

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

SPALDWICK

HUNTINGDONSHIRE

Draft Report

Text Last Modified: 14 February 2003

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

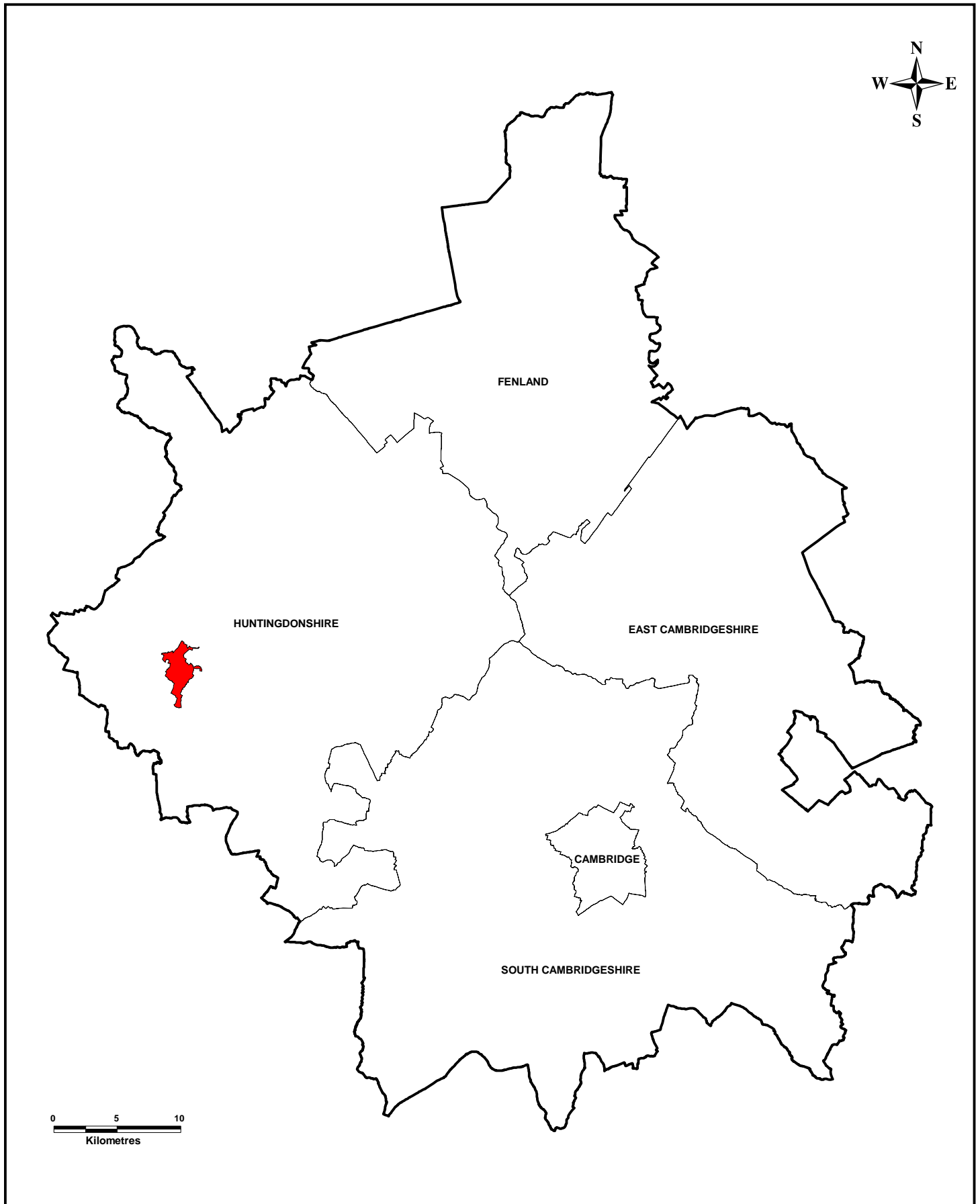
All archaeological sites reported on since the date of last modification given above are not included in this text.

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.

This report should be cited as:

Cambridgeshire Extensive Urban Survey: Spaldwick. Draft Report 14/02/2003.

Spaldwick: Parish Location



Scale (at A4): 1:400000

Date: 31/08/2007

By: Rik Hoggett

Based upon Ordnance Survey material with the permission of the
Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright.
Unauthorised reproduction infringes copyright
and may lead to prosecution. 100023205 2007

BRAND

List of Abbreviations Used in the Text	4
<i>SUMMARY</i>	5
PART I: THE EVIDENCE	7
1 INTRODUCTION	7
2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES	8
2.1 Historical Sources	8
2.2 The HER	8
2.3 Cartographic Evidence	9
2.4 Aerial Photographs and Overlays of Aerial Photographs	9
2.5 Earthworks	9
2.6 Archaeological Excavations	10
3 CONSERVATION AREAS AND EXISTING DESIGNATIONS	12
3.1 Scheduled Monuments	12
3.2 Listed Buildings	12
3.3 Conservation Areas	12
4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND	14
4.1 Prehistoric and Roman	14
4.2 Anglo-Saxon	14
4.3 Medieval	14
4.4 Post-medieval	17
The Settlement and Buildings	18
PART 2: ASSESSMENT OF THE EVIDENCE	20
1 SOURCES AND CONFIDENCE RATING	20
1.1 Documentary Sources	20
1.2 The HER	20
1.3 Cartographic Evidence	20
1.4 Aerial Photographs and Overlays of Aerial Photographs	21
1.5 Archaeological Excavations and Earthwork Surveys	21
2 DEPOSIT MAPPING OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS	22
2.1 Prehistoric and Roman	22
2.2 Saxon and Medieval	22
2.3 Post-medieval	22
3 RATE OF SURVIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS	24
3.1 Prehistoric and Roman	24
3.2 Medieval	24
3.3 Post-Medieval	24
BIBLIOGRAPHY	25
MAPS CONSULTED	26

List of Abbreviations Used in the Text

AOD	Above Ordnance Datum
CCC	Cambridgeshire County Council
CUCAP	Cambridge University Collection of Aerial Photographs format
DMV	Deserted Medieval Village
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
OS	Ordnance Survey
<i>PCAS</i>	Proceedings of the Cambridgeshire Antiquarian Society
PPG	Planning Policy Guidance
RCHM(E)	Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments (of England)
SM	Scheduled Monument
SMV	Shrunken Medieval Village
<i>TCHAS</i>	Trans of the Cambs. and Hunts. Archaeological Society
VCH	Victoria County History

SUMMARY

The parish of Spaldwick in Huntingdon District covers an area of c. 625ha which is presently arable and pasture. The modern village is located approximately 11km to the west of Huntingdon and spreads across the First and Second gravel terraces of the Ellington Brook, at an average height of 20m AOD.

There is no record of activity at Spaldwick prior to the Late Saxo-Norman period.

Spaldwick is first recorded in the late tenth century. According to the Liber Eliensis, in 991 Spaldwick, together with Somersham, was granted to Ely Abbey by Brithnoth. The manor was confirmed to the abbey by Edward the Confessor. In 1066 the manor comprised 15 hides of land and included the berewicks of Little Catworth, Easton and, according to later sources, Stow Longa and Barham. In 1109, following the formation of the new diocese of Ely, as a form of compensation the manor of Spaldwick with its berewicks was given to the Bishop of Lincoln. In the twelfth century there is reference to the forest of Spaldwick and in 1185 the Bishop of Lincoln owed assarts there and in Buckden until the fifteenth century. In 1547 the Bishop exchanged the manor of Spaldwick with the king for other properties. From the seventeenth century the manor of Spaldwick has descended with Kimbolton. The advowson of Spaldwick remained with the prebendary of Stow Longa until 1839 when it was transferred to the Bishop of Ely.

In 1441 the Bishop of Lincoln was granted a weekly market and two fairs which were probably held in the Village Green, at the west end of High Street, where the street widens out. In 1682 a new fair was granted and both this fair and one of the former fairs were held as cattle fairs in the nineteenth century. Both market and fairs are now discontinued.

It has been suggested that the enclosed area of earthwork remains at Danesfield (or Bury Close) to west of High Street was the administrative centre of the estate of the Bishops of Lincoln. The site would have included the extant twelfth century Parish Church of St James and a palace (now demolished) with associated garden features. The development of the medieval village of Spaldwick has been recognised as an example of a early medieval planned village resulting in the present day east-west alignment of High Street with the Village Green set against the enclosure and possibly forming an entrance to the adjacent administrative centre. The river crossing presently marked by a fifteenth century stone-built bridge was probably also established when the village was (re-) planned sometime during the twelfth century. Recent excavations at Thrapston Road appear to confirm a Post-Conquest date for the origin of the village, as the site produced no evidence for occupation prior to the eleventh century.

From the sixteenth century the village witnessed a period of prosperity and re-development, as testified by the number of surviving buildings along High Street.

By the time of Enclosure in 1777 the village core had undergone some expansion resulting in the progressive subdivision and/or merging of the medieval properties fronting onto the High Street. During the following centuries the village developed by progressive infilling of plot. After the Second World War housing development has affected the edges of the historic village.

The historic nucleus of Spaldwick lies within the village Conservation Area, as defined in the Local Plan for Huntingdon District (1995). The Conservation area includes most of the 21 buildings of statutory designation, monument SM124 (the medieval bridge) and the site of the Bishops' Palace which, together with the Village Green, is a designated 'Open Space Allocation'.

PART I: THE EVIDENCE

1 INTRODUCTION

The parish of Spaldwick belongs to Huntingdon District, in the north-western part of the County of Cambridgeshire. The modern village is located approximately 25km to the south of Peterborough and 11km to the west of Huntingdon.

Presently, the parish as a whole covers an area of c. 625ha used as arable and pasture. The nucleated settlement lies along the road to Thrapston (High Street) and is by-passed by the A14.

The village is situated at an average height of 20m AOD on the First and Second gravel terraces of the Ellington Brook, a tributary of the Alconbury Brook, which flows from west to east to the north of the settlement. The gravels overlie Oxford Clays on the higher ground (BGS 187). In the north the land raises sharply to 50m AOD and in the south it undulates upwards to about 60m AOD.

2 HISTORICAL AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOURCES

2.1 Historical Sources

2.1.1 Primary Sources

There is no survey of the documentary sources in Cambridgeshire. A listing of historical documents is provided by Rae and Saunders (1980). Original archive research is not undertaken as part of this study. For the present report reference is made to secondary sources. Unless otherwise cited, the following account is based upon the documentary studies by S. Inskipp Ladd 1902 and by A. Russell 1974 (VCH Vol. III).

Manorial Records from the late sixteenth century, Parish Records from the late seventeenth century and census information for the parish from 1841 to 1891 are held at Huntingdon Record Office (HRO).

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 and buildings of historical and architectural interest.

There are also regional studies that concentrate on specific research topics, e.g. place-names (Mawer and Stenton 1969) and history of Cambridgeshire (Kirby and Oosthuizen 2000).

Local monographic studies for Spaldwick are found in the *Proceedings of the Cambridgeshire Antiquarian Society (PCAS)* that incorporate the former *Transactions of the Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire Archaeological Society (TCHAS)*. Of particular relevance for the present study is the paper by C. C. Taylor (1989) on the origin of the Bishops' Palace enclosure and the development of the medieval village.

2.2 The HER

The HER database contains 23 entries for Spaldwick. These refer to standing medieval and post-medieval buildings and to extensive areas of ridge and furrow systems in the fields surrounding the settlement. The main focus of interest is the area known as Danesfield or Bury Close located between Thrapston Road and Stow Road. Here there are earthwork remains of what is described as a 'shrunken medieval village' (SMV) (HER 00719) that probably represented the site of the medieval palace of the Bishops of Lincoln. To the south of the present settlement is a second area of earthworks associated with the 'deserted medieval village' (DMV) at Upthorpe (HER 00718), to the west of Long Lane. The HER also contains an entry for a mound associated with a 'shrunken medieval village' at 'Bury Close' (HER 00720), to the south-west of the village, for which no further information is available. It is possible

that this mound at Bury Close' is the same feature found within the enclosure of the Bishops' Palace, also referred to as Bury Close, and that HER 00720 is a duplicate of HER 00719. Finally, the HER lists the finds from recent archaeological investigations conducted at the north end of Thrapston Road (HER CB14594) and off Ferriman Road (HER CB 14593).

2.3 Cartographic Evidence

Pre-enclosure cartographic evidence for the parish of Spaldwick is not available

The first comprehensive and detailed maps of the parish are the Enclosure Maps of 1775 and 1776.

There is no Tithe Map for Spaldwick.

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

All the maps for the parish are held at the HRO.

2.4 Aerial Photographs and Overlays of Aerial Photographs

The HER has a collection of OS-based 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 Spaldwick show extensive areas of well-preserved medieval ridge and furrow on the high ground to the south of the present day village, together with earthwork remains associated with the SMV at Danesfield (HER 00719) and the DMV at Upthorpe (HER00718).

Two aerial photographic re-assessments of the existing collections were taken in advance of the archaeological investigations conducted in the 1990s (below).

2.5 Earthworks

The site of the Bishops' Palace, known as Danesfield and Bury Close (RCHME 1926, 244 (2); VCH 1974, 97), is depicted on the Enclosure Map of 1776 as an area enclosed by Thrapston Road and Stow Road, with the church at the centre and a developed plot in the north-eastern corner. The map shows no earthworks. Presently, the site contains the church and the Old Rectory. It still consists of a 'D'-Shaped area enclosed by the pre-existing roads and banks on three sides and by a holloway to the west. In the north-west corner is a circular mound 15m in diameter and 0.5m high interpreted as the site of an early seventeenth century windmill known from historical sources (VCH 1974, 97). To the east are three marshy depressions, possibly linked ponds with a fourth smaller pond to the east which may represent

features of the gardens attached to the palace, as was the custom with other medieval palaces of the Bishops of Lincoln (Taylor 1989). At the time of the RCHM(E) survey in the 1920s there were also remains of terraces and scarps in the north field, together with stone wall foundations of an extensive building (the Bishops' Palace) in the south field. Modern ploughing has largely destroyed these extensive earthworks.

2.6 Archaeological Excavations

There are no antiquarian records of chance discoveries for Spaldwick which has witnessed only two excavations during the 1990s.

In 1995 and 1996 investigations were conducted at land on the east side of Thrapston Road, to the north-east of the SMV at Danesfield, in advance of housing development (HER CB14594).

A preliminary evaluation of the site potential was undertaken in 1995. Prior to trenching, an aerial photographic assessment of the development area had identified a modern ditched enclosure (Cox in Schlee 1996). The removal of the topsoil to a depth of 0.25m exposed a deposit of clayey *alluvium* some 0.80m thick. This sealed the remains of timber-built structures dating to the late Saxon/early Norman period, which were cut into the natural gravel and clay deposits. All the excavated features were concentrated in the southern corner of the site. Their density declined towards the street front where there was evidence for a sixteenth century cobbled surface and modern wall foundations and landscaping. Sherds of Roman grey ware were found in the topsoil, together with sherds of late medieval pottery (Schlee 1996a).

Following the results from the evaluation, the southern corner of the development site was fully stripped. The excavation revealed 7 phases of activity. Phase 1 (1000-1200) was characterised by the presence of at least two timber-framed buildings and associated ditches and pits, dated to the Late Saxo-Norman/Early Medieval period. Phases 2-4 (1200-1350) consisted of a series of pits and boundary ditches. Phases 5-6 (1400-1650) comprised a wood-lined pit, a ditched boundary and occupation debris. Phase 7 (1800+) was associated with the remains of buildings that had been demolished (Schlee 1996b).

In 1997 an evaluation was conducted at land off Ferriman Road (HER CB14593), to the south-east of the Bishops' Palace enclosure, in advance of housing development. The removal of the topsoil to a depth of 0.30m exposed a thin layer of plough soil some 0.20m thick. In the southern part of the site the subsoil sealed remains of shallow furrows and field boundaries cut into the natural gravel and clay deposits. The pottery from the fills dated to the tenth-twelfth, twelfth-fourteenth and fourteenth-sixteenth century. Residual sherds of abraded Roman pottery were found in some of the later contexts (Murray 1997). A preliminary aerial photographic assessment of the area had shown no cropmarks/soilmarks probably due to the shallow nature of the features (Cox 1997).

In addition to these excavations, in 2002 a watching brief was carried out at Spaldwick Bridge (HER 00723, LB 54604, SM124) in advance of strengthening work. The evaluation revealed the internal construction and materials used for the medieval bridge and its post-medieval extension (Hatton 2002).



3 CONSERVATION AREAS AND EXISTING DESIGNATIONS

3.1 Scheduled Monuments

The parish of Spaldwick includes one Scheduled Ancient Monument (SM), i.e. the medieval stone bridge across the Ellington Brook at the extreme west of Thrapston Road/High Street (SM124, HER 00723, LB 54604). The monument is located within the village Conservation Area (below).

3.2 Listed Buildings

The village contains 21 buildings of statutory designation, of which the twelfth century Parish Church of St James, is a Grade I Listed Building (LBI). In addition, there are 2 Grade II Star Listed Buildings (LBII*), the sixteenth century George Inn and the seventeenth century Limes Farm, and 6 buildings of local interest (BLI). The remaining buildings are Grade II Listed (LBII). The list includes the bridge (above).

There are currently 5 buildings 'at risk' on the District Council's Local Plan¹ (Risk Categories 1-6). At the time of this report the medieval bridge (SM 124) was considered at risk (Category 5). However, the bridge has been recently strengthened and repaired (Hatton 2002).

The earliest building is the twelfth-thirteenth century Parish Church of St James at Danesfield. Later medieval remains include Spaldwick Bridge and fragments of the (market?) cross in the Village Green, both dating to the fifteenth century.

Sixteenth and seventeenth century plastered timber-framed and brick buildings survive along High Street/Thrapston Road, including the George Inn, Manor Farm and Limes Farm. There is only one listed eighteenth century building.

The only listed industrial feature in the parish is a nineteenth century windmill located at Beltons Hill to the north of the brook. A windmill is also known to have existed at the junction between the road to Beltons Hill and the present A14 (Enclosure Map, 1776).

3.3 Conservation Areas

The historic nucleus of Spaldwick lies within the village Conservation Area, as defined in the Local Plan for Huntingdon District (1995).

The Conservation Area includes most of the listed buildings, monument

¹ 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.*).

SM124 (the bridge) and the site of the Bishops' Palace at Danesfield which, together with the Village Green, is a designated 'Open Space Allocation'. The conservation Area also includes a site of 'Outstanding Major Housing Commitment' on the south-eastern fringe. Here, development could impact on the historic nucleus.

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



4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

4.1 Prehistoric and Roman

Presently, there is no evidence for prehistoric activity from the parish.

With reference to the Roman period, despite evidence for occupation in the Godmanchester area less than 10km to the east, the HER does not contain any records of Roman finds from Spaldwick. The recovery of abraded residual pottery during recent excavations at land off Thrapston Road and Ferriman Road (below) would however indicate disturbed Roman deposits.

4.2 Anglo-Saxon

Presently, there is no evidence for early and middle Saxon activity from the parish. It is interesting to note that an east-west holloway continued the line of High Street across the area that was later occupied by the post-Conquest enclosure associated with the palace of the Bishops of Lincoln. A second holloway perpendicular to it ran along the western side of the enclosure, continuing the line of the road to Stow Longa and Kimbolton. It is possible that both trackways were already in existence at the time of the creation of the enclosure, representing the layout of an earlier settlement which would have been located on the same site as the later Bishops' Palace.

4.3 Medieval

Spaldwick is first mentioned in the late tenth century. It is later recorded as *Spalduice* in 1086 (Domesday Book), a lost river name from the Old English *spad* meaning 'spittle, foam', cognate with the Old German *spalt* meaning 'trench, ditch' (Mawer and Stanton, 1969, 247).

The Manor

According to the *Liber Eliensis*, in 991 Spaldwick, together with Somersham, was granted to Ely Abbey by Brithnoth, who succeeded Aelfgar, ealdorman of the East Saxons. The manor was confirmed to the abbey by Edward the Confessor (VCH 1974, 97).

In 1066 the manor of Spaldwick (*Spalduice*) comprised 15 hides of land. In 1086 it had 5 hides in demesne, 50 villeins and 10 bordars with 25 ploughs, 1 mill rendering 2s, 160 acres of meadows, 60 acres of woodland pasture (Morris 1975, 4,4). Its berewick of Little Catworth (*Parva Cateuuorde*) had 4 hides of taxable land for 4 ploughs and 7 villeins with 2 ploughs (Morris 1975, 4,5). In the *appendix* of disputed claims it is stated that the manor of Ely also comprised land in Easton (*Eastone*) that Eustace forcibly seized from the church (Morris, 1975, D 19).

According to later records, Stow Longa (*Estou, Estove*, 1086) and Barham were also berewicks of Spaldwick forming a compact block of land on either sides of the Ellington Brook (VCH 1974, 98). The DMV at Upthorpe

(*Upthorpe*, 1260) (HER 00718) was probably an hamlet of Spaldwick (RCHME 1926, 244 (3)).

In 1109, following the formation of the new diocese of Ely, as a form of compensation the manor of Spaldwick with its berewicks was given to the Bishop of Lincoln who held it until 1547 (VCH 1974, 98).

In the twelfth century there is reference to the forest of Spaldwick and in 1185 the Bishop of Lincoln owed assarts there and in Buckden until the fifteenth century. In 1215 the bishop had permission to enclose and impark his wood. Soon afterwards he was granted deer-leaps. Nothing now remains of the park (VCH 1974, 97).

Danesfield

The date and function of the enclosed site at Danesfield (or Bury Close) are uncertain.

The site might have represented an earthwork defence of Danish origin, as the place-name would indicate (Hart 2000). At present, there is no evidence to support this theory.

Alternatively, it has been suggested that the enclosure was the administrative centre of the estate of the Bishops of Lincoln that included the church and a palace. Records of Episcopal visitors would imply the existence of buildings for accommodation and stabling. Earthwork remains (above) suggest the presence of remains of an extensive building and former gardens which are commonly found in association with other medieval palaces of the Bishops of Lincoln (Taylor 1989).

The present road to Stow Longa leads from the Bishop's Palace to the DMV at Upthorpe (HER 00718). The settlement, which probably represented a hamlet of Spaldwick, is first recorded as *Upthorpe* in 1260, meaning 'upper farm' (Mawer and Stenton 1969, 248). The RCHME(E) survey records a series of 'ponds and banks' (RCHME 1926, 244 (3)). Aerial photographs for this area also show remains of a linear hollowed feature the projected line of which joins with Long Lane to the east.

The Church

The Domesday Survey does not record a church at Spaldwick. However, there seems to have been a stone church by the end of the twelfth century, the north wall of which was incorporated in the later building.

St Botolph at Stow Longa was the chief church of the Soke. From the middle of the thirteenth century the rectory and advowson of Spaldwick formed the Prebend of Stow Longa in the cathedral of Lincoln.

Markets and Fairs

In 1441 the Bishop of Lincoln was granted a weekly market and two fairs held on the feast of St Philip and St James (1 May), and the feast of St Hugh of Lincoln (17 November). Fairs and market were probably held in the Village Green, at the west end of the High Street, where the street widens out. There is the base of a cross at some 120m east of the church (HER 00911). A further stone fragment is located in the garden of a house on the south side of the Green (RCHME 1926, 244 (5)).

The Settlement

The development of the medieval village of Spaldwick has been recognised as an example of a planned village (Taylor, 1989).

Spaldwick has a 'T' shaped plan. The upright of the 'T' is the east-west line of High Street which widens at the western end to form a small triangular green. The northern end of the 'T' bar turns sharply westwards and continues as Thrapston Road to the medieval bridge across the brook. Similarly, the southern end turns sharply westwards and then southwards as Stow Road towards Stow Longa.

Thrapston Road and Stow Road enclose a D-shaped area on three sides. The fourth (west) side is marked by a disused holloway visible on the ground. The enclosure contains the parish church and the Old Rectory, and shows clear evidence of earthworks including a possible windmill platform, foundations of a substantial building, ponds and small enclosures. These remains were originally associated with a 'village site' (RCHME, 1926 (1)).

As seen above, the site has been associated with the administrative centre of the estate of the Bishops of Lincoln and interpreted as the focus of a planned settlement.

There are three likely dates for the construction of the enclosure and the subsequent planning of the village, before 991 (for which there is no evidence), after 991, when the manorial estate was obtained by the Bishop of Ely (for which there is also no evidence), or after 1109 when it was acquired by the Bishop of Lincoln. Taylor argues that the later date would be consistent with the evidence of similar planned developments in other villages where the Bishops of Lincoln held land. This (re-) development resulted in the present day east-west alignment of High Street with the Village Green set against the enclosure and possibly forming an entrance to the adjacent estate centre. The river crossing was probably also established when the village was re-planned sometime during the post-Conquest period

Recent investigations at land at the eastern end of Thrapston Road would confirm Taylor's interpretation. The investigations uncovered the remains of at least two timber-framed buildings as well as associated ditches and pits, dated to the Late Saxo-Norman/Early Medieval period. Based on their alignments, the features appeared to relate to the phase of settlement planning post-dating the creation of the enclosed administration centre at Danesfield (Schlee 1996a; *Id.* 1996b).

The evaluation conducted at Ferriman Road to the south-east of the enclosure showed that the village did not expand into this area which remained arable throughout the Late Saxo-Norman and medieval periods (Murray 1997). The distribution of known areas of ridge and furrow (HER 00719A, 09039, 09853, 09855, 09856) around the southern fringe of the village is consistent with the evidence from the site at Ferriman and indicates that the village did not grow away from High Street.

Buildings

The earliest surviving building at Spaldwick is the Parish Church of St James (HER04254, 04549, 04549a; LB 54594). The church sits within the enclosure at Danesfield. The walls are of stone and pebble-rubble with dressing of Weldon and Ketton stone. The roofs are covered in slates and lead. The nave retains some work of the twelfth century church in the north and east walls. About 1250 the south arcade was built and a south aisle added. The tower, chancel, south porch and clearstorey were built in the course of the fourteenth century. Early in the sixteenth century the south chapel was added and the south aisle and porch re-built. The church was restored during the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries (RCHME 1926, 242 (1)).

The medieval portion of Spaldwick Bridge was constructed in the fifteenth century and consists of three arches (RCHME 1926, 244 (4)). A post-medieval extension was added to the medieval bridge, thus doubling its width. The original structure was probably made of timber.

4.4 Post-medieval

The Manor

In 1547 the Bishop of Lincoln exchanged the manor of Spaldwick with the king for other properties. In 1620 these properties were given to the Digby family and in 1628 to the Earl of Manchester and his heirs. From that date the manor of Spaldwick has descended with Kimbolton (VCH 1974).

The Church

The advowson of Spaldwick remained with the prebendary of Stow Longa until 1839 when it was transferred to the Bishop of Ely (VCH 1974).

Markets and Fairs

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. The early fourteenth century saw a recession in cultivation with land left untilled throughout Huntingdonshire.

By the end of the fifteenth century the settlement witnessed a return to prosperity. Animal farming and agriculture remained the dominant economic activities. In 1682 a fair on Wednesday before Whit Sunday was granted and both this fair and the fair of St Hugh established in 1441 were held as cattle fairs in the nineteenth century. Both market and fairs are now discontinued.

The Settlement and Buildings

The number of buildings which survive in the village reflects the return of economic prosperity from the sixteenth century.

Of particular interest are the George Inn and Manor Farm, both dating to the sixteenth century. The George Inn (LB 54601) is a two-storey with attic, timber-framed and plastered. Originally built with cross-wings at the east and west ends, it was remodelled around 1700 when an addition was made on the north side (RCHME 1926, 244 (6)).

Manor Farm (HER 0733, 0733a; LB 54599, 54600) is of two storeys, timber-framed and plastered. It was built at the end of the sixteenth century on a rectangular plan. To the east of the house is a late seventeenth century timber-framed and plastered barn of five bays with thatched roof built (RCHME 1926, 244 (7)).

Excavations at Thrapston Road (Schlee 1996a; 1996b) have shown continued activity on this site throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods, including phases of re-building along the street frontage (above).

By the time of Enclosure the village core had undergone limited expansion resulting in the progressive subdivision and/or merging of the medieval properties fronting onto the High Street (Enclosure Map of 1776).

During the following centuries the village developed by progressive infilling of plots (1st ed. OS Map 1889). Later editions of the OS Maps present a similar picture. After the Second World War housing development has affected the edges of the historic village.

Administration

From 1837 Spaldwick was in the Huntingdon Registration District. Subsequently, it became part of the Spaldwick sub-District and was later retransferred to the Huntingdon District.

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. For most of the first half of the twentieth century the population history for Spaldwick, 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). There have been no significant changes in the population figures for the last four decades, as reflected by limited expansion of the built-up area since the 1970s.

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	259
1851	464
1901	249
1951	284
1971	271
1991	304

Public Health and Religion

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. A Baptist Church was built in 1844 at the eastern end of the village.

The parish of Spaldwick was in Huntingdon Union for Poor Law administration.

PART 2: ASSESSMENT OF THE EVIDENCE

1 SOURCES AND CONFIDENCE RATING

1.1 Documentary Sources

Original documentary research has not been undertaken.

General outlines of the history of the county together with accounts of individual parishes are provided by the VCH.

The VCH tends 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 villages. They are researched by experts within fields, by local historians and by amateurs.

1.2 The HER

The HER of Cambridgeshire County Council records few finds in the study area. All entries refer to the medieval and post-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. 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
- The distribution of entries is conditioned by limited archaeological work undertaken within and immediately outside the historic nucleus of the village.
- 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

As seen above, pre-enclosure cartographic evidence for the parish of Spaldwick is not available.

The first comprehensive and detailed maps of the parish are the Enclosure Maps of 1775 and 1776. Later maps include Ordnance Surveys from the end of the nineteenth century onwards.

The existing estate maps (late eighteenth to mid nineteenth century) are not relevant to the present study.

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 Spaldwick area is consistent with the evidence for medieval and post-medieval agricultural activity on the higher ground. Here, the medieval plough-soil could mask earlier remains.

A re-assessment of aerial photographs was undertaken in advance of archaeological investigations at Thrapston Road (Cox in Schlee 1996a) and at Ferriman Road (Cox 1997). Both surveys were conducted by Air photo Services (APS) Ltd. Notwithstanding the archaeological potential of the areas under investigation, the surveys produced negative evidence probably due to the shallow nature of the features.

1.5 Archaeological Excavations and Earthwork Surveys

The study area has benefited from only a handful of archaeological investigations prompted by PPG16-guided development. In all instances, these have provided significant results in the context of the layout of the medieval settlement. Furthermore, they show the high potential for the survival of archaeological remains which have gone undetected by other means of investigations such as aerial photographs.

There have been no recent systematic surveys of the earthwork remains at Danesfield and Upthorpe.

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 and Roman

To date, there is no record of prehistoric and Roman activity at Spaldwick. In general, scarcity of finds from the historic settlement is probably due to medieval and later remains obliterating earlier features and deposits.

Roman remains at Spaldwick are also scanty, although the recovery of residual pottery from medieval and post-medieval contexts during recent excavations (above) would suggest a Roman presence in the area.

Based on the available evidence, it is not possible to predict the existence of prehistoric and Roman sites within the village. These may exist on the clay high ground underneath medieval and post-medieval plough-soils.

2.2 Saxon and Medieval

There is no evidence for occupation at Spaldwick prior to the tenth century.

The layout of medieval Spaldwick has been described above.

Recent investigations at land off Thrapston Road (Schlee 1996a; *Id* 1996b) have offered the opportunity to test Taylor's theory that medieval Spaldwick is an instance of a carefully planned village. The results from the excavations have also highlighted the potential for the existence of Late-Saxo-Norman and medieval remains underneath the present day village.

Within and immediately outside the built-up area there is potential for the survival of field-systems and other remains which are not detectable through traditional surveys (i.e. earthwork and aerial photographic surveys). Cropmarks of medieval ridge and furrow visible on aerial photographs survive on the higher ground to the south of the present village. Ridge and furrow have also been recorded during excavations at Ferriman Road (Murray 1997).

2.3 Post-medieval

Post-medieval Spaldwick is documented through cartographic evidence (above). In particular, settlement development is reflected by the present layout of the village where extant historic buildings attest to the period of economic prosperity of Spaldwick from the sixteenth century. Most of the buildings are listed (LBII) and have statutory protection. The post-medieval layout of the village reflects the earlier medieval one, with progressive replacement of earlier timber-framed buildings and infilling of the former property plots.

Therefore, within empty pockets of land along High Street and at the rear of the existing buildings there is potential for the survival of remains showing phases of development within the settled area. For instance, excavations at Thrapston Road showed continued use of the street frontage throughout the medieval and post-medieval periods (Schlee 1996a; *Id* 1996b).

Immediately outside the built-up area there is potential for the survival of field-systems.



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 medieval and post-medieval remains.

3.1 Prehistoric and Roman

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.

Roman remains within the village core are likely to have been damaged by later development of the settlement, as indicated by the recovery of residual pottery during recent archaeological investigations (Schlee 1996a; *Id.* 1996b; Murray 1997). Ploughing is also likely to have affected the rate of survival of potential remains.

3.2 Medieval

Within the village medieval remains associated with the Bishops' Palace at Danesfield are visible as earthworks. There have been no recent surveys of the earthwork remains. In comparison with the RCHM(E) survey of the 1920s, many features are no longer visible, indicating that modern ploughing has caused severe damage. The area is presently unscheduled.

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 Thrapston Road the density of features declined towards the street front where there was evidence for sixteenth century occupation debris and for the remains of late seventeenth-early eighteenth century buildings that had been demolished (Schlee 1996a; *Id.* 1996b).

3.3 Post-Medieval

The historic nucleus of Spaldwick lies within the Conservation Area which includes most of the Listed Buildings.

The condition of the Listed Buildings is generally good.

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

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Cox, C. 1997, *Ferriman Road, Spaldwick (TL1272), Cambridgeshire: Aerial Photographic Assessment*. Air Photo Services Ltd., Rep. No. APSLtd./967/29.

Edmonds, E. A. and Dinham, C. H. 1965, *Geology of the Country around Huntingdon and Biggleswade. Memoires of the Geological Survey of Great Britain, England and Wales*. HMSO, Maps 187 and 104.

Hart, C. 2000, 'The Danes'. In T. Kirby and S. Oosthuizen (eds.) 2000: 30.

Hatton, A. 2002, *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Spaldwick Bridge, Spaldwick*. AFU Rep. No. A 212

Inskipp-Ladd, S. 1902, *A Short History of the Soke of Spaldwick, Huntingdonshire*. Huntingdonshire Historical Series, St Ives.

Jones, R 2000a, 'Population Change 1801-1901'. In T. Kirby and S. Oosthuizen (eds.) 2000: 77.

Jones, R 2000a, 'Population Change 1901-1997'. In T. Kirby and S. Oosthuizen (eds.) 2000: 78.

Kirby, T. and Oosthuizen, S. (eds.) 2000, *An Atlas of Cambridgeshire and Huntingdonshire History*. APU.

Mawer, A. and Stenton, F.M. 1969, *The Place-names of Bedfordshire and Huntingdonshire*. English Place-name Society, Vol. III, CUP.

Murray, J. 1997, *Land off Ferriman Road, Spaldwick, Cambridgeshire: An Archaeological Evaluation*. HAT Rep. No. 298.

Page, W. (ed.) 1974, *The Victoria History of the County of England (VCH): Huntingdonshire, Vols I-III*. ***

RCHM(E) 1926, *The Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England: Huntingdonshire*. HMSO.

Russell, A. 1974, 'Spaldwick'. In W. Page (ed.) 1974 (VCH).

Schlee, D. 1996a, *An Archaeological Assessment of Land on and behind Thrapston Road, Spaldwick 1995*. AFU Rep. No. A79.

Schlee, D. 1996b, *Saxon and Medieval Structural Remains at Thrapston Road, Spaldwick*. AFU Rep. No. 127.

Taylor, C, C. 'Spaldwick, Cambridgeshire', Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society. Vol. LXXVIII (71-75).

Zeeptav, B. 1997, *Land at Ferriman Road, Spaldwick, Cambridgeshire, An Archaeological Desk-Based Assessment*. HAT Rep. No. 286.

VCH see Page

MAPS CONSULTED

Spaldwick Enclosure Map, 1776	2110/15/28 (copy) (HRO)
OS 1 st ed. 1889, 25"	Sheet XVII.9 (HRO)
OS 2 nd ed. 1900, 25"	Sheet XVII.9 (HRO)
OS Revised Editions of 1924	Sheet XVII.9 (HRO)
British Geological Survey Map 1:50 000 Series.	Sheet 187