

***The Historic Towns of Cambridgeshire  
An Extensive Urban Survey***

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# **GODMANCHESTER**

**HUNTINGDONSHIRE**

## **Draft Report**

**Text Last Modified: 3 April 2003**

This document is an unfinished draft report compiled as a part of the Cambridgeshire Extensive Urban Survey.

All archaeological sites reported on since the date of last modification given above are not included in this text.

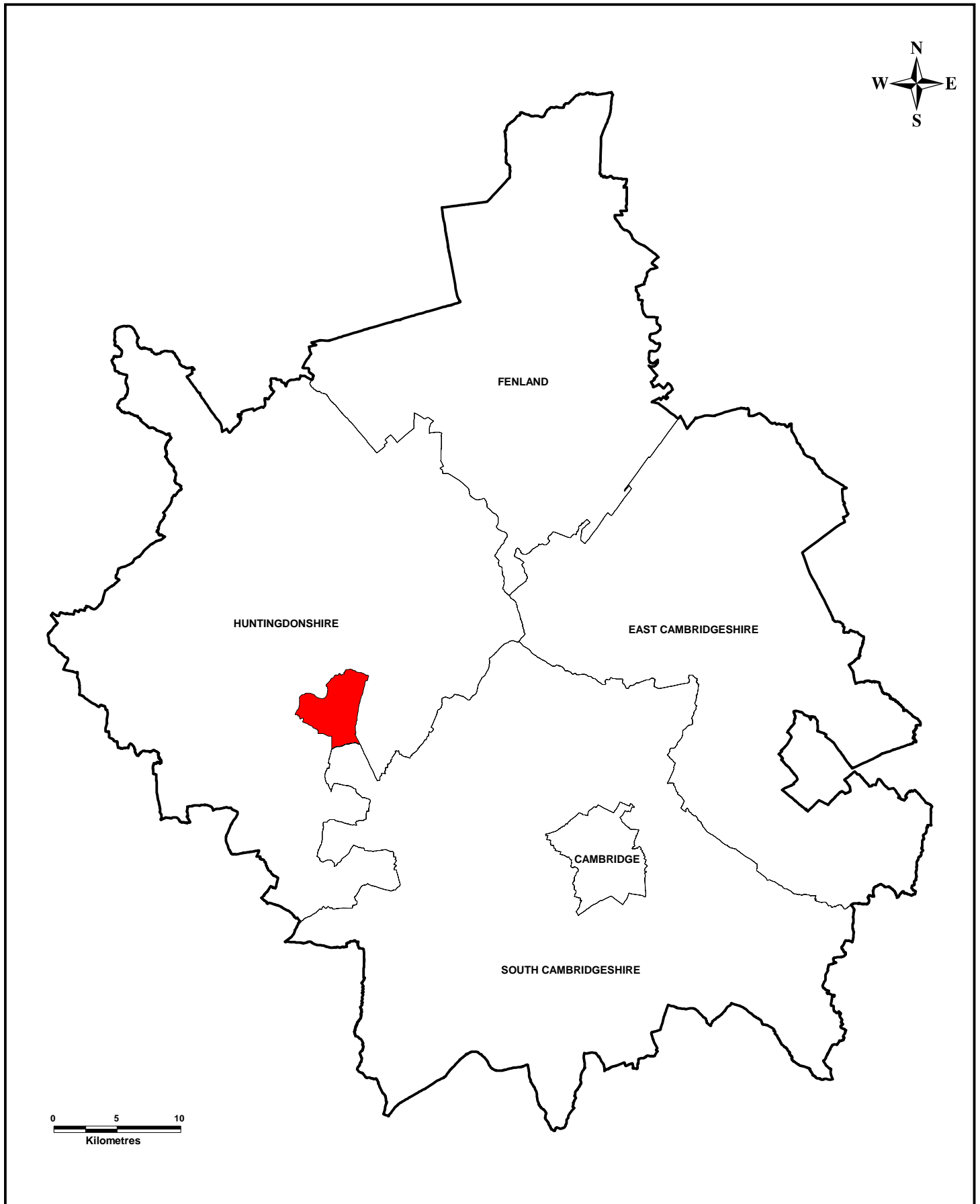
Throughout the text reference is made to Historic Environment Record (HER) numbers, Listed Building (LB) numbers and Scheduled Monument (SM) numbers. For further information on any of these sites the reader is referred to the Cambridgeshire Historic Environment Record.

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# Godmanchester: Parish Location



Scale (at A4): 1:400000

Date: 31/08/2007

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## List of Abbreviations Used in the Text

AFU	Archaeological Field Unit
BUFAU	Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit
CAU	Cambridge Archaeological Unit
CCC	Cambridgeshire County Council
CUCAP	Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs format
DoE	Department of Environment
Genuki	Genealogy of the UK and Ireland
HAT	Hertfordshire Archaeology Trust
HER	(Cambridge) Historic Environment Record
HRO	Huntingdon Record Office
LB	Listed Building
NMR	National Monuments Record
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
RCHM(E)	Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments (of England)
SAM	Scheduled Ancient Monument
SM	Scheduled Monument
SMV	Shrunken Medieval Village
VCH	Victoria County History

## **SUMMARY**

*The parish of Godmanchester belongs to Huntingdon District and covers an area of c.1975ha of land that is predominantly arable. The river Ouse forms the boundary between the borough of Godmanchester and the borough of Huntingdon. The town is located approximately 2km to the south-east of Huntingdon and 25km to the north-west of Cambridge. It spreads across the first and second terrace gravels of the river. Alluvium is deposited in the flood plain. The higher ground to the south is covered by Boulder Clay (till).*

*In 1212 King John granted the manor to the men of Godmanchester to hold at a fee-farm rent. Godmanchester remained a self-governing manor until 1604 when, on request of the townspeople, it obtained a charter of incorporation from James I and became a free borough. The charter remained fundamentally unaltered until 1835 (Municipal Corporations Act). For Parliamentary purposes the borough was united to Huntingdon and in 1885 it was merged into the county constituency.*

*The Roman settlement of Godmanchester, the Durovigito of the Ravenna Cosmography (seventh century), developed on a gravel spur to the south of the ford where the stretch of Ermine Street to Royston crossed the river Ouse. Two short-lived successive forts dating to the Claudian and Neronian periods, respectively, represent the earliest evidence of Roman activity. The later morphology of the site was dominated by the road network that was provided during the first century. As the army moved northwards, the forts became obsolete and the early civilian nucleus began to expand along Ermine Street. At the beginning of the second century several enclosures at the junction of Ermine Street and the road to Sandy were cleared to accommodate a masonry courtyard (mansio), a bathhouse, and a temple dedicated to the local god Abandinus. In the early third century a single-aisled basilica was erected to the east of the mansio. At the end of the third century the core of Godmanchester was enclosed by stone-defences. Following a major fire in the later third century, the bathhouse was partially re-built whereas the mansio and the basilica were pulled down. Their building material was re-used for the construction of a secondary defence circuit within the former walls. Around the same period, there was a major change in land use in the eastern part of the town, where layers of rubbish dumping superseded an earlier phase of agricultural activity. The last metalled surface of Ermine Street was practically unworn and covered by a thick layer of late fourth century rubbish, indicating that traffic on this route had declined.*

*Post-Roman and early Saxon activities at Godmanchester are poorly documented. Later Saxon features have been uncovered in the area of the mansio and at Earning Street near the Roman south gate. Between 865 and 879 Godmanchester suffered raids by Danish armies, culminating in occupation by Guthrum after 879. In 917 Edward the Elder recaptured Huntingdon and Godmanchester. Huntingdon is recorded as having been fortified by Edward the Elder in 917. At Godmanchester the town ditch traced in West Street, East Chadleigh Lane and Earning Street could have been part of the defence system on the Ouse to create double burghs.*

*Godmanchester is first recorded as Godmuncestre (Domesday Book) meaning 'fortified town founded by Guthrum'. At the time of the Domesday Survey the manor of Godmanchester was held as crown land with a total estimated population of 450 people. A church and a priest were attached to the manor and remained in royal possession until 1135-1154 when King Stephen gave the church, rectorial tithes and some land to Merton Priory (Surrey). In 1212 King John granted the manor to the men of Godmanchester to hold at a fee-farm rent. In 1279 the tenants of Godmanchester were accepted as freemen who enjoyed some privileges, including exemption from toll and the right to hold court. By the end of the thirteenth century, the farm at Godmanchester was three times that paid to William the Conqueror and comprised some 2500 acres of land, 85 acres of pasture, 378 messuages and 199 crofts. In addition, there were headlands, river meadows, one smithy and one place for 'manufacture'. During the Middle Ages, the population was chiefly occupied in rural activities. The Inventory Lists for the later thirteenth and fourteenth centuries indicate that production of cereals and sheep farming were among the most important activities. A number of small property holders were also engaged in trade.*

*Godmanchester was a fluvial port of some importance and appears to have held a market, though the town was never granted a market charter. .*

*The Medieval town developed around the site of the Roman settlement. Its layout is atypical and suggests the presence of what appears to have started as a 'bifocal' settlement. One of the early nuclei probably developed on the north-eastern side of the present town, near the church of St Mary. Further south, late Saxon material from the former mansio area suggests a second nucleus of occupation along Pinfold Lane. Absence of finds from excavations at the Causeway would indicate that originally the two settlements were separate. The subsequent alteration to the road system was the result of planned development in the course of the late thirteenth-early fourteenth century. Ermine Street was re-routed and replaced by Post Street. East Street formed a right angle with Post Street and by-passed the disused Ermine Street. St Ann's Lane (or Royal Oak Lane) was probably a back-lane marking the rear of the properties on East Street. The development of the southern nucleus shows similarities with the development of the northern site. Ermine Street went out of use sometime during the medieval period and was by-passed by London Street. As with St Ann's Lane to the north, Piper's Lane probably represented the back-lane of London Street. With the exception of Pinfold Lane, the area circuted by the link roads was not developed until after the Second World War. Here, absence of buildings was probably due to the presence of masonry remains associated with the Roman town. The Roman walls were robbed during the Late Saxon and medieval periods, indicating that these were still partly visible above ground, providing a source of building material.*

*The expansive movement of the twelve and thirteenth century was followed by a period of general economic recession caused by climatic changes and disease during the fourteenth and early fifteenth century. By the sixteenth*

century Godmanchester had obtained a certain importance as a posting station, with extensive coaching inns flourishing within the village. The town retained a central role in the communication network with the advent of the railway. Two fairs were granted by James I in the charter of 1604. The main fair became an important horse and cattle fair. The cattle and sheep disappeared following an outbreak of rinderpest in 1869, whereas the horse fair continued until the beginning of the First World War. Godmanchester was still a fluvial port of some importance during the post-medieval period. In 1638 Arnold Spencer began to work on a scheme for the improvement of the navigation. Various schemes were implemented during the eighteenth century to ensure the flow of water under purpose-built bridges during floods.

The seventeenth and eighteenth centuries were a period of great prosperity, as reflected by urban growth and re-building. Expansion resulted in the progressive subdivision and/or merging of the medieval plots fronting onto the main streets. By the time of the first edition of the Ordnance Survey Map at the end of the nineteenth century the plots within the village were further extended or subdivided into smaller ones. New Street was the only major addition to the street plan. Progressive infilling of plots within the area enclosed by the ring-road system continued throughout the following century.

Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire witnessed a substantial growth in the size of the population up to the middle of the nineteenth century. This was followed by a slight decline as surplus agricultural population moved to local areas of industrial expansion. After the Second World War, the population started to grow steadily. Since the 1970s its size has almost doubled, as reflected by the extension of the built-up area.

## **PART I: THE EVIDENCE**

### **1 INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Topography and Geology**

The parish of Godmanchester belongs to Huntingdon District, in the north-western quadrant of Cambridgeshire. The modern town is located approximately 2km to the south-east of Huntingdon and 25km to the north-west of Cambridge.

Presently, the parish and borough of Godmanchester, which are coterminous, cover an area of c. 1975ha of land. The river Ouse forms the boundary between the borough of Godmanchester and the borough of Huntingdon to the north and west.

The nucleated settlement lies to the south of the A14 by-pass (formerly A604, Via Devana) and to the west of the A1198 which follows the course of Ermine Street, bending sharply north-eastwards to link up with the A14. The built-up area presently stretches across the 10m and 20m contour. To the south the ground raises gradually to approximately 40mAOD. The land is mostly arable.

Godmanchester is located within the valley of the River Great Ouse and spreads across the first and second terrace gravels (BGS Sheet 187). The solid geology of the Ouse Valley comprises Ampthill and Oxford Clays, which have been quarried during the nineteenth and early twentieth century (Edmonds & Dinham 1965). The Anglian Glaciation resulted in the spread of a bluish-grey till (Boulder Clay) with chalk clasts and finer derived materials. The till masks the solid geology except where the rivers cut down into it. Gravels of the second terrace are encountered at levels between 5m-10m above the modern alluvium. The first terrace is preserved as an extensive but discontinuous feature throughout the whole length of the Great Ouse and in the valleys of the larger tributaries. The surface of the terrace extends up to levels at least 4.5m high above the modern alluvium. The terrace deposits underlying the first terrace are commonly between 3m-4m thick and occupy the whole of the valley floor, passing beneath the modern alluvium. This latter occupies a channel cut through the deposits that underlie the first terrace, sometimes spreading out towards the valley side. The alluvium consists of calcareous greyish brown silty clay some 2m-3m thick, on average. Shelly horizons and occasional beds of peat are found beneath it (Green, C. 2000).

### **2 HISTORICAL AND CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES**

#### **2.1 Historical Sources**

##### 2.1.1 Primary Sources

Besides a few inscriptions on votive objects and a reference in the Ravenna Cosmography (seventh century) to the town of *Duroviguto* on Ermine Street,

there are no primary written sources available for Roman Godmanchester.

With reference to the medieval and post medieval periods, there is no survey of the documentary sources in Cambridgeshire. A listing of historical documents is provided by Rae & Saunders (1980).

In addition, the *Rotuli Hundredorum* (*Rot. Hund.*, 1279) and the Lay Subsidy Rolls (1332) for Godmanchester have been the subject of extensive work by Raftis (1982).

Original archive research is not undertaken as part of this study. For the present study reference is made to secondary sources (below).

### 2.1.2 Secondary Sources

General outlines of the history of the county and accounts of individual parishes based on documentary sources can be found in the VCH of Huntingdonshire, 3 volumes and index volume. In addition, the RCHM(E) of Huntingdonshire provides accounts and descriptions of extant monuments, namely buildings and earthwork remains.

There are also regional studies that concentrate on specific research topics, e.g. place-names (Mawer & Stenton 1969), landscape history (Bigmore 1979) and history of Cambridgeshire (Fox 1923).

Local history studies include the work by Robert Fox, one of the bailiffs of the borough of Godmanchester in 1831-1832 (*History of Godmanchester*, 1831). Fox transcribed and translated a series of documents dating from the charter of King John in 1212.

## **2.2 Cartographic Evidence**

Pre-enclosure cartographic evidence for the parish of Godmanchester is not available, with the exception of a map of the waterways of the region dating to 1514.

The parish was enclosed at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The first comprehensive and detailed maps of the parish are the 'Inclosure Map of the Messuages, Cottages and Toftsteads', and the 'Inclosure Map of the Allotments' surrounding the settlement, both drawn in 1803 by the Commissioners in charge of inclosing the parish.

Early to mid nineteenth century cartographic sources include a map produced by the Superintending Inspectors of the General Board of Health (in Fox 1831) and a detailed map of the town drawn in 1853 by the surveyor E. Goode.

In addition, there is a series of early to mid nineteenth century maps of the estates belonging to Lady Olivia Sparrow (also depicted on the Inclosure Map of 1803), which show the site of Merton Priory.

There is no Tithe Map for Godmanchester.

Later maps of the town include editions of the Ordnance Survey from the end of the nineteenth century onwards.

### **2.3 The HER**

Section Unfinished

### **2.4 Aerial Photographs and Overlays of Aerial Photographs**

The HER has a collection of maps showing overlays of aerial photographs plotted in the 1980s and digitised in 2001 from research in the CUCAP and NMR collections. The original aerial photographs were taken in the late 1940s-1950s and in the 1960s-1970s.

Aerial photographs for Godmanchester show extensive areas of well-preserved medieval ridge and furrow on the higher ground immediately to the east and south of the town.

The most interesting area of cropmarks is located at Rectory Farm, to the north-east of the town, where there are remains associated with a prehistoric *cursus* monument and with a Romano-British villa site (former SAM133, presently de-scheduled).

### **2.5 Archaeological Investigations**

#### 2.5.1 Antiquarian Observations

Godmanchester has witnessed a series of archaeological investigations conducted from the early part of the twentieth century (summarised in Appendix 1). The area is known through the work of local antiquarians with particular reference to Inskipp-Ladds and Jesse Robert Garrod of the Cambridge and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society (later Cambridge Antiquarian Society).

#### 2.5.2 Michael Green's Investigations

After the Second World War archaeological excavations in advance of re-development within the historic nucleus at Godmanchester were supervised by Michael Green, on behalf of the Department of Environment (DoE). The sites investigated by Green are listed below and described in more details in Appendix 2. The following information has been kindly supplied by the excavator himself.

Site 1 2, 5, Pinfold Lane and Granary Close (1974-1975)

Roman forts and bath-mansio-complex

Late Saxon features

Site 2 14, causeway

- Roman town wall and ditch (?)
- Site 3 Pipers Lane  
Roman south-gate and defences  
Late Saxon buildings
- Site 4 Court Hall, The Maltings, Pinfold Lane (west end), 20-22, The Causeway  
Iron Age hut  
Roman town wall, plots and buildings  
Medieval and post-medieval buildings and features
- Site 5 8-10, Pinfold Lane (Stiles I)  
Roman Ermine Street and roadside buildings
- Site 6 4, Pinfold Lane (Stiles III) and 5, Pinfold Lane (Stiles II)
- Site 7 57-58, Cambridge Street  
Roman Ermine Street, roadside buildings and smithy  
Early medieval buildings
- Site 8 10, Pipers Lane  
Roman Ermine Street, temple
- Site 9 Cambridge Road (by-pass site)  
Roman field system
- Site 10 24, Earning Street  
Roman features  
Medieval features
- Site 11 5, Earning Street  
Roman town wall and east gate  
Medieval town ditch
- Site 12 44, Post Street  
Roman Ermine Street and roadside buildings  
Medieval buildings  
Post-medieval features
- Site 13 Earning Street (former Unigate Site)  
Roman east road, roadside buildings, agricultural installations  
Saxon buildings and features
- Site 14 19, London Road  
Roman Ermine Street and roadside buildings  
Medieval smithy and buildings
- Site 15 42, Cambridge Road  
Roman boundaries and features  
Medieval and post-medieval buildings
- Site 16 Rectory Farm  
Roman villa field system
- Site 17 Park Lane  
Iron Age hut and storage pits  
Roman buildings, pottery kilns and inhumation burials
- Site 18 5, New Street (Stiles IV) and Stiles V  
Roman buildings, roadside ditches and boundaries along Ermine Street
- Site 19 7, Old Court Hall  
Roman town wall, buildings, agricultural features and inhumation burials
- Site 20 8, London Road  
Roman Ermine Street and features

- Medieval features
- Site 21 Cow Lane
  - Roman granaries
- Site 22 St Ann's Lane (Old School)
  - Roman fort, roads, market area and bakery
- Site 23 West Street
  - Roman roads and buildings
- Site 24 Fox Grove
  - Roman buildings
  - Saxon buildings
- Site 25 6-8, St Ann's Lane
  - Roman fort, town wall, buildings and cremation burials

### 2.5.3 Recent Work

From the late 1980s development has mainly affected peripheral areas. In particular, excavations at The Parks to the north of the town have offered the opportunity to investigate the development of the Roman suburbs outside the north gate. Investigations have also been conducted at The Cardinal Distribution Park, to the east of the built-up area, and at The Chord Business Park along London Road. In recent years very few interventions have affected the historic core of Godmanchester.

All the sites investigated from the later part of the 1980s onwards are listed below and described in more details in Appendix 3.

#### The Historic Nucleus

- 28, *St Ann's Lane* (Hinman 1998)
  - Prehistoric remains
- 22, *Earning Street* (Kemp 1996)
  - Roman ditch
  - Post-medieval ditch
  - Post-medieval quarry pits
- 6, *Earning Street* (Hall 1997).
  - Roman pits/ditch terminals
- 4, *Earning Street* (Murray 2000)
  - Undated layer of limestone
- 5, *Oakleigh Crescent* (Bain 2002).
  - Roman (second century) pit and a possible occupation layer
- 2, *Pinfold Lane* (Hinman 1998)
  - Roman structures on the same alignment as the *mansio*-bath complex.
  - Medieval pits cut into a post-Roman layer.

#### Eastern Suburbs

- 8a, *Almond Close* (Boyer & Prosser 2000).
  - Negative evidence
- *Cardinal Distribution Park* (Murray 1998; (Last 1999).
  - Late bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits and roundhouse
  - Roman ditched enclosure
  - Early Saxon remains (enclosures, trackways, buildings)

- *Cardinal West 2000* (Seddon 2000)  
Roman (second century) pit
- *A14/A604 Junction 1989, 1990* (Wait 1990a; Wait 1990b, Wait 1991)  
Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age lithic materials  
Roman inhumation burial, ditches, pits and postholes (farmstead)

#### Southern Suburbs

- *Buttermel Meadow* (Hoyland & Kemp 1991)  
Medieval village earthworks
- *London Street* (Hoyland & Wait 1992)  
Roman inhumation burials
- *Sweetings Road* (Macaulay 1994; Oakey 1995)  
Roman inhumation burials  
Medieval ridge and furrow
- *London Road* (Hinman 1996; Abrams 2001)  
Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pits and ditches  
Roman suburban ribbon occupation, rubbish and furnace
- *Chord Business Park 1998* (Coates 1998)  
Roman (second century?) features (a ditch, a human burial and a post-hole)

#### Northern Suburbs

- *The Parks, 1991, 1992 and 1998* (Gdaniec 1991; Reynolds 1992; Jones 1998)  
Roman (Flavian-Hadrianic) ribbon development, quarries, pits, metalwork, building debris and evidence for bone working; second-third century pits and ditches; fourth century inhumation cemetery  
Medieval (twelfth century) fish tank system (part of moated site), ridge and furrow

### **3 CONSERVATION AREAS AND EXISTING DESIGNATIONS**

#### **3.1 Scheduled Monuments**

The parish of Godmanchester includes one Scheduled Monument (SM), i.e. the moated site where the manor house of the Prior of Merton originally stood (SM11550, formerly SAM107). The Prior of Merton held the living of Godmanchester church from 1135 to 1154.

Presently, the site comprises an area of approximately 0.60ha surrounded on three sides by a wet moat of slightly irregular shape. The moat is approximately 2m wide and 3m deep. The south and east arms survived until the early twentieth century. Their lines are now marked by field boundaries. The interior of the enclosed area is rough pasture with an amorphous depression in the middle.

#### **3.2 Listed Buildings**

Godmanchester contains 123 buildings of statutory designation, of which 7

are Grade II Star Listed Buildings (LBII\*). In addition, there is a Building of Local Interest (BLI).

There are currently 14 buildings 'at risk' on the District Council's Local Plan<sup>1</sup> (Risk Categories 1-6).

The highest concentration of buildings of historic interest survives along the western perimeter of the town core, along Post Street, Chadleigh Lane, West Street, the Causeway, the Old Court Hall and Silver Street, within one of the two Conservation Areas in Godmanchester (below). The second largest group of buildings is located along Earning Street and part of Cambridge Road, within the second of the two Conservation Areas (below).

With the exception of the parish church of St Mary (thirteenth century), all listed buildings date to the later medieval and post-medieval periods. The list includes brick-built structures with timber-framed rendering dating to the sixteenth and seventeenth century. In addition, there are red or yellow Gault brick-built buildings dating to the eighteenth and nineteenth century. Only few original thatch roofs survive, the dominant materials being plain tile and slate for some of the latest buildings.

The RCHM(E) of Huntingdonshire describes 69 of the listed buildings, including the church of St Mary (RCHM(E) 1926, 106-116, Monuments 3-72).

### **3.3 Conservation Areas**

The historic nucleus of Godmanchester contains two Conservation Areas. One is located at the centre of the present town and includes the buildings (and associated rear plots) flanking Earning Street and Cambridge Road. The second area extends between the western parish boundary (and town limit) and the rear of the buildings along Post Street, the Causeway, West Street, the Old Court Hall and Silver Street, and includes the church of St Mary in Chadleigh Lane.

The moated site SM 11550 is outside the boundaries of both conservation areas, as is most of the Roman walled settlement.

There are no other designations of historical, archaeological or scientific interest within Godmanchester.

## **4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

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<sup>1</sup> There are no buildings 'at risk' on the EH list. However, it forms part of the District Council's Local Plan (policy En4) that "the District Council will monitor the condition of listed buildings in the district and maintain a register of such buildings under threat". The register is currently under review and will be up dated in the new financial year (Katie McAndrew, Assistant Conservation Officer, Huntingdon District, *pers. comm.*).

## 4.1 Prehistoric

Early prehistoric activity in the Godmanchester area is represented by a significant distribution of Mesolithic and Neolithic flint tools and cropmarks along the Ouse Valley where light and free draining soils were suitable for occupation. A significant example of ritual and domestic use of the prehistoric landscape is provided by the site at Rectory Farm, located c. 1km to the east of Godmanchester. Here a long-lived Neolithic and Bronze Age complex consisting of a *cursus*, enclosure, ring ditches and pits acted as a focus for contemporary and later activity, as indicated by the high density of cropmark remains in the area (Mc Avoy 2000). Associated with the monument is a later Neolithic farmstead excavated in 1990 (Wait 1992). Many other sites, probably farmsteads, are likely to have been scattered over the gravel terraces.

Later prehistoric activity in the Godmanchester area is also well documented. For instance, an late Iron Age/Romano-British settlement has been excavated just east of the town (Wait 1991). Other sites are known from underneath modern Godmanchester where roundhouses and ditched enclosures have been encountered below layers of Roman occupation. In some instances, first century AD roundhouses appeared in conjunction with the Romanised rectangular timber-framed buildings, their presence pointing to continuity in the local settlement pattern.

## 4.2 Roman

Unless otherwise cited, the following account draws upon Michael Green's interpretation of the origin and development of Roman Godmanchester and is based on the results from his excavations (Appendix 2). Further information has been added, following recent archaeological interventions in the suburban areas (Appendix 3).

The Roman settlement of Godmanchester, which has been identified with the *Duroviguto* of the Ravenna Cosmography (seventh century), developed on a gravel spur to the south of the ford where the stretch of Ermine Street to Royston (Margary 1973, route 2b) crossed the river Ouse. Ermine Street was joined by a road branching off the *Via Devana* to Cambridge (Margary 1973, route 24), and by the road to Sandy (Margary 1973, route 22).

### Period 1: The Claudian and Neronian Forts (AD 44-70)

The earliest evidence of Roman activity at Godmanchester is military, as indicated by the presence of two short-lived successive forts, which were part of a network of military installations and roads to river crossings to control the southern region in the prelude to the conquest of the north.

The earlier fort dated to the time of the Conquest. A portion of its southern defence was traced over 170m below the later *mansio* (Site 1, Appendix 2). It consisted of an east-west aligned double-ditched timber-revetted rampart. A four-post interval tower was also located below the *mansio*. Inside the fort

there was evidence for military timber buildings, one of which was sealed by the earliest gravel surface of Ermine Street (mid first century). Military equipment from the site included an iron axe and fragments of bronze shield binding.

The later fort was aligned across the earlier one on a north-east/south-west orientation. A portion of the south-eastern defence was excavated, including the southern corner and a gate (St Ann's Lane). The gate was flanked by timber towers set between the timber-revetted ends of a box rampart fronted by a single ditch. A substantial ditched enclosure (annexe) was probably associated with the fort.

The original layout of the road to Sandy probably belonged to this military phase.

### Period 2: Road Network and Early Occupation (AD 70-130)

The later morphology of the site was dominated by the road network that was provided during the first century. As the army moved northwards, the forts became obsolete and the early civilian nucleus began to expand along Ermine Street.

Excavations at Post Street (Site 12, *Appendix 2*) revealed a stretch of Ermine Street that entered Godmanchester from the ford across the Ouse to the north. The road was double ditched and produced evidence for several phases of resurfacing. Along its route there were pits for gravel extraction. In Pinfold Lane (Site 6, *Appendix 2*), underneath the later *basilica*, Ermine Street was joined by the road to Sandy roughly perpetuating the early military route. With the construction of the *basilica* in the early third century, the road to Sandy was diverted to the south towards the later market place. Excavations in Park Lane (Site 17, *Appendix 2*) produced evidence for a road that branching off the *Via Devana* and linked-up with Ermine Street at the Stiles (Site 5, *Appendix 2*).

Evidence for early settlement was uncovered along Cambridge Road at Park Lane and along Ermine Street at Post Street where burnt material and debris indicated the presence of timber buildings.

In the aftermath of the Boudica revolt Godmanchester witnessed a period of growth with settlement expansion occurring along the main street frontages.

At Post Street (Site 17, above) ditched plots for several types of domestic buildings, including round houses and timber-framed rectangular buildings, were set parallel to Ermine Street during the mid first-third century. Here evidence for agricultural activities was found in the form of threshing floors, malting ovens/corn dryers and wicker granaries. In addition, there was evidence for animal husbandry. Sheep and goat, in particular, appeared to have been associated with dairy activities, including cheese-making. Strainers and pressers were uncovered during excavation. Sheep were also appreciated for the wool, as suggested by the recovery of many loom weights

and spinning whorls. Contemporary occupation along Cambridge Street is also documented (Site 15, *Appendix 2*).

### Period 3: The *Mansio* (AD 130-210)

At the beginning of the second century several enclosures at the junction of Ermine Street and the road to Sandy were cleared to accommodate a masonry courtyard and building (*mansio*) with associated bathhouse to the south and the temple of *Abandinus*, a local god, to the west (Site 1, *Appendix 2*). The *mansio* was accessed from the north by a gravel lane skirting a masonry isled barn to the east. Based on Green's excavation results, the *mansio* at Godmanchester would be one of the largest known in Roman Britain, being over 100m long, including stabling. It comprised a range of bedrooms along two sides and dining rooms. The southern range of rooms included the kitchen with rubbish pits that produced sherds of pottery spanning the early second to late third century. Floored were tessellated and walls plastered and painted. The bathhouse appears to have been built in two stages. It started as a single complex and ended as two separate bath systems, probably to provide separate facilities for men and women, or for official couriers and local inhabitants. A more recent investigation at 2, Pinfold Lane 1997 produced evidence for structures on the same alignment as the *mansio*-bath complex, confirming Green's original findings in this area (Hinman 1998).

The Temple of *Abandinus* is recorded on an inscribed bronze votive feather. It originated in the early second century as a rectangular timber structure with an associated hut to the east. In the late second century it was re-built in the fashion of a Romano-Celtic temple. It was destroyed along with the *mansio* complex in the late third century and replaced in the fourth century by a polygonal structure with a central masonry tank.

Evidence for second century occupation was found in Post Street (Site 12, *Appendix 2*) and in Cambridge Street (Sites 7, *Appendix 2*) where timber houses and workshops flanked Ermine Street. Here, a complete workshop dating to the early second century was excavated. It produced evidence for bronze smelting and for later iron smelting and smiting. At least one example of masonry town house was uncovered in New Street (Site 4, *Appendix 2*).

### Period 4: Basilica, Market and Town Walls (AD 210-300)

In the early third century several second century timber buildings in the Stiles area were demolished to accommodate a masonry single-aisled *basilica* and associated forecourt encroaching upon Ermine Street (Site 6, *Appendix 2*). Ermine Street was subsequently re-aligned slightly to the east. Further south this change led to the creation of a market place. Besides the *mansio* complex, the presence of a *basilica* would indicate that by the beginning of the third century Godmanchester had achieved some formal status.

Evidence for pottery production emerged in the form of a mid third century kiln at Park Lane, on northern edge of town (Site 17, *Appendix 2*).

At the end of the third century the core of Godmanchester was enclosed by stone-defences. On the north-west side the circuit comprised a 3m wide wall with rampart, fronted by a wide ditch (Site 2, *Appendix 2*). Excavations at Earning Street (Site 11, *Appendix 2*) offered the opportunity to investigate the south-eastern side of the defence circuit. Here a fan-shaped external tower probably marked the location of the eastern gate on the road branching off the *Via Devana*. Here, the wall terminated abruptly and was not completed probably as the result of a major fire that destroyed most of the settlement core.

Both town gates on Ermine Street were identified by Green. The north gate was only partially investigated (Site 7, *Appendix 2*), whereas the south gate was fully excavated (Site 2, *Appendix 2*). This was over 9m wide and was flanked by two towers.

#### Period 5: Demolition of Public Buildings and Resettlement (AD 300-370)

Following the conflagration episode of the late third century, the bathhouse was only partially re-built and lasted until the late fourth century, as suggested by numismatic evidence with coins series down to the house of Theodosius (early fifth century). The *mansio* and *basilica* were pulled down. Their building material was re-used for the construction of a secondary defence circuit within the former walls, which enclosed the sector of the town occupied by the surviving official buildings (Site 25, *Appendix 2*). The later defence circuit consisted of a freestanding wall and ditch that contained *tesserae* and flue tiles probably from the bathhouse.

The *mansio* remained open until the mid fourth century. At a later stage, the area was enclosed by a ditch and occupied by two new timber buildings. The former aisled barn was converted into an industrial building with iron furnaces.

Re-building along the street frontage was restricted to the settlement core. A corn merchant's shop of this period was excavated in New Street (Site 18, *Appendix 2*).

Around the same period, there was a major change in land use in the eastern part of the town, where occupation along the *Via Devana* had started in the later first century (Green, Site 13, *Appendix 2*; Hinman 1998, *Appendix 3*). Here, layers of rubbish dumping superseded an earlier phase of agricultural activity.

The last metalled surface of Ermine Street was practically unworn and covered by a thick layer of late fourth century rubbish, indicating that traffic on this route had declined.

As a whole, evidence from the settlement core would point to some degree of dereliction of civic life and decline in traffic in the later Roman period. Nonetheless, the distribution of the inhumation cemeteries around the walled

town seems to indicate that portions of the suburbs were still in use during the fourth century.

### The Eastern Suburbs

The extent of settlement expansion on the eastern side of the town has been established through a series of investigations conducted in recent years. Negative evidence from the site at 8a, Almond Close, to the south of the *Via Devana*, would indicate that here there was no occupation during the Roman period. Absence of residual pottery is particularly significant, as it indicates that lack of features is unlikely to have been caused by later agricultural practices.

Sparse evidence for rural activity peripheral to the main settlement has emerged from the sites at Earning Street (Kemp 1996; Hall 1997; Murray 2000, *Appendix 3*), between the south-eastern wall circuit and the burial ground at Cambridge Villas.

Further to the east extensive investigations at the Cardinal Distribution Park (Wait 1990b; Last 1999; Seddon 2000) have also produced some evidence for rural activity consistent with the presence of a small 'farmstead' located in the rural hinterland of the Roman town.

### The Southern Suburbs

Ribbon occupation along Ermine Street in the southern suburbs appears to have continued throughout the whole of the Roman period. At the school site excavated in 1996 plots defined by ditches flanked the western side of Ermine Street (London Road). Rubbish pits contained charred seeds indicative of agricultural activity. In addition, a possible furnace was interpreted as evidence for (unspecified) industrial activity (Hinman 1996). Scant evidence for activity of any period was uncovered along London Road further to the south. Investigations at the Chord Business Park revealed the remains of a ditch and a posthole probably associated with rural activities (Coates 1998). Further south, the site investigated in 1994 (Welsh 1994) produced negative evidence, pointing to lack of occupation peripheral to the main settled area, and defining the extent of occupation in the southern suburban area.

At London Street and at Sweetings Road, to the north and west of the school site respectively, an extensive inhumation cemetery excavated in the early 1990s might have been part of the Porch Farm burial site known from antiquarian observation (*Appendix 1*). The cemetery had been laid out over earlier features, namely pits and ditches associated with Roman suburban activities dating to the second and third centuries (Hoyland & Wait 1992; Macaulay 1994). The presence of burials in an area of former occupation would point to some degree of contraction of this part of the suburbs. Evidence for contraction during the fourth century is further corroborated by the presence of a rubbish dump area to the east of the burial ground and immediately outside the south gate (Abrams 2001).

## The Northern Suburbs

Outside the northern gate extensive investigations at The Parks (Jones 1998) have revealed evidence for light industrial activity along the eastern side of Ermine Street. The site was quarried for gravel extraction associated with the metalling of Ermine Street. At the end of the first century ditched property boundaries were laid out to the rear of Ermine Street. The plots contained pits with domestic refuse. Evidence for bone working from the site excavated in 1991 (Gdaniec 1991) indicated an industrial aspect of the town. Between the later second century and the early fourth century the quarry pits were backfilled. Four kilns, a group of hearths and a building located in the area of the former plots were the main features of this phase. Two urned cremation burials were also uncovered. During the fourth century the site went out of use and an inhumation cemetery comprising at least 62 inhumations was laid out in the area of the former kilns. The features of the previous two phases had been backfilled prior to the use of the area for burial. Five Roman inhumation burials from the same cemetery were found near the north-western side of the site investigated in 1992 where a foundation trench for a masonry building of probable Roman date was also identified (Reynolds 1992). The cemetery was probably part of the burial ground excavated by Green in 1976 (Site 17). As with the southern suburbs, the presence of an extensive cemetery in an area of former industrial activity may indicate some degree of contraction in this part of the extramural settlement.

The presence of two major burial grounds along Ermine Street, both to the north and to the south of the walled town, would however indicate that this road still exerted some attraction and was probably a busy route through Godmanchester during the fourth century. It is only in the later part of the fourth century that urban decline began, as shown by Green (above), with contraction spreading from the core to the periphery.

### **4.4 Anglo-Saxon**

The Roman town probably started to decline towards the end of the fourth century and the beginning of the fifth century when evidence for occupation becomes sparse.

Following the withdrawal of the army from Britain in 410 and the subsequent collapse of the administrative structure it is unlikely that occupation at Roman Godmanchester continued into the fifth century. Sub-Roman occupation has been identified at Granary Close (Green, Site 1, *Appendix 2*) where timber huts produced sherds of Romano-Saxon pottery. Early Saxon pottery was also found in Cambridge Street (Green, Site 15, *Appendix 2*) and at St Ann's Lane (Green, Site 25, *Appendix 2*).

As a whole, post-Roman and early Saxon activities at Godmanchester are poorly documented. To date, the most substantial evidence for an early Saxon presence in the area comes from the site at the Cardinal Distribution Park excavated in 1998 and 1999. Here, evidence emerged for ditched enclosures, trackways and domestic structures, both Grubenhäuser and timber-framed

buildings, consistent with the presence of a farmstead or small hamlet (Last 1999).

Later Saxon features have been uncovered in the area of the *mansio* (Green Site 1, *Appendix 2*) where structural remains consisted of ditches, pits and robber trenches of the former Roman baths. The bathhouse had been dug out in a series of parallel strips separated by baulks with an average width of 1.5m, which were interpreted as tenements (Green 1961). Evidence for Saxo-Norman activity was found at Earning Street near the Roman south gate where the fourth century defense ditch had been re-cut in the eleventh century (Green, Site 11, *Appendix 2*). Further east, evidence emerged for late Saxon buildings (Green, Site 13, *Appendix 2*).

Between 865 and 879 Godmanchester suffered raids by Danish armies, culminating in occupation by Guthrum after 879. The army was based at Huntingdon and was responsible for administering the district later called Huntingdonshire. It has been suggested that Danish settlers engaged in trading activities formed an important element in the population of Late Saxon Godmanchester (Green 1961) and that the port itself was probably created during the Danish period (Green 1977, 27).

In 917 Edward the Elder recaptured Huntingdon and Godmanchester. The neighbouring Huntingdon is recorded as having been fortified by Edward the Elder in 917.

At Godmanchester the town ditch could have been part of the defence system on the Ouse to create double burghs. Michael Green has traced the town ditch in West Street, East Chadleigh Lane and Earning Street where it followed the Roman defence ditch (Green 1961). Portions of the walls were maintained at least until the eleventh century appear to date to the eleventh-twelfth century, based on the pottery from the section following Earning Street (Green, Site 11, *Appendix 2*). The area enclosed by the Saxo-Norman town ditch would fit with the later street pattern described in the Hundred Rolls of 1279.

#### **4.5 Medieval Godmanchester**

Godmanchester is first recorded as *Godmuncestre* (Domesday Book) and is later known as *Gumecestre* (thirteenth century) and Godmanchester (fourteenth century). The second part of the name derives from the Latin *castrum* and refers to the ruins of the fortified Roman town. The first part of the name is associated with Guthrum as the founder of Godmanchester (Mawer & Stenton 1926, 255).

In the Domesday Survey (1086) Godmanchester is listed in Leightonstone Hundred. It is subsequently included in Toseland Hundred (*Rot. Hund*, 1279).

#### The Manor

At the time of the Domesday Survey the manor of Godmanchester was held as crown land. King Edward the Confessor had 14 hides taxable and land for 57 ploughs. There were 80 villains and 16 bordars with 24 ploughs, a priest and a church, 3 mills rendering 100s, 160 acres of meadow rendering 70s and 50 acres of woodland pasture rendering 20s. The total estimated population counted about 450 people. The value of the manor before and after 1066 was £40 (Morris 1975, Huntingdonshire 1.10).

It is possible that the villains and borders mentioned in the Domesday Survey were free sokemen who held their lands for a rent payable to the king.

At the beginning of the twelfth century Richard I granted the manor to the Earl of Huntingdon. In 1212 it came into the hands of King John who granted the manor to the men of Godmanchester to hold at a fee-farm rent. Shortly afterwards, the fee-farm rent was given to the Earl of Lancaster and later formed part of the Duchy of Lancaster. Disputes arose with the successors of the Earl of Huntingdon. The land finally merged in the crown on the accession of Henry IV. The manor remained in possession of the crown until Charles II granted it to the Earl of Sandwich (Page 1974, II, *passim*).

The charter of 1212 had transferred all the manorial rights to the men of Godmanchester. In 1279 (*Rot. Hund.*) the tenants of Godmanchester were accepted as freemen. The town had become a liberty that enjoyed some privileges, including exemption from toll and the right to hold court with twelve jurors of the view of frankpledge. In addition, bailiffs held a three-week court of the manor as a demesne of the crown. The Court Rolls are preserved from 1271, although no distinction was made between the two courts until the beginning of the fourteenth century (Page 1974, II, *passim*).

Pinfold Lane, which goes off eastwards from the Old Court Hall, is mentioned in 1539. The name probably derives from the *Pondefolde* that may be identified with the town pound where the king had the right to impound the cattle distrained at the hundred court.

#### The Manor of the Prior of Merton

In the period 1135-1154 the church and its attached land, together with further land of the manor, were given to Merton Priory (Surrey). The manorial complex was located to the east of the church, in the area still known today as 'The Parks', and comprised a house surrounded by a moat, fish-tanks, ponds and a deer-park. A dove house may have existed within the complex, as indicated by the field name of Dovehouse Close to the west of the moat (Enclosure Map of 1803).

Portions of the moat survives as earthworks visible on the ground. A series of surveys conducted in the late 1990s have revealed a series of twelfth century fish-tanks and later medieval ponds (above).

By 1279 (*Rot. Hund.*) the land attached to the manor amounted to 120 acres and was predominantly used as arable. The *Rotuli*, however, do not mention

the park the use of which had probably reverted to agriculture (Twiggs in Reynolds 1992). Remains of ridge and furrow to the north of the moated site survive as cropmarks (above).

### The Church

The records of Ramsey Abbey state that the church of St Mary was given with 3 hides of land to the monks of Ramsey Abbey by King Edgar in 969. By the time of the Domesday Survey a church and a priest were attached to the manor of Godmanchester and remained in royal possession until 1135-1154 when King Stephen gave the church, rectorial tithes and some land to Merton Priory in Surrey (Page 1974, II, 294). With the exception of a few stones of uncertain provenience in the walling, nothing of this early building survives. It is reasonable to assume that the later thirteenth century church is probably located on the same site as its Saxon predecessor.

At the beginning of the thirteenth century the vicarage and vicarial tithes were instituted (Page 1974, II, 294).

### The Economy

#### Agriculture and Trade

By the end of the thirteenth century, the farm at Godmanchester was three times that paid to William the Conqueror and comprised some 2500 acres of land, 85 acres of pasture, 378 *messuages* and 199 crofts. In addition, there were headlands, river meadows, one smithy and one place for 'manufacture' considered worth listing (*Rot. Hund.*, 1279).

During the Middle Ages, the population was chiefly occupied in rural activities. The local 'Sowing and Sheep List' of 1330, though fragmentary, show the land use of rural properties and provides a clear indication of the importance attached to the production of cereals in agriculture, and to sheep farming for the wool trade. The inventory lists approximately 200 tenants. One fifth of them did not have enough acres to pay tax (Lay Subsidy List of 1332).

Given the small size of most of the listed properties, it is likely that some were held by tradesmen. In fact, the 'Trades and Merchant Lists' for Godmanchester (1278-1399) provides an inventory of the main trading activities by occupational surnames first and by proper occupation later, and suggests a wide range of specialisations and a highly developed division of labour, at least prior to the black death (Raftis 1982, *passim*).

#### Markets and Fairs

Godmanchester appears to have held a market, though the town was never granted a market charter. There are references to a market in the bailiffs' accounts for 1533 in relation to an accident \*\*\*. In 1615 it was certainly customary to bring fish to the 'common market' on Fridays (Page 1974, II, *passim*). Given the wide range of documented trades at Godmanchester, it is

possible that a market was established as early as the late thirteenth century, as part of a planned commercial development by initiative of the freeman of Godmanchester (*Rot. Hund.*, 1279), with the tacit approval of the King. The lack of any formal reference to a market may be significant in this respect.

The precise location of the market area is unknown. The map of 1514 shows two crosses in Post Street one of which is located at the junction of the Avenue and Park Lane and could have marked the northern town boundary. The second cross is located at the junction of Post Street, the Causeway and East Street (Cambridge Street) to the south of the church and could have indicated the location of the market area. This would have been close to the riverside and, therefore, to the docks where goods bought and sold at the market could be loaded and unloaded. A second possible location is further south, at the junction of the Old Court Hall, The Causeway and West Street where the roads form a triangle opposite Pinfold Lane.

Two fairs were granted by James I in the charter of 1604. There is no reference to earlier fairs, although this does not exclude the possibility that 'unofficial' fairs were already held at Godmanchester by the time of the charter.

### Navigation and Water Management

#### The Port

Godmanchester was still an important fluvial port at the beginning of the twentieth century. The date of the creation of the port is uncertain. The place-name 'Port Holme' on the Enclosure Map of 1803 refers to the riverside in Brampton parish, just outside the parish boundary and suggests the presence of a low-lying area by a port. The name is first recorded in the medieval period (Mawer & Stenton \*\*\*). It has been suggested that the port might have been created during the period of Danish settlement around the middle of the tenth century (Green 1977, 27). A pond in Belle Isle is traditionally referred to as Gormon's pond, probably from a corruption of Guthrum. At present, there is no evidence to support the hypothesis of a Danish origin.

#### Fisheries and Water Mills

The Domesday Survey records three water mills attached to the manor. Three water mills are depicted on the map of 1514. Whether these were located on the site of the medieval predecessors is uncertain, since their presence would have obstructed navigation and cause flooding. There is no record of floods during the earlier medieval period.

In 1279 the bailiffs of Godmanchester claimed that the town held three fisheries by grant of King John. The fishers of the town were bound to bring their fish to the common market every Friday and whenever they had fish to sell, on pain of a fine (Page 1974, II, *passim*).

#### Navigation

In the thirteenth century the obstruction of the navigation and diversion of traffic on the Ouse put up by the Abbot of Ramsey, the prior of Huntingdon and Reginald de Grey as lords of the mills at Houghton, Hartford and Hemingford Grey, respectively, led to complaints on the part of Huntingdon but not Godmanchester. However, the dams on the river led to recurrent floods of the meadows from the later medieval period until the seventeenth century (below) (Page *et al.* 1974, 291).

### The Settlement

Medieval Godmanchester appears to have developed around the site of the Roman *mansio* that was bisected by Ermine Street.

The old course of Ermine Street is shown on Goode's Map of 1853 as a small lane running from Piper's Lane (south end) to St Ann's Lane/Royal Oak Lane (north end). Besides Ermine Street, the main access routes were the Roman road to Sandy (West Street) and the road branching off the *Via Devana* (Cambridge Road). These routes were maintained and connected to Post Street by means of two parallel roads on an east-west alignment, i.e. Cambridge Street and St Ann's Lane. Further south, two parallel roads, i.e. Piper's Lane and London Street, connected London Road to Old Court Hall that merged into the Causeway. Finally, Earning Street and East Street linked London Road and Cambridge Road on the eastern side. The route network produced a system of ring roads accessed from all main directions.

### Conquest Period

The layout of Godmanchester is atypical and suggests the presence of what appears to have started as a 'bifocal' settlement. One of the early nuclei probably developed on the north-eastern side of the present town, near the church of St Mary. A church was already in existence by the time of the Domesday Survey. Ermine Street was probably in use during this period.

Further south, late Saxon material from the former *mansio* area suggests a second nucleus of occupation along Pinfold Lane, i.e. along the Roman Road to Sandy (Green 1961).

Absence of finds from excavations at the Causeway would indicate that originally the two settlements were separate (Green 1961).

Early medieval timber-framed buildings dating to the twelfth century have been identified at London Road (Green, Sites 14 and 20, *Appendix 2*), at Post Street (Green, Site 12, *Appendix 2*) and at St Ann's Lane (Green, Site 25, *Appendix 2*).

At London Road (Site 14) there was also evidence for industrial activity in the form of iron smelting furnaces associated with a blacksmith's shop. Finally, medieval pits of uncertain function were discovered at Cambridge Street

(Green, Site 15, *Appendix 2*) and at No. 2 Pinfold Lane (Hinman 1998, *Appendix 3*).

#### Late Thirteenth-Early Fourteenth Century

Sometime during the medieval period Ermine Street was re-routed and replaced by Post Street that rejoined Ermine Street further north. Branching off Cambridge Road (*Via Devana*) East Street formed a right angle with Post Street, by-passed the disused Ermine Street and linked-up both the lane to the manor (East Chadleigh Lane) and the lane to the church of St Mary (Church Lane). St Ann's Lane (or Royal Oak Lane) was probably a back-lane marking the rear of the properties that developed on East Street.

The development of the southern nucleus shows similarities with the development of the northern site. Ermine Street went out of use sometime during the medieval period. Old Court Hall/The Causeway represented the continuation of Post Street and, at a right angle, London Street by-passed the disused portions of Ermine Street. As with St Ann's Lane to the north, Piper's Lane probably represented the back-lane of London Street. On the eastern side, Earning Street provided a further link between the two nuclei. The causeway was of ancient construction as in 1279 repairs were charged on a meadow in the tenure of the prior of St Mary's, Huntingdon. It was maintained throughout the medieval period and rebuilt in the seventeenth century (Page 1974, 286).

Based on the accounts in the *Rotuli Hundredorum*, by the end of the thirteenth century Godmanchester was an integrated settlement that had undergone considerable expansion. In the *Rotuli* land properties and *messuages* are listed by road sequence. It would appear that the largest landowner was the prior of Merton who, among other possessions, held the church in gift and the tithes. Godmanchester also contained some 378 *messuages*. The properties on Post Street appear to have been fairly large estates held by townsmen who were probably engaged in both farming and trade, in contrast with the cottage-like style of the average *messuage* (Raftis 1982, *passim*). The road list confirms that by 1279 the medieval settlement had developed along Post Street, Duck End (Silver Street), London Street, Arnyng Street (Earning Street), East Street and Chadleigh Lane (Raftis 1982, *passim*). The less valuable clusters of holdings were located on the fringes of town, reflecting expansion along the country lanes (Green 1977, 32).

With the exception of Pinfold Lane, the area circuted by the link roads was not developed until after the Second World War. Here, absence of buildings was probably due to the presence of masonry remains associated with the Roman town. It is known from excavations conducted by Michael Green (*Appendix 2*) that the Roman walls were robbed during the Late Saxon and medieval periods, indicating that these were still partly visible above ground, providing a source of building material.

Alteration to the road system was the result of planned development of the medieval town in the course of the late thirteenth-early fourteenth century, as

suggested by excavations at London Road (Green, Site 20, *Appendix 2*) and at the Old Court Hall Green, Site 4, *Appendix 2*). At London Road the line of Ermine Street was moved to the west, with the buildings on the eastern side of the new road being laid out on the crown of the former Ermine Street. Excavations at Post Street showed that medieval settlement did not occur in this area of the town until the thirteenth or fourteenth century.

Progressive expansion along West Street, parallel to the riverside, was probably prompted by the presence of the port, and occurred at the expense of valuable meadow and *messuages* in this area, such as those leased from Merton Priory to some of the wealthiest man of the town (Raftis 1982, *passim*).

It has been suggested that Ermine Street was re-routed following the acquisition of the church and manorial estate by Merton Priory and the subsequent creation of a park in the early twelfth century (Green 1977).

However, the alteration of the road system was far more radical than was required to isolate the estate of an absentee landlord. Even assuming that the prior might have prompted some changes, it is more likely that Ermine Street was re-routed to compel the traffic to pass through the market place and ensure payment of tolls (Page 1974, II, 286).

## Buildings

With the exception of the parish church of St Mary, there are no extant medieval buildings at Godmanchester.

The church of St Mary (LB53527/HER02778, List. Num. 4/20) was probably built in the later part of the thirteenth century. The walls of the west tower and spire are of limestone ashlar; the rest of the church is built of brown stones and pebble rubble, with fragments of freestone. The dressings are of Barnack and other limestone. The building incorporates reused twelfth century materials. The only surviving elements of the thirteenth century church are the chancel, the west wall of the nave, and small parts of the west walls of the aisles. The date of the original tower is uncertain, as it incorporates thirteenth century work that might have been brought from elsewhere. The nave was rebuilt in the fourteenth century. The aisles and the arcades are of early fifteenth century date, as are the north and south porches. The west tower was rebuilt around 1623. Some restoration and rebuilding took place during the first half of the nineteenth century.

There were several medieval chantries and guilds associated with the church. Corpus Christi Lane takes its name from the guild of that name recorded in the fourteenth century. After the Dissolution, the chantries passed to the Crown.

Medieval religious foundations in the town included St Ann's Chapel. St Ann's Cross is mentioned in 1526 and may have existed as early as 1279 when the

tenants of Godmanchester are described as *ad crucem*, probably referring to St Ann's Cross (Page 1974, 287). The location of the chapel is unknown.

## 4.6 Post-medieval

### The Manor of the Prior of Merton

After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, the manor house became derelict and the fish-tanks went out of use (Gdaniec 1991). The manor house is depicted on the 1514 map of Godmanchester as a large two-storey gabled building surrounded by a square moat. In 1655 the building was ruinous and was probably pulled down shortly afterwards.

### The Church

After the Dissolution of the monasteries, the rectory was granted to the dean and chapter of Westminster who have owned it ever since through a succession of lessees. The advowson of the vicarage has always been held with the rectory. In the seventeenth century the vicarage was too poor to support a vicar. As a result, the Town Council purchased a house called the Star that was annexed to it (Page 1974, II, 294).

### The Economy

#### Agriculture and Industry

The expansive movement of the twelve and thirteenth century was probably followed by a period of general economic recession caused by climatic changes and disease during the fourteenth and early fifteenth century. However, recovery soon followed and, by the seventeenth century, Godmanchester was described as a 'very great country town' (Page 1974, 286).

Agriculture remained the dominant economic activity. With the enclosure of the parish in 1803 the former strips in the common fields were reallocated to a few wealthy farmers.

Horse, cattle and sheep also remained an important part of the economy until the end of the nineteenth century. The last of the two surviving fairs was abolished at the beginning of the First World War (below).

Besides people employed in farming, the census for 1831 records merchants, bankers, shopkeepers and manufacturers. Coal portage on the Ouse was formerly an important business, together with gravel extraction, and in the nineteenth century a tan yard, jute factory, malt house (LB53662), iron foundry and brick works existed (Page 1974, II, *passim*).

## Fairs

Two fairs were granted by James I in the charter of 1604. The main fair was held on Easter Tuesday and the following Wednesday near the Old Court Hall. It became an important horse and cattle fair. The cattle and sheep disappeared following an outbreak of rinderpest in 1869, whereas the horse fair continued until the beginning of the First World War. The second fair was held on the Tuesday after the Feast of SS. Simon and Jude until the end of the seventeenth century (Page 1974, II, *passim*).

## Transport

### Coaching and Railway

The great improvement in the road network contributed to the prosperity of Godmanchester in the seventeenth and eighteenth century. The Great North Road was progressively turnpiked and tolls were introduced. The old road south of the bridge across the meadows was replaced by the present Causeway and associated bridge (LB53490) constructed around 1776.

By the sixteenth century Godmanchester had obtained a certain importance as a posting station, with extensive coaching inns flourishing within the village. The principal inn was the Horseshoe (Goode's Map of 1853) at the junction of Post Street and St Ann's Lane, mentioned in 1532. Other inns included the seventeenth century Queen Victoria Inn and Red Lion Inn (Goode's Map of 1853) at the Old Court Hall. The former is a timber and plaster house with overhanging upper storey. The latter consists of a brick-built house. In West Street on the outskirts of the town the former Shepherd and Dog Inn of 1593 is presently a timber and plaster dwelling (LB53729). Other Inns depicted on Goode's Map of 1853 are the Bell Inn off Huntingdon Road and the seventeenth century White Hart, off Cambridge Road (LB53503).

Godmanchester retained a central role in the communication network with the advent of the railway, when it had a joint station, the Great Eastern and the Great Northern, in addition to the Midland (Kelly's Directory of 1890).

## Navigation and Water Management

### The Port

Godmanchester was still a fluvial port of some importance in the early twentieth century when the navigation and transport of goods were conducted on the Ouse to Lynn (Kelly's Directory of 1890). Hailing Way, a towpath that ran alongside Port Holme, was metalled and maintained by a contractor who hired it from the Corporation and levied tolls (Green 1977).

### Floods Defences

Following severe floods episodes in the course of the fifteenth century the control of the waters of the River Ouse was transferred from the Duchy to the

men of Godmanchester who obtained the right to control the floodgates at Houghton and Hemingford. In 1638 Arnold Spencer began to work on a scheme for the improvement of the navigation. Various schemes were implemented during the eighteenth century to ensure the flow of water under purpose-built bridges (Page 1974, II, *passim*), including the 'Chinese Bridge' (LB53517).

## Mills

From the end of the fifteenth century the watermills were let on lease. This system continued until the end of the nineteenth century when no tenants could be found. The last surviving mill, the Old Mill, stood derelict until it was pulled down in 1926 (HER02628). A windmill in West Meadow is mentioned in 1743 and survived until the nineteenth century (Green 1977).

In 1850 an industrial mill was built at the south end of Huntingdon Bridge, which is said to be the oldest factory in Huntingdonshire (LB53502). It has been converted into a series of flats.

## The Settlement and Buildings

The return of prosperity from the sixteenth century probably triggered population growth, as reflected by town redevelopment and rebuilding of houses. The next two centuries were a period of great prosperity, as attested by the construction of large Georgian mansions, including Tudor House (LB53534), Island Hall and Farm Hall (LB53726). Sixteen and seventeenth century buildings survive in East Street, Corpus Christy Lane, London Road, Cambridge Road and the Causeway. On the outskirts of the town is Porch Farm, a sixteenth century house with takes its name from a wooden porch on a brick base added at the end of the seventeenth century (LB53631).

By 1803 the village had further expanded along London Road, Cambridge Road, Post Street and West Street, and around the ring-road system. Expansion resulted in the progressive subdivision and/or merging of the medieval plots fronting onto the main streets.

By the time of the first edition of the Ordnance Survey Map at the end of the nineteenth century the plots within the village were further extended or subdivided into smaller ones. New Street, formerly a path known as Peat's Close (Goode's Map of 1853), was the only major addition to the street plan. Progressive infilling of plots within the area enclosed by the ring-road system continued throughout the following century.

## Administration

Godmanchester remained a self-governing manor until 1604 when, on request of the townspeople, it obtained a charter of incorporation from James I and became a free borough. The government of the town was subsequently altered. The Common Council consisted of two bailiffs and twelve Assistants who replaced the jurors of the view of frankpledge in matters of town

legislation. The charter remained fundamentally unaltered until 1835 when under the Municipal Corporations Act a mayor, four aldermen and twelve councillors replaced the bailiffs and their assistants. For Parliamentary purposes the borough was united to Huntingdon and in 1885 it was merged into the county constituency (Kelly's Directory of 1890, Page 1974, II, 290-91).

'Old Court Hall' refers to the location of the early sixteenth century Court Hall that originally stood at the junction of Silver Street and the old bridle road to Toseland. The building was demolished in 1844 and relocated to the site of the present Town Hall off the Causeway that was raised 0.60m. The present Town Hall was rebuilt in 1899 (LB53516).

### Population

Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire witnessed a substantial growth in the size of the population up to the middle of the nineteenth century. This was followed by a slight decline as surplus agricultural population moved to local areas of industrial expansion, namely London. For most of the first half of the twentieth century the population history for Godmanchester, as with that of many counties in Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire, continued the pattern of the second half of the nineteenth century. After the Second World War, the population started to grow steadily (Jones 2000a; Jones 2000b). Since the 1970s the size of the population has almost doubled, partly as the result of Cambridge overspill, as reflected by the extension of the built-up area.

The size of the population during the nineteenth and twentieth century is summarised below. The following figures include both urban and rural population and are based on census information for the parish (1841-1891) held in the HRO and integrated with figures provided by the GENUKI web site:

1801	1573
1851	2337
1901	2017
1951	2502
1971	3115
1991	5389

### Public Health, Religion and Education

The work of the Church and non-Conformists during the later part of the nineteenth century is set against the background of hygienic and moral reforms at Godmanchester. A local Board of Health was instituted and in 1853 a main drainage system provided. Some provision had been made for the care of the poor in the eighteenth century with the construction of the Almshouse in Pinfold Lane (LB53663). The Old Workhouse was also located in Pinfold Lane (Green 1977).

The living condition of the poor was a matter for concern for the religious groups. Among the non-Conformists were the Baptists who worked in conjunction with the established church. The particular Baptist Church was

built in 1815. A Sunday School for the poor was added in 1868 (Kelly's Directory of 1890). The Union (Baptist Chapel) in Silver Street was originally founded in 1844, but was rebuilt in 1975.

Opposite to the Town Hall is Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School brick building built around 1560, altered and restored during the nineteenth century (LB53694). It survived until 1947 when its functions were taken over by the Modern Secondary School in Huntingdon (now part of Hinchingsbrooke Comprehensive).



## PART 2: ASSESSMENT OF THE EVIDENCE

### 1 Sources and Confidence Rating

#### 1.1 Documentary Sources

##### 1.1.1 Primary Sources

As seen above, there is a wealth of primary information concerning the history of medieval and post-medieval Godmanchester. Some of the available sources have been the subject of extensive work by Fox (1831) who transcribed and translated a series of documents dating from the charter of King John in 1212. In addition, the *Rotuli Hundredorum* (1279) and the Lay Subsidy Rolls (1332) have been analysed by Raftis (1982).

As a whole, the available studies provide useful information on the economic and social history of Godmanchester.

##### 1.1.2 Secondary Sources

General outlines of the history of the county together with accounts of individual parishes and extant monuments are provided by the VCH and the RCHM(E) series. The VCH, in particular, includes references to primary sources.

The VCH and RCHM(E) tend to be biased towards the following:

- The medieval ecclesiastical history
- The medieval origin and development of the villages with emphasis on extant monuments and earthwork remains
- Social history

As a whole, the available documentary sources provide useful and reliable information on the historic, economic and social development of the towns. They are researched by experts within fields, by local historians and by amateurs, and represent the main source for local studies.

#### 1.2 The HER

The HER of Cambridgeshire County Council records many finds in the study area. Most entries refer to the Roman and medieval periods.

The information provided by the HER is affected by the following:

- The distribution of entries has a bias towards periods that are well represented by material culture, i.e. Roman, medieval and post-medieval remains, and towards classes of monuments which can be related to historical sources, i.e. religious buildings and manorial sites. This bias has its roots in the kind of information provided by the Ordnance Survey

records, i.e. the precursor of the HER, that placed emphasis on extant remains, including earthworks, and important finds' spots

- Some of the sites excavated by Michael Green still await publication and are not listed in the HER.
- The HER collection represents a variable source of information that has been influenced by fieldwork strategies, collection of finds, antiquarian observations, local and professional interests. The degree of accuracy of the entry is therefore variable

### **1.3 Cartographic Evidence**

Pre-enclosure cartographic evidence for the parish of Godmanchester is not available, with the exception of a map of the waterways of the region dating to 1514.

The first comprehensive and detailed map of the parish is the 'Inclosure Map of the Messuages, Cottages and Toftsteads' of 1803. Nineteenth century estate maps are also available. Later maps include Ordnance Surveys from the end of the nineteenth century onwards.

Bearing in mind the varying degree of accuracy and detailing of the pre-Ordnance Survey maps, as a whole, the available cartographic evidence provides useful information for the later post-medieval and more recent development of the town and its surrounding landscape.

### **1.4 Aerial Photographs and Overlays of Aerial Photographs**

Aerial photographic collections (RAF, CUCAP) show areas of medieval ridge and furrow on the higher ground immediately to the east and south of the town.

Although the aerial photographic record is generally biased towards features on dry and light soils and arable land, the distribution of cropmarks in the Godmanchester area would be consistent with the evidence for medieval agricultural activity on the high ground.

A re-assessment of aerial photographs was undertaken in advance of an archaeological evaluation at the Cardinal Distribution Park (Prosser 1998). The survey was conducted by Air photo Services (APS) Ltd. Notwithstanding the archaeological potential of the area, the survey produced negative evidence as the result of 'unsuitable land-use and crop regimes'.

### **1.5 Archaeological Surveys and Excavations**

The history and development of the town of Godmanchester in Roman and medieval times is excellently reviewed in a series of papers and booklets by H J M Green (see Bibliography). Green's reconstruction of the origin and development of historic Godmanchester is based upon over forty years experience excavating and researching the town and its environs. More recently, growth at the periphery of Godmanchester has prompted a series of

investigations, including excavations, earthwork survey and geophysical surveys, which have offered the opportunity to throw light on the development of the suburbs outside the historic nucleus of the town.

## **2 DEPOSIT MAPPING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS**

In this section an attempt has been made to map all known monuments and events and, based on mapping, to predict the existence of further remains in areas of archaeological potential. The outcomes should not be used to produce 'constraint maps'.

### **2.1 Prehistoric**

To date, there is scant record of early prehistoric activity at Godmanchester. Although urban development from the nineteenth century have prompted the recovery of stray lithic artefacts from the Ouse Valley, the provenience of some of these is vague, and the circumstances of their recovery are often unknown. More recently, residual lithic materials have been found during the excavations of Roman sites at St Ann's Lane (Hinman 1998), at the A14/A604 junction (Wait 1991), at Sweeting Road (Macaulay 1994) and at London Road. At London Road Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pits and ditches had been severely truncated by later features (Hinman 1996).

In general, scarcity of finds from the historic town is probably due to medieval and later remains obliterating earlier features and deposits.

Immediately outside the urban core, residual flint dating from the Mesolithic period has been found at the Cardinal Distribution Park to the north of the A14/A604 junction (Murray 1998; Murray & Last 1999). At Rectory Farm and Cow Lane further north, there are cropmark remains relating to a long-lived Neolithic and Bronze Age complex (McAvoy 2000). Absence of historic and modern development in this area has contributed to the survival of the cropmarks.

The Iron Age at Godmanchester is better represented, with particular reference to the later Iron Age. Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age pits and a possible round house have been found at the Cardinal Distribution Park (Murray 1998; Murray & Last 1999). Finds from this area would point to activity which is consistent with the range of prehistoric sites revealed to the north at Rectory Farm and at Cow Lane. Finally, late Iron Age remains have been uncovered below Roman deposits during excavations conducted by Green within the core of the Roman town (*Appendix 2*).

Based on the available evidence, it is not possible to predict the existence of prehistoric sites within Godmanchester. Although the distribution of known finds suggests that prehistoric activity extended to the east and north-east of Godmanchester, i.e. on the ground overlooking the eastern side of the river valley, areas that escaped destruction caused by land use from the Roman period could produce prehistoric remains.

## 2.2 Roman

The area included in the map of Roman deposits is self-explanatory. It comprises the evidence from archaeological investigations and stray finds. Particular emphasis is placed on the distribution of the known cemeteries as indicators of the extent of the built-up area during the earlier and later Roman periods. The distribution of features is consistent with that of a minor town consisting of a nucleated (walled) core and areas of peripheral ribbon expansion along the main access roads.

Roman Godmanchester is known through the work of Michael Green who defined the extent of the walled settlement and located official buildings and house plots within the core. Recent investigations outside the historic town have shown the potential for suburban occupation, with particular reference to ribbon development along Ermine Street, i.e. along London Road to the south and at the Parks to the north.

The wall circuit defines the extent of the later settlement core. Negative evidence defines the extent of suburban occupation and activity to the south and west of London Road and in the eastern quadrant outside the walled town (Fig. \*\*\*). The latter area was developed prior to the introduction of PPG16 and was not subjected to extensive archaeological investigations. Therefore, absence of finds could be partly due to lack of recorded archaeological work. Nonetheless, this area does not contain any stray finds. The distribution of the known remains would indicate that occupation did not extend away from Cambridge Road (east-west branch of the *Via Devana*), the A14 (*Via Devana*) and the eastern side of London Road (Ermine Street), being consistent with ribbon development.

It has to be born in mind that the 'empty' area in the south-eastern quadrant of Godmanchester still retains potential for the presence of Roman deposits and features associated with suburban activity and, in particular, farming, further away from the access routes. This is well exemplified by the finds from the Cardinal Distribution Park to the north-east of the 'empty' zone, where recent excavations have recovered evidence consistent with the presence of a small farmstead in the immediate hinterland of the Roman town.

The extent of activity to the north and west of Godmanchester was probably defined by the course of the river Ouse that acted as a natural boundary. Absence of finds from the meadows would indicate that the land along the riverside was marginal due to being prone to flooding. The riverside was in fact never developed. Although outside the proposed map of Roman deposits, the area may still contain evidence relating to water management and navigation, including docking points and fords.

The proposed map showing the potential for the distribution of Roman remains is, at present, static, with particular reference to suburban expansion. Phasing of the walled town by Michael Green is consistent with what is known of the development of many minor towns in Roman Britain. The available

evidence from the suburban areas, however, is scanty and the study of patterns of development is fraught with difficulty.

Furthermore, the core of the settlement has produced evidence for agricultural processing, iron working, bread making and cheese pressing. By contrast, the definition of the character of extramural occupation is hampered by the nature of the available evidence. Although change of land use has been identified through the distribution of the late inhumation cemeteries along the main access routes, the primary use of land is often uncertain, as is the evidence for 'decline' and/or contraction. Evidence for mixed farming and light industrial activities has been identified along Ermine Street, both at London Road where a possible furnace was interpreted as evidence for unspecified industrial activity (Hinman 1996), and at the Parks where excavations produced evidence for quarrying and for bone working (Gdaniec 1991), together with later second-early fourth century pottery kilns and hearths (Jones 1998). These are only a few examples of the potential offered by the excavation of suburban areas for the economic characterization of the function of the suburbs themselves.

Above all, phases of use, re-use and/or disuse of land in the suburbs make it difficult to define the extent of occupation and could lead to misleading interpretations. The danger of a static approach to the study of the suburbs of Roman towns is well exemplified by the known phenomenon of relocation of the cemeteries, with progressive shifts of inhumation burials towards, or away from, the core, often for uncertain reasons. Therefore, although the distribution of the later inhumation cemeteries could be taken as a good indicator of both the maximum extent of the built-up area and the final use of a plot of land during the fourth century, it does not provide an indication of the original function and extent of the areas where the cemeteries were laid out.

### **2.3 Saxon and Danish**

As seen above, early Saxon occupation at Godmanchester is poorly documented. To date, the most substantial evidence for an early Saxon presence in the area comes from the site at the Cardinal Distribution Park where evidence has emerged for a settlement (Last 1999). This was probably a farmstead or a small hamlet which was crown land by the time of the Domesday Survey.

The extent of the later settlement was defined by the town ditch that followed the course of West Street, East Chadleigh Lane and Earning Street (Green 1961). Within the enclosed area later Saxon activity has been positively identified in the vicinity of the Roman bathhouse at Pinfold Lane (Green Site 1, *Appendix 2*) where structural remains comprised pits and ditches marking property plots, and outside the south-east gate (Green, Sites 11 and 13, *Appendix 2*) where there was evidence for *Grubenhäuser*.

A further area of archaeological potential is located near the church of St Mary. Although recent archaeological evaluations and earthwork surveys have failed to identify Saxon remains (below), Ermine Street was probably still

in use during this period as the main through route. The northern part of the site is presently occupied by the cricket ground and has been re-landscaped. The evaluations were carried out at the edges of the cricket ground. These consisted of trial trenching and test-pitting, which targeted areas of known medieval earthworks. A large area of the manor site has not been investigated.

No investigations have taken place near the church site, the archaeological potential of which remains unknown. The fabric of the church itself includes late Saxon building material of uncertain provenience.

As seen above, it has been suggested that Godmanchester started as a 'bi-focal' settlement (Green 1961). One of the nuclei probably developed on the north-eastern side of the present town, near the church, the other at Pinfold Lane. Absence of finds from excavations at the Causeway would indicate that originally the two settlements were separate (Green 1961). A third nucleus was also located near the Roman south-eastern gate.

It is interesting to note that, with the exception of the sites at Earning Street, all known areas of Saxon activity at Godmanchester lay near the Roman roads that were probably still in use in the later Saxon period. The sites at Earning Street were located along the Roman defence ditch that was re-used and incorporated into the medieval town-defences.

To conclude, there is potential for the survival of Saxon remains both within and outside the historic nucleus of Godmanchester, with particular reference to the area around the church of St Mary. Attention should also be paid to the Roman road network as a focal point for activity. There is evidence that Roman masonry structures were often robbed out, as in the case of the bathhouse at Pinfold Lane, and substantial defence ditches re-cut, as at Earning Street.

## **2.4 Medieval**

The layout of medieval Godmanchester has been described above. By the end of the thirteenth century Godmanchester was an integrated settlement. In the Hundred Rolls land properties and *messuages* are listed by road sequence. The road list confirms that by 1279 the medieval settlement had developed along Post Street, Duck End (Silver Street), London Street, Arnyng Street (Earning Street), East Street and Chadleigh Lane (Raftis 1982, *passim*).

With the exception of Pinfold Lane, the area circuted by the link roads was not developed until after the Second World War. The presence of masonry remains associated with the Roman settlement might have conditioned the town development. Robber trenches of former masonry structures are to be expected within the Roman settlement and are therefore a potential indicator of medieval activity.

Further evidence of medieval Godmanchester survives as extant earthworks

that include a moated site with ponds and ridge and furrow at the Parks (formerly the estate of the prior of Merton), together with house platforms and holloways at Buttermel Meadow. Both sites are outside the town ditch

Investigations at the Parks during the 1990s (above) have offered the opportunity to study the earthworks associated with the moated site. Targeted excavations and surveys have revealed the presence of a twelfth century fish tank system to the west of the moat, together with a series of ridge and furrow from medieval agricultural activities (Reynolds 1992; Jones 1998).

An earthwork survey was also carried out at Buttermel Meadow, which confirmed the presence of a shrunken medieval village to the south of the projected medieval town defences (Hoyland & Kemp 1991). However, the date, extent and degree of preservation of the remains are unknown.

Immediately outside the built-up area there is potential for the survival of field-systems. Cropmarks of medieval ridge and furrow visible on aerial photographs survive on the higher ground to the south and east of the present town. Ridge and furrow have also been recorded at Sweetings Road and at The Parks.

Finally, there is potential for the survival of remains of the fluvial port, as well as for the survival of docking and loading areas at the rear of the properties along the present West Street.

## **2.5 Post-medieval**

Post-medieval Godmanchester is well documented through archaeological investigations (Appendices 4 and 5) and cartographic evidence (above). In particular, post-medieval development is reflected by the present layout of Godmanchester where sixteenth, seventeenth, eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings attest to the period of economic prosperity of the town. Most of them are listed (LBII) and have statutory protection. The post-medieval street layout reflects the earlier medieval one, with progressive infilling of the former property plots.

Immediately outside the built-up area there is potential for the survival of field-systems. Remains of ridge and furrow have been recently found at the Parks (Jones 1988).

Although presently unidentified by means of archaeological investigations, sites of light industrial activity (e.g. tanning) could survive at the rear of properties along the riverside. Gravel pits dating to the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries have been excavated at No. 22, Earning Street (Kemp 1996) and 20-28 London Road (Abrams 2001).

## **3 RATE OF SURVIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS**

In this section an attempt is made to assess the rate of survival of

archaeological remains in the areas defined by deposit mapping. The assessment takes the form of a prediction model based on probability and not certainty. It is meant as a guide only.

Within the study area there is potential for the survival of remains of all periods.

### **3.1 Prehistoric**

Mapping suggests that the prehistoric period may be under-represented, as the location of these remains is least well known and finds least well preserved, with particular reference to ceramics artefacts.

Archaeological investigations from the core of the town have produced very little evidence for prehistoric activity. As with most built-up areas, absence of evidence is more likely to be due to obliteration caused by later remains. As a whole the rate of survival for the prehistoric period is unknown.

From the later Iron Age there is evidence for remains buried underneath the Roman deposits. Their condition of preservation is fairly good.

### **3.2 Roman**

With the exception of the site at Cardinal West (Seddon 2000, *Appendix 3*), excavations conducted within the Roman walled town and in the suburbs have shown a good degree of preservation of the stratigraphic sequences. As a whole, Roman remains do not appear to have been severely affected by the later development of the town.

Remains within the modern built-up areas at the peripheries of the historic nucleus are likely to have been variably affected by pre-PPG16 development. Therefore, the rate of survival of potential remains is low to unknown.

Most of the Roman walled settlement lay outside the conservation areas.

### **3.3 Medieval**

Within the village medieval remains associated with the manor of the prior of Merton at the Parks are visible as earthworks some of which have been investigated during the 1990s. Targeted excavations have shown that major earthworks and deep features survive in reasonably good conditions of preservation. Statutory scheduling protects the moated site (SM 11550) is outside the boundaries of both conservation areas, as is. However, scheduling does not include the remaining portion of the manorial estate that lay underneath the present cricket ground. SM 11550 and adjacent areas are not included in the conservation areas.

Remains of the shrunken village at Buttermel Meadow have not been affected by development. Their rate of survival is expected to be fairly good. The site is not scheduled and lay outside the boundaries of the conservation areas.

Potential remains within the church precinct should be fairly well preserved, as this area has not been subjected to development. The church and associated burial ground are part of one of the two conservation areas.

Other remains within the core of the historic village have probably been variably affected by post-medieval and later building and agricultural activities, with the best rate of survival being confined to potential finds in plots at the rear of properties flanking the main streets. For instance, at St. Ann's Lane (Green, Site 25, *Appendix 2*) post-Roman and medieval remains had been obliterated by post-medieval agricultural practices. Most of the medieval settlement is included in the conservation area, with the exception of Piper's Lane and London Street, together with the eastern sides of Cambridge Street and St Ann's Lane.

Remains within the modern built-up areas at the peripheries of the historic nucleus are likely to have been variably affected by pre-PPG16 development. Therefore, the rate of survival of potential remains is low to unknown.

### **3.4 Post-medieval**

The historic nucleus of Godmanchester contains two Conservation Areas, which include most of the 123 Listed Buildings.

The condition of the Listed Buildings is generally good, although 14 properties are Registered Buildings at Risk.

Within the conservation areas potential post-medieval remains other than buildings (e.g. former property boundaries, industrial remains and ridge and furrow) are expected to have survived in undeveloped plots at the rear of the old properties fronting onto the main streets.

By contrast, remains within the modern built-up areas at the peripheries of the historic nucleus are likely to have been variably affected by pre-PPG16 development. Therefore, the rate of survival of potential remains is low to unknown.

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## **MAPS CONSULTED**

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## Appendix 1: Antiquarian Excavations and Notes

This section lists antiquarian observations made between the 1920s and the 1960s, with particular reference to Garrod's notes <sup>2</sup>. Finds are described by location. The following description covers the streets radiating from the centre of Roman Godmanchester in a clockwise direction, starting from Cambridge Road. Particular emphasis has been placed on the discovery of burials as indicators of the extent of the built-up area of Roman Godmanchester.

A Roman *tumulus* (HER02478) was located 1.5km outside the town on the road to Cambridge, at **Emmanuel Knoll** (TL/2659/7012). It was examined by Inskipp Ladds before being destroyed (Inskipp Ladd 1930). The *tumulus* was 9m in diameter and 6m high, with a slightly flattened top, and it was made of clay with chalk nodules. In the center was a patch of black earth and ashes with a black urn containing calcined bones and clay. Fragments of decayed wood and nails around the edge pointed to a wooden chest (Green 1973, 15-23).

A cremation burial (HER 11022) was discovered at **No. 1 Oakley Crescent** at TL/2463/7037. The site also produced a large quantity of first century pottery (HER Note).

A third-fourth century adult male burial was found in **Cambridge Road** at TL/249-/705- (HER00847). Finds from the site included a small jar of colour-coated ware, two fragments of coarse ware and one of Samian ware (Garrod 1937, 439-458). A further inhumation burial was found at 'The Grove' at TL/249-/706 (HER 00893) (Garrod, *ibid.*) and at Round Close at TL/252-/706- (one inhumation? and one cremation, HER 00874) (Murray & Garrod 1955). Three inhumations (HER00846) were unearthed during the construction of Godmanchester bypass at the east end of Cambridge Road (TL/252-/707-) (Hunts Post, 20/11/1975).

During excavations for a water main in 1960 in the back garden of **52 Cambridge Villas** (TL/2547/7046), three groups of cremation burials were uncovered to a depth of 0.75m (HER00889. Group 1 consisted of two unfurnished urned cremations; group two comprised a central cremation furnished with eight glass beads surrounded by three satellite burials; group three comprised one urned burial that had been lifted by the site owner (Tebbutt 1961, 83-84). A burial was also found in the garden at **15, Cambridge Villas** (TL/2539/7052). The skull had been shattered during excavation and removal 09522). It was probably part of a cemetery known from antiquarian observation (Dunning *et al.* 1957, 83).

A cremation cemetery (HER02660A) is known to be located at **Porch Farm** to the west of London Road/Ermine Street (TL/248-/700-). During gravel extraction in the nineteenth century human bodies were apparently disturbed

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<sup>2</sup> Garrod noted Roman finds and remains from the following roads: Church lane, Silver Street, Pinfold Lane, St Ann's Lane, Post Street, London Street and Earning Street. Later excavations by Michael Green confirmed some of the observations.

(Michael Green, *pers. comm.*). More recently, between 1978 and 1984 Granville Rudd recorded the presence of 60 bodies during housing development (Michael Green, *pers. comm.*). In 1997 a single inhumation burial was reported to the Cambridge Archaeology Office. A cremation was recorded by Garrod (Garrod 1947).

An excavation conducted in 1929 in the garden of **Old Court Hall** TL/245-/703-revealed a double ditch filled with ashy soil (HER00849). The feature contained pottery sherds and coins dating to the third-fourth century (Garrod 1937:439-458).

An excavation carried out in the south-east angle of the garden of **Farm Hall** off West Street at TL/2421/7017 (HER00955) produced evidence for first-fourth century pottery and two late third century coins (Garrod? 1952, 69-71). Further east, human bones were reported at 23, West Street (Dunning *et al.* 1957, 84).

Eight cremation burials were found in 1905-1906 at **Green End**, at TL/243-/709 (HER00894). Finds from the site included second-third century coins, part of a bronze statuette of Minerva, small bronze objects (HER 00895), a broken bone needle (HER00897) and pottery (Garrod 1937, 439-458; Id. 1947, 105-106).

During an excavation conducted in 1926 at **New Vicarage House**, 65m south-west of the church (TL/2449/7064) a first century cremation burial was found to a depth of 1.5m (HER00898, 00899). Animal bone, coins and some interesting early types of local ware were among the finds, also pottery (Garrod 1926, 223; Id. 1927 (1): 3; Id. 1937, Id. 1947). Four inhumation burials were found further east at East Chadleigh Lane (Dunning *et al.* 1957, 83).

During an excavation in 1956 on the site of the former garden of **Island Hall** at TL/245-/709-, off Post Street, five inhumation burials were found broken and incomplete to a depth of 1m-1.20m (HER00900). The site also produced evidence for first-second century pits, one of which had been truncated by one of the later burials. Finds from the pits comprised Samian ware, Belgic ware, oyster shells, ox and sheep bone, and roof tiles. A further skull (adult female) was found further north during the excavation of a drain in Park Lane (Murray & Garrod 1955, 47-49). Finds of first-second century pottery are reported from Post Street (Dunning *et al.* 1957, 81-84).

## Appendix 2: H J M Green's Excavations

Between the 1950s and 1980s Michael Green conducted a series of archaeological investigations within Roman Godmanchester. Some of his excavated sites await publication. The following summary follows Michael's Green original site sequence.

### **Site 1: 2-5-6 Pinfold Lane (1949-1972), Granary Close, 1974-1975**

#### 2-5-6 Pinfold Lane (1949-1972)

HER00883, TL/2460/7037. An excavation carried out in 1958 and 1959 on behalf of the Ancient Monuments Department of the Ministry of Works showed a phase of occupation pre-dating the bath complex and adjacent services. It consisted of a hut floor, hearth and a rubbish pit. The pottery indicated a date between the late first century and the early second century. Finds included Samian ware, coarse ware, glass, a single coin, bones and small finds (HER 00884) (Green 1960, 8-22).

A hoard of first-third century coins and jewellery was found in the fill of a pit near the *mansio* (Green 1957).

Further excavations conducted in 1968 and 1969 revealed four main phases of occupation associated with the fort and the *mansio*-bath complex:

Phase 1 (first century): a first century ditch made an obtuse angle beneath the *mansio*.

Phase 2 (late first century): plots marked by ditches and fences were identified along the line of Ermine Street. The plots contained timber buildings with earth floors. Some of which were threshing floors. Associated with the buildings were corn dryers.

Phase 3 (early second century): two or more plots of the previous period were cleared to house the *mansio* complex.

Phase 4 (end of third century): at the end of the third century the *mansio* was destroyed by fire. It was demolished early in the fourth century. The north end of the bathhouse was re-built in a shoddy fashion. Two successive boundary ditches enclosed the west side of the *mansio* area. Inside the enclosure pits and ditches produced sub-Roman and Saxon pottery (Green Excavation Reports 1968 and 1969; Wilson 1970: 287).

Saxo-Norman pottery dated to the eleventh-twelfth century was found on the site of the Roman bathhouse. Here, the Roman building had been dug out in a series of parallel strips (tenements?) and robbed to foundation level. The structural remains associated with the pottery consisted of pits, ditches and robber trenches of the Roman bath building (Green 1958; *Id.* 1961).

Work on the north defenses of the fort in 1970 exposed angle turrets and a plot occupied by a Flavian timber framed hut with projecting porch and associated rectangular area (threshing floor) with two ovens at the north end.

Around the perimeter of the plot there were storage pits and a corn dryer. A fence enclosure outside the *mansio* kitchen contained thirty pits that produced pottery dating from the early second century to the late third century. Almost all pits had two dog burials. Domestic refuse included vessels, crucibles and metal slag (Green, Excavation Report 1970; Wilson 1971: 264).

Excavations west of the *mansio* at TL/245-/704 revealed a temple site with remains of three successive temples (HER00925, 00926). The earliest one was a first century timber structure of ovoid plan. The second temple dated to the second-third century. It was a square Romano-Celtic shrine with a timber *cella* and peristyle. The latest temple dated to the fourth century and consisted of a polygonal building with masonry walls and a timber facade. Among the finds was a group of bronze votive feathers (HER00928), one of which was inscribed 'to the god *Abandinus Vatiaucus* gave this from his own resources'. This find led to the ascription of the native shrine to this deity, unknown elsewhere. Two fictile figurines of Venus were found in second century rubbish pits of the *mansio* nearby (Green Excavation Reports 1971; 1975; 1976 and 1977).

#### Granary Close, 1974-1975

HER01536, TL/245-/704-. On behalf of the Department of Environment work was carried out in 1975 on the site of an aisled building found in 1974. Several periods of occupation were distinguished:

Period 1 (mid first century): a section through the mid first century fort defences showed a rampart fronted by a palisade and a ditch.

Period 2 (later first century-early second century): a well some 1.5m in diameter and two rectilinear timber huts were uncovered. One of the huts was 5m wide and lay below the later aisled building.

Periods 3-5: the aisled building (second-third century) was a substantial structure with masonry walls 0.62m wide and concrete floors. It had a single aisle plan 12m wide with an E-W alignment and an entrance porch on the E side. Inside there were four bays with square timber posts set in masonry lined foundation pits. The structural character of the building, together with its alignment, suggests that it formed part of the *mansio* on Ermine Street. The *mansio* was destroyed c 300, and evidence of a massacre was discovered in the form of an articulated arm and other bones from a rubbish pit outside the barn.

Period 6 (late fourth century): the aisled building was rebuilt during the late fourth century and formed the nucleus of the sub-Roman occupation which is associated with timber huts and early Anglo-Saxon pottery. Three smelting furnaces of this period were found in the building (Green, Excavation Reports 1974 and 1975; Wilson 1975: 250-251; Goodburn 1976: 333-334).

#### **Site 2: 13-14 The Causeway 1957**

00882, TL/2450/7046. Trial trenches were dug in 1957 under the supervision of Michael Green to ascertain the presence of the Roman town wall. The site produced evidence for four phases of occupation:

Phase 1 (mid-late first century) was characterized by an earlier turf layer between 0.75m and 2.50m thick (old topsoil) sealed by a midden some 0.90m thick that produced sherds of mid-late first century pottery. The midden was interpreted as representing rubbish from the settlement.

Phase 2 (third century) produced evidence for a small portion of the town wall preserved *in situ* and a ditch. There was no evidence for a rampart. The wall was made of mortared sandstone and limestone rubble, tile and large flint. The foundation trench was 3m wide.

Phase 3 (fourth century) was represented by a ditch that had partially truncated the earlier one.

Phase 4 (late medieval/post-medieval) produced evidence for robber deposits (late medieval/post-medieval) and for seventeenth century deposits some 0.60m thick. The most recent deposit (some 0.90m thick) was the result of landscaping and leveling of the site that was probably carried out in the second half of the nineteenth century (Green 1960, 8-22).

### ***Site 3: Pipers Lane 1959-1961***

00924, TL/247-/703-, Piper's Lane, Godmanchester, excavation. Excavations were conducted between 1959 and 1961 on behalf of the Ancient Monuments Department of the Ministry of Works in advance of house redevelopment and the renovation of the sewers along Piper's Lane. The excavations exposed the south gate of the Roman town where a single great arch straddled Ermine Street. Five successive road surfaces were observed in a section of Ermine Street, just inside the gate (Green, Archaeological Excavations 1959 and 1961).

### ***Site 4: Court Hall (1963-1964), The Maltings (1976), Pinfold Lane, West End, 1956, 20-22 The Causeway, 1981-1982***

#### *Court Hall (1963-1964)*

HER 02584, TL/245-/703Trenching was conducted at the junction of Pinfold Lane and the Old Court Hall in advance of the construction of a Mobil Oil petrol station following the demolition of eighteenth century barns. The evaluation produced evidence for 6 phases of activity:

Phase 1 (first-second century): occupation emerged in the form of rubbish pits and ditches.

Phase 2 (later second century): evidence emerged for a defensive system consisting of two 'V' shaped ditches and rampart behind, which might have been the eastern side of a fort. A fort of this period is unusual. It might have been connected with the rebellion by Albinus in 196 and the restoration of order by Settimius Severus.

Phases 3 and 4 (third century): the fort was later replaced by light industrial features, including an iron-working furnace, a hut and rubbish pits. At some stage the hut and rubbish pits were superseded by two roads coming from the south and west. Traces of the west gate survived as robbed foundations.

Phase 5 (fourth century): During the fourth century a new ditch system was constructed as part of the reorganization of the town defences.

Phase 6 (medieval and post-medieval): Pits and buildings of medieval and later date were uncovered.

(Green, Excavation Reports 1963/64 and 1965)

Medieval settlement does not appear to have occurred until the thirteenth or fourteenth century in this area of the town. Late medieval buildings with rubble walls had partages on to Court Hall, whose building line lay farther west and at a sharper angle than at present. As a result of this, the cobbled surface of Pinfold Lane was c. 7m farther south than today. In the back premises of the tenements there was a series of wells and pits. During the sixteenth century the alignment of the block was changed to that of today, and in following century the site was cleared and a barn built on the Court Hall frontage. A clay-lined cellar or tank, probably associated with brewing lay in the tenement behind this building and was filled during the later seventeenth century (Green 1961, 90-98; Wilson & Hurst 1967, 292-293).

### *The Maltings (1976)*

A grant-aided programme of trenching was carried out in 1976 in order to investigate the line of the road to Sandy (Margary route 22), in advance of proposed development at Garden Cottage. The earliest evidence for occupation consisted of an Iron Age hut 3m in diameter. The road was found on the predicted line running out of the town in a SW direction. There were two surfaces of gravel metalling, both cut by an early second century pit. There were three successive road ditches on the north side of the road containing first to fourth century material. The full width of the road could not be excavated. On both sides of the road were numerous single unit timber buildings (average 3m by 6m) dating to the first and second centuries. Associated with them were small round granaries, a smiting furnace and rubbish pits. Two major boundary lines were found consisting of successive ditches and post-built fences. Part of a lazy bed system dating to the fourth century was excavated. No trace of the defensive system was found as this probably lies further to the west (Green, Archaeological Excavations 1976; Frere 1977: 398).

### *Pinfold Lane, West End, 1956*

00886, TL/2454/7035. In 1956 deep sewer trenches exposed the remains of the 'concrete' town wall (Garrood 1958). The site was reconstructed by Michael Green. The sewer trench of 1956 revealed the presence of a wall footing on a NW/SE alignment and three ditches that ran parallel to the wall. The only find consisted of a sherd of first century pottery from one of the ditches. The modern road and associated setting c.1m thick sealed the Roman features (Green 1960, 8-22).

### ***Site 5: Stiles I, 8-10 Pinfold Lane, 1971***

TL 246/704. Excavations in 1971 offered the opportunity to analyse the line of Ermine Street and its successive layers of re-metalling. During the early second century much rebuilding took place along both sides of the road. The buildings had cob walls resting directly on clay floors. In the later second

century many buildings were destroyed by fire. Later reconstruction included the realignment of Ermine Street and the construction of an open fronted masonry building (Green, Excavation Report 1971; Wilson 1972: 320).

**Site 6: Stiles II-III, 4-5 Pinfold Lane, 1971**

More roadside buildings were excavated at Nos. 4- 5 Pinfold Lane (Green, Excavation Report 1971; Wilson 1972: 320).

HER01539, TL/246-/704-. In 1975 excavations at the Stiles were conducted on the site of a third century single aisled *basilica* discovered a few years earlier. The basilica was 25m long by 13m wide. In addition to the entrances in the bays at the north and south ends, there was also a pillared portico on the eastern side. This latter was approached by a gravel path from a central gateway in the east wall of the forecourt leading out onto Ermine Street. There were also opposing doorways at the north and south ends of the forecourt, connected by a path running along the east front of the basilica. The complex projected onto Ermine Street, which was subsequently moved further east. Following the demolition of the *basilica* and the robbing of its masonry walls in the later fourth century, a timber-framed building was erected on the site (Green, Archaeological Excavations 1973; Green 1975; Wilson 1975, 250-251; Goodburn 1976, 333-334).

**Site 7: 57-58 Cambridge Street, 1972**

TL/246/705. An excavation conducted in 1972 just outside the Roman town north gate produced evidence for occupation:

- The earliest feature was a circular hut of wicker and daub, 10m in diameter, dating to the early first century.
- At a slightly later date Ermine Street was built. It was almost 9m wide and was flanked by roadside ditches 13.7m apart. Along both sides of the road there were quarry pits for gravel extraction.
- In the late first century the quarry pits were filled in and a timber framed building for a smithy (5m x 6.5m) was erected on the road frontage. The open front of the building contained a bowl-shaped smithing furnace, four shaft furnaces for smelting bronze and iron, and crucibles. The workshop was rebuilt twice. Around the middle of the second century it burnt down in a fire that had engulfed other parts of the town.
- In the fourth century the workshop was replaced by a timber building that was later demolished to make way for the north gate. Portions of the retaining wall for the rampart were exposed. The gate itself was outside the excavation area.

The excavation was completed the following year. A carriageway some 3.5m wide flanked by footways for a total width of 9m was uncovered between the projecting towers (Green, Excavation Report 1972; Wilson 1975, 250-251).

**Site 8: 10 Pipers Lane 1973-1974, 1986**

TL/247/703. A grant-aided excavation took place in 1973. Subsequent excavations were carried out in following years. Trenches across Ermine Street revealed six sequences of road surfaces dating to the mid first century,

Flavian period, Hadrianic period, early third century, third century and fourth century, respectively. The foundation trench for a roadside fence and a large boundary ditch dating to the later first century were cut by a timber building. Minor roadside buildings dating to the second and third centuries were mostly of cob construction. Evidence was also found of a metalled entrance drive leading from the gateway, which was superseded by a fourth century open-fronted building. Later activity was represented by a pig burial of thirteenth-fourteenth century date, and by a fifteenth-sixteenth century boundary ditch. Finally, evidence was found for the robbing of the road metalling during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. During the eighteenth century the site was covered by a row of cottages whose brick footings were uncovered (Green, *Archaeological Excavations* 1973 and 1974; Green 1975; *Id.* 1977).

**Site 9: Cow Lane/A14 By-pass, Cambridge Road (1973)**

TL/255/704, a grant-aided excavation was conducted in 1973 east of Godmanchester on the site of the Cow Lane interchange, south of the Roman Road. Second century field ditches and deposits from manuring were found sealed by third century flood silts (Green, *Archaeological Excavations* 1973).

**Site 10: 24, Earning Street, 1973**

TL/248/755. A grant-aided programme of trial trenching was conducted at No. 24 Earning Street. The trenches contained evidence for brick foundations of an eighteenth century cottage with a large pond at the rear (Green, *Notes on Post-Medieval Britain* in 1973).

**Site 11: The Gables, 5 Earning Street, 1972**

HER 02585, TL/248/755. A grant-aided excavation at the Gables produced remains of a fan-shaped external tower found at the SE corner of the late defensive circuit of the town. The fourth century ditch was re-cut in the eleventh-twelfth century (Stamford and St Neots Ware) (Webster & Cherry 1973, 169).

**Site 12: 44 Post Street, 1973**

HER 02585, TL/244/707. A grant-aided excavation took place in 1973 at 44, Post Street. Substantial sections were dug across Ermine Street, revealing several phases of road metalling. The sequence was very similar to that recorded at Site 8 (10, Piper's Lane). Evidence also emerged for medieval occupation in the form of a twelfth century timber building fronting onto the line of the Roman road. Two small pits of the same period were found on the opposite (east) side of the road. Finally, a series of inter-cutting pits dating to the seventeenth century were excavated in the yard of a contemporary timber-framed building that had been demolished (RCHME Hunts, 115, no. 49) (Webster & Cherry 1974, 200).

**Site 13: Unigate, Earning Street, 1974**

HER01544, TL/247/703. An excavation at the Unigate Site, Earning Street produced evidence for late first century boundary ditches, huts and agricultural structures, including two-post drying racks and small timber granaries with central depression for a container. Later occupation emerged in the form of second century timber buildings. Finally, a late fourth or early fifth

century boundary fence, with a round corner and an entrance gate, ran across the southern part of the site. Its foundation trench produced late Roman pottery and coins, and an early AS pot. A Grubenhaus, pits and a wattle-lined well of the early medieval period were also found, together with the remains of post-medieval buildings (Green, *Archaeological Excavations* 1974; Wilson 1975: 250-251).

#### ***Site 14, 18 London Road***

HER02650, TL/247/702. Grant-aided excavations were conducted in 1974 at London Road just outside the south gate of the Roman town. There was evidence for the western ditch of Ermine Street dating to the late first century, together with a contemporary boundary ditch and a second century cob building. On the north side of the site early Roman deposits had been truncated by the fourth century town ditch. This was sealed by twelfth century buildings with gravel floors and cobble footings for the cob walls. One of these buildings was used as a blacksmith's shop. At the rear there were remains of four contemporary shaft furnaces for smelting iron (Webster & Cherry 1975, 260).

#### ***Site 15, 42 Cambridge Street 1975***

HER01542, TL/247-/705-. A grant-aided excavation was conducted in 1975 in advance of redevelopment at 42, Cambridge Street. The excavation on the south side of Cambridge Street lay within the northern quarter of the Roman town, 120m east of Ermine Street. A series of boundary features were found, presumably the rear plots of buildings fronting onto the road. A V-shaped ditch of second century date was associated with a timber framed building with a central wattle partition. The building was replaced in the second half of the second century by a series of large ovoid pits, one of which contained several complete cooking pots. These together with a ridged cheese drainer found nearby in the ditch may have formed part of a group of third century dairy equipment. During the later third century the boundary ditch was replaced by the foundation trench and post settings for a fence. East of the fence there was a further series of inter-cutting third-fourth century pits, the latest of which produced a sherd of early Saxon pottery. Medieval occupation of the site was represented by a twelfth-thirteenth century pit. At the west end of the site the clay substructure of a sixteenth century house platform was uncovered, in which postholes of a timber framed building were found. It formed the rear of a range that must have extended some 15m back from the old street frontage of Cambridge Street. The building did not survive the seventeenth century. A series of other post-medieval features included pits, a later seventeenth century pond or well and the footings of a circular structure, 4m in diameter, possibly an early eighteenth century dovecote (Green, *Archaeological Excavations* 1975; Goodburn 1976: 333-334).

#### ***Site 16: Rectory Farm***

HER02546, TL/250/710. A watching brief was carried out in 1975 on the line of a pipe-trench that crossed the site of a Roman villa at Rectory Farm. The earliest feature was a mid first century road with side ditches of possible military origin and remains of a field system. The villa complex was tentatively divided into four phases. Phase 1 and 2 dated to the first and early second

centuries and were centered on a sub-rectangular enclosure of 1.2ha. Phase 3 dated to the earlier-mid second century. It included a corridor house approached by a driveway from the Roman town. A realignment of the farmstead layout in the early third century was associated with a large masonry building on the east side and a subdivision of the farmyard into three main enclosures (Green, Excavation Report 1975; Green 1978, Goodburn 1976: 333-334;).

**Site 17: Park Lane, 1976-1977**

HER01537, TL/245-/709-. A DoE grant-aided rescue excavation was conducted on a development site on the north side of Park Lane in 1976. An area 27,5m x 9m was excavated to establish the line of the road to Cambridge (*Via Devana*, Margary route 24) where it bypassed the Roman settlement on the north side. The earliest evidence for occupation was represented by an Iron Age hut and a storage pit that contained remains of carbonised grain. Intensive early Roman occupation concentrated on the south end of the site, suggesting that the road lay south of the excavated area beneath Park Lane. A series of mid first-third century buildings flanked the road. One house was completely excavated. It was a rectangular two bay structure (7,5m by 4,5m) with a hearth at the north end and an entrance porch in the south gable. Alongside and behind the buildings were a series of contemporary pits and a boundary ditch. Associated with these features were the post and stake-hole settings of drying frames and wicker granaries. A small up-draught pottery kiln (mid third century) with a rectangular stoke hole and a cylinder-shaped furnace with a clay pedestal was constructed behind the buildings (HER 01537)<sup>3</sup>. It contained a wide range of cooking vessels, storage jars, *mortaria*, flasks and dishes in both oxidized and reduced wares. At the N end of the site, part of an early fourth century enclosed inhumation cemetery was discovered. Only three burials were excavated. These were NS aligned, coffined and accompanied by colour-coated beakers. The bodies were suffering from osteoarthritis and showed evidence of malformations due to heavy manual work and dietary deficiencies (Green, Excavation Report 1976; Frere 1977: 398).

**Site 18: 5 New Street, The Stiles IV, 1977; No 8 New Street, Stile V, 1978**

5 New Street, The Stiles IV, 1977

HER01541, TL/247-/703-. In 1977 a DoE grant-aided excavation was conducted at No. 5, New Street. An area 8,6m by 21,3m was excavated to establish the nature Roman and medieval occupation in this part of the old town, and to examine the late line of Ermine Street (Margary route 2b). The produced five phases of occupation:

Phase 1 (mid-late first century): a series of rubbish pits and a cesspit were found at the south end of the site. Further pits and cesspits lay within a fenced enclosure.

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<sup>3</sup> The kiln was reconstructed as an exhibit in the Longsands Museum at St Neots and was later transferred to Worts Barn Archaeology Store, Landbeach. It is presently in the care of the Burwell Archaeological Society.

Phase 2 (early second century): a wide boundary ditch was dug across the site at right angles to the line of Ermine Street. A well or waterhole and three pits were excavated in an area south of the ditch.

Phase 3 (mid second century): a side road, 6m wide, was made up to cross the site NE/SW, slightly oblique to the line of Ermine Street. It had a cambered surface of compacted pebbles on an agger, which was resurfaced with gravel before the third century. South of the side road, and on the same alignment, was a timber-framed building fronting onto Ermine Street. A cesspit of this period lay NE of the building and cut the stake hole setting of a small granary. Nearby an iron-smelting furnace had been inserted into the top of an earlier rubbish pit.

Phase 4 (late second and third centuries): there was no trace of the third century line of Ermine Street which must have ended at a crossing just north of the site. The side road of Phase 3 continued in use and was flanked on its north side by a rectangular building. The structure was timber. Walls were of mud and stud construction 0,5m thick. The building was divided into two bays by a partition. A large outer workroom or shop fronted Ermine Street with remains of at least three. The back room had a central hearth by the gable wall with evidence for a smoke-bay, which was flanked by further granaries. The building could have been a corn merchant's shop. South of the side road was a building of similar construction.

Phase 5 (early-mid fourth century) early in the fourth century the corn merchant's shop was replaced by a smaller building on a slightly different alignment. This too was timber framed with mud and stud walls. A central entrance faced into Ermine Street and at the rear was a narrow passage. The structure was destroyed by fire after the mid fourth century. A number of large mid nineteenth century pits had destroyed much of the eastern side of the site (Green, Archaeological Excavations 1977; Goodburn 1979: 300-301).

#### No 8 New Street, Stile V, 1978

HER00856, TL/247/704. In 1978 a DoE sponsored watching-brief took place in the garden of No. 8 New Street during the course of redevelopment. The site lies near the centre of the Roman town, to the east of Ermine Street (Margery Road 2b) and at the rear of the tenements excavated in 1971 at Nos. 8 and 9 Pinfold Lane (The Stiles I). There was no evidence for the metalled side road noted in this area in 1971 was not discovered. Postholes of a timber building, possibly of first century date were found together with the foundation slot and stake holes of a burnt timber structure and first and second century pits. A large third century ditch marked the rear (E boundary) of the tenements (Green, Archaeological Excavations 1978; Goodburn 1979: 300-301).

#### **Site 19: 7 Old Court Hall, 1978**

HER00959, TL/245-/702-, In 1978 a DoE grant-aided excavation took place at the rear of 7, Old Court Hall in advance of redevelopment. A substantive trench 35m by 2m was cut across the postulated line of the Roman town defences and an area 12,25m by 13,75m was excavated to clear the town wall and associated structures. The site lies in the south-west quarter of the town. It produced three main I phases of occupation:

Phase 1 (mid first-early third century). A E-W boundary line across the site was marked by two successive fences and a ditch. On the north side of the boundary there were four plots marked by fence-lines whose curtilages had previously been identified during excavations at Site 4 (Court Hall and Maltings sites, 1963-1964 and 1976). The property boundaries were regularly spaced 30m apart. Within the compounds were at least eight timber-framed buildings, most of which appeared to have been single unit structures. Several rubbish pits and small gravel pits were excavated, together with two-post built drying frames and the stake hole settings of some twenty-five granary bins. During the early third century a small inhumation cemetery was laid out in the corner of one of the compounds within a fenced enclosure. Four graves were identified which had been partly disturbed by the Roman town ditch. The burials were uncoffined and comprised an infant, a girl and a woman.

Phase 2 (third century). During the third century the town wall and ditch began to be laid out across the site on the same alignment as the wall remains identified at Site 1 (Pinfold Lane, 1956). The foundation trench, 3m wide, was dug in short sections, a structural feature that was noted during the excavation of the south gate at Site 3 (Piper's Lane, 1959 and 1961). The foundation was of flint cobbles loosely set in yellow mortar. The notable feature of both the wall foundation and the 6m wide ditch in front of it was that neither had been completed. The butt end of the wall was completely cleared, and between it and the remains in Pinfold Lane there is a gap some 1km wide, in which no traces of the defences was found. The foundations had been extensively robbed by the early fourth century.

Phase 3 (fourth century). A large ditch 2,5m wide was dug in front of, and parallel with, the line of the defences during the late fourth century. At the south end the ditch swung round and cut through the line of the earlier town ditch and the robbed out wall foundation trench. The basal silt of the ditch contained late fourth century pottery and a coin of Valens (AD 367 - 375). This is probably the same ditch whose northern butt end was excavated at Site 1 in 1964 adjacent to the wall foundation in Pinfold Lane, indicating perhaps a (Theodosian) defensive system closing the gap of the unfinished town wall (Green Archaeological Excavations 1978; Green 1975; Goodburn 1979, 300-301).

#### ***Site 20: 8a London Rd, 1978-1979***

HER01543, 01543a, TL/248-/701-. A DoE grant-aided excavation took place in the garden of 8a London Road in 1978 prior to development. A trench was cut across the line of Ermine Street and a small area excavated to establish the nature of Roman and medieval occupation on the site. The site lies 180m beyond the south gate near the edge of extra-mural settlement. Eleven phases of Roman occupation were recognised, which were followed by phases of medieval and post-medieval activity on site:

Phase 1 Road 1 (mid first century), the earliest metalled surface of Ermine Street was 6m wide and provided with a cambered gravel surface. Across-ribbed, bow brooch of Claudian type was found on the surface of the road. A timber fence ran parallel to the road.

Phase 2 Road 2 (later first century) was 9m wide. A deep drainage ditch on the W side carried away surface water towards the river. The secondary filling

of this ditch had burnt deposits associated elsewhere in the town with a major fire in the Flavian period. On both sides of the road were timber buildings that were rebuilt twice before the beginning of the second century.

Phases 3-5. The ditch system on the W side of the road was re-cut three times before the end of the century. In phases 3 and 4 timber kerbing was laid along the W edge of the road. The lines of ditches and kerb were interrupted to form an entranceway to some property W of the road. The gateposts of eight successive gateways were excavated dating from the later first century to the late fourth century.

Phases 6-7 The Hadrianic road system (3), 11m wide, was provided with a small ditch and a footpath on the E side. On the W edge of the road, an open-fronted cob building was separated from the gateway complex by a wattle fence. It was subsequently re-modelled four times. The extensive mid second century fire in the Roman town core had also destroyed this building and a deposit of burnt material was found over the road surface.

Phases 8-11 The third and fourth century road sequence (roads 4-7) had been largely eroded during the post-Roman period. The successive gateways were associated with a metalled side road. There was no evidence of domestic occupation alongside the road subsequent to the Antonine fire.

Phase 12. Ermine Street continued in use during the Anglo-Saxon and early medieval periods. The road was patched at least once, but in the central area all the Roman road levels had been worn away down to the crown of the early road, and a marked hollow way formed. On the eastern side of the road, bordering the former Bass Croft Field, was a thirteenth century road ditch, and deposits of this date were found on both sides of Ermine Street. The foundation trench of a timber-framed building of twelfth-thirteenth date was found on the west side of the road adjoining the former Forest Field.

Phases 13-15 The growth of the medieval town in the late thirteenth or early fourteenth century resulted in planned development along both sides of Ermine Street in this area. The line of the road was moved to the west and the buildings on the eastern side of the new road were laid out on the crown of the former Ermine Street. The excavation covered the southern half of a toft 35m by 75m, which still had standing buildings at its northern end. The north side of the excavation contained the south-east corner of a timber framed building lying alongside the road. South of this structure, and separated from it by a timber fence, there were remains of 3 successive timber framed cottages lying at right angles to the road. These were 2-room buildings, 11m by 4m.

Phase 16 During the 15th century the northern building was replaced by another structure 4,5m wide, lying on the same alignment as the present house. This building had the principal posts at 4m centres with the subsidiary studs 0,75m apart. The last of the cottages to the south was probably pulled down around this period (Green, *Archaeological Excavations* 1978; Goodburn 1979: 300-301).

***Site 21: Cow Lane (1979)***

Roman Granaries. No further information

***Site 22: Old School, St Ann's Lane 1979, 1985-86)***

Roman fort, Roads, market place and bakery. No further information

**Site 23: West Street, 1979, 1981**

Roman roads and buildings. No further information.

**Site 24: Fox Grove, 1980**

Roman and Saxon buildings. No further information.

**Site 25, 6-7-8 St Ann's Lane, 1981**

TL/246/705. Excavations took place in 1981 in the gardens of the nineteenth century cottages (demolished) at Nos. 6-7-8 St Ann's Lane to establish the line of the south-eastern defences of the mid first century fort, previously located during the excavation of the *mansio* site, Site 1 (Pinfold Lane). The excavation revealed eighteen phases of occupation:

Phase 1 (mid first century): the rampart, south gate, *intervallum* road and part of a barrack block were excavated. The box rampart was almost 3m wide and comprised a timber-revetted plank tied to an inner truss. The rear face was retained by wattle hurdles. Four of the six posts of the north gate tower were excavated. The roadway and *intervallum* road were made of compacted gravel. The corner of a barrack block was found set back behind the *intervallum* road on a slightly different alignment.

Phase 2 (late first-mid second century): the rear room of a cob strip building was excavated. Below the floor in the north-west corner two mid second century cremation burials surrounded by four infants in shallow pits were uncovered. One of the cremations was accompanied by a jug. Another burial was in a wooden chest with elaborate metal fittings.

Phase 3-10 (mid second to late third century): nine timber buildings were identified of which one had a circular plan. The structures showed a progressive movement eastwards as Ermine Street was widened and re-aligned in the early second and third century, respectively.

Phase 11 (early fourth century): a portion of town wall and ditch were found. They formed a reduced eastern defensive system. The wall was 1.5m wide and had been constructed of robbed material from the *mansio*-bath complex (demolished early fourth century). The wall was short lived and was demolished by the second quarter of the fourth century, with buildings being laid out over the top of the robbed wall and filled-in ditch.

Phase 12-18 (fourth century): eight buildings severely affected by medieval agricultural practices were identified. Compared to the earlier buildings they were on a different alignment. A hoard of coins (AD313-AD355) may have been in association with one of the buildings. The latest layer contained Theodosian coins and Romano-Saxon pottery.

Post-Roman and medieval occupation were partly obliterated by post-medieval agricultural practices. Traces of a small eleventh-twelfth-century building were found at the north end of the site (Green, Archaeological Excavations 1981; Rankov 1982, 363).

## **Appendix 3: 1990-2002 Excavations**

For reasons of clarity, the summary of the archaeological investigations conducted from the 1990s has been organized in three parts, using the limits of the built-up area of the Roman town and the A14/by-pass. Part 1 presents the results from the excavations conducted within the core of Roman Godmanchester. Part 2 deals with the excavations conducted in the suburban areas and comprises most of the investigated sites, since recent development at Godmanchester has affected areas peripheral to the historic settlement, with new industrial estates being created on the northern and eastern fringes of the modern town, and new housing estates being developed to the south of the historic nucleus, along London Road. Finally, Part 3 describes the sites to the north of the A14/by-pass associated with the prehistoric and Roman remains at Rectory Farm.

### **Part 1. The Core Area of Roman Godmanchester**

There have been only few investigations within the Roman nucleus of Godmanchester. These are listed below clockwise, starting from the east, and include the sites at Earning Street.

#### ***28, St Ann's Lane 1997***

TL/2480/7050. In 1997 trial trenching was conducted on land adjacent to 28 St Anne's Lane in advance of housing development. The evaluation revealed a well-preserved sequence of prehistoric and Romano-British remains surviving to within 0.25m of the present ground surface. Previous work on land adjacent to the western boundary of the development site offered the opportunity to examine the layout of the town defences (Green, Site 13). In 1997 at least ten distinct phases of activity were identified within the subject site, primarily associated with the expansion in the area of the Romano-British town in the third to fourth centuries AD just outside the limits of the first century defences and within the limits of the later third century town circuit. Undated prehistoric remains (Phase 1) consisted of a pit and an associated ditch sealed by up to two layers of buried soil (Phase 2). Activity during the Roman period began with levelling and ground make up (Phase 3) followed by the laying of a gravel surface (Phase 4). A series of apparently unrelated ditches of unknown function might have also belonged to Phase 4. Dating material suggests the earliest date for this activity to fall into the third century AD. Phase 5 witnessed a major change in use for the area with rubbish pits for the disposal of a wide range of domestic refuse being cut within all three trenches. Pitting was superseded by agricultural activity broadly dateable to the third to fourth centuries AD (Phase 7) that truncated all earlier features. Phase 7 consists of a series of dump layers, presumably to build up the level of the land along the proposed St Anne's Lane frontage prior to the laying of a new series of gravelled 'yard' surfaces across the whole of the subject site. Phases 8 and 9 see the abandonment of agriculture in the immediate vicinity. At some time during the fourth century a series of gravel surfaces are laid down. Precise dating of all Romano - British deposits throughout this well

stratified sequence was problematic. Almost all contexts sampled contained an equal mixture of first century ceramics and later third to fourth century material. Domestic kitchen and tableware were also equally well represented making the identification of specific activities within the area of the subject site impossible (Hinman 1998)

### ***Earning Street 1996, 1997, 2000***

Previous work at Earning Street (Green, Site 11: 5 The Gables) revealed the remains of a fan-shaped external tower found at the SE corner of the late defensive circuit of the town. Further work (Green, Site 13: Unigate) produced evidence for Roman occupation dating from the later first to the fourth century. A Grubenhaus, pits and a wattle-lined well of the early medieval period were also found, together with the remains of post-medieval buildings.

#### **22, Earning Street 1996**

HER11977, TL/2480/7035. In 1996 groundwork monitoring was carried out at 22, Ermine Street in advance of the construction of a dwelling. The watching brief revealed the presence of a Roman ditch and a post-medieval ditch, as well as two quarry pits. A precise date for these latter was not available, although sand and gravel quarrying nearby suggested that this was done between the seventeenth and nineteenth century (Kemp 1996).

#### **6, Earning Street, 1997**

TL/2483/7027. In 1997 a recording brief was undertaken at 6, Earning Street prior to the construction of a dwelling. The natural gravel deposits sloped down to the north of the site with the result that the archaeological deposits were deeper in relation to the modern ground surface. Nonetheless, evidence emerged for a series of pits/ditch terminals dating to the Roman period. The finds included a sherd of fourth century pottery (Hall 1997).

#### **4, Earning Street 2000**

TL/2485/7041. In 2000 an archaeological evaluation was carried out on land at 4, Earning Street in advance of redevelopment of the site. The site proved to be truncated. A single undated layer of limestone cobbles was found. Absence of residual Roman pottery would indicate that the site lay outside the extent of the Roman town and outside the extramural area of occupation (Murray 2000).

### ***5, Oakleigh Crescent 2002***

TL/2460/7035. A small-scale archaeological evaluation (test-pitting) was undertaken at 5, Oakleigh Crescent in 2002, in advance of the construction of a dwelling. The evaluation produced evidence for second century activity on the form of one pit and a possible occupation layer that were probably associated with extra-mural occupation at Godmanchester (Bain 2002).

## **2, Pinfold Lane 1997**

TL/2456/7042. In 1997 test pitting and a recording brief were undertaken on a building plot adjacent to 2, Pinfold Lane. Despite the limited scope of the test pitting a considerable depth of archaeological deposits attributable to the Romano-British period survived within the proposed development area. Previous archaeological excavations within the subject site had truncated these deposits to varying degrees across the area. At least three phases of Roman activity appeared to be represented which seemed to accord with Michael Green's findings (Site 1). Evidence emerged for structures on the same alignment as the *mansio*-bath complex. Later activity was present in the form of medieval pits cut into a post-Roman layer (Hinman 1998).

## **Part 2: The Suburbs of Roman Godmanchester**

The suburban sites are listed clockwise, starting from the east. Phases of investigation in the same area or site are listed in chronological order.

### **8a, Almond Close 2000**

TL2500/7052. In 2000 an archaeological evaluation was undertaken at No. 8 Almond Close in advance of the construction of a dwelling. Despite the potential for the presence of Roman burials and the course of the *Via Devana*, the site produced negative evidence (Boyer & Prosser 2000).

### **Cardinal Distribution Park 1998-99, 2000**

#### **Cardinal Distribution Park 1998 and 1999**

HER09834, 13011, TL/2550/7030. During 1998 an evaluation was carried out on land at the Cardinal Distribution Park in advance of redevelopment of the site. Two main periods of occupation were identified, Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age and Early-Middle Saxon. The range of features indicated settlement during both periods and included pits and ditches for the prehistoric period, and pits, ditches, postholes and a sunken-featured building of Saxon date. Unstratified Roman pottery suggested that the site was under cultivation in Roman times (Murray 1998).

The following excavation confirmed the results from the evaluation. Three main phases of activity were identified. Phase 1 was prehistoric and consisted of a few isolated pits and a possible post-built round house dating to the Late bronze Age/Early Iron Age. Phase 2 produced evidence for Roman activity in the form of a linear ditch and a substantial curvilinear ditch (part of an enclosure?), entailing agricultural activities. Phase 3 produced early Saxon remains including enclosures, trackways and domestic structures, both Grubenhäuser and timber-framed buildings, consistent with the presence of a farmstead or small hamlet (Murray & Last 1999).

#### **Cardinal West 2000**

TL/2570/7040. During 2000 an archaeological evaluation was conducted on land at Cardinal West in advance of light industrial development. The evaluation revealed the presence of a second century pit. Much of the site had been disturbed during the construction of a lorry park (Seddon 2000).

### **A14/A604 Junction 1989, 1990**

1989

HER09834, 09834A, TL/255-/704-. The area was field-walked by County Archaeology staff in 1988. The recovery of Neolithic flint and Roman pottery prompted further investigations.

In 1989 trenching was carried out in an area at the junction of the A14 and A604 in advance of a proposed industrial development. The site produced negative evidence although residual abraded pottery dating to the Roman period suggested the presence of a settlement in the vicinity (Wait 1990a).

1990

HER09902, TL/255-/705-. Trial trenching was carried out to the south of the 1989 evaluation area. An area of 1ha in the extreme south-western corner of the proposed development produced evidence for one inhumation burial, and a dense pattern of ditches, pits and postholes that were interpreted as belonging to a small Roman farmstead (Wait 1990b).

1991

Further investigations in the southern part of the site produced evidence for Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in the form of lithic scatters. No features dating to these periods were found. During the late Iron Age a pattern of small ditched plots (paddocks). During the Roman period the site was a small farm (Wait 1991).

### ***Buttermel Meadow 1991***

HER10116, TL/246-/701-. In 1991 a theodolite earthwork survey was conducted on land at Buttermel Meadow to the south of London Street prior to development. The site lies in an area of high archaeological potential with reference to evidence for Roman burials (below) and village earthworks of Buttermel meadows, as comprising a Holloway and associated house platforms. The survey produced evidence for a multi-period site, including recent pitting, the construction of the platforms and an earlier phase of banks and ditches on varying alignments (Hoyland & Kemp 1991).

### ***London Street, 1992***

HER10376, TL/2470/7020. During 1992, rescue excavations were conducted in London Street following the discovery of human bones during development.

At least 13 unfurnished inhumations were excavated together with a series of earlier features, namely pits and ditches, possibly associated with Roman suburban activity during the second and third centuries. The extent of the cemetery was not defined due to major disturbance caused by building work in progress. Most of the pottery dated to the second and third century. The cemetery probably belonged to the later third and fourth century (Hoyland & Wait 1992).

### ***Sweetings Road, 1994 and 1995***

#### **1994**

HER11421A, TL246-/698. An archaeological evaluation was carried out at Sweetings Road in 1994 in advance of housing development. The site had undergone extensive gravel pitting during the post-medieval period. The paucity of residual finds, with particular reference to the Roman period, would indicate that this site was outside the area of Roman occupation. Of particular interest were the finds from a rescue trench located near the eastern boundary of the development site. This contained inhumation burials, which probably belonged to the cemetery at Porch Farm (Ref.) and London Street (above) (Macaulay 1994).

#### **1995**

Further work comprising an earthwork survey and trenching was carried out to the south of the 1994 site. Evidence emerged for remains of medieval cultivation in the form of ridge and furrow (HER10122) (Oakey 1995).

### ***London Road 1994, 1996 and 2001***

#### **1994**

HER11423, TL/2510/6974. An assessment of a small area at London Road in 1994 revealed only the presence of nineteenth century field drains (Welsh 1994).

#### **1996**

HER CB14645, CB14646, TL/2492/6992. In 1996 an archaeological evaluation was conducted at London Road in advance of the construction of the new school complex. A preliminary earthwork survey revealed the presence of ridge and furrow. The evaluation trenches produced evidence for Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age pits and ditches, in addition to evidence for Roman suburban ribbon occupation and associated activities, dating from the late first to the fourth century. Plots defined by ditches flanked the western side of Ermine Street (London Road). Rubbish pits contained charred seeds indicative of agricultural activity. A possible furnace was interpreted as evidence for possible (unspecified) industrial activity (Hinman 1996)

#### **20-28 London Road 2001**

HER CB14808, CB14809, TL/2473/7013. An archaeological evaluation was conducted near the junction between London Street and London Road, to the east of the site excavated in 1992 (London Street, 1992), in advance of housing development. The evaluation produced evidence for Roman activity in the form of rubbish pits from which pottery and organic remains, including cereal grains, were recovered. The significant assemblage of pottery dating from the first to the fourth century would suggest that this area was used for dumping rubbish from the Roman town. A series of post-medieval quarry pits were also recorded. These contained residual sherds of Roman pottery, and are likely to have partly obliterated the evidence for earlier occupation. Absence of human remains indicated that the western limit of the Roman inhumation cemetery excavated in 1992 at London Street did not extend as far as London Road (Abrams 2001).

### ***Chord Business Park 1998***

HER13012, TL/2566/7078. In 1998 an archaeological investigation was carried out at the Chord Business Park, on land adjacent London Road. Trial-trenching identified a group of Roman features, comprising a ditch, a human burial and a post-hole, all located near London Road. The fill of the grave contained (residual?) second century pottery (Coates 1998).

### ***The Parks, 1991, 1992 and 1998***

#### 1991

HER10136, 10136A, 10136B, TL/2460/7080, evaluation. An archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 1991 to the west of a medieval moated site (SM 11550) on behalf of the School who wished to purchase the land as an extension to the playing field. The area is presently known as The Parks. The site produced evidence for Roman quarry ditches that had been excavated and immediately backfilled, and for slightly later rubbish pits containing pottery, both fine and coarse ware, glass, metalwork, building debris, and painted plaster. Evidence for bone working indicates an industrial aspect of the town. At the end of the second century boundary ditches were dug probably to fence off the quarry area. The date range (Flavian-Hadrianic) provided by the pottery from the site supports Green's evidence of major building and road construction at Godmanchester during the second century. The Roman features were overlaid by the remains of a twelfth century fish tank system associated with the moated site to the east. The fish tanks were linked-up by a series of ditches. A bank between ditches probably served as high ground providing access to the tanks. At a later stage during the medieval period a large pond was dug, partially obliterating the old tank. The pond was served by a ditch leading to the extant pond of the moated site to the east (Gdaniec 1991).

#### 1992

HER10487, 10487A, 10487B, TL/2470/7085, evaluation. In advance of an application for planning consent for a housing development an archaeological investigation was carried out at The Parks, immediately to the north of the area evaluated in 1991. Preliminary fieldwork consisted of an earthwork survey and a geophysical survey that included the 1991 area. The surveys confirmed the presence of features in the form of ridge and furrow, ponds, banks, a driveway, a series of pits and two parallel ditches possibly flanking the projected line of the *Via Devana* (see Green, Site 17, above). The subsequent excavation confirmed the presence of a number of second-third century pits and ditches containing domestic refuse, an enclosure with adjacent driveway and a gravel quarry. In addition, five Roman inhumation burials dating to the fourth century were found near the north-western side of the site. They were interpreted as belonging to the burial ground excavated by Green in 1976 (Site 17). A foundation trench for a masonry building of probable Roman date was also identified. Later activity was represented by a series of ridge and furrow from medieval agricultural activities. No evidence for the Roman road was found (Reynolds 1992).

### 1998

HER CB14699, TL/2470/7085. In 1998 an open area excavation was carried out in the western corner of The Park site, including the 1991 evaluation area and part of the 1992 investigation area in advance of housing development. Five phases of activity were identified:

Phase 1: prehistoric (Neolithic) background activity in the form of unstratified flint and pottery sherds

Phase 2 (late first century-early second century): layout of roadside ditches and ditched property boundaries containing pits, to the rear of the road frontage

Phase 3 (later second-early fourth century): the driveway was redefined by a fence line, whereas the quarry pits were backfilled. Four kilns, a group of hearths and a building located in the area of the former plots were the main features of this phase. Two urned cremation burials were also uncovered

Phase 4 (fourth century): inhumation cemetery. 62 inhumations were uncovered in the area of the former kilns. The features of the previous two phases had been backfilled prior to the use of the area for burial. The inhumations included individuals of both sexes and all ages. The bodies were on WSW-ESE/ENE-WSW alignments, extended and supine, with few cases of prone, crouched and decapitated burials. The analysis of the skeletal remains indicated that living conditions and level of health of the buried population were fairly good. Only 21% of burials (juvenile and young adults) were furnished (Nene Valley beakers, coins and, frequently, personal ornaments).

Phase 5: Medieval and Post-medieval. There was no evidence for sub-Roman activity on site. Medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity survived in the form of ridge and furrow below the modern plough soil (Jones 1998).

### **Part 3: Rectory Farm/Cow Lane Area**

## ***Cow Lane 1984, 1997-98***

### 1984

HER10158A, TL/259-/714. In 1984 rescue excavations were carried out in advance of gravel extraction at Cow Lane in an area of known cropmarks associated with a villa site. The investigations showed that this area was part of the villa complex at Rectory Farm with Iron Age occupation preceding the Roman field systems (Haigh 1984).

### 1997-1998

HER CB14624, CB14625, TL/2566/7078. An evaluation and subsequent excavation were undertaken on land adjacent to Cow Lane near Rectory Farm in advance of the proposed construction of an access route into the new Cow Lane landfill site.

The evaluation demonstrated the exceptional level of preservation of archaeologically significant deposits from the Neolithic and later prehistoric periods in the area

Evidence of prehistoric remains in the form of ditches, pits and postholes were interpreted as belonging to the ritual complex at Rectory Farm dating to the Neolithic period. Romano-British ditches were probably part of the field systems surrounding the later villa site. Farming in the post-Roman period had caused some degree of truncation affecting shallow features (Hinman & Kenney 1998).

## ***Ridgeway Farm 1991: Hemingford-Huntingdon Pipeline***

HER10270, TL/2620/7090 and TL/2700/7050. Fieldwalking and a watching brief were conducted at Ridgeway Farm along the route of a pipeline from the sewage works near Hemingford Abbots to the sewage works at Huntingdon. A concentration of linear features dating to the third and fourth centuries was uncovered, pointing to a Roman settlement in the area. Pre-Roman activity was represented by ditches and one pit dating to the Middle Iron Age (Haley 1991).