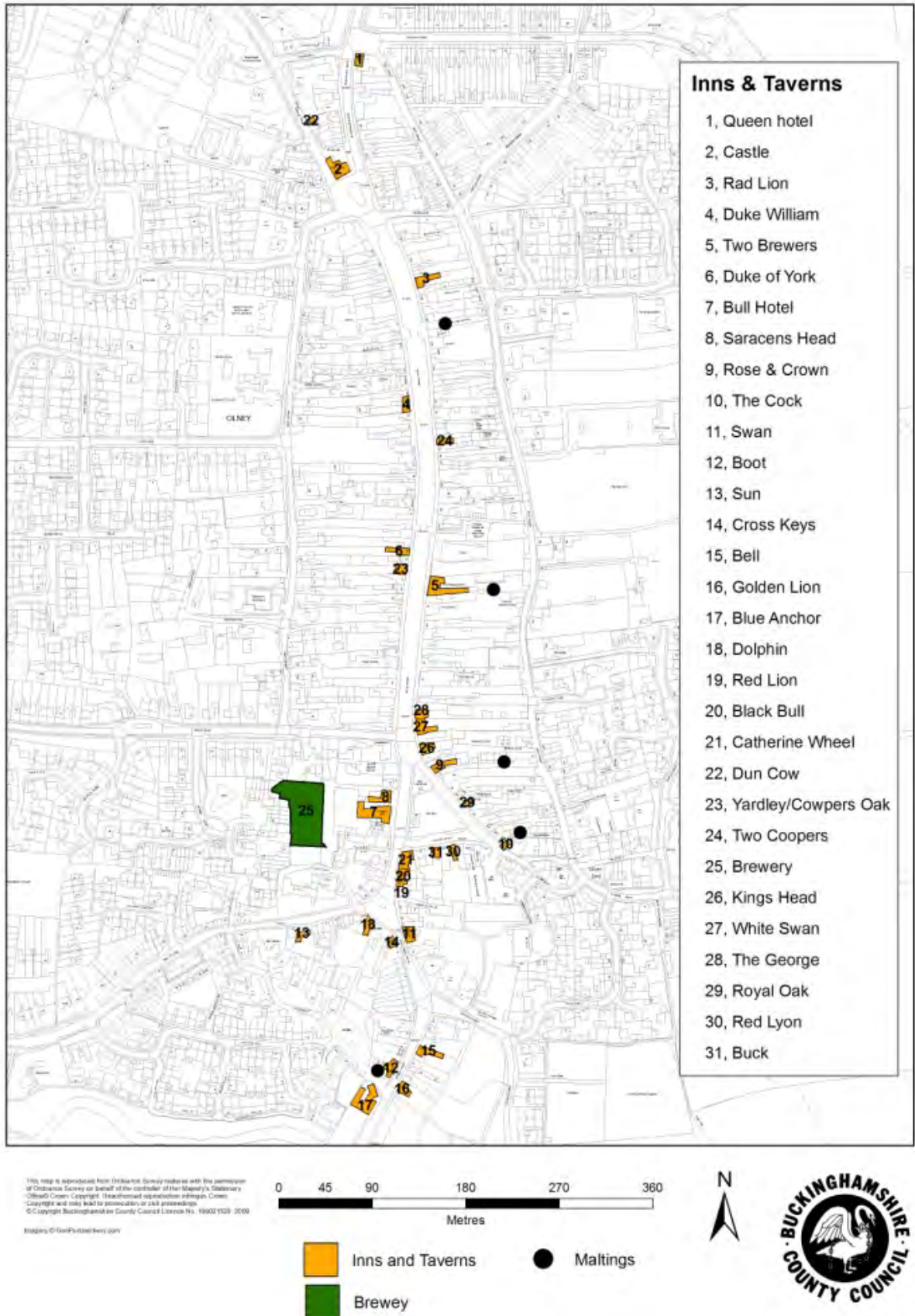


Figure 16: Inns and Taverns of Olney after Knight

### *Town layout*

Olney's plan form in the post-medieval period remains, to some degree, unchanged from the medieval period. The only exceptions are piecemeal expansion of housing at the southern end of East Street and possibly west of West Street. The only other notable addition is the tannery, although there is no exact date for its foundation it is thought to have been established sometime in the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

### *Parliamentary Enclosure*

In 1767 an Act of Parliament was enacted for dividing and enclosing the open and common fields and 'commonable land' within the parish of Olney.

### *Churches & Chapels*

#### **St Peter's and Paul's Church - John Newton**

One of Olney's most famous residents was the Rev. John Newton who was Curate from 1764-80. Newton collaborated with the poet William Cowper to write the Olney Hymns including *Amazing Grace*. Despite his fame in Olney, Newton ended his days as the rector of St Mary's Woolnoth, London where he died in 1807 (Page 1927). The remains of Newton and his wife were removed and interred in Olney churchyard where a marble tomb was erected. Newton was also famous for his sermons and the original pulpit used by him was restored to the church in 1922 from Northampton Gaol.

#### **Nonconformity in Olney**

Baptist Missionary Society, 23 High Street

Nonconformist Christianity has always been strong in Olney, and the town was evangelised by of John Sutcliffe, one of the founders of the Baptist Missionary Society, who in 1799 established a seminary for the training of missionaries in what is now No. 23 High Street (Page 1927 pp 429-439),

Baptist Chapel: built 1694, enlarged 1763 (Page, 1927),

Cowper Memorial Congregational Chapel, High Street. Originally built 1700, rebuilt in 1879 on same site.

### *Hospitals & Schools*

It is reported that a school was kept by Samuel Teedon in the Shiel Hall in the market place (Page, 1927). There are no further details about this arrangement but this practice conforms to the establishment of schools in the market halls of other towns, (e.g. Wendover, Amersham).

### *Olney Workhouse*

Olney's workhouse was located along the High Street in an area now known as Tory Row or Victoria Row. It was established in 1735 under the governance of Mr John Tooley. The workhouse was demolished after the introduction of Union workhouses, thereafter Olney's poor relief was handled by the workhouse at Newport Pagnell (Page 1927).

### *Events*

Olney was hit by a series of fires, including in October 18<sup>th</sup> 1777 and 1787 which reportedly destroyed 43 houses (Sheahan, 1862: 578). However there are no further details about the fire's exact location or the buildings affected.

### *Olney Park*

Ownership of the park passed to the Crown in Elizabeth's reign, a survey of the park in 1608 by the Duchy of Lancaster records that the park was paled; and contained 3854 trees, the 45 acres to the north of the lodge was known as the 'Great Grove'. According to the Parliamentary Survey of Bucks made under the Commonwealth there was still a lodge but deer had gone and only rabbits, valued at £10, remained (Page 1927, p. 432). The modern civil parish of Olney Park is 206 acres in area, and lying to the north west of the village probably marks the site of the park, which was said to have existed north of the common arable fields (Cantor & Hatherly, 1977 p. 445).

### *The Civil War*

Olney was known to be an outpost for the Parliamentary forces during the civil war, with a garrison stationed within the town. There is no known documentation or archaeological evidence to suggest that the town was fortified. Olney's association with conflict is derived from the accounts of an attack made by Prince Rupert's Royalist forces from Northampton in 1643. A night raid was designed to drive out the garrison but the assault was successfully repulsed after a stand by the Parliamentarians on Olney Bridge. The engagement known as the 'Battle of Olney Bridge' reputedly left forty dead with many wounded. A number of military artefacts believed to be associated with this skirmish have been found in or near to the bridge. The finds include a number of musket balls, and a civil war sword retrieved by workmen excavating the foundations of the new iron railed bridge in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, (HER 820500000). Most of these finds are on display in Olney museum. A row of graves was unearthed in excavations at Emberton Park, these have been tentatively interpreted as casualties of the Olney Bridge skirmish (HER 820501000).

### *Gallows (reputed)*

At the junction of the Warrington and Lavendon roads outside the town there is an open area which is supposed to be the place upon which the gallows of the ancient Lords of the manor (Sheahan 1862).

### *Secular Buildings*

The Olney street scene is dominated by principally 18<sup>th</sup> / 19<sup>th</sup> buildings which vary in style from very fine Georgian mansions typified by the Old Vicarage, Church Street and No 10 Bridge Street to the vernacular buildings in the characteristic local limestone along the High Street, Weston Street and the Market Place.

Some of the finest buildings of this period include Cross Keys House (No. 11 High Street), which was a former inn of 1717, although the structure is believed to be much earlier in date (Pevsner and Williamson 1993 p.590). Olney House and Orchard House (No.67 High Street) which is built in as Pevsner terms an 'Arts & Crafts Neo Baroque' (Pevsner & Williamson 1993 p. 591)

Perhaps one of the most well known buildings in Olney is the Georgian mansion known as Orchard side located on the southern side of the Market Place. Although not regarded as the finest example of Georgian architecture, (Pevsner & Williamson 1993 p.590), the building's fame is derived from its association with the poet William Cowper who was resident in the building's western wing from 1767 to 1786. At the rear of the property in the herbal garden is the Summer House, a small retreat in where Cowper wrote much of his poetry. Cowper's former home is now the Cowper & Newton Museum which is dedicated to telling the history of the town and the life of Olney's celebrated residents. The museum has also retained the custodianship of the gardens and the Summer House.



Figure 17: Cowper & Newton Museum, Market Place

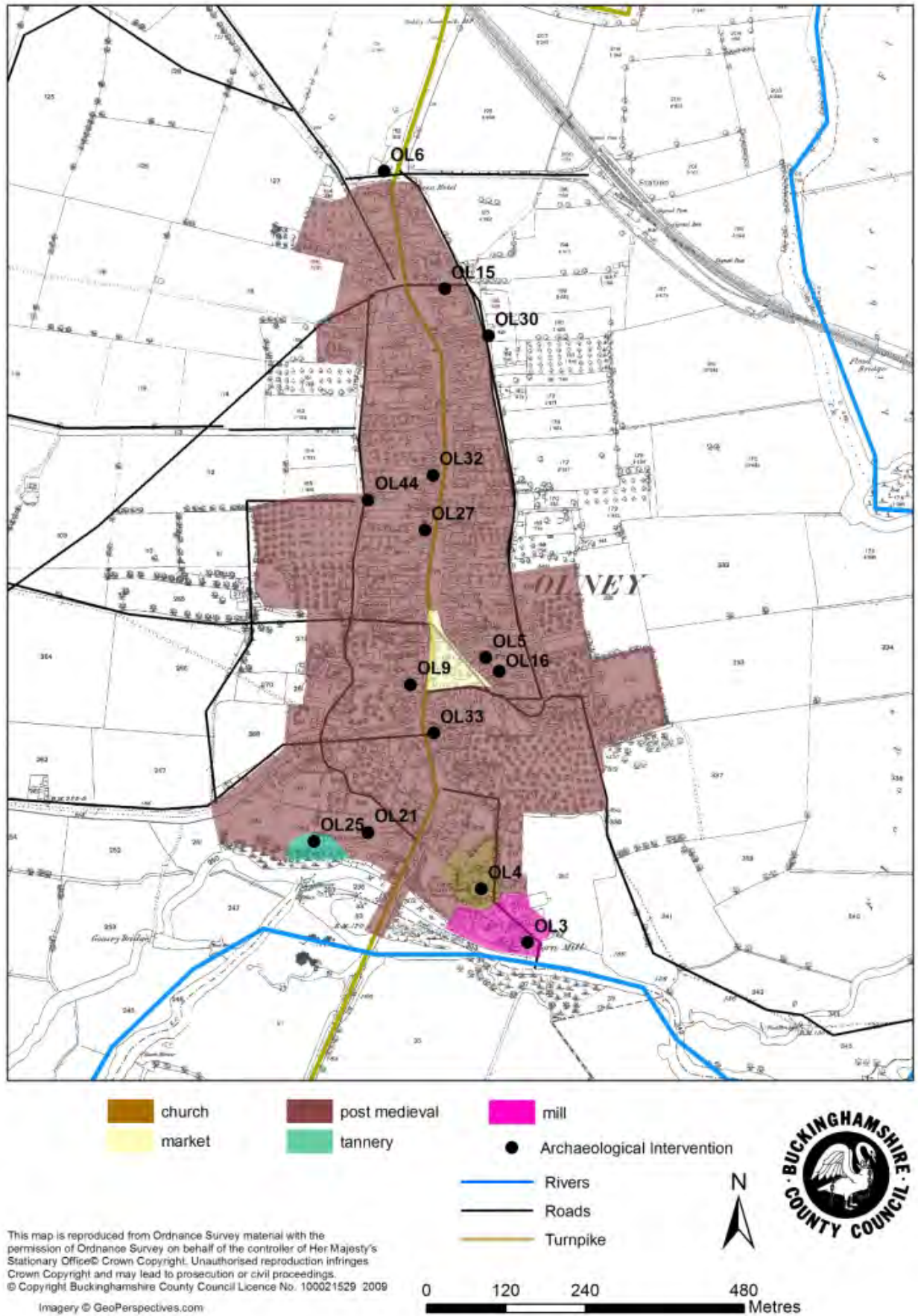


Figure 18: Possible extent of the town in the post medieval period

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

##### *Manors & Estates*

Olney manor had been in the ownership of the Legge family or the Earls of Dartmouth from 1755. The Dartmouth inheritance continued into the 20th century until the death of the 8<sup>th</sup> Earl of Dartmouth, William Viscount Lewisham, (Page 1927). The rights of fair and market had belonged to the Manor of Olney including receipt of rents from the market although in 1941 these rights were acquired by the then Parish Council.

##### *Industry in the 19th Century (see Appendix 4 for details)*

##### **Lace making**

By the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century lacemaking in Olney was already in decline. The development of cheaper manufactured lace in Nottingham had reduced the demand for handmade lace (Sheahan, 1862: 578). Despite these industrial innovations lacemaking continued in the town and by outworkers in the surrounding villages albeit at reduced level. Attempts were made to revive the fortunes of lacemaking in the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Harry Armstrong, a local entrepreneur, had a lace making factory on the corner of Newton Street and Midland Road. In 1928 operations transferred to the Bucks Lace Industry warehouse on the High Street. The building was used to assemble the lace onto articles such as handkerchiefs and table linen, but its more important function was to market and pack the lace for shipment within the UK and abroad. The Lace Factory continued to operate until the death of Armstrong in 1943, thereafter the building was left empty and in the 1950's it re-emerged as a lampshade factory before being converted to apartments in 1988. (ODHS )



*Figure 19: Olney Lace Industry, High Street*

##### **Hipwell & Co Brewery, High Street (demolished)**

There had been records of a brewery or malting to the rear of the Bull pub since the 18<sup>th</sup> century but the site developed to become Olney's main commercial brewery. The story begins in 1849 when William Hipwell, a grocer took over the business with his father, a brewer from Newport Pagnell. In 1854 Hipwell formed a partnership with Charles & John Coling to form the Coling, Hipwell and Coling, brewers, wholesale wine and spirit merchants. The brewery underwent a

number of name changes, but by 1868 the brewery was known as Hipwell & Co. William Hipwell built up something of a brewing empire, owning a number of pubs/maltings in Newport Pagnell as well as pubs in Bedfordshire and Northampton. This acquisition also extended to Olney when in 1867 the company bought up the malting to the rear of the Cock Inn on East Street, and in 1871 it opened up the Queen pub on Midland Road to cater for the rail traffic (Brown 2007). The business was owned by a succession of Hipwells until it was bought by Phipps of Northampton in 1920 (Phipps NBC). The brewery ceased production soon after in 1927. In 1948 the brewery site was sold and the premises were temporarily used as a storage for furniture before being demolished. The site is now a supermarket, restaurants and shops.

### **Olney Mills or Cowper Mills**

Olney mill was long established, the site is thought to have antecedents dating to medieval period and Domesday (Page 1927). By the 19<sup>th</sup> century the mill still operated as a corn mill and was in the ownership of Messrs Harrold & Gee in 1823 one of the oldest recorded businesses in Olney. However, the successive owners (A Gudgin & Son) were the victims of a disastrous fire in 1878 which partially destroyed the mill building the destruction being completed by another fire in 1964. The mill house survived and is now a private residence; the granaries have been converted to living accommodation. In 1907 it was described as having two undershot wheels, capable of driving twelve and forty to fifty horse power respectively (Freese 2007).



*Figure 20: Olney Watermill, 1938*

### **Tannery**

Olney possessed a successful tanning industry which was active for much of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Located next to the river Ouse, the tannery was probably established in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and provided leather to the local cordwainers and to the growing shoe industry in Northampton. The tanning works passed to Joseph Palmer in 1840 although after his death in 1870 the site closed and had become derelict. The works was eventually purchased by Messrs W.E. & J Pebody Ltd of Northampton in 1898; under their ownership the business became one of the first to adopt a new tanning process - using salts of chromium rather than the traditional



bark and leaves in the conversion from raw skin to leather. This proved to be a popular with the military in the First World War as the process withstood the conditions in the trenches better than leather produced by other methods. As a consequence the output of the tannery increased and in 1915 the tannery buildings were extended.

The tannery managed to endure the economic slump of the 1920s and 1930s, output was cut but leather was still in demand. The Olney tannery continued to adapt its practices and in 1938 a system of wells was installed on an island in the Ouse to supply water which would be a more consistent quality than the river water.

During the Second World War production at the tannery was under state control; although tanning was disrupted in 1944 when a fire destroyed the main building but much of the infrastructure survived. Given the wartime demand for leather, a new single storey building soon replaced the lost one. After the war the tannery continued to innovate, specialising in Aniline leather – high quality Italian skins without blemishes. Olney's leather was much in demand; by 1990 75% of sales were for export. Despite its long and productive history the tannery closed in 1999 and the business was relocated to Billing in Northamptonshire. The tannery site has now been redeveloped for housing (Prosser 1998).

### **Hinde and Mann Shoe Factory/Lodge Plugs factory, Wellingborough & Station Road**

Olney's Hinde and Mann shoe factory was built in 1891 on the corner of Station Road and Wellingborough Road. The factory started with a one storey building on Wellingborough Road which expanded to the other; the factory was redeveloped to the three storey building that survives today, this opened in May 1894. At its peak the factory was employing over 364 staff and producing over 16,000 pairs of shoes per week. However, after the First World War came the economic slump, when cheap shoes were being produced for £1 a pair. Shoe production was no longer viable and the factory closed in 1932. The building was eventually bought by Lodge Plugs, suppliers of components to the aircraft industry, who were looking for a place in the country that was not likely to be bombed. The factory produced plugs until the end of the war 1945. The building remained unoccupied until it was bought by developers who converted the factory into luxury apartments in 1990.



*Figure 21: Hines/Lodge Plugs Factory, Wellingborough Road*

### *Olney Railways*

Olney became part of the railway between Bedford and Northampton built by the Midland Railway Company in 1872. The line was located to the north of the town where a station and spacious goods yards were built. The coming of the railways to Olney had a direct impact upon the town benefiting the shoe and boot industry which reached its zenith in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The railways meant that Bedford and Northampton were only 20 minutes away and a journey to London took only 1 ¾ hours. Another catalyst of the railway was the increase in housing around the station; Midland Road, Newton Street and Station Road were built to accommodate factory workers. Unfortunately the railway started to wane in mid 20<sup>th</sup> century and the Beeching review meant the end for the Bedford Northampton line; the station was closed and demolished in 1962.

### *Newport Pagnell to Olney branch line*

In addition to the Midland Railway Company line, originally there were plans for an extension for a line to go from Newport Pagnell to Olney through to Wellingborough where it would have joined the Northampton to Peterborough railway. The plans were approved in 1866 but these plans were finally abandoned in 1875 due to Company's continuing financial problems, which resulted in it being taken over by the LNWR. Olney got a rail link in 1872, but via the Bedford and Northampton Railway (Hunt and Mynard 1995).

### *Newport Pagnell to Olney Tramway*

In the 1870s there were plans to introduce a tram service from Newport Pagnell to Olney; tramlines were laid along the length of Newport Pagnell High Street in preparation. However the project failed as land required to bypass Emberton, which was fundamental for completing the route, could not be purchased. (Mynard & Hunt 1995).

| Summary           | 1830 | 1842 | 1850 | 1864 | 1877 | 1887 | 1891 | 1903 | 1911 | 1920 | 1935 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Professional      | 6    | 8    | 5    | 4    | 3    | 6    | 5    | 3    | 3    | 6    | 10   |
| Agric/General     | 0    | 0    | 5    | 16   | 10   | 6    | 10   | 6    | 13   | 11   | 11   |
| Artisans/trades   | 38   | 43   | 47   | 18   | 22   | 20   | 29   | 22   | 26   | 18   | 12   |
| Service/Provision | 72   | 90   | 96   | 64   | 50   | 68   | 54   | 56   | 50   | 45   | 47   |
| Merchant/dealer   | 28   | 31   | 49   | 27   | 28   | 25   | 45   | 27   | 38   | 29   | 32   |

*Table 4: Summary of trade in Olney 1830-1935 (method adapted from Broad, 1992)*

### *Civic and modern religious structures*

#### **Olney Bridge**

A bridge with five segmental arches was built over the south stream of the Great Ouse in 1832. Olney Bridge is now designated as a scheduled ancient monument (Pevsner N, 1993: 590).

#### **Olney Gas Works**

The Olney Gas Light and Coal Company Ltd was established in 1854, and set up a gas works and gasometer at Silver End. The company was eventually amalgamated into the Northampton Gaslight company in 1937. The gasworks ceased to work in 1964 and the gasometers were dismantled in 1990, part of the area is now a public car park (Markham 1973).

#### **Olney War Memorial, Market Place**

Olney's war memorial commemorates the loss of 61 men in the First World War and 19 from the Second World War. The memorial, unveiled in 1921 by General Lord Horne of Sirkoke, is a cenotaph style memorial surrounded by a lawned garden (Edwards 2003, website).

#### **Cowper Memorial chapel**

This chapel was located on the east side of the High Street and erected in 1879 built of local limestone and fronted in Bath stone (Pevsner & Williamson 1993).

**Wesleyan Chapel**, built 1902 (Page W, 1927).

**Society of Friends, Silver End.**

A small building located at Silver End was used by the Quakers as a chapel who lived in the neighbourhood. It is believed that a small cemetery was located nearby in which is buried Ann Hopkins Smith who founded the almshouse and school on Weston Road (Page W, 1927).

**Church of our Lady and St Lawrence, West Street**

A Roman Catholic Church together with a residence for the priest was built in 1903 from local limestone with Wheldon stone dressing (Kelly 1935). The church was extended in 1990 to accommodate the growing Catholic community in Olney and the surrounding villages (Pevsner 1993: 588).

**St Joseph Convent, West Street**

St Joseph's was established in 1901 by the Sisters of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost French Carmelite nuns, it is a plain classical five bay house of the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century. A wing was added in the 1990s (Pevsner N, 1993: 588)

**Sutcliffe Baptist Chapel, Market Place.**

The original Independent Baptist chapel in Olney dated from 1694 when it was adapted from use as a barn and was enlarged in 1763 after becoming very dilapidated. It was eventually rebuilt in 1893 and chapel named after the Reverend John Sutcliffe who was a former pastor in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. (Pevsner N, 1993: 587)

*Hospitals & Schools pre 1945*

**British School & Almshouses, Weston Road**

The almshouses on Weston Road were established in 1819 by a Quaker, Miss Ann Hopkins Smith, to accommodate elderly widows of the town. (Sheahan, 1862: 589) Not content to provide poor relief for some of Olney's residents, Hopkins Smith built a British school in 1835 (Pevsner N, 1993: 590)

**British and Foreign Society School, 23-27 Church Street (HER 709200000)**

From local accounts Church Street is believed to be the location of a British School, where a monitor system of elder children taught the younger pupils. The building is a terrace of three small houses to the east of the church originally a single brick built building with the centre section projecting slightly. This section is dominated by a large arch which is filled-in and incorporates a door and window (MK HER).

**Board School, High Street**

The Board school was built in 1872 with Gothic style windows and bell-turret. The school was eventually modernised and converted to community centre in 1991, (Pevsner N, 1993: 587)

**St Josephs Convent School, West Street mid 19<sup>th</sup> century** (Pevsner N, 1993: 587)

Established in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century, yellow brick

*Hospitals & Schools post 1945*

There are two main schools in Olney which are Olney Middle School, Yardley Road, a junior school that was first established in the 1950s and Olney First School at Spinney Hill Road which opened in the 1960s.

**Olney Fires**

In addition to the 18<sup>th</sup> century fires, Olney was unfortunate to endure a series of destructive fires in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the first occurring on the 9<sup>th</sup> August 1851, a second and third in January and April 1853. Although the fire of 1854 was one of the most damaging, a blaze broke out at north-east end of the town, c.50 houses destroyed, 30 more damaged (Page W, 1927)

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

### *Secular Buildings – the impact of modern infill*

Settlement growth in Olney began in earnest in the 1890s; the development of the adjacent Northampton Bedfordshire Railway provided the stimulus for trade and in particular Hides' shoe factory on Wellingborough Road. Redbrick terraced houses built in Station, Midland and Newton Road date to the late 19<sup>th</sup>/early 20<sup>th</sup> century were intended as housing for workers engaged in the shoe and leather working industry. The uniform housing is laid out along the straight surveyed roads and gives this area of Olney a distinctive character and homogeneity. Another area of interest is the inter-war semi-detached red brick housing at Moores Hill. The buildings, secluded in a hedge lined close and are constructed in a neo-vernacular style: brick diapering on the front walls with quoins and hipped roofs.

Olney developed dramatically after the Second World War, and some of the first does contain some of the first housing to be built in this period was Council housing at Dagnall Road in the 1950s. However, the majority of Olney's housing built after the 1950s, is constructed in the familiar modern style found in the suburbs of nearly every English town. There have been some recent attempts by developers to design new housing to fit in with Olney's vernacular style. Houses at Lime Street (Figure 24) have been constructed using limestone which is characteristic of Olney's historic High Street; although the plan forms do not vary and are often identical.



*Figure 22: Edwardian terraced housing, Midland Road, Olney*



*Figure 23: Interwar housing, Moores Hill, Olney*



Figure 24: Lime Street, Olney

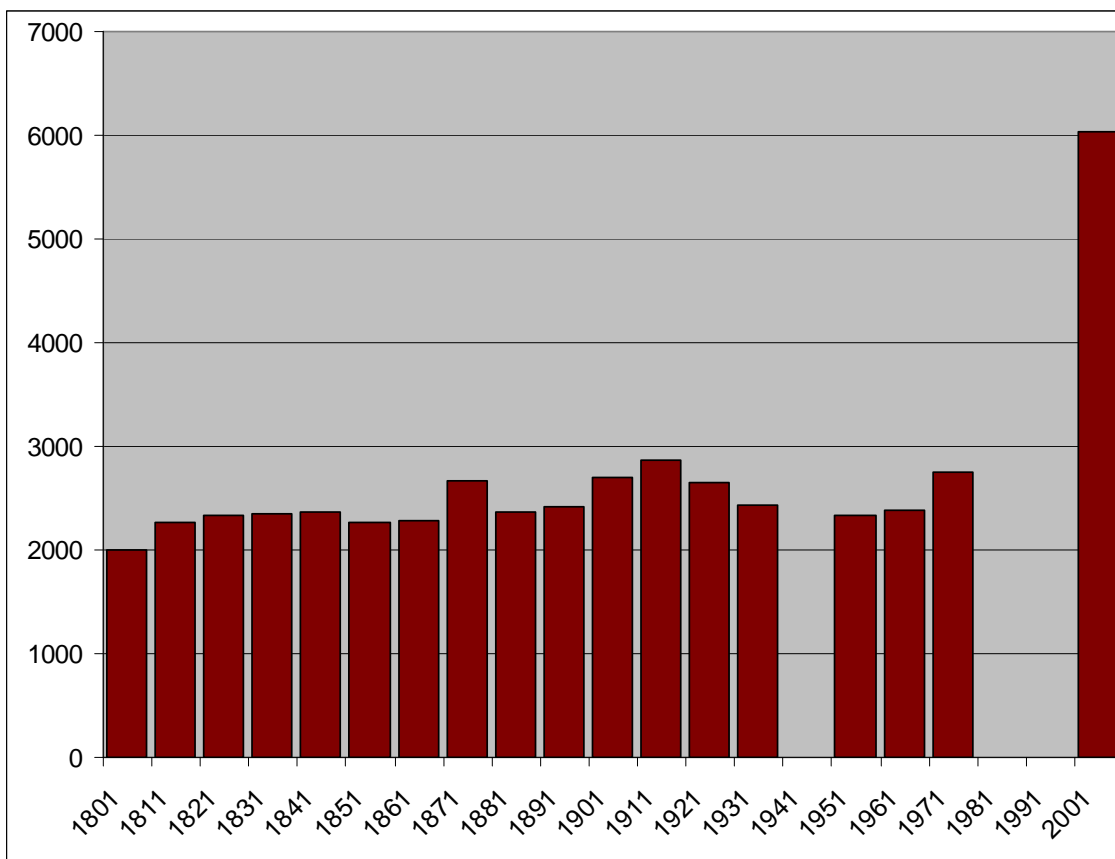


Figure 25: Graph showing population changes in Olney (excluding 1941, 1981 & 1991)

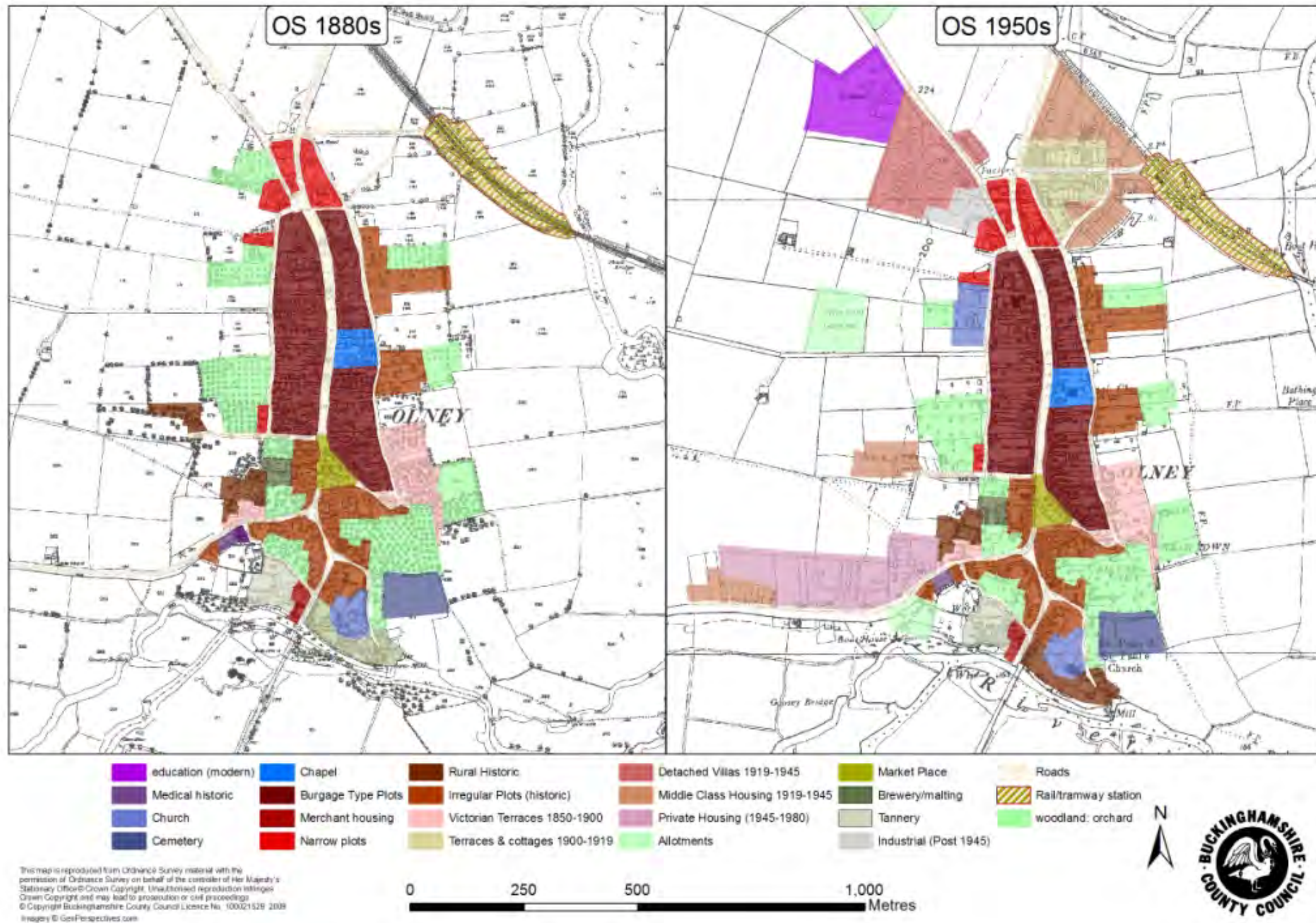


Figure 26: Town in the 1880s to 1950s



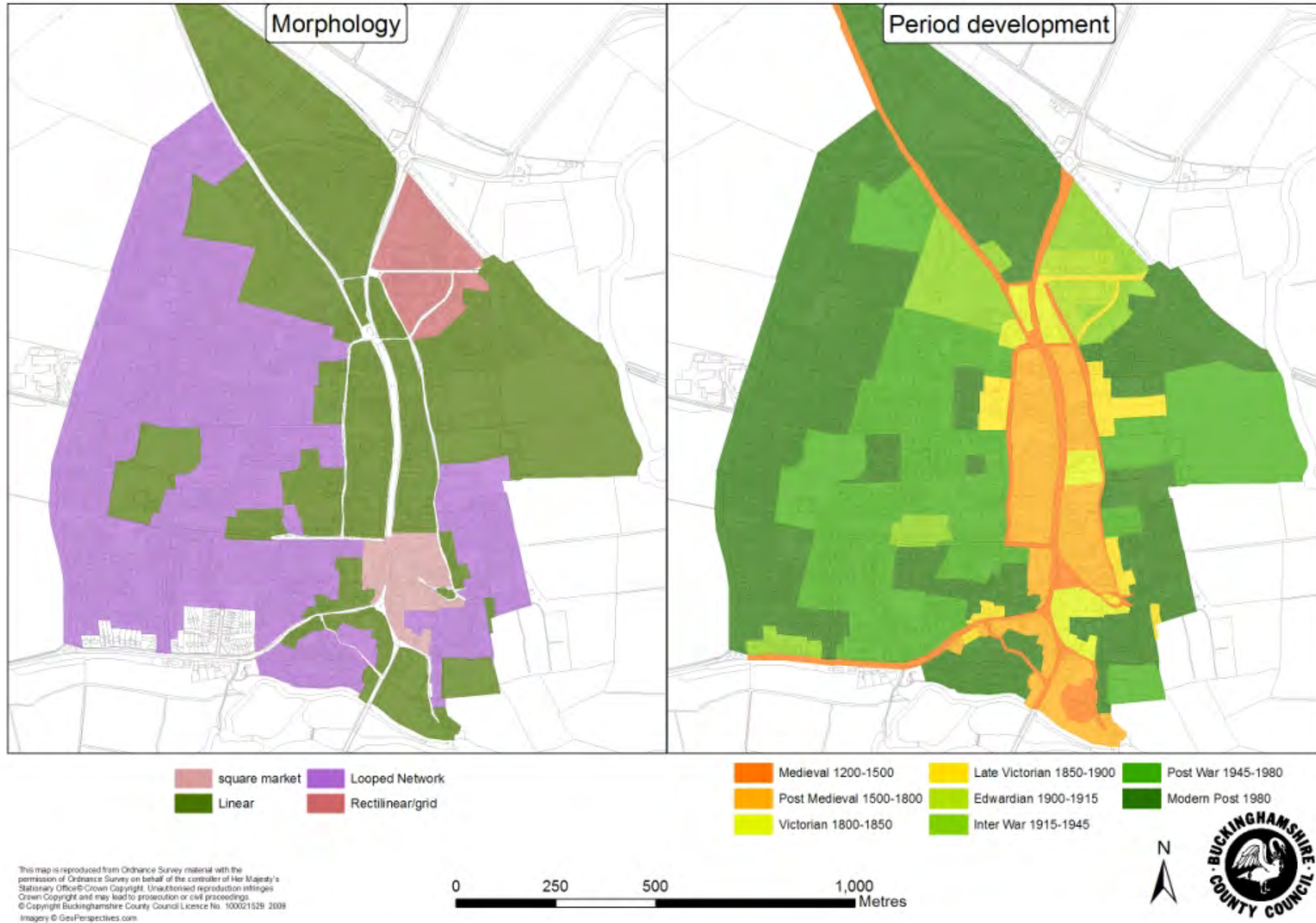
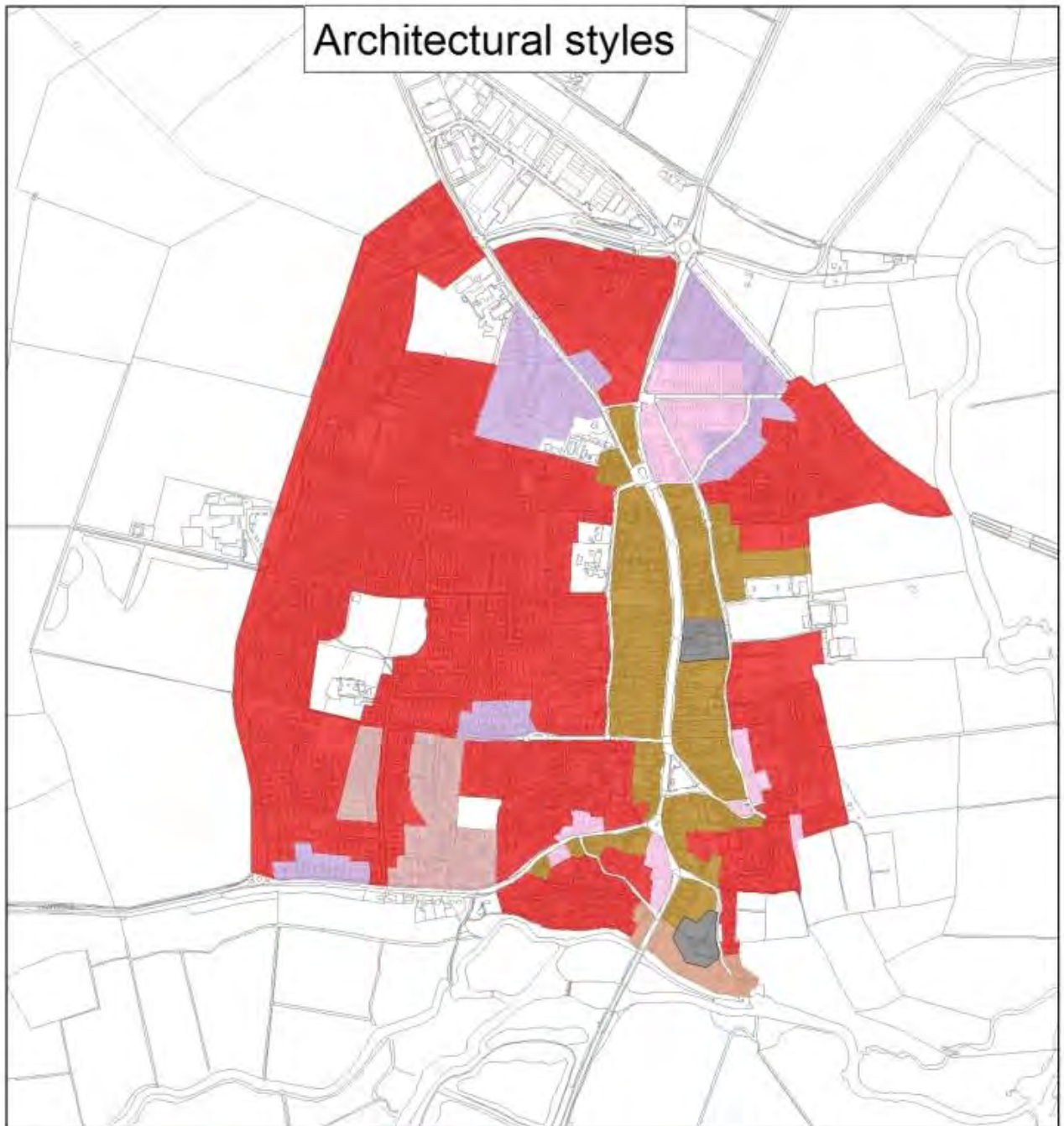









Figure 28: Morphological and period development





- |   |                  |   |                  |  |                  |
|---|------------------|---|------------------|--|------------------|
|  | Gothic Style     |  | Victorian Style  |  | Municipal Modern |
|  | Vernacular Style |  | Edwardian Style  |  |                  |
|  | Georgian Style   |  | Modern (General) |  |                  |



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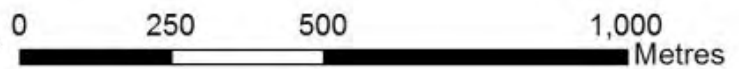


Figure 29: Architectural styles

## 5 Historic Urban Zones

### 5.1 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 (**Error! Reference source not found.2**). Each zone contains several sections including:

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

### 5.2 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 (**Error! Reference source not found.2**). 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. 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

### 5.3 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.

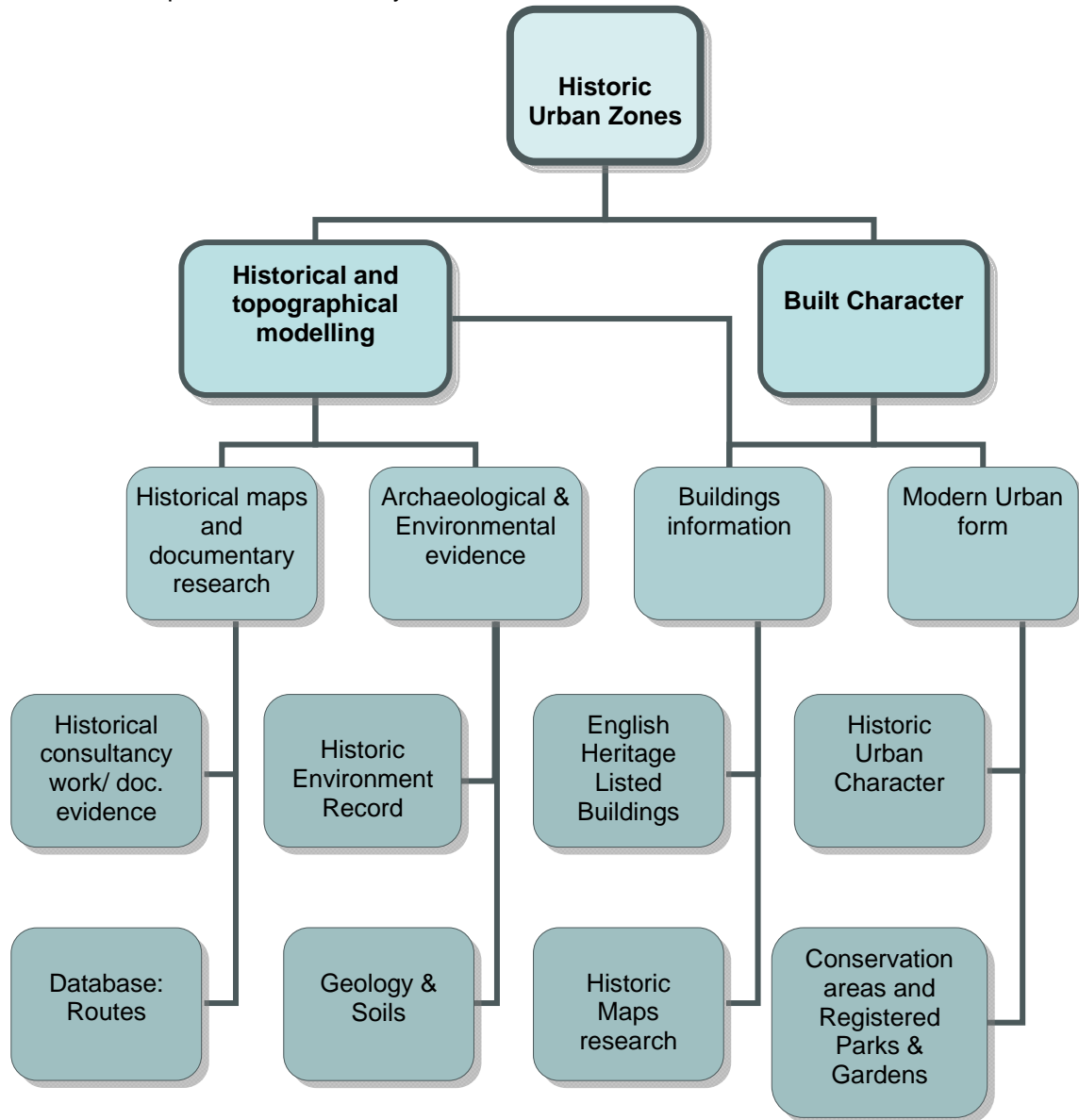


Figure 30: Diagram showing the processes involved in the creation of the urban character zones

*Period*

Assessment of the time-depth of archaeological remains likely to be present. As a general rule urban deposits with greater time-depth will tend to be of more archaeological interest.

- Early Medieval foundations 1000 -1100 and/or with possible proto or pre urban antecedents. Potential for remains with a very wide date range of a thousand years or more.
- Medieval Foundations of 1100 -1536 with remains relating to Medieval and Post Medieval establishment and change

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

- Post 1536 - establishment and change occurring after 1536. Post-medieval remains only
- Post 1800 – modern development

### *Survival*

This section focuses on the visible or documented survival of historical elements. For example buildings will have a bias towards post medieval although some medieval forms (churches) will exist. In terms of deposits assessment will often be based upon documented investigations and it should be recognised that some parts of towns cannot be assessed until further data becomes available.

- High = Documented survival of extensive significant remains
- Medium = Documented survival of significant remains
- Low = Documented extensive destruction/loss/absence of remains
- Uncertain = Insufficient information for reliable judgment

### *Potential*

This section relates to the likelihood of preservation of structural, artefactual and ecofactual evidence and will be a summary based in part on known archaeological and environmental evidence and in part on predictive preservation and therefore should be treated with caution. Potential preservation is based upon ground conditions whether wet or dry, the topography and the quality of archaeological evidence. The relationship between subsurface deposits and standing buildings is also of relevance. Evidence for buildings potential lies in determining the preservation of older building structures or fabrics hidden behind later builds and facades. The principal nature of remains predicted will be indicated. This will also refer to the potential for environmental finds, although this can only be a general statement.

- High - Areas predicted to contain stratified or waterlogged buried deposits or early structural elements within standing buildings. High potential for environmental finds such as anoxic environments with pH of over 7. (peats, waterlogged deposits)
- Medium - Areas predicted to contain significant buried deposits and/or potential for hidden structural elements. Potential for environmental finds can be varied, covers a wide range of soil types.
- Low Areas predicted to have limited survival of archaeological deposits e.g. due to destruction of subsurface deposits by modern development. Low potential for environmental finds such as oxic environments with a neutral pH. (brown earths)
- Uncertain - Areas with insufficient data to make any meaningful prediction

### *Group Value*

The identification of adjacent buildings where concentrations of types occur forming a distinct character. For the majority the group value will be not applicable but can include Commercial clusters, Ecclesiastical clusters or Industrial clusters.

### *Diversity*

This criterion seeks to measure the phases of change to a given area through time. The diversity reflects the range of features, components and monuments that can be recorded within the zone or across a wider range of zones. Equally this could also apply to the diversity of the built environment. This will also examine the survival of buildings within the historic core using English Heritage listed buildings data to assess the range and diversity of dates and architectural style within the zone.

- High – 3 or more phases
- Medium – 2 major phases
- Low – Single phase
- Unknown

#### 5.4 Heritage Values

The assessment has also adopted the methodology outlined in the English Heritage document *Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance (2007)*. This is intended to help ensure consistency when carrying out assessments on the historic environment by proposing an integrated approach to making decisions, based on a common process.

Although acknowledging the importance of existing heritage designations, the Conservation Principles promotes a holistic approach to the various inter-related heritage values that might be attached to a place. The high level values range from evidential, which is dependent on the inherited fabric of the place, through historical and aesthetic, to communal values, which derive from people's identification with the place.

- *Evidential*: The potential of a place to yield evidence about past human activity e.g. through study of buried archaeological remains or historic buildings
- *Historical*: Derives from the ways in which past people and events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It tends to be either illustrative of particular activities or process or associative with famous people or events.
- *Aesthetic*: Derives the ways in which people draw sensory and intellectual stimulation from a place. It can reflect deliberate design (e.g. architecture) or the fortuitous coming together of features to create a 'patina' of age.
- *Communal Value*: derive from the meanings of a place for the people who relate to it, or for whom it figures in their collective experience or memory. Communal values can be closely bound up with historical (particularly associative) and aesthetic values, but tend to have additional and specific aspects manifesting as symbolic, commemorative, social or spiritual values.

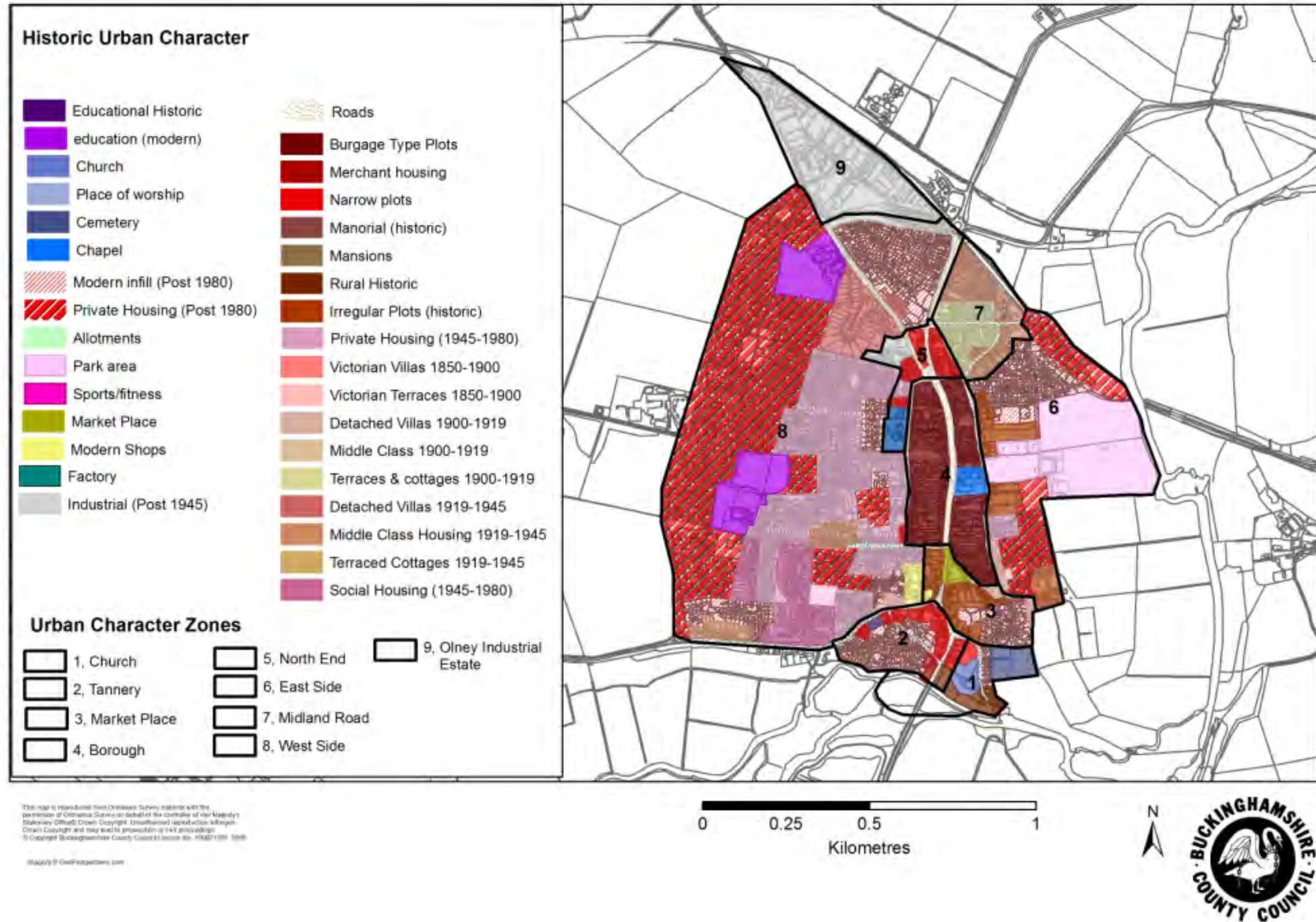


Figure 31: Historic Character Zones for Olney

5.5 Historic Settlement

| Zone 1: Church, Mill and Olney Bridge  |                         |   |          |  |
|--|-------------------------|---|----------|--|
| <b>Summary:</b> As its name suggests this zone encompasses the southern area of the town including the parish church of SS Peter and Paul, the former mill, bridge and part of the meadows adjacent to the river Ouse. With the exception of the bridge and causeway the zone is within Olney's conservation area  |                         |   |          |  |
| <b>Historical:</b> This zone is believed to be one of the earliest parts of Olney. The location of the church and town's water mill, are long established and is thought to date back to Domesday.<br>This part of the town is associated with two notable events in local history. The first is apocryphal and occurs in 1469 when Edward IV was captured in Olney after the battle of Edgcote Moor, the church is mentioned in a later account as being used by Edward as a lookout for before his capture. The second event occurred during the Civil War, when Olney Bridge was the location for a skirmish which became known as the 'Battle of Olney Bridge'. In the 18 <sup>th</sup> century John Newton was the pastor of Olney church, Newton was famous for the writing of the Olney hymns with the poet William Cowper. |                         |   |          |  |
| <b>Evidential:</b> To date there have been four archaeological interventions in the zone which have been limited to archaeological watching briefs. Of these three have yielded positive results; at mill close (OL36) showing evidence for medieval deposits, while investigations at the Church (OL4) and mill (OL3) have yielded post medieval evidence. While existing archaeological evidence is limited, the alluvial geology of the river Ouse has a high potential to contain stratified waterlogged deposits. There are six listed buildings in the zone including the Old Vicarage, the 18 <sup>th</sup> century mill house and 19 <sup>th</sup> century mill building, although the most significant of these is the 14 <sup>th</sup> century grade I listed building of Olney church.                                  |                         |   |          |  |
| <b>Aesthetic:</b> With the exception of the traffic on the bridge, the Church, Mill and Olney Bridge zone is an attractive area of the town, possessing a quiet rural feel, and is far removed from the bustle of the High Street and market area. The zone's most important asset is the magnificent 14 <sup>th</sup> century church of St Peter and Paul which is a significant landmark in the area. The combined setting of the church bridge and river are artistically important and iconic, as the views from the south of the town across the river Ouse have been captured in a number of historic paintings and illustrations.   |                         |   |          |  |
| <b>Communal Value:</b> This area is a key spiritual and communal zone within Olney containing the church of St Peter and St Paul as well as the town's cemetery. However the area does not contain any commercial attractions.   |                         |   |          |  |
| Archaeological Assessment  |                         | Built Character (general characteristics)                       |          |  |
| <b>Period:</b> Anglo Saxon, Medieval, Post-Medieval<br><b>Survival:</b> High<br><b>Group Value:</b> Ecclesiastical/industrial<br><b>Diversity:</b> High<br><b>Potential:</b> High  | <b>Morphology:</b>      | Linear  |          | <b>Density:</b> Low  |
|  | <b>Character Types:</b> | Parish Church<br>Narrow Plots<br>cemetery                       |          | Rural Historic<br>Modern infill post 1980<br>Bridge            |
|  | <b>Architecture</b>     | Gothic<br>Vernacular  | Georgian | Modern (General)   |
| <b>Heritage Values</b>   | <b>Plan Form</b>        | Post medieval (wide frontage<br>Post medieval (narrow frontage) |          | Post medieval farmhouse<br>Modern detached<br>Modern bungalows |
| <b>Evidential Value:</b> High<br><b>Historical Value:</b> High<br><b>Aesthetic Value:</b> High<br><b>Communal Value:</b> Medium  | <b>Build Materials:</b> | Brick: Machine (Red)<br>Stone<br>Stone (rendered)               |          | Brick: machine (coloured)                                      |
|  | <b>Roof Materials:</b>  | Tile: Slate (Natural)<br>Tile: Handmade Clay                    |          | Tile: Concrete   |

| <b>Zone 2: Tannery</b>  |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Summary:</b> The Tannery zone is an area to the south west of Olney demarcated by Weston Road to the north and west, Bridge Street to the east and the river Ouse to the south. The character of the zone can be broadly be defined by two areas, the historical buildings that front Weston and Bridge Streets and the modern 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing estates built along Chantry Rise and Wagstaff Way. The latter is outside Olney's conservation area.  |   |  |  |
| <b>Historical:</b> The areas fronting Weston Road and Bridge Street contains the oldest buildings in the zone and include the former Cross Keys and Sun Inns.<br>At the south eastern end of the zone was the former location of the Olney or Cowper Tannery, which was known to have been in operation from the 18 <sup>th</sup> to 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries. The tannery was renowned for supplying high quality leather to the shoe industry. The tannery buildings were demolished in 2002 and the site is now occupied by modern housing.<br>Lime Street which cuts through the centre of the zone to Bridge Street is a historically important road. In the 19 <sup>th</sup> century it was formerly known as Dead Lane which is believed to be a lich way or coffin way a path that a funeral party transported the body for burial. The course of the road ends at Bridge Street but is directly opposite to Olney's parish church.   |   |  |  |
| <b>Evidential:</b> This area has had seven archaeological interventions, the most significance of which is the excavation following the demolition of the Cowper Tannery (OL25). The results of the excavation revealed evidence of activity in the Neolithic, Iron Age, Roman, Anglo Saxon and medieval periods. The archaeological deposits showed good preservation of animal bone from a variety of species, and also good preservation of charred plant remains. There have been a number of watching briefs at historic buildings and in the curtilage of properties along Bridge and Weston Streets, although only one, Bridge House, (OL8) showed evidence of late Anglo Saxon / early medieval occupation. Three others, (OL23, 29 and 35), have yielded negative results, all affected by modern disturbance.<br>The Tannery zone contains 24 listed buildings the majority are grade II and date to the 18 <sup>th</sup> century, however there are some notable examples including the 18 <sup>th</sup> century almshouses on Weston Street |   |  |  |
| <b>Aesthetic:</b> The Tannery zone contains some attractive historic buildings fronting Weston Road and Bridge Street, although the attractiveness is detracted from slightly by the high volume of traffic on Bridge Street.   |   |  |  |
| <b>Communal Value:</b> The area has a number of shops and services.   |   |  |  |
| Archaeological Assessment   | Built Character (general characteristics) |  |  |
| <b>Period:</b> Anglo Saxon, Medieval, post-medieval<br><b>Survival:</b> High<br><b>Group Value:</b> N/A<br><b>Diversity:</b> High<br><b>Potential:</b> High   | <b>Morphology:</b>                        | Linear   | <b>Density:</b> High   |
|   | <b>Character Types:</b>                   | Modern infill post 1980<br>Narrow Plots  | Medieval (Historic)  |
|   | <b>Architecture</b>                       | Modern General   | Vernacular   |
| <b>Heritage Values</b>  | <b>Plan Form</b>                          | Modern detached<br>Modern terrace<br>Post medieval: (wide frontage)<br>Post medieval (narrow frontage) | Post medieval: terrace<br>Post medieval: rear addition terrace |
| <b>Evidential Value:</b> High<br><b>Historical Value:</b> High<br><b>Aesthetic Value:</b> Medium<br><b>Communal Value:</b> Medium   | <b>Build Materials:</b>                   | Stone<br>Brick: Machine (Red)  | Stone (render)   |
|   | <b>Roof Materials:</b>                    | Tile Slate: (Artificial)   | Tile: Handmade (clay)  |



| Zone 3: Market Place and Silver End   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Summary:</b> This zone is focused on the triangular market place. The zone incorporates High Street South and the northern part of Church Lane and extends to Silver End. The majority of the zone is within the town's conservation area the only exception being the modern housing development at Coneygere.</p>   |   |  |   |
| <p><b>Historical:</b> The market place is the commercial heart of the town. Olney does not possess a market charter but has a prescriptive status - one founded on ancient custom and viewed as an authoritative claim established by long use. A market is first recorded in 1205-6. However in all probability the market place has a much earlier in origin as it seems to be formed from the meeting of three roads: High Street, Weston Road and Silver Street. The market place in the post medieval period had a lock-up and a market house known as Shiel house both of which were demolished in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>The building known as Orchard Side on the south side of the market place is associated with the 18<sup>th</sup> century poet William Cowper. The building is now a dedicated museum to the life of Cowper and his friend and collaborator John Newton, as well as the general history of the town. The Market Place is also the venue for Olney's annual pancake race, which is reputedly the world's oldest. The other notable monument on the market square is the war memorial which commemorates Olney's fallen from both First and Second World wars.</p> |   |  |   |
| <p><b>Evidential:</b> There have been six archaeological interventions in the zone of which of which four have yielded some evidence of medieval and post medieval activity. Watching briefs at DagnallHouse (OL7), 5 Market Place (OL9) and 1 market Place (OL13) revealed the presence of medieval wells and pits and boundary walls in addition to some indication of iron working. Environmental samples were not taken from these interventions but the area has the potential for the preservation of organic remains as some alluvial deposits are present (OL9). Significant discoveries of medieval and post-medieval remains have also been made to the north and east in the adjacent zone 4 (below). There are a total of 27 listed buildings in the zone the majority dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries.</p>   |   |  |   |
| <p><b>Aesthetic:</b> This zone comprises a concentration of fine historic buildings, in vernacular and Georgian styles with a small amount of Victorian housing in Silver Street. The market place is an attractive area of the town although setting is spoilt by the volume of traffic and abundance of parking spaces in and around the square. The modern residential housing of Coneygere is less apparent, hidden behind the southern end of the market place and Silver Street.</p>  |   |  |   |
| <p><b>Communal Value:</b> The communal value of the zone is high; the market place is the commercial heart of Olney and together with the High Street South contains a concentration of cafes and pubs and a large number of independent shops and businesses. The market is also the venue for popular weekly market and a monthly farmer's market. The other attraction in the zone is the Cowper and Newton Museum which is dedicated to the history of Olney.</p>   |   |  |   |
| Archaeological Assessment   | Built Character (general characteristics) |  |   |
| <p><b>Period:</b> Anglo-Saxon, medieval, post-medieval<br/> <b>Survival:</b> High<br/> <b>Group Value:</b> N/A<br/> <b>Diversity:</b> High<br/> <b>Potential:</b> High</p>  | <b>Morphology:</b>                        | Market Square<br>Looped Network                                  | <b>Density:</b> Medium                            |
|   | <b>Character Types:</b>                   | Market Place<br>Irregular Plots<br>Modern infill: post 1980      | Victorian terraces<br>1850-1900                   |
|   | <b>Architecture</b>                       | Vernacular<br>Modern (general)                                   | Victorian style                                   |
| Heritage Values   | <b>Plan Form</b>                          | Post medieval (wide frontage)<br>Post medieval (narrow frontage) | Modern terrace                                    |
| <p><b>Evidential Value:</b> High<br/> <b>Historical Value:</b> High<br/> <b>Aesthetic Value:</b> High<br/> <b>Communal Value:</b> High</p>  | <b>Build Materials:</b>                   | Brick: Machine (Red)<br>Stone rendered                           | Box frame & brick infill                          |
|   | <b>Roof Materials:</b>                    | Tile: Handmade (clay)  | Tile: Machine Clay<br>Tile Slate:<br>(Artificial) |

| Zone 4: High Street   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>Summary:</b> This zone is defined by Olney's medieval planned town – the extent of which is principally the buildings and plots along the High Street as far north as the Castle Inn pub. The other boundaries are demarcated by East and West Streets and the market place to the south.</p>   |   |  |   |
| <p><b>Historical:</b> The plan form of Olney's High Street is very distinctive; the High Street with long plots at right angles to the road are flanked either side by back lanes. The exact date of this classic piece of medieval town planning is not known but it is thought to date to sometime in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The plan of the town has changed little since medieval times, although the buildings occupying the plots have seen greater changes largely as a result of extensive fires. Most of the shops and houses on the High street are post-medieval in date, while many buildings to the north of No 67 High Street (west side) date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century on, as a large part of this area was destroyed by the fire of 1854.</p>  |   |  |   |
| <p><b>Evidential:</b> To date there have been sixteen archaeological interventions in the zone, made up of watching briefs and some trial trenching usually within the cartilage of the buildings. Only four have produced negative results. Some of the earliest archaeology has been found at the north eastern end of the zone when trial trenching at 106 High Street, (OL22) and watching brief at 27 East Street, (OL34) produced evidence for a gully and Roman ditches. There is some evidence for pre borough planning at Rose Court (OL5), where a watching brief revealed evidence of boundaries pre dating the layout out of the burgage tenement plots. The majority of positive interventions have yielded evidence dating to the medieval and post medieval periods but perhaps the most significant investigation took place at the Old Manse (OL32), a watching brief revealed pits containing refuse and structural material belonging to a high status medieval house including a rare example of a chimney pot. There are 51 listed buildings in the zone the majority being 18<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century in date although a few earlier 16<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings exist. Where modern infill has not taken place, many of the back plots retain barns, stables, workshops and other buildings of agricultural / light industrial type giving a contrasting rural aesthetic to the East and West Street frontages.</p> |   |  |   |
| <p><b>Aesthetic:</b> Olney's High Street is arguably one of the most attractive in Buckinghamshire. The wide High Street is uninterrupted by side streets and fronted by an almost continuous row of fine historic buildings, the majority of which are in a vernacular or Georgian style and constructed in the characteristic pale local limestone. There are some notable buildings in the zone including No 67 Orchard House a Grade II* listed early 20<sup>th</sup> century remodelling of a pair of 18<sup>th</sup> century houses in a lively 'Arts and Crafts meets Neo-Baroque style'. Although the busy A509 runs along the High Street, the broad layout of road and the generous footpaths has minimised the visual and auditory impact of the traffic, something that cannot be said of many market towns.</p>  |   |  |   |
| <p><b>Communal Value:</b> The borough has a high communal value, containing a number of shops, pubs and small businesses. The High Street also contains the Cowper Memorial United Reformed church which is a not only a centre for worship but also acts as centre for community events.</p>   |   |  |   |
| Archaeological Assessment   | Built Character (general characteristics) |  |   |
| <p>Period: Medieval, post-medieval<br/>Survival: High<br/>Group Value: Borough<br/>Diversity: Medium<br/>Potential: High</p>  | Morphology:                               | Linear   | Density: High                               |
|   | Character Types:                          | Burgage Plots  | Chapel                                      |
|   | Architecture                              | Vernacular   | Gothic style                                |
| Heritage Values   | Plan Form                                 | Post medieval (wide frontage)<br>Post medieval (narrow frontage) | Post medieval:<br>Cottage urban             |
| <p>Evidential Value: High<br/>Historical Value: High<br/>Aesthetic Value: High<br/>Communal Value: High</p>   | Build Materials:                          | Stone<br>Brick: Machine (Red)                                    | Stone rendered<br>Brick: painted            |
|   | Roof Materials:                           | Tile: Handmade (clay)<br>Tile: Slate: (Natural)                  | Tile: Concrete<br>Tile: Slate: (artificial) |

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

| Zone 5: North End   |   |  |  |      |
|---|---|--|--|------|
| <b>Summary:</b> Olney's North End comprises an area to the north of the High Street. At the heart of the zone is an open area or 'square' at the junction of Yardley and Dartmouth Roads. North End's extent also encompasses a small part of West Street down to St Joseph's convent, which is the only part of the zone to be outside the town's conservation area.   |   |  |  |      |
| <b>Historical:</b> Local tradition states that the area around the Castle Inn was the original site of Olney's early church. This assertion is based upon the discoveries of a number of undated burials during building work in the 19 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> centuries, although there has been no structural evidence for a church. In the 19 <sup>th</sup> century the rear of Castle Inn was the location of the so called 'Churchyard Elm'. There is further speculation about the area's religious associations as it was believed to be the place of the Christian Holy well recorded in the Olney charter of AD 979. However, this site maybe just one of many wells found in the town, the favoured position is on the Olney's parish boundary.<br><br>A mystery surrounds the place name of the castle - whether some sort of fortification existed here, although there is little in documentary or archaeological evidence to suggest the presence of such a monument. |   |  |  |      |
| <b>Evidential:</b> To date there have been two archaeological interventions at North End, only one, trial trenching at Dartmouth Road (OL1), has yielded medieval pottery from the 12 <sup>th</sup> to 13 <sup>th</sup> centuries but no evidence of burials or evidence of a church/castle. The zone contains three listed buildings dating from the 18 <sup>th</sup> to 19 <sup>th</sup> centuries.   |   |  |  |      |
| <b>Aesthetic:</b> North End has a number of farm buildings and yards giving the area a more rural feel.   |   |  |  |      |
| <b>Communal Value:</b> North End contains several shops and businesses and the convent school of St Josephs. However this part of Olney is not as well served as the market or High Street.   |   |  |  |      |
| Archaeological Assessment   | Built Character (general characteristics) |  |  |      |
| <b>Period:</b> Roman?, medieval, post-medieval<br><b>Survival:</b> High<br><b>Group Value:</b> N/A<br><b>Diversity:</b> High<br><b>Potential:</b> High  | <b>Morphology:</b>                        | Linear<br>Looped Network   | <b>Density:</b>  | High |
|   | <b>Character Types:</b>                   | Narrow Plots<br>Industrial (Post 1945)                           | Monastic   |      |
|   | <b>Architecture</b>                       | Vernacular   Modern (General)                                    |  |      |
| <b>Heritage Values</b>  | <b>Plan Form</b>                          | Post medieval: rear addition terrace<br>Post medieval: Farmhouse | Modern detached<br>Modern semi detached<br>Modern: bungalows |      |
| <b>Evidential Value:</b> High<br><b>Historical Value:</b> Medium<br><b>Aesthetic Value:</b> High<br><b>Communal Value:</b> Medium   | <b>Build Materials:</b>                   | Stone<br>Brick: Machine (Red)<br>Brick: Machine (Coloured)       | Pebble shingled  |      |
|   | <b>Roof Materials:</b>                    | Tile: Slate (Natural)  | Tile: Concrete   |      |

5.6 Modern Settlement

| Zone 6: East Side  |   |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Summary:</b> This zone comprises the eastern extension of Olney next to the historic borough. East side is made up of modern detached and semi detached housing with some older building along East Street. The zone is entirely outside the town's conservation area.  |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Historical:</b> The zone has origins dating to the Post Medieval period, where development seems to have been focussed entirely along East Street, as evidenced by the 18 <sup>th</sup> century buildings and Victorian terraces. The arrival of the railways was the next chapter in the zone's history although, the railway and its station closed in 1963. Much of the area is largely characterised by late 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing which was constructed on the surrounding enclosures and railway line.   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Evidential:</b> There has been one archaeological intervention in the zone at Timpson's Row (OL14) where trial trenching revealed evidence of Roman activity. Although there has been only one intervention there is the potential for medieval and post-medieval archaeology to be discovered adjacent to the East Street and Silver End. Buildings in the zone date mostly to the 20 <sup>th</sup> century with some 19 <sup>th</sup> century terraces. There is only one listed building dating to the 18 <sup>th</sup> century.   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Aesthetic:</b> The most visually attractive part of East Side is East Street which contains some vernacular and Victorian buildings set opposite the old buildings of the High Street zone. However East Side's character is largely composed of more insipid, modern 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing, typified by Timpson's Row and Austen Avenue.  |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Communal Value:</b> Olney's East side contains the town's playing fields and recreation ground. The sports field are home to the local football and rugby clubs. The latter, established in 1879, is believed to be one of the oldest in England.   |   |   |   |   |
| Heritage Values  | Built Character (general characteristics) |   |   |   |
| <b>Evidential Value:</b> Medium<br><b>Historical Value:</b> Low<br><b>Aesthetic Value:</b> Medium<br><b>Communal Value:</b> High   | <b>Morphology:</b>                        | Looped network                                      | Linear  | <b>Density:</b> High                          |
|  | <b>Character Types:</b>                   | Irregular Plots Historic<br>Modern infill Post 1980 | Private Housing post 1980<br>Victorian terraces 1850-1900 |   |
|  | <b>Architecture</b>                       | Modern (general)                                    | Vernacular  | Victorian                                     |
|  | <b>Plan Form styles:</b>                  | Modern detached<br>Modern terraced                  | Modern semi detached                                      | Post medieval cottage (rural)<br>Modern flats |
|  | <b>Build Materials:</b>                   | Brick: Machine (Red)<br>Brick: Machine (Coloured)   | Stone   |   |
|  | <b>Roof Materials:</b>                    | Tile: Concrete<br>Tile: Machine (clay)              | Tile: Slate (Natural)                                     |   |
| Zone 7: Midland Road   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Summary:</b> The Midland Road is defined by the Victorian/Edwardian buildings to the north east of the High Street, Midland Road, Newton Road and East Street.  |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Historical:</b> The earliest development in this zone is building of the Bedford/Northampton branch of the Midland Railway in 1863, which acted as a catalyst for development in this part of Olney. The Hines shoe factory established on Midland Road in 1873 thrived because of the connection to the railway. The factory expanded to cope with demand and shortly after late Victorian and Edwardian housing was built to accommodate the workers at the factory. Hines eventually closed in 1900 and the factory was taken over by the production of plugs. However, the closure of the shoe factory was the principal employer. By 1963 the railway had closed and the factory was eventually closed and converted to flats.   |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Evidential:</b> No previous archaeological investigations have been carried out within the zone; however, this area is within close proximity to the Roman settlement of Ashfurlong. Although largely covered by housing, the northern end of the zone still has some potential for the discovery of Roman archaeology, while the area abutting the medieval borough on the western edge also has some chance of yielding medieval archaeology. There is only one listed building in this zone, the former Hines shoe factory on Midland Road which represents an important chapter in Olney's history and a significant part of Buckinghamshire's industrial heritage. The late Victorian/Edwardian terraces are unlisted and are typical of the period however they possess a collective value for their association as housing for workers in the boot and shoe industry. A number of the properties on the south side of Midland Road have rear workshops of one to two storeys that were also probably associated with specialist outworking for the boot and shoe industry. |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Aesthetic:</b> The late 19 <sup>th</sup> early 20 <sup>th</sup> century housing has a certain aesthetic appeal, the regularity of the streets and properties, many of which are well preserved are a good example of its type.  |   |   |   |   |
| <b>Communal Value:</b> The area is largely residential housing and contains few shops and services.  |   |   |   |   |
| Heritage Values  | Built Character (general characteristics) |   |   |   |
| <b>Evidential Value:</b> Medium<br><b>Historical Value:</b> Medium<br><b>Aesthetic Value:</b> Medium/High<br><b>Communal Value:</b> Low  | <b>Morphology:</b>                        | Linear  |   | <b>Density:</b> High                          |
|  | <b>Character Types:</b>                   | Middle Class Housing 1919-1945                      | Terraces and Cottages 1900-1919                           |   |
|  | <b>Architecture</b>                       | Victorian   | Edwardian   |   |
|  | <b>Plan Form styles:</b>                  | Post Medieval rear addition terrace                 | Modern detached   |   |

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

|  |                         |                       |                           |
|--|-------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------------|
|  | <b>Build Materials:</b> | Brick: Machine (Red)  | Brick: Machine (Coloured) |
|  | <b>Roof Materials:</b>  | Tile: Slate (Natural) | Tile: Concrete            |

| Zone 8: West side  |   |   |   |                 |        |
|--|---|---|---|-----------------|--------|
| <b>Summary:</b> The West Side is the largest character zone in Olney and extends from the Wellingborough Road in the north to Weston Road in the south. The character area is composed of modern housing with earlier settlements of farmsteads. The zone is lies entirely outside Olney's conservation area.  |   |   |   |                 |        |
| <b>Historical:</b> Much of the west side of Olney was built in the 20 <sup>th</sup> century and is a mixture of social housing. The earliest adjacent to the west street where the Olney expanded beyond the bounds of the borough. The western edge contained Olney's main brewery and malting. Although this is now closed and converted into a modern shopping centre. However, areas of interest is where there is encroachment in the Post medieval period Olney's brewery, (now developed).  |   |   |   |                 |        |
| <b>Evidential:</b> There have been three archaeological interventions in West side. The most notable of which was the excavation at the zone's northern end - Aspreys (OL37), which revealed an Iron Age pit alignment with an inserted secondary inhumation. The site also featured good preservation of archaeological deposits which included animal bone and plant remains. West Side contains no listed buildings.  |   |   |   |                 |        |
| <b>Aesthetic:</b> There are variants in architecture but the overwhelming character of the zone is residential housing in a modern general style. There a couple of notable exceptions including the well designed 1930s housing at Moore's Hill.  |   |   |   |                 |        |
| <b>Communal Value:</b> The west side of Olney contains the town's principal schools; it also has recreation grounds and some modern shops at it eastern end, adjacent to the High Street.  |   |   |   |                 |        |
| Heritage Values  | Built Character (general characteristics) |   |   |                 |        |
| <b>Evidential Value:</b> Medium<br><b>Historical Value:</b> Low<br><b>Aesthetic Value:</b> Low<br><b>Communal Value:</b> Medium  | <b>Morphology:</b>                        | Looped Network  | Linear  | <b>Density:</b> | High   |
|  | <b>Character Types:</b>                   | Private Housing Post 1980<br>Private Housing 1945-1980<br>Social Housing 1945-1980<br>Detached villas 1919-1945<br>Education (Modern)<br>Middle class housing 1919-1945 | Modern shops<br>Narrow Plots<br>Leisure<br>Victorian Terraces 1850-1900 |                 |        |
|  | <b>Architecture</b>                       | Modern (General) Modern (municipal)   | Victorian<br>Edwardian  | Vernacular      |        |
|  | <b>Plan Form styles:</b>                  | Modern (Semi detached)<br>Modern (detached) Modern (terrace)  | Modern (bungalows)  |                 |        |
|  | <b>Build Materials:</b>                   | Brick: Machine (Red)<br>Brick: Machine (Coloured)   | Brick: rendered<br>Stone  |                 |        |
|  | <b>Roof Materials:</b>                    | Tile: Machine (clay)  | Tile: Slate (natural)   |                 |        |
| Zone 9: Olney Industrial Estate  |   |   |   |                 |        |
| <b>Summary:</b> Located to the north of the town centre, Olney's industrial estate is located in a wedge of land north of the Yardley road and south of the disused railway line. The zone is outside of town's conservation area.   |   |   |   |                 |        |
| <b>Historical:</b> The industrial estate is a modern creation, constructed after 2000. Prior to the existence of the industrial estate the landscape was parliamentary enclosure fields. The only other notable feature of interest is the disused railway to the north.   |   |   |   |                 |        |
| <b>Evidential:</b> To date there has only been one archaeological intervention in the zone which returned a negative result. However, given the close proximity of the Roman settlement of Ashfurlong there is some potential for the discovery of Roman and even prehistoric archaeology. Excavation on the nearby Aspreys site (OL37), has also shown that ground conditions in this area exist for the preservation of environmental evidence including faunal and plant remains.<br>There are no listed buildings in the zone or other historic buildings of note. |   |   |   |                 |        |
| <b>Aesthetic:</b> The aesthetic value of the zone is low; much of the architecture is of a modern generic warehouse construction, built from concrete and pressed steel.   |   |   |   |                 |        |
| <b>Communal Value:</b> The zone has a low communal value given its function as an industrial park.   |   |   |   |                 |        |
| Heritage Values  | Built Character (general characteristics) |   |   |                 |        |
| <b>Evidential Value:</b> Medium<br><b>Historical Value:</b> Low<br><b>Aesthetic Value:</b> Low<br><b>Communal Value:</b> Low   | <b>Morphology:</b>                        | Linear  |   | <b>Density:</b> | Medium |
|  | <b>Character Types:</b>                   | Industrial (Post 1945)  |   |                 |        |
|  | <b>Architecture</b>                       | Modern (General)  |   |                 |        |
|  | <b>Plan Form styles:</b>                  | N/A   |   |                 |        |
|  | <b>Build Materials:</b>                   | Concrete  | Pressed Metal   |                 |        |
| <b>Roof Materials:</b>   | Tile: Concrete                            |   |   |                 |        |

## II ASSESSMENT

### 6 Designations

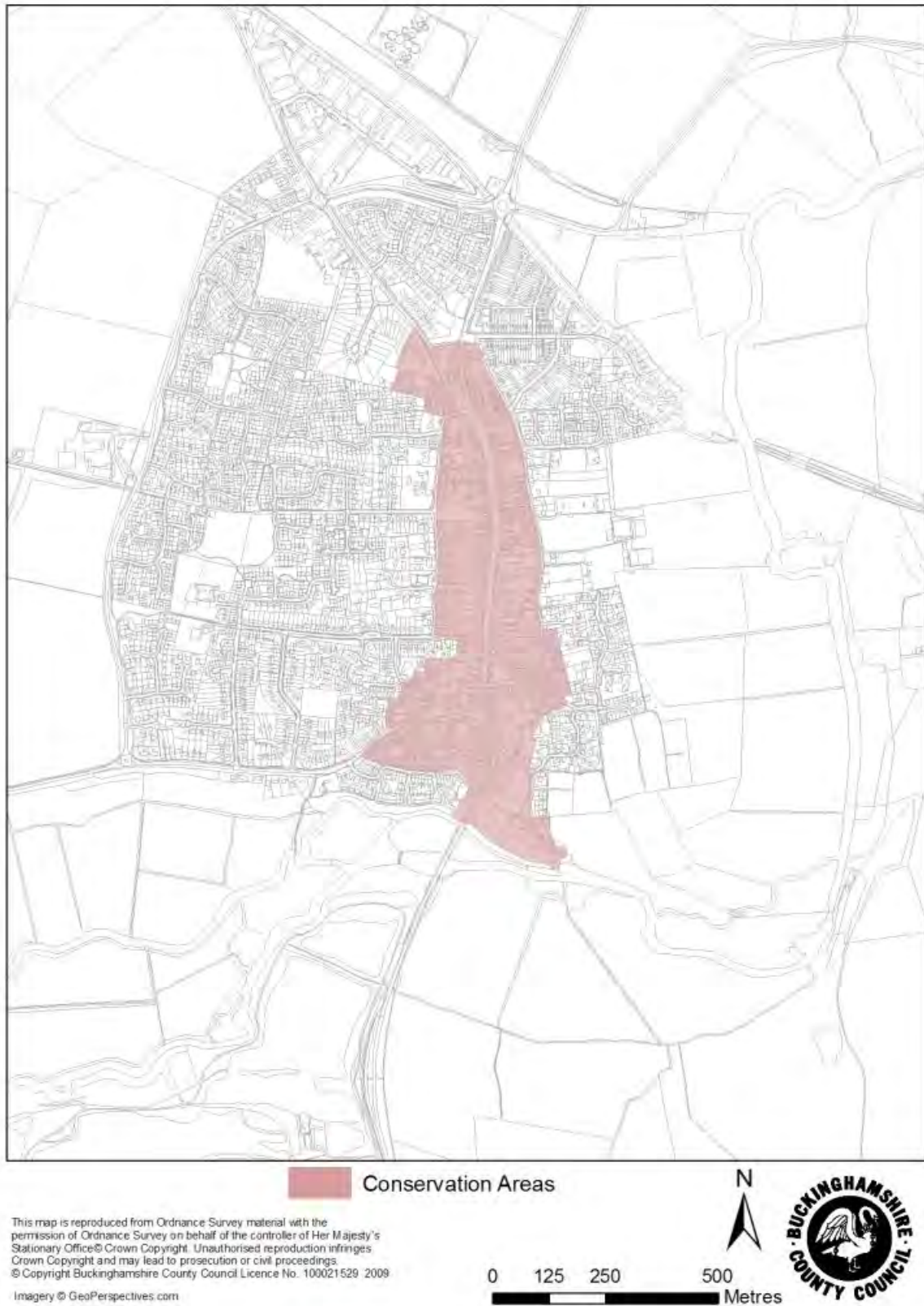


Figure 32: Extent of the conservation area

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

### 6.1 Conservation Areas (CA)

The conservation area in Olney, designated in 1969, covers the medieval outline of the town and is roughly comparable to the central archaeological notification area.

### 6.2 Registered Parks and Gardens

There are no registered parks and gardens within Olney.

### 6.3 Archaeological Notification Areas

Areas of high archaeological potential within Olney comprise the historic settlement from the church and mill site at the extreme south of the settlement up the High Street to just beyond the Castle Inn at the northern end.

### 6.4 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the town itself, however, Olney Bridge just to the south of the church was designated in 1952 (SAM MK58). The Romano-British site of Ashfurlong, northeast of Olney along the Warrington Road was also designated a scheduled monument in 1976 (SAM MK127).

## **7 Summary and Potential**

### 7.1 Character

Despite increased levels of modern development around the town's periphery, Olney has retained its character as a historic market town. Buildings predominately in a vernacular style border the narrow winding lanes around the church and market area while along the planned High Street Georgian architecture predominates. The historic core of the town has remained relatively intact although modern infill at the rear of burgage type plots is eroding the character somewhat. The majority of recent development on the outskirts of the town has been built in a modern general style although some contemporary housing within and adjacent to the conservation area has adopted local vernacular or Georgian styles and building materials.. The morphology of the historic core of Olney has remained largely unchanged from the post-medieval period.

### 7.2 Archaeological Potential

The principal areas for known archaeological potential include the main historic settlement of Olney and the Roman settlement of Ashfurlong (Figure 2). Other known areas of archaeological potential include the areas bordering the river Ouse.

## **8 Management Recommendations**

### 8.1 Conservation Area

Future appraisals of the conservation area may wish to consider two extensions: Firstly to the south to incorporate Olney Bridge which forms an essential gateway feature to the town; secondly the late 19<sup>th</sup> to early 20<sup>th</sup> century industrial housing extension of the Midland Road area.

### 8.2 Registered Parks and Gardens

There are no candidates for the registration of a new Park and Garden in Olney.

### 8.3 Archaeological Notification Areas

There are no suggested alterations to the existing archaeological notification areas.

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

### 8.4 Scheduled Ancient Monuments

There are currently no known sites that merit scheduling as ancient monuments.

### 8.5 Listed Building

There are no current candidates for addition to the statutory list. However, a forthcoming conservation area appraisal will identify significant listed and none-listed structures and may lead to nominations for new listings.



### III RESEARCH AGENDA

#### 9 Research Agenda

The understanding of 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 (Buckinghamshire Research Framework ,forthcoming).

The following research questions have arisen as a consequence of compiling the report on Olney, including potential research identified from the analysis of historical records by Kim Taylor-Moore.

##### 9.1 Prehistoric

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

##### 9.2 Roman

- To determine the nature, extent, date range and economic base of the Romano-British settlement of Ashfurlong.
- Determine if the burials at the Castle Inn site can be attributed to the Romano-British settlement of Ashfurlong or a roadside cemetery leading to it.
- Is there evidence for Romano-British occupation in the area of the historic town / Ouse bridge.

##### 9.3 Anglo Saxon

To date, very little is known about the extent, layout and development of Anglo Saxon Olney beyond what has been hypothesised from cartographic and documentary studies. Further research could help determine the extent of the Saxon settlement in particular:

- Is there any evidence for Anglo Saxon settlement continuity with Romano-British Ashfurlong or any early to middle Saxon presence at all?
- Whether there was an early church near the Castle Inn?
- Whether there is evidence for an early medieval church at the site of SS Peter and Paul?
- Determine when the plots and street layout south of High Street were established.
- Investigate further Olney's political / strategic importance in the light of it's choice as venue for the Witan of 1016.
- Dates of establishment of the watermill / leats / fisheries.
- Olney's position and role within regional economic, trade and production networks.
- Collection of a wider range of environmental evidence tied to an improved understanding of land use.

##### 9.4 Medieval

- Establish the date at which the High Street, East and West Streets and the burgage type plots were laid out. Is there contemporary evidence for plot reorganisation in the 'older' areas of the town to the south?
- Can the plan form / tenements be linked to surrounding field patterns?
- Establish Olney's position within the hierarchy of regional urban centres.
- What do activities in the rear of the 'burgage' plots reveal about the economy of medieval Olney?

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

- What are the true dates of the historic buildings in Olney? Do some retain medieval fabric? Is it possible to map the status of occupiers? Are there identifiable patterns of redevelopment/renovation across the town?
- What evidence can we find for commercial, craft or industrial activities in the fabric of buildings, archaeological remains and the documentary record?
- Is there any archaeological or environmental evidence for viticulture in Olney to support the historical references?
- Relationship between Olney Hyde pottery industry and the town as market centre.
- Origins of tanning and leather working in the town.
- Relationship between Lavendon Abbey and the town.

### 9.5 Post Medieval

- What further information on urban functions can be gleaned from the historical records? Can this be integrated with study of buildings and archaeology?
- Is there evidence of amalgamation of burgage or tenement plots in Olney's borough in the post medieval period?
- A study of the location of outworkers working for Olney lacemen may shed light on the extent of Olney's hinterland at this period.
- A study of Olney's boot and shoe industry both within the Hinde and Mann factory, the Tannery and dispersed through the town in outworkers workshops and in smaller companies.
- An investigation into the straw plaiting / hat making craft, its material and architectural traces and historical record.
- Inns and brewing.
- Are the extreme poverty and fluctuating fortunes of the lace industry and poor of Olney detectable in the archaeological record?

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### *Abbreviations*

|     |                                     |
|-----|-------------------------------------|
| BGS | British Geological Survey           |
| CBS | Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies  |
| GIS | Geographic Information Systems      |
| HLC | Historic Landscape Characterisation |
| OD  | Ordnance Datum                      |
| OS  | Ordnance Survey                     |

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## 11 Addresses

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| Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society         | Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society County Museum, Church Street Aylesbury, HP20 2QP                                      | Website:<br><a href="http://www.bucksas.org.uk">www.bucksas.org.uk</a> |
| Milton Keynes Unitary Authority                | Archaeology Service, The Civic Offices Milton Keynes Council, Civic Offices 1 Saxon Gate East, Central Milton Keynes MK9 3EJ | Tel. 01908 252902  |

## 1 Appendix: Chronology & Glossary of Terms

### 1.1 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<br>Mesolithic<br>Neolithic<br>Bronze Age<br>Iron Age | Pre 10,000 BC<br>10,000 – 4000 BC<br>4000 – 2350 BC<br>2350 – 700 BC<br>700 BC – AD 43 |
| Roman         | AD 43 – AD 410    | Roman Expedition by Julius Caesar                                 | 55 BC  |
| 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       | 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  |

### 1.2 Glossary of Terms

| Terms                      | Definition   |
|----------------------------|--|
| Borough                    | Medieval. Town that was granted some level of self government during the medieval period.  |
| Catalogue of Ancient Deeds | Details of conveyances of land throughout the medieval period from the 12 <sup>th</sup> century to the 16 <sup>th</sup> century.   |
| 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> ). |
| 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.  |

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

|                               |   |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Field Survey                  | Non-intrusive survey of the landscape through topographical analysis including methodical field walking surveys & metal detecting, geophysical or magnetometry (assessing the likely presence of below ground features) and building recordings.  |
| Find spot                     | Location where a specific artefact was found  |
| 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.<br><br>Can date from Saxon to modern period.                    |
| Manor [Reputed]               | Unofficial manor held as freehold by someone not in possession of a coat of arms (i.e. does not have a title) and who does not have the authority to hold a manorial court. Usually date to medieval period or later.   |
| Posse Comitatus               | Record of all able bodied men within a given unit of land for the purposes of military service.   |
| Prescriptive charter (market) | Prescriptive charters were granted to towns that had historically held a market for an extended period of time without an official charter from the monarchy. The given dates then mark the date of the charter rather than the date of the inception of the market.  |
| 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 |
| 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  |



## 2 Appendix: HER Records

### 2.1 Monuments HER Report

| HER No.   | Name                        | Summary                          | Earliest Date        | Latest Date          | Easting | Northing |
|-----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|---------|----------|
| 200000    | Adjacent M1 Motorway        | Ditched enclosure                | Undated              |                      | 485280  | 244000   |
| 111400000 | Olney Hyde DMV              | Deserted village                 | Medieval             |                      | 488600  | 254600   |
| 111400100 | DMV                         | Deserted village                 | Medieval 14th C      | Medieval 15th C      | 488600  | 254600   |
| 111401000 | Olney Hyde DMV              | Pottery kiln                     | Medieval             |                      | 488600  | 254600   |
| 111402000 | Olney Hyde DMV              | Building platform                | Medieval             |                      | 488600  | 254600   |
| 111403000 | Olney Hyde DMV              | Stone lined hollows              | Undated              |                      | 488600  | 254600   |
| 113300000 | Ashfurlong, Olney           | Linear system                    | Iron Age             | Roman                | 489190  | 252550   |
| 113301000 | Ashfurlong. Olney (Field 5) | Walls - stone                    |                      |                      | 489450  | 252800   |
| 113302000 | Ashfurlong. Olney (Field 5) | Road                             |                      |                      | 489450  | 252800   |
| 113303000 | Ashfurlong                  | Trackway                         | Undated              |                      | 489650  | 252770   |
| 113305000 | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 6) | Linear system                    | Roman                | Pre                  | 489650  | 252800   |
| 113309000 | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 3) | Settlement                       | Later Iron Age       | Roman                | 489590  | 252650   |
| 113309001 | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 3) | Building (site)                  | Roman 1st C          | Roman 2nd C          | 489590  | 252650   |
| 114500000 | Olney Hyde                  | Updraught kiln                   | Medieval 14th C      |                      | 488700  | 254510   |
| 114500100 | Olney Hyde                  | Unenclosed settlement            | Medieval             |                      | 488700  | 254510   |
| 140300000 | North of Olney              | Double ring ditch                | Undated              |                      | 488801  | 252898   |
| 172901000 | Olney Hyde Farm             | Curvilinear enclosure - circular | Undated              |                      | 488810  | 253340   |
| 206100000 | Olney Hyde                  | Brick kiln                       | Medieval 14th C      | Medieval 15th C      | 488600  | 254500   |
| 227000000 | Olney Park                  | Deer park                        | Medieval             | Post medieval        | 487200  | 253600   |
| 227001000 | Olney Park                  | Park pale                        | Medieval             | Post medieval        | 487700  | 253270   |
| 227003000 | Olney Park                  | Hunting lodge                    | Post medieval 17th C |                      | 487410  | 253784   |
| 273900000 | Olney Parish                | Parish                           | Saxon                | Extant               | 488943  | 251284   |
| 274000000 | Olney Park (Farm) Parish    | Parish                           | Pre                  | Multi-period         | 487340  | 253700   |
| 282700100 | Olney Mill                  | Watermill                        | Medieval 11th C      | Post medieval 17th C | 489060  | 250880   |
| 282700200 | Olney Mill                  | Fishery                          | Medieval             |                      | 489060  | 250880   |
| 282701000 | Olney Mill                  | Watermill                        | Post medieval 18th C | Modern 20th C        | 489060  | 250880   |
| 492300000 | Olney Church/Mill House     | Great House                      | Post medieval 17th C | Post medieval 19th C | 489000  | 250910   |
| 492300100 | Great House, Olney          | Great House                      | Post medieval 17th C | Post medieval 19th C | 489000  | 250910   |

Olney Historic Town Assessment

|           |  |                        |                      |                      |        |        |
|-----------|--|------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------|--------|
| 492301000 | The Great House                        | Outbuilding            | Post medieval 17th C | Post medieval 19th C | 489000 | 250910 |
| 492302000 | The Great House                        | Great House            | Post medieval 17th C | Post medieval 19th C | 489000 | 250910 |
| 503000000 | Lordship Close, Olney                  | Manor House            | Post medieval 17th C |                      | 488900 | 250960 |
| 503000010 | Lordship Close, Olney                  | Manor                  | Medieval 14th C      |                      | 488900 | 250960 |
| 503100000 | Round House, Market Place, Olney       | Lock-up                | Medieval             | Post medieval        | 488930 | 251300 |
| 503100100 | Market Place, Olney                    | Market Place           | Medieval             | Post medieval        | 488930 | 251300 |
| 503101000 | Market Place, Olney                    | Market House           | Medieval             | Post medieval        | 488930 | 251300 |
| 503102000 | Market Place, Olney                    | Lock up                | Medieval             | Post medieval        | 488930 | 251300 |
| 503200000 | near "Castle" Public House             | Parish Church          | Saxon                | Medieval             | 488800 | 252000 |
| 503201010 | near "Castle" Public House             | Inhumation cemetery    | Saxon                | Medieval             | 488855 | 251904 |
| 503202000 | near "Castle" Public House             | Spring                 | Saxon                | Medieval             | 488850 | 252120 |
| 503300000 | Olney (N of)                           | Gallows - site of      | Post medieval 18th C |                      | 489000 | 252400 |
| 503301000 | Olney (N of)                           | Inhumation             | Post medieval 18th C |                      | 489000 | 252400 |
| 503400000 | Silver End, Olney                      | Gas works              | Post medieval 19th C |                      | 489110 | 251240 |
| 504601000 | SS Peter and Paul Parish Church        | Chantry chapel         | Medieval 14th C      | Medieval 15th C      | 488980 | 250960 |
| 504700000 | Pasture Farm, Olney                    | Brickworks             | Post medieval 19th C |                      | 488050 | 254050 |
| 504700100 | Pasture Farm, Olney                    | Brickworks             | Post medieval 19th C |                      | 488050 | 254050 |
| 544300000 | Olney/Northants boundary               | Deserted Settlement    | Saxon 10th C         |                      | 486400 | 253600 |
| 544301000 | Olney/Northants boundary               | Croft                  | Saxon 10th C         |                      | 486400 | 253600 |
| 559600000 | Sutcliff Baptist Chapel                | Nonconformist chapel   | Post medieval 16th C | Post medieval 19th C | 488878 | 251348 |
| 559601000 | Sutcliff Baptist Chapel                | Baptist cemetery       | Post medieval 16th C |                      | 488875 | 251337 |
| 559700000 | Cowper Memorial Chapel                 | Nonconformist Chapel   | Post medieval 18th C | Post medieval 19th C | 488980 | 251570 |
| 559701000 | Cowper Memorial Chapel                 | Nonconformist cemetery | Post medieval 18th C | Post medieval 19th C | 488980 | 251570 |
| 568700000 | Ash Furlong                            | Trackway               | Pre                  | Roman                | 488950 | 252650 |
| 579200008 | Ouse Railway Bridge, Olney             | Railway bridge         | Post medieval 19th C |                      | 489480 | 251825 |
| 579200009 | Olney Station                          | Railway Station        | Post medieval 19th C |                      | 489170 | 252050 |
| 579200011 | Yardley Road Bridge                    | Railway bridge         | Post medieval 19th C |                      | 488250 | 252860 |
| 589500000 | Silver End, Olney                      | Nonconformist Chapel   | Post medieval 19th C |                      | 489082 | 251224 |
| 589501000 | Silver End, Olney                      | Friends Burial Ground  | Post medieval 19th C |                      | 489092 | 251220 |
| 589600000 | Hip well's Brewery, Olney              | Brewery                | Post medieval 19th C | Modern 20th C        | 488828 | 251300 |
| 615100000 | South of Weston Road                   | Ditched enclosure      | Undated              |                      | 487500 | 250900 |
| 705300000 | Rose Court excavated sunken building   | Grubenhau?             | Saxon 10th C         | Medieval 13th C      | 488995 | 251316 |
| 705400000 | Rose Court excavated medieval building | Unassigned             | Medieval             |                      | 488988 | 251320 |

## Olney Historic Town Assessment

|           |                                    |                      |                      |       |        |        |
|-----------|------------------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|-------|--------|--------|
| 705500000 | Rose Court excavated boundary wall | Boundary Wall        | Medieval             |       | 488986 | 251317 |
| 706600000 | Dagnall House garden               | Wall - brick         | Post medieval 19th C |       | 488860 | 251267 |
| 743701000 | 5 Market Place                     | wall - quoins        | Post medieval        |       | 488873 | 251275 |
| 743800000 | 5 Market Place                     | Cess Pit             | Medieval             |       | 488878 | 251276 |
| 743900000 | 5 Market Place                     | Wall - stone         | Post medieval        |       | 488878 | 251275 |
| 745301000 | Rear of Cowper Museum. Olney       | Wall                 | Post medieval        |       | 488978 | 251268 |
| 746601000 | Dagnall House garden               | Well                 | Post medieval        |       | 488858 | 251261 |
| 746602000 | Dagnall House garden               | Pit                  | Post medieval        |       | 488855 | 251270 |
| 793701000 | 2 Yardley Road                     | Boundary ditch       | Undated              |       | 488816 | 251975 |
| 798900000 | Dagnall House garden               | Wall - stone         | Medieval             |       | 488859 | 251263 |
| 810400000 | Cottagers' Cow Common              | Common               | Post medieval        |       | 111111 | 111111 |
| 811700000 | Olney Quarry                       | Common Quarry or pit | Post medieval        |       | 111111 | 111111 |
| 814900000 | Garden of 106 High Street          | Gully                | Roman 2nd C          | Roman | 488977 | 251800 |
| 827200000 | Land at Warrington Road            | Pit                  | Saxon                | Saxon | 488848 | 252475 |
| 839800000 | Site of building                   |                      |                      |       | 488330 | 251623 |
| 839900000 | Site of building                   |                      |                      |       | 488167 | 252735 |

### 2.2 Find Spots

| HER       | Earliest Date  | Latest Date | Place                         | Details                              | Easting | Northing |
|-----------|----------------|-------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|---------|----------|
| 66800000  | Saxon          |             | High Street South, Olney      | Sherds                               | 488890  | 251200   |
| 77900000  | Medieval       |             | Yardley Road, Olney           | Sherds: Olney-Hyde, Potterspury ware | 488500  | 252600   |
| 112700000 | Roman          |             | 20 Spinney Road, Olney        | Sherds: coarse ware                  | 488380  | 251240   |
| 113100001 | Roman          |             | Ashfurlong. Olney (Field 7)   | Tile; glass                          | 489550  | 252950   |
| 113206001 |                |             | Ashfurlong (Ashlong Furlong.) | Scraper (2); flake                   | 489600  | 252700   |
| 113300001 | Later Iron Age | Roman       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 3)   | Cunobelin (1); Roman (4)             | 489500  | 252700   |
| 113300002 | Roman          |             | Ashfurlong. Olney (Field 3)   | Coins - 4 unassigned                 | 489500  | 252700   |
| 113300003 | Roman          |             | Ashfurlong. Olney (Field 7)   | Coins (2)-                           | 489430  | 252750   |
| 113300004 | Roman          |             | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 3)   | Sherds: Samian;                      | 489430  | 252750   |
| 113300005 | Roman          |             | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 3)   | Belt buckle: bronze fibula pin       | 489310  | 252760   |
| 113300006 | Roman          |             | Ashfurlong Olney (Field 3)    | Pin from bronze fibula               | 489450  | 252670   |
| 113300007 | Roman          |             | Ashfurlong. Olney (field 3)   | Ring - bronze                        | 489520  | 252810   |
| 113300008 | Roman          |             | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 7)   | Sherds: Coarse ware,                 | 489550  | 252950   |
| 113300009 | Roman          |             | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 6)   | Coins (2)                            | 489700  | 252800   |

Olney Historic Town Assessment

|           |                 |       |                              |                                   |        |        |
|-----------|-----------------|-------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 113300010 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 6)  | Sherds: Samian                    | 489700 | 252880 |
| 113300011 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 6)  | Sherds: Shelly fabric - 1 sherd   | 489700 | 252800 |
| 113300012 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 6)  | Quern - millstone grit            | 489700 | 252800 |
| 113300013 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 6)  | Knife blade - iron                | 489650 | 252800 |
| 113300014 | Roman           | Roman | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 1)  | Coins (4+) - silver; brass        | 489190 | 252550 |
| 113300015 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 1)  | Sherds: Samian: grey/black ware   | 489100 | 252410 |
| 113300016 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 1)  | Sherds: Samian;                   | 489190 | 252550 |
| 113300017 | Later IA        |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 1)  | Sherds: IA "C" type sherds        | 489190 | 252550 |
| 113300018 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 1)  | Penate - Bronze figure of Mercury | 489190 | 252550 |
| 113300019 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 5)  | Constantine (1)                   | 489530 | 252740 |
| 113300020 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 5)  | Sherds: Coarse ware               | 489450 | 252800 |
| 113300020 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 1)  | Pin; strap end, buckle, tweezers  | 489190 | 252550 |
| 113300021 | Later Iron Age  | Roman | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 1)  | Brooches                          | 489190 | 252550 |
| 113300023 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 1?) | Hipposandal                       | 489190 | 252550 |
| 113300024 | Roman           | Roman | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 3)  | Coin: Carausius [AD 287-93]       | 489530 | 252670 |
| 113300025 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 4)  | Coins (3)                         | 489590 | 252650 |
| 113300026 | Later Iron Age  | Roman | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 4)  | Sherds: Samian; other fabrics     | 489530 | 252670 |
| 113300027 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 4)  | Nails                             | 489620 | 252790 |
| 113300028 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 4)  | Ring (bronze); buckle (bronze)    | 489620 | 252790 |
| 113300029 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 4)  | Bracelet (shale)                  | 489500 | 253600 |
| 113300030 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 4)  | Quern (lava)                      | 489590 | 252650 |
| 113300032 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 4)  | Sherds: Samian, other types       | 489500 | 253600 |
| 113300033 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 4)  | Knife                             | 489500 | 253600 |
| 113300034 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 4)  | Bronze fragment                   | 489500 | 253600 |
| 113304000 | Roman           | Roman | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 2)  | Scatter of stone; tile & pottery  | 489450 | 252450 |
| 113305001 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 6)  | Roof tile, box flue tile          | 489650 | 252790 |
| 113305002 |                 |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 6)  | Sherds: Roman                     | 489650 | 252710 |
| 113313000 | Prehistoric     |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 1)  | Blades (5)                        | 489190 | 252550 |
| 113400001 | Medieval 12th C |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 4)  | Sherds: Olney-Hyde fabric         | 489590 | 252650 |
| 113400003 | Prehistoric     |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 3)  | Scrapers                          | 489600 | 252660 |
| 113402001 | Roman           |       | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 3)  | Coin: Constantine [AD 306-37]     | 489620 | 252790 |
| 113800000 | Roman           | Roman | Olney Hyde Farm (S. of)      | Skillet or patera                 | 488810 | 253610 |
| 114200000 | Medieval        |       | Olney Hyde                   | Arrowhead                         | 489000 | 254700 |

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|           |                      |                 |                                    |   |        |        |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|---|--------|--------|
| 114400000 | Medieval 13th C      |                 | Olney Hyde                         | Sherd scatter; occupation site                | 488510 | 254500 |
| 114401000 | Medieval 13th C      |                 | Olney Hyde                         | Distorted pottery                             | 488510 | 254500 |
| 114402000 | Medieval 13th C      |                 | Olney Hyde                         | Sherds: Calcite gritted wares                 | 488510 | 254500 |
| 114403000 | Medieval 13th C      |                 | Olney Hyde                         | Sherds: Tile                                  | 488510 | 254500 |
| 114501000 | Medieval 13th C      |                 | Olney Hyde                         | Sherds: Grey/pink calcite gritted ware        | 488700 | 254510 |
| 114600000 | Medieval 13th C      |                 | Olney Hyde                         | Unassigned                                    | 488580 | 254310 |
| 114600001 | Medieval 13th C      | Medieval        | Olney Hyde                         | Sherds: Calcite gritted ware; Olney-Hyde type | 488580 | 254310 |
| 114600002 | Medieval             |                 | Olney Hyde                         | Limestone; puddingstone                       | 488580 | 254310 |
| 114700000 | Medieval 13th C      |                 | Olney Hyde                         | Sherds: calcite gritted ware                  | 488620 | 254120 |
| 166100000 | Medieval 13th C      |                 | 42, Spring Lane, Olney             | Sherd:  | 488640 | 251340 |
| 166200000 | Medieval             |                 | Allotment Gardens, Olney           | Sherds:                                       | 489200 | 251900 |
| 170400000 | Roman                |                 | Katrine, Yardley Road, Olney       | Sherds:                                       | 488640 | 251930 |
| 170500000 | Roman                | Roman           | North of Railway                   | Sherds:                                       | 489400 | 251900 |
| 172900000 | Roman                |                 | Olney Hyde Farm (S of)             | Sherds:                                       | 488810 | 253340 |
| 172900001 | Roman                |                 | Olney Hyde Farm (S of)             | Scatter: sherds, tile                         | 488810 | 253340 |
| 198400000 | Medieval             |                 | Warrington Road Allotments         | Sherds: Olney-Hyde ware                       | 489000 | 252800 |
| 206101000 | Medieval 14th C      | Medieval 15th C | Olney Hyde                         | Sherds; Olney-Hyde                            | 488600 | 254500 |
| 206300000 | Roman                |                 | Allotment Gardens, Olney           | Coin  | 489200 | 251100 |
| 273900001 | Medieval             |                 | Lower Farm Warrington              | BUCKLE  | 488071 | 252618 |
| 273900002 | Post Medieval 17th C |                 | Olney Bridge Cannon Ball           | Cannon ball                                   | 488850 | 250971 |
| 273900002 | Medieval             |                 |                                    | Seal matrix                                   | 489170 | 251320 |
| 273900003 | Medieval             |                 | Lower Farm Warrington              | BROOCH  | 488071 | 252618 |
| 273900004 | Medieval             | Post Medieval   | Clifton Regnis, Olney              | Ferrule                                       | 489790 | 251850 |
| 273900005 | Medieval             |                 | Lower Farm Warrington              | MIRROR CASE                                   | 488071 | 252618 |
| 273900006 | Post Medieval        | Post Medieval   | Lower Farm Warrington              | powder measure                                | 488071 | 252618 |
| 273900007 | Roman                |                 | Lower Farm Warrington              | COIN  | 488071 | 252618 |
| 273900008 | Medieval             | Post Medieval   | Lower Farm Warrington              | BUCKLE  | 488071 | 252618 |
| 273920001 | Prehistoric          |                 | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 2)        | Arrowhead - barbed and tanged?                | 489350 | 252480 |
| 273920002 | Prehistoric          |                 | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 5)        | Point - burin type                            | 489450 | 252800 |
| 273920002 | Prehistoric          |                 | Ashfurlong (Ashlong Furlong) Olney | Blade and flake                               | 489700 | 252800 |
| 492600000 | Medieval             |                 | Olney Cemetery                     | Sherds:                                       | 489100 | 251000 |
| 492601000 | Saxon                |                 | Olney Cemetery                     | Sherds:                                       | 489100 | 251000 |
| 502900000 | Medieval             |                 | near Town Gardens/Olney Mill       | Sherds:                                       | 489200 | 250900 |

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|           |                      |                 |                                |                                 |        |        |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|--------|--------|
| 503201000 | Medieval 12th C      | Medieval 13th C | near "Castle" Public House     | Sherds ( 62) - St Neots         | 488800 | 252000 |
| 503700000 | Medieval 12th C      | Medieval 13th C | 24 Lime Street,Olney ;Garden   | Sherds:                         | 488850 | 251140 |
| 560000000 | Roman                |                 | Lavendon Road Farm, Olney      | Sherds: shelly fabric,          | 489240 | 252320 |
| 573400000 | Roman                | Medieval        | Trencherwood Homes Development | Coins; tag; seal                | 489090 | 251140 |
| 573400001 | Roman                | Saxon           | Trencherwood Homes Development | Coin                            | 489090 | 251140 |
| 573400002 | Roman                |                 | Trencherwood Homes Development | Brooch                          | 489090 | 251140 |
| 573400003 | Medieval             |                 | Trencherwood Homes Development | Rowel spur                      | 489090 | 251140 |
| 573400004 | Post Medieval        |                 | Trencherwood Homes Development | Platter                         | 489090 | 251140 |
| 573400005 | Saxon                | Saxon           | Trencherwood Homes Development | Tag                             | 489090 | 251140 |
| 573400006 | Post Medieval 18th C |                 | Rear of Olney Old Vicarage     | Seal matrix                     | 489090 | 251140 |
| 705300001 | Medieval 11th C      | Post Medieval   | Rose Court sunken building     | Shelly fabric, Potterspury ware | 488995 | 251316 |
| 820500001 | Post Medieval 17th C |                 | Olney Bridge Civil War sword   | Sword                           | 488857 | 250962 |
| 827200001 |                      |                 | Land at Warrington Road        | Sherds                          | 488848 | 252475 |
|           | Neolithic            |                 | Ashfurlong, Olney (Field 3)    | Axehead - devitrified obsidian? | 489590 | 252650 |

### 2.3 Listed Buildings

| EH REF | Grade | Address                       |           | Description                           | Period       | NGR          |
|--------|-------|-------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 45674  | II    | Bridge House                  | Bridge St | House. Ashlar stone with slate roof   | 18th Century | SP8887451022 |
| 45675  | II    | 1                             | Bridge St | House. Stucco with slate roof         | 19th Century | SP8887951036 |
| 45676  | II    | 3 Stone House                 | Bridge St | House. Ashlar stone with slate roof   | 19th Century | SP8889151050 |
| 45677  | II    | 5 Pembroke House              | Bridge St | House. Stone rendered with slate roof | 17th Century | SP8889651061 |
| 45678  | II    | 7 Courtney House              | Bridge St | House. Ashlar stone with slate roof   | 18th Century | SP8890351073 |
| 45679  | II    | 13                            | Bridge St | House. Stone with slate roof          | 19th Century | SP8891051091 |
| 45680  | II    | 15                            | Bridge St | House. Stone with slate roof          | 19th Century | SP8891051098 |
| 45681  | II    | 17                            | Bridge St | House. Stone with slate roof          | 19th Century | SP8891151108 |
| 45682  | II    | 2 Sunnyside                   | Bridge St | House. Stone with slate roof          | 19th Century | SP8890951038 |
| 45683  | II    | 20                            | Bridge St | House. Stone with slate roof          | 19th Century | SP8892351069 |
| 45684  | II    | 22 Old Bell Inn               | Bridge St | Inn. Stone with slate roof            | 19th Century | SP8892851076 |
| 45685  | II    | 24 Newton House               | Bridge St | House. Stone with slate roof          | 18th Century | SP8893251084 |
| 45686  | II*   | The Vicarage                  | Church St | Vicarage. Stone with slate roof       | 18th Century | SP8898851118 |
| 45687  | II    | Mill House                    | Church St | Mill House                            | 18th Century | SP8905950896 |
| 45688  | I     | St Peter's & St Paul's Church | Church St | Church. Stone with slate roof         | 14th Century | SP8898650971 |
| 45689  | II    | Gate pier of Church           | Church St | Gate pier                             | 18th Century | SP8900751044 |

Olney Historic Town Assessment

|       |    |                    |              |  |              |              |
|-------|----|--------------------|--------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| 45690 | II | 32 Dartmouth House | Dartmouth Rd | Stone; slate roof. Three storeys                 | 18th Century | SP8886851985 |
| 45691 | II | 1                  | East St      | House. Stone with thatched roof                  | 18th Century | SP8906051277 |
| 45692 | II | 9                  | High St      | House. Painted stone with slate roof             | 18th Century | SP8888851405 |
| 45693 | II | 11 Barclays Bank   | High St      | Bank. Painted brick with tiled roof              | 18th Century | SP8888951421 |
| 45694 | II | 13                 | High St      | House. Ashlar stone with slate roof              | 19th Century | SP8889251428 |
| 45695 | II | Olney House        | High St      | House. Stone with slate roof                     | 18th Century | SP8889851448 |
| 45696 | II | 17                 | High St      | House. Ashlar stone with slate roof              | 18th Century | SP8889451460 |
| 45697 | II | 21                 | High St      | Inn. Stone with slate roof                       | 19th Century | SP8889551473 |
| 45698 | II | 23                 | High St      | House. Ashlar stone with slate roof              | 18th Century | SP8889751484 |
| 45699 | II | 25                 | High St      | House. Stone with concrete tiled roof            | 17th Century | SP8889851492 |
| 45700 | II | 37                 | High St      | House. Stone with tiled roof                     | 18th Century | SP8890451532 |
| 45701 | II | 39 Auburn House    | High St      | House. Stone with tiled roof                     | 18th Century | SP8890651540 |
| 45702 | II | 45 White House     | High St      | House. Painted stucco brick with tiled roof      | 19th Century | SP8891051567 |
| 45703 | II | 47                 | High St      | House. Stone with pan tiled roof                 | 18th Century | SP8891151575 |
| 45704 | II | 49 The Manse       | High St      | Manse. Stone with tiled roof                     | 18th Century | SP8891351584 |
| 45705 | II | 51 Old Manse       | High St      | Manse. Stone with tiled roof                     | 18th Century | SP8891251592 |
| 45706 | II | 53                 | High St      | House. Stone with tiled roof                     | 18th Century | SP8891551602 |
| 45707 | II | 55                 | High St      | House. Stone with tiled roof                     | 18th Century | SP8891551608 |
| 45708 | II | 71                 | High St      | House. Stone with slate roof                     | 19th Century | SP8890651665 |
| 45709 | II | 75                 | High St      | House. Stone with tiled roof                     | 18th Century | SP8890851678 |
| 45710 | II | 77                 | High St      | House. Stone with tiled roof                     | 17th Century | SP8891051688 |
| 45711 | II | 81                 | High St      | House. Stone with slate roof                     | 18th Century | SP8891051702 |
| 45712 | II | 83                 | High St      | House. Stone with slate roof                     | 18th Century | SP8891051711 |
| 45713 | II | 95 AND 97          | High St      | House. Stone with slate roof                     | 19th Century | SP8890651737 |
| 45714 | II | 133 Town Farm      | High St      | Farmhouse. Stone with tiled roof                 | 18th Century | SP8886651867 |
| 45715 | II | Town Farm barn     | High St      | Barn. Stone with tiled roof                      | 18th Century | SP8883551869 |
| 45716 | II | 4                  | High St      | House. Stone with modern tiled roof              | 18th Century | SP8894151380 |
| 45717 | II | 6 Curzon House     | High St      | House. Ashlar stone with slate roof              | 18th Century | SP8892851393 |
| 45718 | II | 8                  | High St      | House. Ashlar rendered with modern pan tile roof | 18th Century | SP8893051402 |
| 45719 | II | 10                 | High St      | House. Cement rendered Ashlar with tiled roof    | 18th Century | SP8892451408 |
| 45720 | II | 14                 | High St      | House. Stone with slate roof                     | 18th Century | SP8893351424 |
| 45721 | II | 16 AND 18          | High St      | House. Stucco with tiled roof                    | 18th Century | SP8892851433 |
| 45722 | II | 20 & 22            | High St      | House. Stone with tiled roof                     | 18th Century | SP8895251461 |

Olney Historic Town Assessment

|       |     |                      |               |  |              |              |
|-------|-----|----------------------|---------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| 45723 | II  | 26 Colchester House  | High St       | House. Stone with slate roof                   | 19th Century | SP8893751480 |
| 45724 | II  | 28                   | High St       | House. Stone with tiled roof                   | 18th Century | SP8893751488 |
| 45725 | II  | 32, 34 Two Brewers   | High St       | House. Stone with slate roof                   | 18th Century | SP8894351511 |
| 45726 | II  | 44 & 46              | High St       | House. Stone with tiled roof                   | 18th Century | SP8894451584 |
| 45727 | II  | 48                   | High St       | House. Stone with tiled roof                   | 18th Century | SP8894951598 |
| 45728 | II  | 62 & 64              | High St       | House. Stone with tiled roof                   | 18th Century | SP8894951642 |
| 45729 | II  | 66 & 68              | High St       | House. Stone with tiled roof                   | 18th Century | SP8894651650 |
| 45730 | II  | 78, 80 AND 82        | High St       | House. Stone with tiled roof                   | 18th Century | SP8894351683 |
| 45731 | II  | 94                   | High St       | House. Stone with slate roof                   | 19th Century | SP8894351720 |
| 45732 | II  | 100                  | High St       | House. Ashlar stone with slate roof            | 18th Century | SP8894351759 |
| 45733 | II  | 102                  | High St       | House. Stucco with slate roof                  | 19th Century | SP8893751769 |
| 45734 | II  | 102-104 Old Maltings | High St       | Maltings. Stone with slate roof                | 19th Century | SP8894751778 |
| 45735 | II  | 104 Grafton House    | High St       | House. Stone with slate roof                   | 19th Century | SP8893351783 |
| 45736 | II  | 106                  | High St       | House. Red brick & black chequered, slate roof | 19th Century | SP8893251790 |
| 45737 | II  | one-8                | High St South | House. Red brick with slate roof               | 19th Century | SP8890951142 |
| 45738 | II* | 11 Cross Keys        | High St South | Pub. Stone with tiled roof                     | 18th Century | SP8889751181 |
| 45739 | II  | 13                   | High St South | House. Red brick & black chequered, slate roof | 19th Century | SP8889151189 |
| 45740 | II  | 21                   | High St South | House. Red brick with slate roof               | 18th Century | SP8887451196 |
| 45741 | II  | Former Church School | High St South | School. Stone with slate roof                  | 19th Century | SP8893751158 |
| 45742 | II  | 12 Swan Inn          | High St South | Inn. Stone with tiled roof                     | 18th Century | SP8891651190 |
| 45743 | II  | 14                   | High St South | House. Stone with tiled roof                   | 18th Century | SP8891451198 |
| 45744 | II  | 18                   | High St South | House. Stone with slate roof                   | 18th Century | SP8891151204 |
| 45745 | II  | 20                   | High St South | House. Stone with tiled roof                   | 18th Century | SP8889851204 |
| 45746 | II  | 22                   | High St South | House. Ashlar stone with slate roof            | 19th Century | SP8891051228 |
| 45747 | II  | 26                   | High St South | House. Stone with tiled roof                   | 18th Century | SP8890951248 |
| 45748 | II  | 1                    | Market Place  | House. Stone with tiled roof                   | 18th Century | SP8886751265 |
| 45749 | II  | 2, 3 & 4             | Market Place  | House. Stone with tiled roof                   | 17th Century | SP8886351280 |
| 45750 | II  | 5 AND 6              | Market Place  | Timber framed house. Brick with tiled roof     | 17th Century | SP8889051274 |
| 45751 | II  | 7                    | Market Place  | House. Stone with slate roof                   | 18th Century | SP8889251292 |
| 45752 | II  | 8 Bull Hotel         | Market Place  | Inn. Stucco with tiled roof                    | 18th Century | SP8887851318 |
| 45753 | II  | 9 Bull Hotel         | Market Place  | Inn. Stone with slate roof                     | 17th Century | SP8889351322 |
| 45754 | II  | 10                   | Market Place  | House. Stone with slate roof                   | 18th Century | SP8889051333 |
| 45755 | II  | 11                   | Market Place  | House. Stone with tiled roof                   | 18th Century | SP8890251332 |



Olney Historic Town Assessment

|        |     |                                   |              |  |              |              |
|--------|-----|-----------------------------------|--------------|--|--------------|--------------|
| 45756  | II  | 12 Westlands & wall               | Market Place | House. Stone with slate roof                       | 17th Century | SP8889251372 |
| 45757  | II  | 14                                | Market Place | House. Red brick & black chequered, slate roof     | 19th Century | SP8894151361 |
| 45758  | II  | 19                                | Market Place | House. Red brick with slate roof                   | 19th Century | SP8896851338 |
| 45759  | II  | 22                                | Market Place | House. Cement rendered with tiled roof             | 18th Century | SP8898351306 |
| 45760  | II  | 23                                | Market Place | House. Rendered ashlar                             | 18th Century | SP8899451303 |
| 45764  | II  | 24 & 25                           | Market Place | House. Stone with tiled roof                       | 16th Century | SP8899751299 |
| 45765  | II  | 26                                | Market Place | House. Red brick & yellow chequered, slate roof    | 19th Century | SP8899851289 |
| 45766  | II  | 27                                | Market Place | House. Red brick with slate roof                   | 18th Century | SP8898651267 |
| 45767  | II* | 30 Cowper & Newton Museum         | Market Place | The home of the poet William Cowper                | 18th Century | SP8898051270 |
| 45768  | II  | Cowper's Summerhouse              | Market Place | summerhouse. Rendered with tiled roof              | 18th Century | SP8899751204 |
| 45769  | II  | 31                                | Market Place | House. Stone with slate roof                       | 17th Century | SP8896451270 |
| 45770  | II  | 32                                | Market Place | House. Stone with slate roof                       | 18th Century | SP8895651270 |
| 45771  | II  | 35, 36 Bankchambers               | Market Place | House. Stone with tiled roof                       | 18th Century | SP8893351262 |
| 45772  | II  | 37 Post Office                    | Market Place | House. Ashlar stone with slate roof                | 18th Century | SP8891851263 |
| 45773  | II  | 1-6 Maltings                      | Silver End   | House. Stone with slate roof                       | 19th Century | SP8904051291 |
| 45774  | II  | 1                                 | Weston Rd    | House. Stone with slate roof                       | 18th Century | SP8876651201 |
| 45775  | II  | 21, 23                            | Weston Rd    | House. Stone with slate roof                       | 19th Century | SP8883551194 |
| 45776  | II  | 25                                | Weston Rd    | House. Stone with slate roof                       | 19th Century | SP8882351193 |
| 45777  | II  | 27 Sun Inn                        | Weston Rd    | Timber framed Inn. Stucco with thatched roof       | 17th Century | SP8881351192 |
| 45778  | II  | 29 Westholme                      | Weston Rd    | House. Stucco with slate roof                      | 19th Century | SP8880351188 |
| 45779  | II  | 39-61 Ann Hopkins Smith Almshouse | Weston Rd    | Almshouse. Red brick & black chequered, slate roof | 19th Century | SP8869951147 |
| 45780  | II  | 63                                | Weston Rd    | House. Red brick with slate roof                   | 19th Century | SP8867451149 |
| 45781  | II  | Dagnall House                     | Weston Rd    | House. Stone with slate roof                       | 17th Century | SP8884851260 |
| 45785  | II  | 12 Home Farm                      | Weston Rd    | Farmhouse. Stone with tiled roof                   | 18th Century | SP8873351242 |
| 45786  | II  | Olney Park Farm                   | Yardley Rd   | Farmhouse. Stone with tiled roof                   | 19th Century | SP8741253784 |
| 45787  | II  | Castle Inn                        | Yardley Rd   | Inn. Stone with tiled roof                         | 18th Century | SP8884651933 |
| 414112 | II  | 57, 59                            | High St      | House. Stone with slate roof                       | 19th Century | SP8891751617 |
| 414113 | II  | 61                                | High St      | House. Stone with tiled roof                       | 18th Century | SP8891651630 |
| 414115 | II  | 63, 65                            | High St      | House. Stone with slate roof                       | 19th Century | SP8891751637 |
| 414118 | II  | 67 & 69 Orchard House             | High St      | House. Stone with slate roof                       | 18th Century | SP8891151648 |

### 3 Appendix: Trade Listings and Population Data

*Trade Directories*

| Artisan/trades     | 1830      | 1844      | 1853      | 1864      | 1877      | 1883      | 1895      | 1903      | 1911      | 1920      | 1935      |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Basket maker       |           | 2         | 1         | 2         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| Bee keeper         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | 1         |
| Coppersmith        |           |           |           |           |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |
| Currier            | 1         |           | 1         |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Cutler             | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Dyer               |           | 1         | 1         | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Furniture maker    |           |           |           |           | 1         | 1         | 2         | 1         |           |           |           |
| Jeweller           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Lacemaker          | 7         | 6         | 2         |           |           | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |           |
| Limner/bookbinder  |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Mat maker          | 3         | 1         | 2         | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Milliner/peroke    | 6         | 7         | 5         | 3         | 1         | 2         |           | 1         | 3         | 1         |           |
| Paper maker        |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Patten maker       |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Photographer       |           |           |           | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| Rope/sack maker    | 2         | 1         | 1         |           | 1         | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |
| Shoe/boot maker    | 6         | 9         | 17        | 4         | 10        | 8         | 18        | 11        | 14        | 10        | 7         |
| Straw hat maker    | 6         | 5         | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Tailor             | 5         | 7         | 10        | 3         | 5         | 4         | 5         | 4         | 5         | 2         | 1         |
| Tallow Chandler    |           |           | 3         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Tanner             | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |           |           | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| Umbrella maker     |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | 1         |           | 1         |           |
| Whitesmith         |           |           | 1         | 2         |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>38</b> | <b>43</b> | <b>47</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>20</b> | <b>29</b> | <b>22</b> | <b>26</b> | <b>18</b> | <b>12</b> |
| Merchant/Dealer    | 1830      | 1844      | 1853      | 1864      | 1877      | 1883      | 1895      | 1903      | 1911      | 1920      | 1935      |
| Bookseller         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Brewery            | 3         | 5         | 7         | 3         | 1         |           |           | 1         | 1         | 1         |           |
| Chemist            | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 3         | 2         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| Confectioner       |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           | 1         | 1         | 2         | 3         |
| Dealer             | 3         | 5         | 14        | 9         | 6         | 11        | 19        | 10        | 18        | 8         | 10        |
| Dealer (cycle/car) |           | 2         |           |           |           |           | 1         |           |           | 1         | 1         |
| Dealer (timber)    | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Draper             | 5         |           | 9         | 3         | 5         | 4         | 4         | 3         | 3         | 4         | 3         |
| Fellmonger         | 2         |           | 1         | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Fishmonger         |           |           | 1         |           |           |           | 1         | 1         | 1         | 2         | 2         |
| Fruiter            |           |           | 2         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 2         |           | 2         | 1         | 3         |
| Furniture dealer   |           | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |           | 1         | 1         | 2         | 1         |           |
| Grocer             | 11        | 14        | 7         | 6         | 7         | 6         | 9         | 5         | 7         | 7         | 8         |
| Ironmonger         | 1         | 1         | 2         | 1         | 2         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |           |           |
| Marine Store       |           |           |           |           | 1         |           | 1         | 1         |           |           |           |
| Newspaper/printer  |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| Printers           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |
| Wine Merchant      | 1         | 1         | 2         |           | 2         | 1         | 3         |           |           |           |           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>       | <b>28</b> | <b>31</b> | <b>49</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>28</b> | <b>25</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>27</b> | <b>38</b> | <b>29</b> | <b>32</b> |

Olney Historic Town Assessment

|                     |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Agric/General       | 1830      | 1844      | 1853      | 1864      | 1877      | 1883      | 1895      | 1903      | 1911      | 1920      | 1935      |
| Agric Engineer      |           |           |           |           |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |
| Farmer              |           |           | 5         | 15        | 10        | 6         | 9         | 6         | 13        | 11        | 11        |
| Vet                 |           |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>0</b>  | <b>0</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>16</b> | <b>10</b> | <b>6</b>  | <b>10</b> | <b>6</b>  | <b>13</b> | <b>11</b> | <b>11</b> |
| Professional        | 1830      | 1844      | 1853      | 1864      | 1877      | 1883      | 1895      | 1903      | 1911      | 1920      | 1935      |
| Auctioneer          | 2         | 2         | 2         | 1         |           |           | 1         |           |           | 2         | 3         |
| Banker              |           |           |           |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           | 2         |
| Dentist             |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | 1         | 1         |
| Solicitor           | 1         | 2         |           | 1         | 1         | 2         | 3         | 2         | 2         | 2         | 3         |
| Surgeon/physician   | 3         | 4         | 3         | 2         | 2         | 3         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>6</b>  | <b>8</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>4</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>5</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>3</b>  | <b>6</b>  | <b>10</b> |
| Service/Provisions  | 1830      | 1844      | 1853      | 1864      | 1877      | 1883      | 1895      | 1903      | 1911      | 1920      | 1935      |
| Baker               | 9         | 10        | 10        | 6         | 7         | 7         | 6         | 8         | 5         | 3         | 3         |
| Beer Retailer       |           |           | 4         |           |           | 1         | 1         |           |           |           |           |
| Bell hanger         |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Blacksmith          | 4         | 4         | 5         | 3         | 2         | 1         | 2         | 2         | 1         | 1         |           |
| Bricklayer/builder  | 2         |           | 3         | 3         | 3         | 4         | 3         | 6         | 8         | 6         | 8         |
| Brick/tile maker    | 5         | 7         | 5         |           |           | 1         | 1         |           |           |           |           |
| Butcher             | 4         | 7         | 9         | 5         | 4         | 3         | 4         | 6         | 6         | 6         | 6         |
| Café                |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           | 2         |
| Carpenter           | 7         | 6         | 6         | 5         | 1         | 2         | 3         | 3         | 2         | 3         | 1         |
| Carrier             |           | 4         |           | 6         | 1         | 6         | 2         | 1         | 1         | 2         | 3         |
| Chimney sweep       |           |           | 1         |           | 1         | 2         | 2         | 1         |           | 1         | 1         |
| Cooper              | 2         | 2         | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Engineer            |           |           |           |           | 1         |           | 1         | 2         |           |           |           |
| Gardener            |           |           | 2         |           | 1         | 2         |           |           |           |           |           |
| Hairdresser         | 3         | 3         | 4         | 2         | 1         | 2         | 3         | 2         | 2         | 3         | 3         |
| Hotel/Inn           | 2         | 2         |           |           | 3         |           | 5         | 6         | 6         | 7         | 2         |
| Ind-generic         |           |           |           |           |           | 2         | 2         | 1         | 1         |           | 2         |
| Ins Agent           | 4         | 6         | 9         | 8         |           | 9         |           |           |           |           |           |
| Laundry             |           |           |           |           |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |
| Mason               |           |           |           | 1         |           |           |           | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| Miller              | 1         | 2         | 2         | 1         | 2         |           | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         | 1         |
| Plumber/electrician |           | 3         | 4         | 3         | 3         | 3         | 2         | 2         | 2         |           |           |
| Pub                 | 14        | 14        | 15        | 8         | 10        | 12        | 7         | 6         | 6         | 5         | 9         |
| Roofer              |           |           | 1         |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |           |
| Saddler             | 3         | 3         | 2         | 2         | 3         | 3         | 2         | 2         | 2         | 3         | 4         |
| School              | 7         | 11        | 8         | 6         | 3         | 5         | 1         | 3         | 3         | 2         | 1         |
| Watchmaker          | 3         | 3         | 3         | 2         | 2         | 1         | 2         | 2         | 2         | 1         |           |
| Wheelwright         | 2         | 2         | 1         | 3         | 2         | 2         | 3         | 1         | 1         |           |           |
| <b>TOTAL</b>        | <b>72</b> | <b>90</b> | <b>96</b> | <b>64</b> | <b>50</b> | <b>68</b> | <b>54</b> | <b>56</b> | <b>50</b> | <b>45</b> | <b>47</b> |

*Population Figures*

|            |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |      |
|------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|
| Date       | 1801 | 1811 | 1821 | 1831 | 1841 | 1851 | 1861 | 1871 | 1881 | 1891  | 1901 |
| Population | 2003 | 2268 | 2339 | 2344 | 2362 | 2265 | 2284 | 2672 | 2362 | 2409  | 2705 |
| Date       | 1911 | 1921 | 1931 | 1941 | 1951 | 1961 | 1971 | 1981 | 1991 | 2001  |      |
| Population | 2871 | 2651 | 2438 | **   | 2337 | 2384 | 2756 | **   | **   | 6,032 |      |

\*\* No Data recorded

## **4 Appendix: Historical Consultancy Report**

### **Background**

The earliest surviving written reference to Olney occurs in a charter of AD 979 in which King Ethelred grants ten hides there to his kinsman Aelfhere, ealdorman of Mercia. The charter bounds can still be traced today and largely coincide with the medieval parish of Olney, including the hamlet of Warrington, later a separate manor, but excluding the dependant chapelry of Weston Underwood.<sup>i</sup> The Witan met in Olney in 1016, but the choice of venue was largely dictated by the political and military situation following Cnut's invasion of the previous year.<sup>ii</sup>

In 1066 Olney was the most valuable manor of Burgred, an important Northamptonshire thegn who held a large estate based in the area between the rivers Ouse and Nene. It was assessed at ten hides, as it had been in the tenth century charter, and had a recorded population of twenty-four villeins, five bordars and five slaves. There is nothing in the Domesday entry to indicate urbanisation and, although its value, £12, was much higher than those of surrounding manors, it was only a half that of Newport Pagnell and less than a quarter of that of Aylesbury.<sup>iii</sup>

After the Norman Conquest the Bishop of Coutances succeeded to the lands previously held by Burgred, Olney included, but he rebelled against William Rufus in 1088 and forfeited his estates. Olney was still in the king's hands in 1130 when it accounted for 45s in Danegeld, the levy appropriate to 22 ½ hides. Of this amount 42s was accounted for by the sheriff of Buckingham and 3s by the sheriff of Northampton. This seems to indicate that Olney was the head of a small cross-border fee and later records give some indication of where its dependencies lay. The eleventh century Northamptonshire Survey shows that land assessed at 2.75 hides in the Salcey Forest vills of Hackleton, Horton and Preston Deanery was held by tenants 'of the fee of Olney', whilst in Buckinghamshire it seems likely that eleven hides held in 1086 by the Bishop of Coutances in the vills of Stoke Goldington, Weston Underwood, Clifton Reynes, Sherington and Emberton made up the balance, as parts of all of these vills were members of Olney in the fourteenth century.<sup>iv</sup>

By 1136 Olney had been acquired by the Earl of Chester but was back in royal hands from 1163 until 1174 when it was granted to William de Bethune. In 1208 it was once more in the possession of the Earl of Chester, having become his chief manor in Buckinghamshire and it was probably at this time that the earl's other manor in the area, Shenley Church End, and possibly also Woughton on the Green, became subordinate to Olney. On the death of Ranulph de Blondewille, fourth Earl of Chester in 1232, Olney passed first to his nephew, Hugh Daubeney, Earl of Arundel, and then, in 1284, it was divided between four of the latter's nieces. Ralph Bassett of Drayton, the grandson of one of the four heirs of Hugh Daubeney, seems to have been in possession of the whole of the manor in 1339 when it formed part of the settlement made on the marriage of his grandson to Joan Beauchamp, sister of the Earl of Warwick. As a result of this settlement Olney and its dependencies fell to the Beauchamp Earls of Warwick when the Bassett line failed in 1390.<sup>v</sup>

In 1374 Ralph, Lord Bassett obtained a licence to empark over 200 acres in the north of the parish which may have put an end to the extensive pottery industry which archaeological evidence reveals was operating in Olney Hyde between the mid- twelfth and the early fifteenth century when the village was deserted.<sup>vi</sup> The area emparked later made up the separate civil parish of Olney Park Farm.<sup>vii</sup>

In 1492 the manor reverted to the Crown on the death of Anne, Countess of Warwick, and it remained in royal hands, subject to various leases, until 1628/9 when it formed part of the grant made by Charles I to the citizens of London. Ten years later it was bought by Richard Nicoll, a London merchant, and remained with his descendants passing via the female line to the earls of Dartmouth in 1755.<sup>viii</sup>

The lordship of the borough followed the same descent as that of the manor but little is known of its early history. The weekly market, held on Mondays, was in existence by 1205 and the borough is first mentioned in 1237. A charter was obtained in 1316 by Ralph Bassett of Drayton for an annual fair to be held on June 29 but this was in addition to an earlier, prescriptive, fair held on Easter Mondays. The few

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surviving rentals and accounts, dating from the fifteenth century, give no detailed information on either the borough or the market as both were held at farm, possibly by the burgesses themselves. An inquisition post mortem of 1302 suggests that at this date there may have been fifty-six burgesses in the town each paying 1s. ix. A survey of the town taken in 1570, copied into an seventeenth century notebook, includes just over thirty tenements held by burgage tenure but most are described as 'half-burgages' and many were held by the same few individuals.<sup>x</sup>

The lace industry became established in the town in the seventeenth century and lace buyers were based there by the 1670s.<sup>xi</sup> The town suffered much poverty when the trade began to decline and in 1780 William Cowper, the poet and Olney resident, noted that there were 'nearly 1200 lace makers in this Beggary Town'. Cowper had been drawn to Olney in order to be close to the retired slave trader turned evangelical preacher, John Newton, who had become curate in the town in 1767 and who had a mission to help 'the poor, ignorant lace makers'. Together they wrote the famous Olney hymns which were published in 1779.<sup>xii</sup>

By the end of the nineteenth century, when the local production of lace had effectively ended, the boot and shoe industry had become an important employer in Olney. At least three shoe factories were established in the town and a large proportion of the population were engaged in outworking.<sup>xiii</sup>

### **Medieval Records (to 1500)**

#### **Manorial and borough records**

Ministers' accounts, 1231-4: TNA:PRO SC 6/1117/13

Ministers' accounts, 1395-6: TNA:PRO SC 6/1123/5

Account, with other manors, 1401-2: ERO D/DVo 13

Rental, 1425-6: TNA:PRO DL 43/1/9

View of frankpledge, courts and portmotes, 1497-8: TNA:PRO DL 30/1/7

Ministers' accounts, 1410-1: TNA:PRO DL 29/637/10344

Ministers' accounts, 1440-1: TNA:PRO DL 29/637/10345

Ministers' accounts, with other manors, 1488-90: TNA:PRO DL 29/643/10440-1

#### **Hundred Rolls**

Entries for Olney are included in: Rotuli Hundredorum, 2 vols Record Commission (London, 1812), vol i, pp. 29, 47. (The more useful part of the 1279-80 roll does not survive for the town).

#### **Tax Records**

Assessments are on 'Olney with members'.

*Containing assessments on named individuals*

Fifteenth and tenth, 1332: TNA:PRO E 179/378/16

Fifteenth and tenth, 14th C: TNA:PRO E 179/242/75 Pt 3

Two ninths and fifteenths and tax on wool, 1340: TNA:PRO E 179/77/9 rot 4d

*Containing communal assessments only*

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Fifteenth and tenths:

1332: TNA:PRO E 179/77/23

1334: TNA:PRO E 179/378/24

1336: TNA:PRO E 179/378/27

1336: TNA:PRO E 179/77/4

1337: TNA:PRO E 179/77/6 & 7

1344: TNA:PRO E 179/77/13

1346: TNA:PRO E 179/77/14 & 15

1348: TNA:PRO E 179/77/16 & 17

1352: TNA:PRO E 179/77/18-21

1380: TNA:PRO E 179/77/25

1388: TNA:PRO E 179/77/27

1393: TNA:PRO E 179/77/28 & 29

1395: TNA:PRO E 179/77/30

1398: TNA:PRO E 179/77/31

1431: TNA:PRO E 179/77/52

1446 schedule of reductions: TNA:PRO E 179/77/65

1449 schedule of reductions: TNA:PRO E 179/77/66

(Assessments for 1332, 1336 and 1446 are included in: A.C. Chibnall, *Early Taxation*

Returns. *Taxation of Personal Property in 1332 and later*, BRS, 14 (1966), pp. 94-5, 100)

### *Other*

Before 1220 carucage: TNA:PRO E 179/239/241

1340 Levy of wool: TNA:PRO E 179/77/11

## **Ecclesiastical records**

### *Probate*

Apart from wills proved in the PCC, which are not considered here, Olney wills are to be found amongst those proved in the courts of the archdeaconry of Buckingham and all existing from before 1660 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)

### *Other records of the archdeaconry of Buckingham*

Miscellaneous registers 1483-1523: CBS D-A/We/1 (included 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

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### **Other Olney records (not an exhaustive list)**

Misc. deeds, c.1153, c.1168: BL Add. Ch. 47382, 47385

Partition of the manor of Olney (contains detailed descriptions), 1284: CCR Edward I Vol. 2 pp. 289-94

Charter granting fair, 1316: CChR, 1300–26, p. 306

Inquisition on lands of John le Straunge and Ralph Basset of Drayton in Olney, 1322: TNA:PRO E 199/1/5

Licence to impark land at Olney, 1374: TNA:PRO C 143/384/12

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

#### **Manorial records**

##### *Olney*

Ministers' accounts, with other manors, 1502-4: TNA:PRO DL 29/637/10356

Ministers' accounts, with other manors, 1504-5: TNA:PRO SC 6/HENVII/25

Ministers' accounts, with other manors, 1542-7: TNA:PRO SC 6/HENVIII/5890-3

Survey, with other manors, 1555-6: TNA:PRO LR 2/188 ff. 48-66

Report as to boundaries, 1604-5: TNA:PRO DL 44/659

Draft court rolls with presentments, 1649-50: SRO D 742/C/1

Court roll and list of officers, 1747: SRO D 742/C/2

##### *Olney Rectory*

(Granted to Syon Abbey in 1502)

Ministers' accounts, 1502-5: TNA:PRO SC 6/HENVII/29

Ministers' accounts, 1509-37 (non consec.): TNA:PRO SC 6/HENVIII/225-33

Deed, 1528: TNA:PRO E 41/187

Surveys, 16th C: TNA:PRO LR 2/188/127-8

#### **Tax records**

##### *Hearth tax*

Three documents survive for Olney relating to the 1662 tax: TNA/PRO E 179/80/349,362 (the latter containing 114 names); E 179/79/267 Part 9. A copy of the first document only is available on microfilm at CBS.

##### *Lay subsidies with records including names*

1523: TNA:PRO E 179/78/92

1523: TNA:PRO E 179/78/99 (included in: A.C. Chibnall, Subsidy Roll for the County of Buckingham Anno 1524, BRS, 8 (1950), pp. 82-3)

1540: TNA:PRO E 179/78/156

1542: TNA:PRO E 179/78/124

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1543: TNA:PRO E 179/78/138, 159

1545: TNA:PRO E 179/78/140, 151-2

1549: TNA:PRO E 179/78/163-5

1593: TNA:PRO E 179/79/220

1597: TNA:PRO E 179/79/234, 239 & 241

1606: TNA:PRO E 179/79/258

1610: TNA:PRO E 179/79/268

1621: TNA:PRO E 179/79/269

1624: TNA:PRO E 179/79/281

1628: TNA:PRO E 179/80/293

1640: TNA:PRO E 179/80/296

1641: TNA:PRO E 179/80/307

1663: TNA:PRO E 179/79/267 Part 6; E 179/80/334

Assessments where no names are recorded have not been included but can be found in TNA 'E179 database' at <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/e179>

### **Parish records**

#### *Registers*

Baptisms, 1665-1868; marriages, 1668-1956; burials, 1667-1921: CBS PR 159/1/1- 24

#### *Other*

Church inspection, 1637: CBS D/A/V/15

Deeds relating to augmentation of the vicarage, 1631-1742: CBS PR 159/3/1

Settlement certificates, 1724-1830: CBS PR 159/13/1-68

Settlement examinations, 1710-1793: CBS PR 159/13/121-160

Bastardy papers, 1671-1787: CBS PR 159/15/1-8

Removal orders, 1695-1796: CBS PR 159/13/69-120

Overseers' accounts, 1746-1835: Cowper Museum, Olney

### **Ecclesiastical records and returns of religion**

#### *Probate*

Apart from wills proved in the PCC (which are listed on: [www.mkheritage.co.uk/odhs/](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/odhs/mainframe.html)

mainframe.html) Olney wills, post 1500, are to be found amongst those proved in the courts of the archdeaconry of Buckingham and all existing from before 1660 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.



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### *Other records of the archdeaconry of Buckingham*

Miscellaneous registers 1483-1523: CBS D-A/We/1 (included 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 (see also: E.R.C. Brinkworth (ed.), *Episcopal Visitation Book for the Archdeaconry of Buckingham, 1662*, BRS, 7 (1947))

Act Books of the Court of the Commissary of Buckingham, 1521-1836: CBS D-A/C/1-22

Misc items including churchwardens accounts 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

Terrier of Olney, 1680, and inventory (n.d.): CBS D-A/Gt/7/15

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

### *Other records relating to the parish*

Details of parish populations, number of dissenters etc can be found in various religious returns and censuses. Entries for Buckinghamshire parishes appear in the following publications:

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. 234-44; 359-67

A. Whiteman (ed.), *The Compton Census of 1676 : a Critical Edition*, *Records of Social and Economic History*, NS 10 (1986), p. 365-71

C.W. Foster, *The State of the Church*, *Lincoln Record Society*, 23 (1926), pp 443-6

J. Cornwall, *An Elizabethan Census*, BRS, 16 pt 4 (1959), pp 258-73

### *Quakers*

Records of Olney Quakers, 17th C to 20th C are held in Bedfordshire and Luton Archives and Record Service, ref: FR, and are catalogued on [www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk)).

### **Military surveys, musters and other population listings**

Certificate of musters, 1522: A.C. Chibnall (ed.), *The Certificate of Musters for Buckinghamshire in 1522*, BRS, 17 (1973), pp 339-41

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

Collection in aid of protestants in Ireland, 1642: J. Wilson, *Buckinghamshire Contributions for Ireland 1642 and Richard Grenville's Military Accounts 1642-1645*, BRS, 21 (1983)

Buckinghamshire Posse Comitatus 1798: CBS L/P/15&16 (printed in I.F.W. Beckett, *The Buckinghamshire Posse Comitatus 1798*, BRS, 22 (1985))

### **Title Deeds**

Deeds for many Olney properties dating from 1516- 1878 are held with the Dartmouth Estates papers in Staffordshire Record Office (D742/B). The catalogue is available online at [www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk).

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The BAS Collection at CBS also contains many deeds relating to properties in Olney, 17th C – 19th C : CBS BAS Coll. See also the card index at CBS.

Some 18th C deeds for property and land in Silver End are included with the records of the Olney Gas Light Coke and Coal Co Ltd: National Gas Archive (Transco plc) EM:OLG/L/T

### **County records with Olney entries**

For Olney entries in the county quarter sessions, 1678-1733 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.

Return of vintners, innholders and alehousekeepers in Bucks (transcript), 1577: CBS, D-X423/1. (The full list of names can be found on-line, in the A2A catalogue).

### **Other Olney records**

Chancery case regarding sale of land in Shenley to buy a chalice for Olney church, 1515-8: TNA:PRO C 1/442/5

Inquiry as to a parcel of ground called 'the Conygre', 1570-1: TNA:PRO E 178/428

Subsidy assessments for Olney (15 names), 16th C: CBS D/DU6/8, D/X 398

Survey of woods with map, 1608-9: TNA:PRO DL 43/1/10

Accounts of timber sales, 1609-10: TNA:PRO E 178/7107

Tithes of corn at Warrington and Olney, 1613-1720: SRO D742/B/3/1-13

Survey of Olney park, 1650: TNA:PRO E 317/Bucks/14

Johnson family correspondence and papers, 1661-1744: CBS D/X 827

Will of an Olney bonelace merchant, 1674: TNA:PRO PROB 4/19127

Survey of the fields, closes and town, 1691 (copied from 1653 and 1570-1 documents): SRO D742/G/1/1-4 (copy at CBS D/X 730)

Quaker marriage certificate, 1696: CBS BAS 554/38

Account of "smoake and garden money", 1698: SRO D742/G/5

Various 16th and 17th C cases concerning Olney tenants were held in the courts of the Duchy of Lancaster and related documents are held in TNA: PRO DL 4 (see online catalogue).

Poor rate assessments, 1713, 1735, 1742: SRO D742/G/2/1-3

Copy case and answers, Churchwardens of Olney v. vicar of Olney, 1753: SRO D(W)1778/V/711

Two surveys of Olney estate of Woolsey Johnson, 1754: SRO D742/G/9

Valuation of estates of Countess of Dartmouth and Sir William Maynard, 1755-6: CBS ST 168

Act confirming partition of estate in Olney between Earl and Countess of Dartmouth, 1757: CBS BAS 382/40

Enclosure award (no map), 1768: SRO D3074/H/1/1 (copy at CBS and printed in S.F. Morgan, Through the Centuries in Olney and District (Bedford, 1966), pp. 2-7)

Writs to sheriff in respect of debt cases, 1777;1793: CBS BAS 1008/43; 1006/43

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Letter concerning fishing in Lord Dartmouth's water, 1783: SRO D(W)1778/V/1276

### **Maps and pictures**

Plan of Olney Park and immediate area, 16th C: TNA:PRO MPC 41 (copy at CBS)

Plan of Olney Park, 1608/9: TNA:PRO DL 43/1/10 (copy at CBS)

Estate of Earl of Dartmouth, 1757 (from 1721 plan): CBS BAS 431/44

Map of Olney pasture, n.d.: CBS Ma/159/IT

### **Trade Directories**

The Universal British Directory of Trade and Commerce Vol 5 (London, 1798) p. 149

### **Local Newspapers**

No newspapers were printed in Buckinghamshire until the nineteenth century. The Northampton Mercury, first published in 1720, covered events in Olney.

## **Modern Records (Post 1800)**

Due to the volume of records existing from this period only those relating to 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 similar**

As a result of the Local Government Act 1894 Olney Parish Council was formed in 1895 to look after social welfare and other civic duties, whilst health, planning and housing issues were dealt with by Newport Pagnell Rural District Council. It is not clear who effectively controlled the town prior to this date, so the main records of the likely bodies: the vestry and the Poor Law Board of Guardians (Newport Pagnell Union) are included below.

Newport Pagnell Union Board of Guardians minute books, 1835-1948: CBS G/4/1-36

Extracts from vestry minutes (later ones often quite full) are included in Olney Surveyors of

the Highways Account and Minute Book, 1809-83: CBS PR 159/21/1

Newport Pagnell Rural Sanitary Authority minute books, 1883-1894: CBS DC 3/39/1-2

Papers of Newport Pagnell Rural District Council 1897-1974: CBS DC3

(Includes minute books, town planning schemes, papers on development, bye-laws relating to housing, new streets etc, Catalogue at CBS and on [www.a2a.org.uk](http://www.a2a.org.uk))

### **Installation of services**

#### *Water*

No records have been found relating to the introduction of a water supply in the town. Kelly's directory of 1939 states that 'water is supplied by Newport Pagnell Rural District Council', and the following records may be relevant:

Newport Pagnell Rural Sanitary Authority: report on sewerage and water supply by James

Mansergh of Westminster, 1877: CBS DC3/39/40

E.C. Watts v. Newport Pagnell Union R.S.A. about water supply contract, 1886: CBS DC3/39/44

Electricity

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No records have been found relating to the introduction of an electricity supply, but Kelly's directory for 1939 states that a supply was available.

### *Gas*

Olney Gas Light Coke and Coal Co Ltd was formed in 1854. It operated independently until March 1935 when the Northampton Gaslight Co. obtained a controlling proportion of the shares, the remainder being acquired in 1937.

Papers and correspondence of Olney Gas Light Coke and Coal Co., 1868-1954: CBS U/9/1-6;

National Gas Archive (Transco plc) EM:OLG/L/T

Papers of Northampton Gas Light Co: National Gas Archive (Transco plc) EM/NOG

### *Telephone*

The telephone exchange opened in 1907 (see BT Archives Post Office Circulars 1907 p. 104)

### **Useful secondary sources**

No comprehensive secondary sources for the period have been found. There are many published memoirs, and similar, which undoubtedly contain much useful background information but few, if any, are indexed and it has not been possible to review their content. Books covering specific industries or containing other useful information include:

Eureka Partnership, *The People of Olney* (2006) – contains transcripts of many 18th and 19th century records

E. Knight, *Harry Armstrong and the Bucks Cottage Workers' Agency* (1989)

E. Knight, *The Old Inns of Olney* (Buckingham, 1981)

E. Knight, *Olney and District in Camera*, (Buckingham, 1992)

S.F. Morgan, *Through the Centuries in Olney and District* (Bedford, 1966)

E. Wilson, *Olney and the Lace-makers* (1864)

T. Wright, *The Romance of the Lace Pillow* (Olney, 1919)

T. Wright, *The Romance of the Shoe* (London, 1922)

See also the website of Olney and District Historical Society ([www.mkheritage.co.uk/odhs/mainframe.html](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/odhs/mainframe.html))

### **Key issues and recommendations for further study**

There is no satisfactory published history of Olney. Older histories tend to focus on the town's connections with Cowper and Newton and modern books generally take the form of memoirs or cover single businesses or industries. Whilst the survival of records from all periods is comparatively poor there are enough to enable the development of the town to be traced.

No medieval manorial court rolls survive but records containing detailed information on individual properties and/or tenants survive from 1284, 1425 and 1570. Study and comparisons of these would allow at least some of the burgage plots to be located on maps and traced over time which would add to knowledge on the topography of the medieval town. If combined with the information contained in the thirteenth to fifteenth century ministers' accounts, much could also be learnt about the social and economic development of the town over the same period.

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Priority should be given to obtaining a transcript of the 1332 lay subsidy assessment the details of which are not included in the Buckinghamshire Record Society volume containing those for the rest of the county. This would perhaps give some indication of which areas were included under the heading 'Olney with members' and allow better comparisons with other towns to be made, as well as providing information on the structure of society and the wealth of the town itself.

As in the other Ouse Valley towns the lace industry was clearly important but eighteenth and nineteenth century records, particularly the censuses, seem to have been little used to trace its extent in Olney and its surrounds. A study of the location of outworkers working for Olney lacemen may shed light on the extent of Olney's hinterland at this period and show, for example, how it compared with that of Newport Pagnell and whether it extended into Northamptonshire. The same is also true of the boot and shoe industry. Studies generally concentrate on the Northampton area and rarely cross the border into north Buckinghamshire where it was also widespread.

### Notes

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<sup>i</sup> A.H.J. Baines, 'The Olney Charter of 979', *ROB*, 21 (1979), pp. 154-84

<sup>ii</sup> H.R. Loyn, *The Governance of Anglo-Saxon England 500-1087* (London, 1984), p. 103

<sup>iii</sup> DB I 145 c

<sup>iv</sup> W. Ryland (ed.), *PAGE Northamptonshire*, 1, pp. 375-6; W. Farrer, *Honors and Knights' Fees* (London, 1924), vol. 2 pp. 18-21

<sup>v</sup> W. Page (ed.), *PAGE Buckinghamshire*, 4, pp. 429-39; Farrer, *Honors*, pp. 18-21

<sup>vi</sup> Jope, E M, 'Medieval pottery kilns at Brill, Buckinghamshire: preliminary report on excavations in 1953', *Records of Buckinghamshire*, 16 (1954), pp. 39-42

<sup>vii</sup> W. Page (ed.), *PAGE Buckinghamshire*, 4, pp. 429-39

<sup>viii</sup> W. Page (ed.), *PAGE Buckinghamshire*, 4, pp. 429-39

<sup>ix</sup> W. Page (ed.), *PAGE Buckinghamshire*, 4, pp. 429-39

<sup>x</sup> CBS D/X 730

<sup>xi</sup> See, for example, TNA:PRO PROB 4/19127; BLA ABCP799

<sup>xii</sup> Cowper and Newton Museum website, [www.mkheritage.co.uk/cnm](http://www.mkheritage.co.uk/cnm)

<sup>xiii</sup> [www.Shortcut to Show Desktop.Ink.mkheritage.co.uk/odhs/level2/olneytown.html](http://www.Shortcut to Show Desktop.Ink.mkheritage.co.uk/odhs/level2/olneytown.html)