

GREAT AND LITTLE CHESTERFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT ASSESSMENT



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Frontispiece: *Reconstruction of Great Chesterford in the late 4th century AD* © Peter Froste

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GREAT AND LITTLE CHESTERFORD NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN: HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT

1. INTRODUCTION

This report has been commissioned by the Great and Little Chesterford Neighborhood Plan Group in order to inform the Chesterfords Neighbourhood Plan. The group requested a Historic Area Assessment to look in more detail at the significance of the historic environment of the area, with a view to informing and developing policies for their Neighbourhood Plan. Neighbourhood planning gives communities direct power to develop a shared vision for their neighbourhood and deliver the sustainable development they need. This report aims to provide an understanding of the significance of the historic environment in the Chesterfords in order to ensure that the decision-making for the Neighbourhood Plan is sustainable, robust and sound.

The report presents an overview of the historic environment within the parishes of Little and Great Chesterford and identifies the significance of the major heritage assets located within them, including the contribution to their significance made by their setting. The heritage assets include the Conservation Area, Grade I and Grade II* listed buildings and scheduled monuments such as the Roman town and temple. Significant views which allow both an appreciation of the setting and significance of individual assets and their relationships to each other are identified. The assessment has been undertaken in accordance with the guidelines set out in the National Planning Policy Framework (particularly paras. 128, 129 and 132, NPPF) and the Historic England guidance on *The Setting of Heritage Assets Historic Environment Good Practice Advice Note in Planning: 3*.

The report makes use of a number of sources, including the Essex Historic Environment Record (EHER) and Historic England's data on designated historic environment assets. For the purposes of this study the Roman period is the time-span between 43 - 410, the Saxon period is 410-1066, the medieval period is 1066-1536, the post-medieval period is 1536-1900 and the modern period is 1900 to the present day. This corresponds to the period divisions used by the EHER.

2. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW – GREAT CHESTERFORD

2.1 LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Great Chesterford parish is sited on the north-western boundary between Essex and Cambridgeshire, within Uttlesford District. The ground drops gradually from 90m on the top of the low chalk hills in the east of the parish down to 37m next to the River Cam on the western side. The river terraces are composed of sands, gravels and bands of clay. The river valley itself is alluvium. The chalk hills are topped by a layer of boulder clay. The Roman and medieval towns were sited on the western edge of the parish beside the river, with the remainder of the parish being overwhelmingly rural, with scattered individual farms and cottages. The transport network reflects this western bias, with the railway forming part of the western parish boundary, and the A11, which follows the route of the former Roman road to Cambridge, forming part of the northern parish boundary. The Walden Road (B184), which is a historic route-way running up the Cam valley, bypasses both the Roman town and medieval village. The smaller roads and historic footpaths are largely east-west in alignment, linking the river valley to the higher ground.

2.2 BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PARISH

2.2.1 *Prehistory*

There is considerable evidence for prehistoric activity within the urban area, dating from the Palaeolithic period onwards. The river terrace gravels along the River Cam are associated with finds of Palaeolithic flint tools and nearby Pleistocene faunal remains, including mammoths. In addition there are Holocene alluvial deposits lying adjacent to and possibly overlying glacial lake deposits which occupy much of the Cam valley floor. The Mesolithic period is marked by scattered find-spots indicating activity and possibly settlement in the area of the river valley, these include a possible Mesolithic working-hollow on the Vintners/Plectex site. The area was being exploited during the Neolithic period, both in the valley bottom and on the chalk hills, with evidence in the form of individual find-spots of flint implements and possible settlement evidence from the Sewage Works site.

A Late Neolithic/Early Bronze Age Beaker cemetery was located under the northern half of the later Roman town, it can be presumed with accompanying settlement somewhere in the vicinity. A number of ring-ditches have been recorded as cropmarks, both in the river valley and on the chalk hills.

2.2.2 *Iron Age and Roman periods*

Numerous excavations and watching-briefs, supplemented by cropmark and geophysical surveys, have established the significance of Great Chesterford in the Late Iron Age and Roman period, both as the second largest urban centre in Essex and as a strategically significant town within wider Roman province of Britannia. The results of this fieldwork have been collated and published (Medlycott 2011). The Roman town and temple are Scheduled Monuments.

In the Late Iron Age Great Chesterford was on a frontier both geographically and politically. Geographically, it is sited at the point where the River Cam breaks through the chalk hills that form the western end of the Gog Magog Hills and flows down across the Cambridgeshire clay-lands to the fens. Politically, its position on the River Cam meant that it was located on what is generally acknowledged to have been the tribal boundary between the Catuvellauni to the north and west and the Trinovantes to the east. The principal Late Iron Age settlement appears to have been focussed on the site of the later Roman town, with a shrine located approximately a kilometre away to the north-east, and a rich Aylesford-type burial on the slope of the shallow valley a kilometre to the north-east of the shrine. There are further cropmarks, indicative of possible enclosed farmsteads, demonstrating that the hinterland of this settlement comprised a settled, agricultural landscape.

A Roman fort was constructed on the eastern side of the river in the immediate post-Conquest period (AD 43-60), next to the existing Iron Age settlement. It is not however possible to state with certainty whether its construction belongs to the initial phase of military expansion outwards from Colchester, or whether it belongs to the period of retribution and consolidation following the Boudiccan revolt. What is evident is that the fort was in use only very briefly and that the ditches were deliberately back-filled in the post-Boudiccan period (AD 60-70).

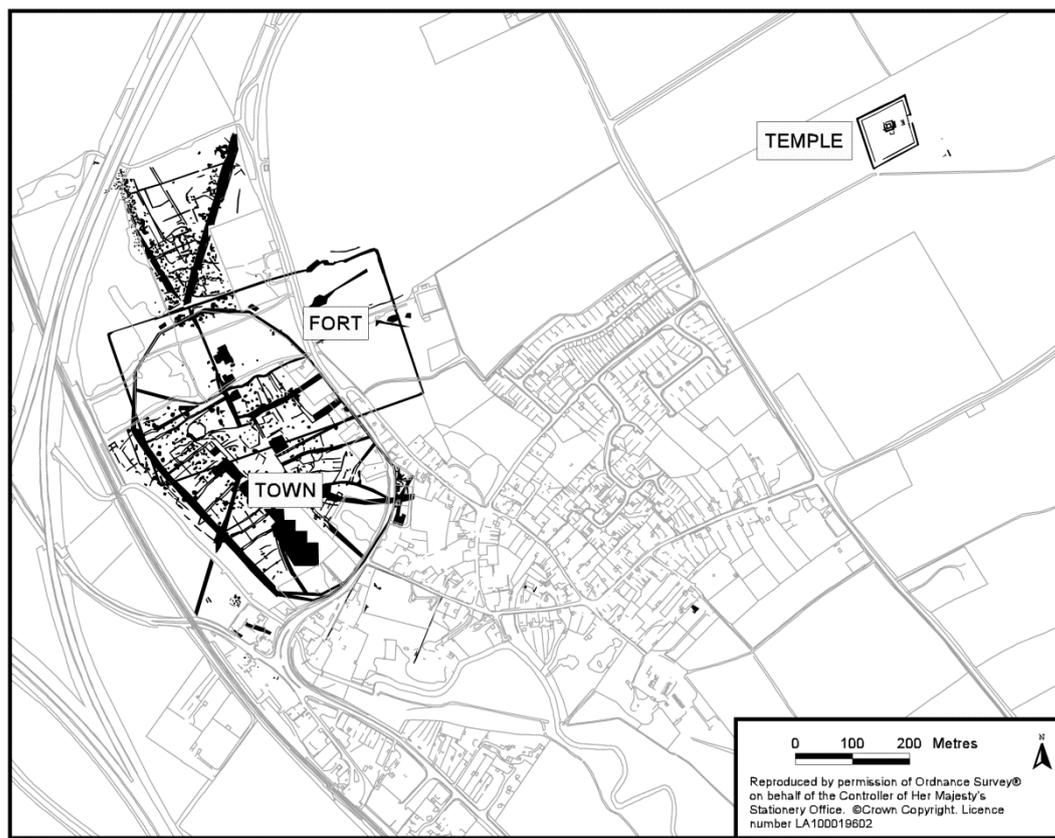


Fig. 1 The Roman town and temple, showing the geophysics and excavated evidence (Medlycott 2011, Fig. 10.1)

A civilian settlement developed in the approximate area of the preceding Iron Age settlement outside the fort, expanding at the end of the first century into the area of

the abandoned fort. Most of the information for the internal layout of the Roman town comes from geophysical evidence, supplemented by the results of archaeological fieldwork and aerial photography. The focus of the town was on the point where the roads met at the presumed southern gate of the fort. Here a large open area, interpreted as a market-place, was laid out across the presumed line of the fort defences. The market-place was bounded on two sides by masonry buildings (presumed to be official) and on its northern side by the precinct of the possible octagonal temple. The masonry buildings may have included such public structures as a *mansio*, a *macellum* or market-hall, a bath-house and more temples. Equally the presence of a substantial masonry house in the northern half of the town raises the possibility that some of these structures may also be private or indeed official town-houses. Great Chesterford was fortified by the construction of a substantial town wall in the mid-fourth century. The plan of the walled town is essentially oval, with the curves comprised of short straight stretches of wall. The excavations have established that there were gates on the northern and eastern roads out of the town, and it is presumed that there must also have been a gateway associated with Road 6 on the western side and possibly for Roads 2 and 5 on the north-east and southern sides respectively. Great Chesterford is one of only two walled towns in Essex, the other being Colchester. Outside the walls there were extra-mural cemeteries, ribbon development (some of it industrial in nature) along the main roads and a possible second Walled Enclosure on the site of the later church and churchyard.

The Late Iron Age shrine, about a kilometre to the north-east of the town, was demolished in about AD 70 and re-built as a Roman-British temple. It was of the square-within-a-square plan within a roughly square precinct, and was built of masonry with a tiled roof. A rectangular masonry base was found to the rear of the building. A porch was added soon after the temple was built. The masonry building appears to have become dilapidated in the third century and it may have been abandoned. However, the temple was restored at the end of the third century (270-90), with the walls refaced and the roof replaced. The porch was also demolished and rebuilt on a slightly larger plan. The restored temple appears to have continued in use until at least the fourth century.

2.2.3 *Saxon period*

The evidence for the Saxon period in Great Chesterford comes largely from burials. The main burial area found to date was located to the north-west of the Roman town, with smaller groupings to the south of the Roman town. In 1953-5 rescue excavation (Evison, 1994) recorded 161 inhumations, 33 cremations, two horse and two dog burials, spanning the period 450-600. It is estimated that at least a further 100 graves were lost during gravel-digging prior to 1953. The location of the Early Saxon settlement is uncertain, but the later Saxon settlement was probably on the same site as the medieval town. In 1066 Great Chesterford was held by Earl Edgar, King Edward the Confessor's nephew, while Little Chesterford was held by Queen Edith. The Royal estate was originally even larger, as Hadstock, Littlebury and Streetly Green were granted to Ely in the early eleventh century. It has been

suggested that the church at Great Chesterford had its origins as a minster church. There is no evidence that the Saxon settlement was urban in nature.

2.2.4 *Medieval*

Following the Norman Conquest Great Chesterford became a royal manor, with 47 households recorded in the Domesday survey (1086). The settlement was reasonably prosperous during the medieval period, largely due to the cloth trade. Archaeologically it is of interest as an example of an Essex settlement (on the borderline between being defined as a town or as a large village with a market function) that has developed according to the Midlands tradition, both in morphology and in building-types.

The ruins of the Roman town defences appear to have acted as a constraint to the medieval settlement which developed to the south of them. It is thought that the medieval Newmarket Road followed its present course, curving around the defences. The other streets were Church Street, Carmen Street and High Street, all of which converged on a central triangular green. In the 15th and 16th century a cloth industry was sited at Fag End at the end of Carmen Street. Many of the current 16th and 17th century buildings are sited in front of or incorporate remnants of late medieval dwellings, which were sited back from the road verge, on average by about four metres. This setting back from the road-verge is a feature of the medieval Midlands tradition. The Parish Church of All Saints is located on the south-west side of the medieval town, and it is presumed that there was an early medieval or late Saxon church on the site before the present church was built. It is of flint rubble construction with stone dressings. The chancel is of early or mid-thirteenth century date, in the mid-late thirteenth century the nave and aisles were added and probably a west tower.

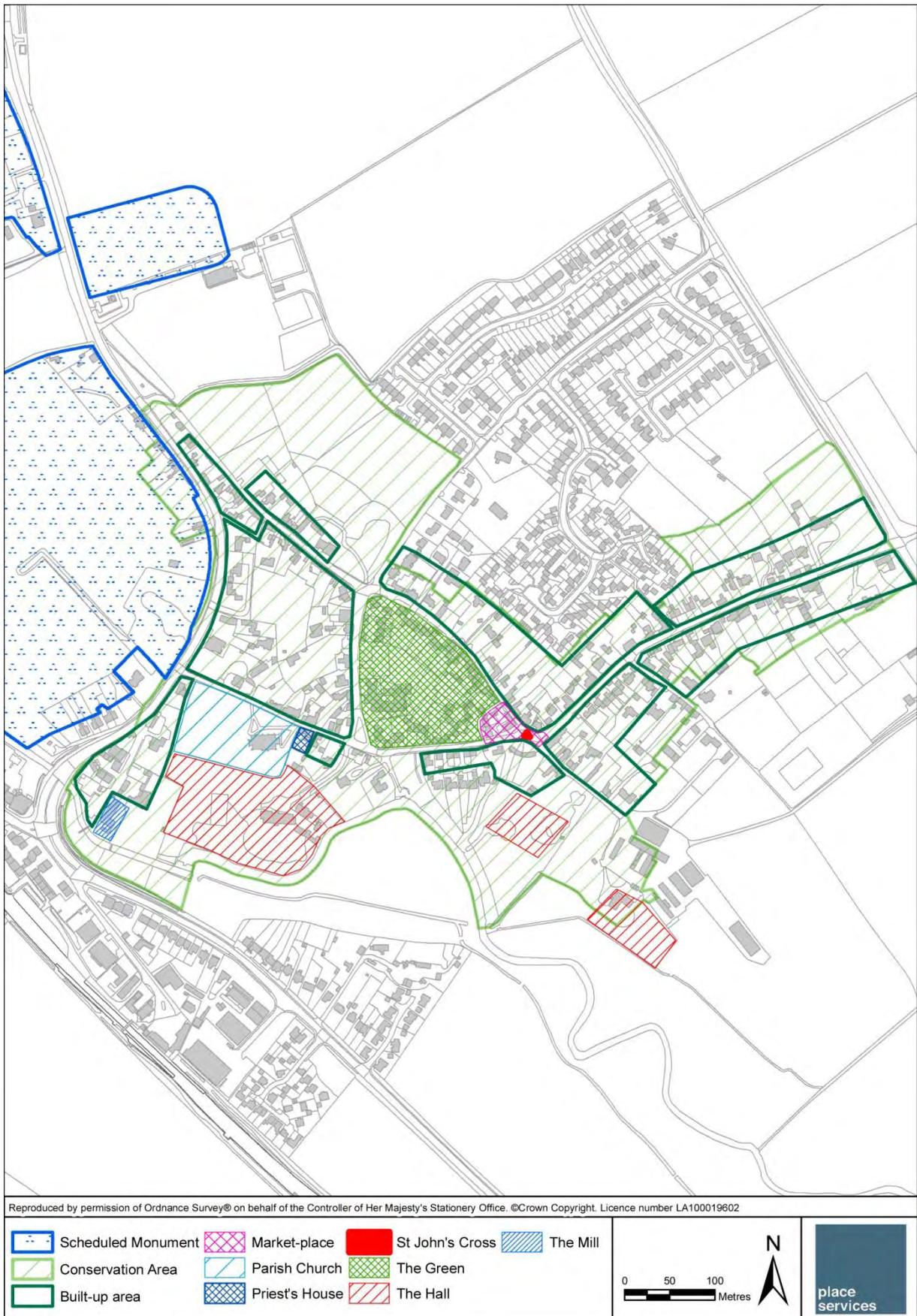


Fig. 2 Great Chesterford - Medieval interpretation

In the 13th century the Marshalls of England had a hall or court close to the church. It has been suggested that this was possibly on the site of The Old

Rectory/Country Club. However, excavation and watching-briefs on within the Country Club grounds have revealed little evidence for intensive medieval settlement of the site and the current building is early 18th century in origin. Alternatively the post-medieval maps show one, possibly two, moated enclosures on the south-eastern edge of the town, which might also be the site of the hall. The present Manor Farm house was probably built c.1500, and the 1777 Chapman and André map shows that originally it was sited within one corner of a rectangular moated site. The 1877 1st edn. OS map does show a second possible moated site two fields to the west of Manor Farm, comprising an L-shaped pond (TL 5088 4267). This is still extant but now consists of two separate irregular shaped ponds. The archaeological excavations in Great Chesterford have added a little to our knowledge of the medieval development. A medieval earth-fast aisled building was partially excavated on the Eastgate Site, and watching-brief next to Haggars Close, South Street revealed a chalk and gravel floor in association with early medieval finds.

2.2.5 *Post-medieval period*

The post-medieval period was a period of decline for Great Chesterford, mainly because of the collapse of the cloth trade. The cartographic evidence suggests that some infilling of the existing village area, most notably of the green, began in the late 16th century.

The turn-piking of the road link with Newmarket and Cambridge and the coming of the London-Cambridge railway in the mid-19th century encouraged limited development along Station Road. Outside the medieval and post-medieval village the settlement of the wider parish was very sparse. Great Chesterford is one of the few areas of Essex that retained its strip-fields until the enclosure acts of 1804. Saffron gardens were a notable feature of the local economy. On the eastern edge of the parish was located Great Chesterford Common, with Burton Wood to its immediate north, only a small portion of this was extant by 1875. Great Chesterford Park was sited on the north-eastern edge of the parish, the park boundary still survives, but no internal features.

2.2.6 *Modern period*

During the Second World War Great Chesterford again gained a military role, being adjacent to the GCHQ Defence Line. Expansion has taken place in the second half of the 20th century, chiefly on the north-eastern side, with industrial development along London Road. The A11 leaves the M11 on the western side of the parish with a mile-long motorway spur, it then becomes a dual carriageway (upgraded 1993), which follows the line of the Roman road to Cambridge and the short-lived branch-line train track to Newmarket.

3. HISTORIC ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW – LITTLE CHESTERFORD

3.1 LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

Little Chesterford is situated just to the south of Great Chesterford in the north-west of the county of Essex, within Uttlesford District. The ground drops from 110m on the top of the chalk hills in the north-east of the parish to 40m down by the River Cam in the west of the parish. The chalk hills are topped by boulder clay. The river valley has alluvium deposits. The village of Little Chesterford is situated on a relatively level area close to the river. The rest of the parish is rural in character with a few scattered farms. The transport network follows the river valley, with the railway forming the western parish boundary, and the Walden Road (B184), which is a historic route-way, running along the Cam valley.

3.2 BRIEF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY OF THE PARISH

3.2.1 *Prehistory*

Little Chesterford has evidence from the Palaeolithic period onwards. Palaeolithic, Mesolithic and Neolithic flint tools have been found in the river terrace gravels along the river Cam. There are cropmarks of probable Bronze Age round barrows to the north of the village. Bronze Age finds have also come from the higher ground north of Chesterford Park.

3.2.2 *Iron Age and Roman periods*

Iron Age finds have come from the area between Chesterford Park and Little Chesterford. Various cropmarks in the valley bottom are probably of prehistoric or Roman origin. The line of a Roman road crosses the parish, part of which can be traced through cropmark evidence. Roman finds come from across the parish, probably reflecting the closeness to the Roman town at Great Chesterford and a scattered rural community.

3.2.3 *Saxon period*

The Domesday survey records that in 1066 Little Chesterford was held by Queen Edith. There were ten households within the *vill*. There was another settlement recorded as Manhall, which has been identified as probably being in the area of Emanuel Wood and Four Acre Grove, and which was recorded by the Domesday survey as having two households. There is evidence for a Saxon cemetery in Little Chesterford, in the form of metal-detecting finds, but the precise location is not known. Saxon finds have come from the valley bottom both to the north and south of the village.

3.2.4 *Medieval period*

Following the Norman Conquest, Little Chesterford was held by Walter the Deacon. The main settlement was to the east of the church and manor. Its compact nature is

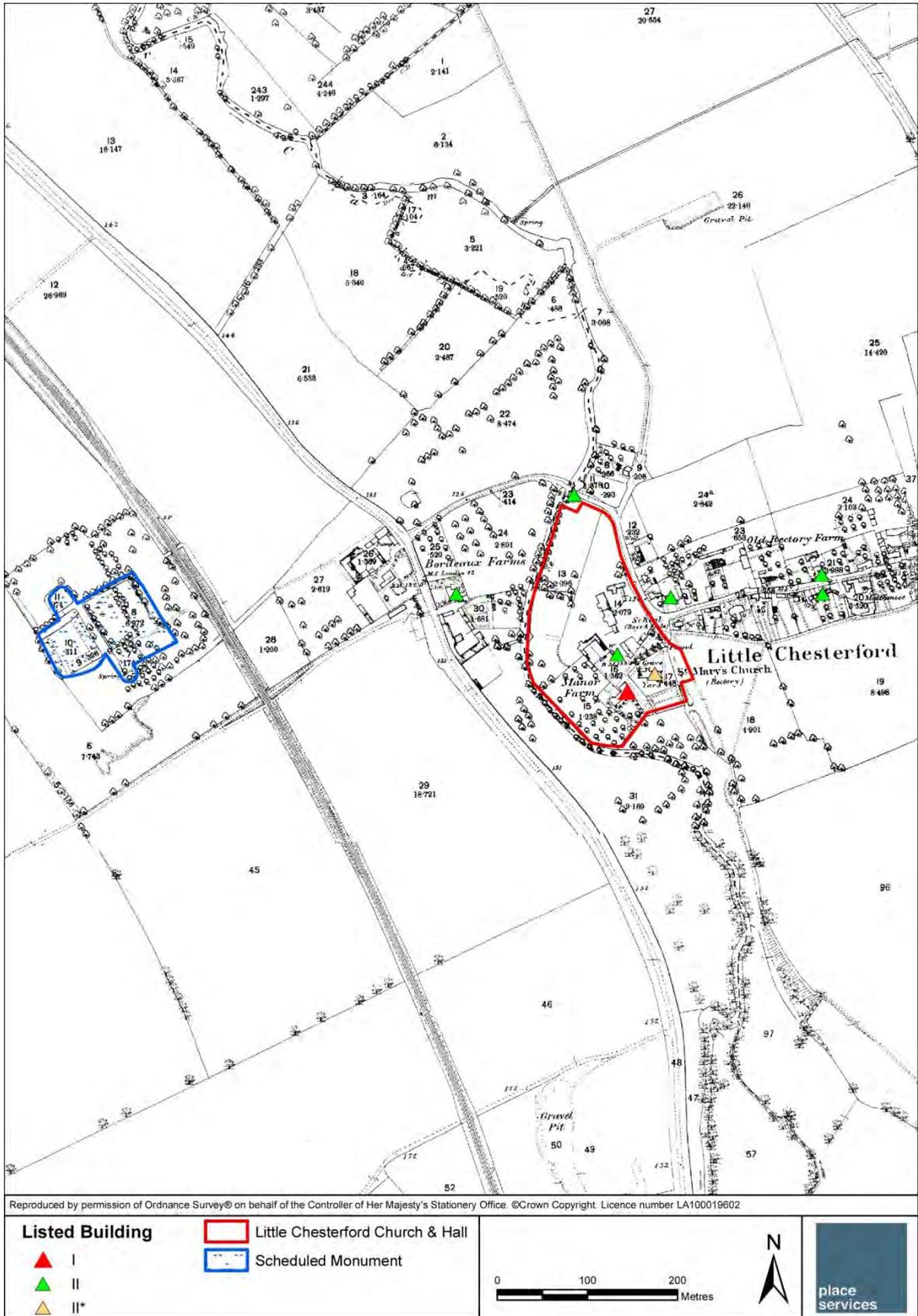


Fig. 3 Little Chesterford: showing the church and Hall complex and Bordeaux Farm moated site superimposed on the 1st ed. OS map of 1881

probably due to the way the village developed within the Midlands tradition of agriculture, where common open fields and nucleated villages were the norm. St Mary's Church dates from the 13th century, and the adjacent manor house also dates from the 13th century. At Bordeaux Farm, just to the north-west of the church and hall, are slight earthworks which may indicate former settlement.

In the 13th century, Manhall was held by Richard, Earl of Gloucester. He built a castle on his lands, which could be in the Emanuel Wood area or in Paddock Wood, to the north of Chesterford Park and just outside the parish. There are earthworks and many finds of medieval pottery and rubble in Emanuel Wood. There are also cropmarks of a moat and small enclosures from the area between Emanuel Wood and Four Acre Grove. In Paddock Wood is a moated site. Excavations here have revealed stone foundations of structures, "thousands" of pottery sherds and metalwork, and associated enclosures radiating out from the moat. There is another moat with associated fish pond at Bordeaux Farm, which is now just outside the parish boundary. The name is first mentioned in 1307.

Although Kings Farmhouse dates from the 16th/17th centuries, the name may derive from John le Kynge who is recorded in 1319. The small settlement of Springwell is first mentioned in 1506.

3.2.5 *Post-medieval period*

Pottery dating to the 16th and 17th centuries has come from Emanuel Wood. Manhall manor house appears to have gone out of use in the 17th century and the house rebuilt elsewhere. Evaluations and monitoring on the Chesterford Park site has revealed post-medieval ditches and 19th-century garden features. The current Chesterford Park house was built from 1840 on the site of an earlier farm which dated from c.1700 but was burnt down around 1840. There are 12 listed buildings which date from the 16th to 18th centuries. In the grounds of the house called The Malting are the remains of a 19th-century Malthouse.

The London to Cambridge railway forms the modern western boundary of the parish. It was constructed in the 1840s.

3.2.6 *Modern*

World War two defences feature in the parish, with the River Cam forming part of the GHQ line, an anti-tank defence line which crossed the whole country, and entered Essex at Great Chesterford.

4. ASSESSMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

4.1 IDENTIFYING THE HERITAGE ASSETS AFFECTED AND THEIR SETTING

For the purposes of this study, the Historic England Good Practice Advice Note on the Setting of Heritage Assets (CD 12.1) indicates that *'if the development is capable of affecting the contribution of a heritage asset's setting to its significance, or the appreciation of its significance, it can be considered as falling within the asset's setting'* (para 13).

In order to determine for the Neighborhood Plan the significance of the heritage assets and their settings, a search of the Essex Historic Environment Record was undertaken, to identify designated and non-designated heritage assets within the parishes of Little and Great Chesterford, and their immediate vicinity. The parishes were then visited. From this appraisal, the designated and non-designated heritage assets identified as being affected most significantly by the proposed development are:

4.1.1 *Statutory and non-statutory Designations*

Great Chesterford: The surviving portions of the walled Roman town, the fort, the Romano-British temple and the area of the main Roman and Saxon cemeteries are Scheduled Ancient Monuments. The medieval and post-medieval settlement lies within the Conservation Area, with the exception of part of the curtilage of Manor Farm. In addition there are 68 Buildings Listed as being of Special Architectural or Historical Interest, one of which is Grade I, one is Grade II* and the remainder Grade II. The rural hinterland around Great Chesterford is designated a Special Landscape Area.

There are 273 non-designated assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record, these range in scale from cropmark complexes and Roman roads, down to individual finds spots. However a large proportion of the non-designated assets lie within, or relate to, the Designated assets.

Little Chesterford: There are 14 buildings or structures Listed as being of Special Architectural and Historical Interest, of these St Mary's Church is Grade I, The Manor is Grade II* and the remainder are Grade II. There are no Scheduled Monuments within the parish, however the Paddocks Wood Moated Site and the Moated site, fish-pond and enclosure at Bordeaux Farm are adjacent to the parish boundary on the east and west side respectively.

There are 70 non-designated assets recorded on the Historic Environment Record, these range in scale from cropmark complexes and Roman roads, down to individual finds spots. They are widely distributed across the parish.

4.1.2 *Heritage assets to be assessed*

- Roman fort, Roman town, Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Great Chesterford (Scheduled Monument 24871)

- Romano-Celtic temple 400m south of Dell's Farm, Great Chesterford (Scheduled Monument SM29399)
- Great Chesterford Conservation Area
- Church of All Saints, Great Chesterford, Listed Grade I (LB 1171461)
- The church and hall complex at Little Chesterford, which comprises The Manor, Listed Grade I (LB1231793), the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Listed Grade II* (LB 1277390) and the Dovecote to the north of The Manor, Listed Grade II (LB 1231794)
- Moated site, fishpond and enclosure at Bordeaux Farms, Littlebury (Scheduled Monument 20690). The monument is sited just within Littlebury parish boundary, however the modern Bordeaux farm is sited next to the road in Little Chesterford parish, and any development associated with the eastern side of Little Chesterford has the potential to impact on the setting of the Scheduled area.
- Moated site in Paddock Wood 560m north-east of Chesterford Park, Saffron Walden (Scheduled Monument 20688). The monument is sited just within the Saffron Walden parish boundary, however any development associated with the western side of Little Chesterford parish has the potential to impact on the setting of the Scheduled area.

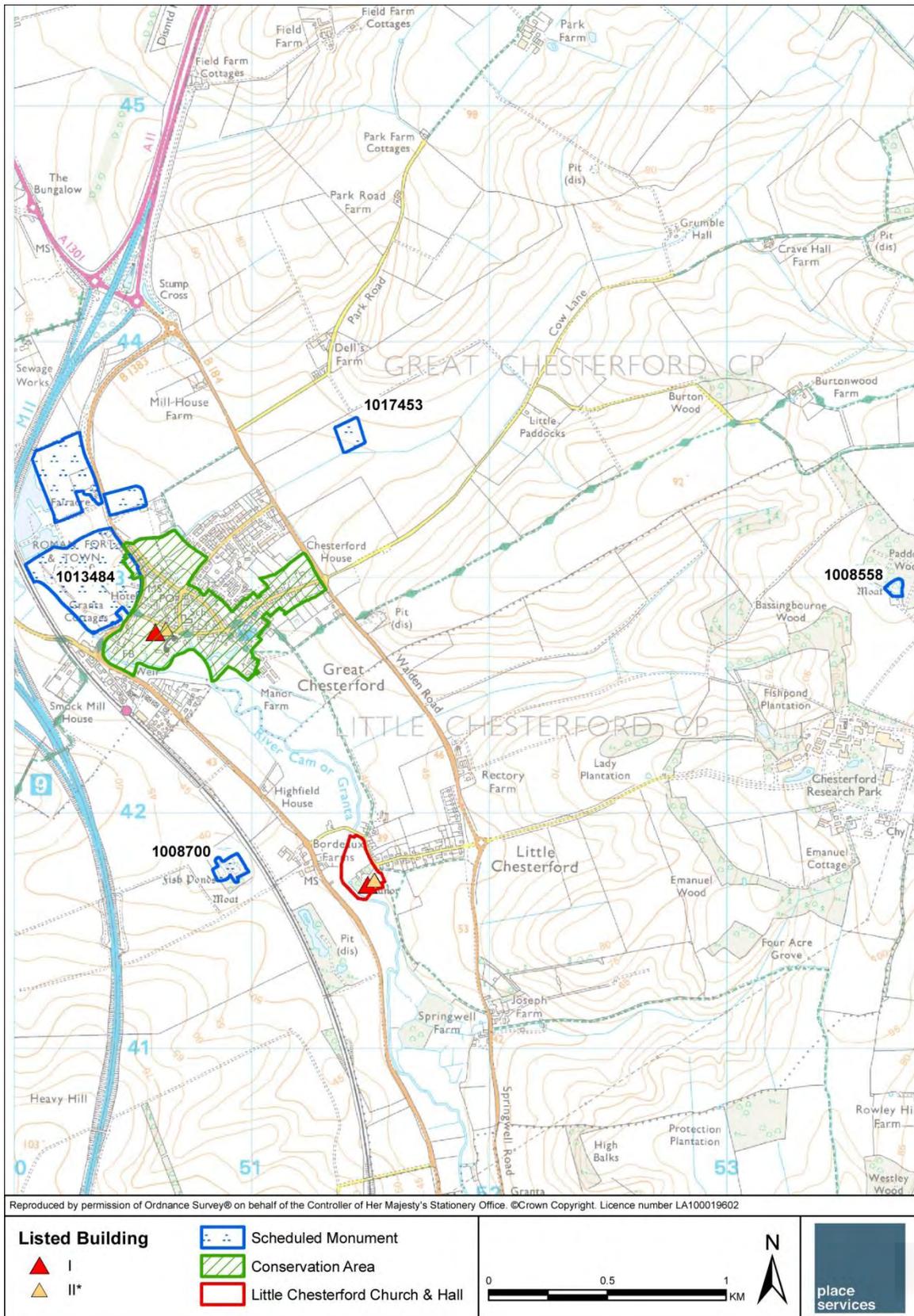


Fig. 4 Heritage assets to be assessed

4.2 ASSESSING SIGNIFICANCE AND SETTING

An assessment of significance explains what matters, why and to whom. It includes a description of those features that matter and an appraisal of why they are important. This provides the essential information needed to determine what management a site requires and what features of the site are most worthy of interpretation.

Principle 3.2 of English Heritage's 2008 *Conservation Principles* states: "*The significance of a place embraces all the diverse cultural and natural heritage values that people associate with it, or which prompt them to respond to it. These values tend to grow in strength and complexity over time, as understanding deepens and people's perceptions of a place evolve*".

Understanding the significance of the heritage assets within Great and Little Chesterford and the values that contribute to them, including their relative weight, are fundamental to the conservation planning process, and is vital when considering approaches to management interventions, since it may not be possible to sustain all the values equally.

English Heritage's *Conservation Principles* identifies four primary categories of heritage values:-

- Evidential value
- Historical value
- Aesthetic value
- Communal value

Historic England have provided advice on *The Setting of Heritage Assets, Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning: 3*. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) makes it clear that the setting of a heritage asset is the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral (NPPF glossary).

The contribution of setting to the significance of a heritage asset is often expressed by reference to views, a purely visual impression of an asset or place which can be static or dynamic, including a variety of views of, across, or including that asset, and views of the surroundings from or through the asset, and may intersect with, and incorporate the settings of numerous heritage assets.

4.3 ROMAN FORT, ROMAN TOWN, ROMAN AND ANGLO-SAXON CEMETERIES AT GREAT CHESTERFORD (Scheduled Monument 24871)

The starting point for this stage of the assessment is to consider the significance of the heritage asset itself.

4.3.1 *Evidential Value*

The monument includes an early Roman fort which was superseded on the same site by a small Roman town, two cemeteries of Roman date and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. The monument is protected within three separate areas, divided by a rectangular quarry across the central part of the site and by Newmarket Road at its eastern end. Although the Roman and Anglo-Saxon archaeology has been reduced to ground level by millennia of agricultural activity, the below-ground survival is known to be good, albeit with some plough damage and metal-detector disturbance. The line of the town wall can be traced as a slight earthwork and as a soil-mark along the town's western edge. The areas of the former Roman town and the Saxon cemetery not included in the Scheduled Area have been completely destroyed by post-medieval and modern quarrying, although due to landscape restoration visually this has little impact on the modern understanding of the site.

Waterlogged deposits can be expected to be localised in nature, being confined to the river and stream valleys and in deeper features such as wells and very deep pits. The soil-type of gravel and alluvial deposits and the underlying geology of chalk is conducive to the preservation of bone and shell. It is known that the ceramics, metalwork, building materials and glass are also preserved.

There has been extensive archaeological study of the Great Chesterford Scheduled site since its discovery in 1719, including numerous excavations, aerial photography and a geophysical survey. These have been collated and published (Medlycott 2011).

4.3.2 *Historical Value*

The Roman fort and town and Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries of Great Chesterford are of national importance archaeologically and historically (see Appendix 1 for Scheduled Monument description).

The Roman town is one of only two walled towns in Essex, the other being Colchester, and probably played a significant role in regional administrative and defensive affairs. Included in the scheduling is the extra-mural cemetery to the north. A substantial Early Saxon cemetery was sited to the north-west of the Roman town. In 1953-5 rescue excavation recorded 161 inhumations, 33 cremations, two horse and two dog burials. Evison (1994) defined four phases in the cemeteries usage, spanning the period 450-600. The cemeteries are of particular interest in that they span the Roman and Anglo-Saxon periods, and have the potential to address national questions relating to population movements.

The significance of the Roman town is however not confined to the Scheduled area, as the town included areas of extra-mural settlement to the south (which largely falls within the Conservation Area), including a second rectangular walled enclosure on the site of the later church, and cemeteries which ringed the Scheduled area. In

addition the Scheduled Romano-Celtic temple, which is intimately linked to the history and development of the town, is located 1km to the east of the town on the site of the preceding Late Iron Age shrine.

4.3.3 *Aesthetic Value*

The Scheduled area is largely under arable agriculture, with the remainder comprising the gardens and houses of the properties that front on to the Newmarket Road. As a consequence, there is little visible evidence for the Roman town at ground-level, except for where the modern Newmarket Road echoes the former line of the eastern and southern town walls and a faint soil-mark marking the line of the western town wall. However, from the air cropmarks of the principal roads leading into the town, the line of the town walls and a number of structures within the town can be identified. Material relating to the Roman settlement, particularly ceramic building materials (brick and tile) and pottery sherds can be easily picked up from the topsoil of the Scheduled area, and there is widespread re-use of Roman building materials in the walls of the post-medieval structures on Newmarket Road.

There are views into the town area from Newmarket Road, and more fleeting ones from the M11/A11 and the train. The town area is also visible from the higher ground around the site, most notably from the site of the Roman temple and the Icknield Way.

4.3.4 *Communal Value*

The site is Scheduled, is therefore, nationally important. There is no formal access to the Scheduled Area, however it can be viewed from a number of locations on Newmarket Road. The properties that front on to the Newmarket Road both lie within the Scheduled Area and have wide views into the remainder of the site. There is some understanding of the importance of the monument within the local community and there is a Local History and Archaeology Society. A monograph summarizing the archaeological history of the town was published in 2011 (Medlycott 2011). The finds from the excavations are on display at the British Museum, the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and Saffron Walden Museum. There is the potential to provide explanatory notice boards to further inform the local community.

4.4 ROMANO-CELTIC TEMPLE 400M SOUTH OF DELL'S FARM, GREAT CHESTERFORD (Scheduled Monument SM29399)

4.4.1 *Evidential Value*

The substantial Romano-British temple complex is located within an arable field on the broad sloping hillside on the east side of the River Cam, 1km to the east of the Scheduled Roman town. The central temple building was excavated in 1847. The re-excavation of the temple in 1978 provided far greater details of the date and evolution of the structure, it included re-excavation of the temple, revealing a

preceding Late Iron Age shrine, as well as excavation both within and without the temple precinct. The scheduled area comprises the entirety of the precinct and its interior features, but not the structures outside.

The Late Iron Age shrine and Roman temple has been reduced to ground level by millennia of agricultural activity, however the below-ground survival is known to be good, albeit with some plough damage. Previous archaeological excavation in the mid-19th century and the 1980s (Miller 1995, Medlycott 2011) will also have caused a degree of disturbance, largely focused on the temple itself and the south-western corner of the precinct.

Waterlogged deposits can be expected to be localised in nature, being confined to the stream valley and in deeper features such as wells and very deep pits. The soil-types of chalky boulder clay and the underlying geology of chalk are conducive to the preservation of bone and shell. It is known that the ceramics, metalwork, building materials and glass are also preserved.

4.4.2 *Historical Value*

The Romano-Celtic temple site is of national importance archaeologically and historically (see Appendix 1 for Scheduled Monument description). They were built to meet the spiritual needs of the communities they served by venerating the god or spirit considered to dwell in a particular place. The temple building was regarded as the treasure house of its deity and priests rather than as a congregational building and any religious activities, including private worship, communal gatherings, sanctuary and healing, took place outside. Romano-Celtic temples included the temple building and a surrounding sacred precinct or temenos. The temple building invariably faced due east and was the focus of the site.

Romano-Celtic temples were built and used throughout the Roman period from the mid first century AD to the late fourth/early fifth century AD. About 150 sites have been recorded in England. In view of their rarity and their importance in contributing to the complete picture of Roman religious practice, including its continuity from Iron Age practice, all Romano-Celtic temples with surviving archaeological potential are considered to be of national importance.

4.4.3 *Aesthetic Value*

The Scheduled area is entirely under arable agriculture. As a consequence, there is little visible evidence for the temple at ground-level. However, from the air cropmarks show the line of the precinct enclosure. There are views into the temple area from the site of the Roman town, as well as from the farm tracks linking Park Road and Cow Lane and the Icknield Way. The temple has wide views in all directions, of which the most significant are those looking east (the direction in which Romano-British temples faced) and those looking west towards the Roman town.

4.4.4 *Communal Value*

The site is Scheduled, and has therefore been identified as being of significance to the nation as a whole. There is no formal access to the Scheduled area, however it

is easily viewed from a farm track that can be accessed from Park Road. Some of the modern inhabitants of Great Chesterford are aware that the village had a significant Roman and Anglo-Saxon past, and there is a Local History and Archaeology Society, although further work is needed on the provision of explanatory notice-boards. A monograph summarizing the archaeological history of the town was published in 2011 (Medlycott 2011). The finds from the excavations are on display at the Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology and Saffron Walden Museum.

4.5 GREAT CHESTERFORD CONSERVATION AREA

4.5.1 *Evidential Value*

The Great Chesterford Conservation Area comprises the majority of the historic village, it includes the whole of Carmen Street, Carmel Street, School Street, Church Street, South Street, High Street and Manor Lane.

There are about 70 individually listed buildings in Great Chesterford, 66 of which are in the designated Conservation Area. They comprise the Grade I Parish Church, the Grade II* Old Vicarage, with the remainder being Grade II Listed. The majority of these (over 75%) are timber-framed and plastered. Of these, about 50%, are from the 17/18th centuries. Most have tiled roofs whilst a small proportion are thatched. The earlier surviving structures are principally concentrated in the centre of the historic core around School Street, Carmel Street, the southern part of High Street and Manor Lane. Other timber-framed properties constructed later in the 19th century are to be found along roads on the periphery of the historic core at locations such the northwest stretch of High Street. Additionally there are a smaller number of brick built listed buildings, also from the 19th century, where slate roofs are the norm. A significant architectural feature of the village is the use of boundary walls, many of which are constructed of flint panels supported by brick piers and capping. The Conservation Area has numerous trees, mostly located in private gardens, but making a notable contribution to the overall impression of the Conservation Area. Many of these are protected by Tree Preservation Orders.

4.5.2 *Historical Value*

Following the Conquest Great Chesterford became a royal manor, with its occupants holding right of copyhold. The settlement was reasonably prosperous during the medieval period, largely due to the cloth trade. Great Chesterford is of interest as an example of an Essex settlement (apparently more of a village than a town in nature) that has developed according to the Midlands tradition, both in morphology and in building-types. The layout of the tofts within the town is also Midlands in origin, with the main dwellings set back from the road. It is probable that the large formerly 'open' area in the centre was a village green. Whilst the timber-framing is like that of 'standard Essex framing', there are local characteristics belonging to Cambridgeshire and Hertfordshire styles. In addition to timber-framing the village is also notable for the excellence of its flint-walling. The older buildings were set back

from the road, possibly there was a yard in front, and the sixteenth century extensions were built at the front, between the old house and the road. There are good examples of this highly unusual arrangement at The Gables, Carmel Street; Marigold Cottage, School Street; Old Maltings, School Street and The White House, High Street.

4.5.3 *Aesthetic Value*

The Conservation Area is visually cohesive as the bulk of a historic nucleated settlement. Its range of listed timber-framed and plastered buildings dating from the 16th century in the historic core of the village make a particularly important contribution to the environment. Quality buildings from later periods provide diversity of architectural types, principally being from the 19th century. Throughout the historic core significant areas of open space and extensive tree cover enhance the high qualities of individual buildings of importance and the overall quality of the Conservation Area generally. Distinctive boundary walls of considerable visual merit and historic importance frequently link buildings and open space to provide overall cohesion. These walls are an essential component of the village's cultural heritage. The Conservation Area appraisal identified a significant number of unlisted buildings that are architecturally, visually and historically important.

There is a significant view from the public green over the River Cam into the open countryside beyond. To a lesser degree the view into the same green from South Street, is also important. The church tower dominates the street scene in the centre of the village and there are many important views of it from vantage points within this area, particularly along Church Street. The view over the grounds of Bishop's House from the southern boundary of the churchyard is also particularly fine.

There is a significant view from a gap between listed buildings at the southern end of Carmen Street where the tower of the church is important in the middle distance. The second important view can be appreciated looking over the paddock with park like characteristics from Jackson's Lane, whilst the third is appreciated from Carmen Street looking west across the gently undulating paddock.

4.5.4 *Communal Value*

The Conservation Area covers slightly more than half of the entire modern village extent, and the majority of the historic medieval and post-medieval settlement in the parish. Great Chesterford is a vibrant community with a primary school, a couple of pubs and a shop. There is a diverse range of local organisations. These include an active parish council, local societies, including a history and archaeology group and a gardening society, church organisations, youth clubs, Scouts, Brownies and Rainbow Guides, sports and health clubs, a Women's Institute, a Workers' Educational Association and others. There is a well-appointed community centre (not in the Conservation Area). The Conservation Area forms the heart of this community, including many of the homes of the inhabitants, as well as the majority of the public buildings and public open spaces.

4.6 CHURCH OF ALL SAINTS, GREAT CHESTERFORD, (Listed Grade I, LB1171461)

4.6.1 *Evidential Value*

The Parish Church of All Saints is Listed for its architectural and historic value as grade I. The church is located on the south-west side of the medieval town, and it is presumed that there was an early medieval or late Saxon church on the site before the present church was built. It is of flint rubble construction with stone dressings. The chancel is of early or mid-thirteenth century date, in the mid-late thirteenth century the nave and aisles were added and probably a west tower. The church tower fell in 1790, but was rebuilt two years later. The church was restored in 1842 and again in 1891.

In addition to the above-ground structures there are known archaeological deposits within the churchyard.

4.6.2 *Historical Value*

The churchyard occupies part of the site of what appears to have been a second Roman walled enclosure located to the south of the Roman walled town. Excavations in the area of the churchyard in the 1850s and 1980s identified a series of pits and deep shafts, containing an unusual collection of objects, including the entirety of a smith's workshop. It has been tentatively suggested that the area may have formed a precinct to a religious structure (Medlycott 2011). It has also been suggested that the cruciform plan of the parish church is indicative of its origin as a Saxon minster (Rodwell, 1980). This hypothesis remains to be tested. There is a possibility therefore that the location of the church has been used as a site of worship for two millennia. The current church is 13th century in origin and is typical of Essex parish churches.

4.6.3 *Aesthetic Value*

The church forms the central focal point of a group of listed buildings away from the village centre, it is the only grade I listing in the village. All Saints' Church is of 13th century origin with later alterations and heavily 'restored' in the 19th century, having earlier had its fallen tower rebuilt in 1792. The tower forms a notable landmark within the village itself although in wider views looking into the village from the surrounding higher ground it is largely subsumed within the churchyard tree canopy. The churchyard trees make a valuable contribution to the overall tree-scape of the village.

4.6.4 *Communal Value*

The church has played a significant spiritual and social role in the history of Great Chesterford certainly since the 13th century, and probably since the late Saxon period. There also appears to have been a pre-Christian religious dimension to the site. The churchyard is the last resting place for many of the past inhabitants of the parish. There is a weekly service in the church, as well as weddings, funerals and baptisms.

4.7 THE CHURCH AND HALL COMPLEX AT LITTLE CHESTERFORD (comprises The Manor, Listed Grade I, LB1231793; the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Listed Grade II*,LB 1277390; the Dovecote to the north of The Manor, Listed Grade II, LB 1231794

4.7.1 *Evidential Value*

The Manor is listed for its architectural and historic value as grade I. It is a rare example of an early domestic building, originally built as an early 13th century manor house (c.1200), which was partly rebuilt and altered in the 14th and 16th centuries. Built on a half H-shaped plan with gabled cross wings at the north-east and south-west ends projecting on the north-west side. It is largely timber-framed and rendered, with a tiled roof. The north-east wing, which has thick stone walls and a heavy timber floor, was the kitchen wing of the original early 13th century manor. Associated with the manor is the farmyard, of which the Dovecote is listed grade II. This is a 17-18th century timber-framed and weather-boarded building with a tiled gambrel roof. It is renovated and no longer used as a dovecote.

The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin is located to the east of The Manor, it is listed as Grade II*. It is a small church with an undivided nave and chancel. The earliest details is date to the 13th century, the chancel was rebuilt in the 14th century and the north porch was added in the 15th century. The church was much restored in the 19th century and the vestry and the bellcote were added. There are some early C13 lancet windows in the nave. The interior fittings include an important monument of James Walsingham (died 1728) with a life size toga-clad figure. The churchyard has had its gravestones moved to the boundary wall.

There are slight earthworks in the area to the north of the parish church and hall complex. Aerial photographs show a hollow way with ditches running off it at right angles down to the river Cam. The site of former barns relating to the Manor is also visible as earthworks. The 1875 map shows a second earthwork, possibly a hollow-way running along the western boundary of the churchyard, this appears to run from the High Street down to the meadow beside the river.

In addition to the earthworks, it is probable that there are below-ground surviving archaeological deposits associated with the church and hall complex. The soil-type is alluvial deposits and is conducive to the preservation of bone and shell, as well as other artefact types. Waterlogged deposits are possible close to the river, and in deeper features such as wells and cess-pits.

4.7.2 *Historical Value*

The church and hall complex is typical of rural Essex, and is a product of the establishment of the parochial system in the 13th century. However, the conjunction of the parish church and the manorial centre, is in turn a reflection of the previous late Saxon manorial church system. Little Chesterford is of particular interest in that

The Manor is an exceptional survival of an early 13th century domestic building, and the church also had its origins in the 13th century, both structures are still in use for their initial purpose.

4.7.3 *Aesthetic Value*

The church and hall complex form an attractive group of historic buildings at the western end of Little Chesterford High Street. Despite the presence of the M11 and the railway on the other side of the valley, the setting is overwhelmingly rural in feel. There are notable groups of mature trees, and it is these that are most visible from a distance looking into the historic settlement. The church is publically accessible and has views from it into the Manor, and itself is viewed from the High Street and London Road.

4.7.4 *Communal Value*

The Manor and its accompanying dovecote and St Mary's Church are all Listed and have therefore been identified as being of significance to the nation as a whole. The church and hall complex has played a significant spiritual and social role in the history of Little Chesterford certainly since the 13th century. Regular services are held in the church.

4.8 MOATED SITE, FISHPOND AND ENCLOSURE AT BORDEAUX FARMS, LITTLEBURY (Scheduled Monument 20690)

4.8.1 *Evidential Value*

This is a rectangular moated site with a fishpond and an associated enclosure situated on the floodplain of the River Cam, 600m west of Little Chesterford church. The moated site measures 56m SW-NE by 60m SE-NW and has arms which average 14m in width by 1.6m in depth. The northern arm remains waterlogged. Joining the northern arm of the moat and connected by a small channel is a fishpond, no longer waterfilled, which measures 30m east-west by 25m north-south and is about 1.6m deep. Further ditches adjacent to the site to the north and south represent later drainage ditches. The area was once used for the cultivation of watercress.

In addition to the surviving earthworks, below-ground features and deposits relating to the origins and development of the site can be anticipated to survive. The ditches will contain environmental evidence pertaining to the economy of the site and the contemporary landscape in which it is located. The soil-type of chalk is conducive to the preservation of bone and shell. It is known that the ceramics, metalwork, building materials and glass are also preserved.

4.8.2 *Historical Value*

The Bordeaux Farm moated site is of national importance archaeologically and historically (see Appendix 1 for Scheduled Monument description). Around 6,000

moated sites are known in England, with over 900 recorded in Essex. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. The majority of moated sites served as prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between about 1250 and 1350 and by far the greatest concentration lies in central and eastern parts of England. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside.

4.8.3 *Aesthetic Value*

Viewed from outside the Bordeaux Farm moated site is under trees, with vegetation largely obscuring the earthworks (these will be clearer in winter). It forms a leafy backdrop to the 19th and 20th century Bordeaux Farm farm-buildings as viewed from London Road, Little Chesterford.

4.8.4 *Communal Value*

The site is Scheduled, and has therefore been identified as being of significance to the nation as a whole. There is no formal access to the Scheduled Area, however it can be seen from London Road where it forms the backdrop to the modern Bordeaux Farm, as well as from the train.

4.9 MOATED SITE IN PADDOCK WOOD 560M NORTH-EAST OF CHESTERFORD PARK, SAFFRON WALDEN (Scheduled Monument 20688)

4.9.1 *Evidential Value*

The monument is defined by an irregular shaped moat (68m east-west by 64m north-south). The arms are partly waterlogged and are 8m wide and 1.5m in depth. A central ditch 6m wide part bisects the island and is thought to be a later feature on the site. The Domesday Book indicates that the surrounding lands were within the manor of Manhall, but it is thought that until c1600 the manor house was located 2.75km south-west of the moat. In 1257 Richard, Earl of Gloucester, was granted a licence to build a castle on his land at Manhall. From 1970 to 1977 excavations were carried out by the Chesterford Park Archaeological Society in order to investigate the theory that the castle was built on this site. A crude stone wall was uncovered along with some metalwork finds including a knife blade with a silver damascene initial and pottery dating from the 13th or 14th centuries.

In addition to the surviving earthworks, below-ground features and deposits relating to the origins and development of the site can be anticipated to survive. The ditches will contain environmental evidence pertaining to the economy of the site and the contemporary landscape in which it is located. The soil-type of chalk is conducive to the preservation of bone and shell. It is known that the ceramics, metalwork, building materials and glass are also preserved.

4.9.2 Historical Value

The Paddock Wood moated site is of national importance archaeologically and historically (see Appendix 1 for Scheduled Monument description). Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England, with over 900 recorded in Essex. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. The majority of moated sites served as prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between about 1250 and 1350 and by far the greatest concentration lies in central and eastern parts of England. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside.

4.9.3 Aesthetic Value

The Paddock Wood moated site is relatively isolated. Located on the western edge of paddock Wood, it is largely under trees, with vegetation obscuring the earthworks (these will be clearer in winter). As a consequence visually it blends in with the wood. North Park Cottage is located adjacent to the site, between the moat and the access track. There are long distance views to Paddock Wood (the earthworks are behind North Park Cottage) from the entrance to the Chesterford Research Park. There are reciprocal views from Paddock Wood to the Research Park, where the majority of the Research Park buildings are hidden by the enclosing woodland belts. The electricity pylons and wires form an intrusive modern element to the immediate scene. The area between the Research Park and Paddock Wood is now down to arable agriculture and little remains of its original parkland appearance.

4.9.4 Communal Value

The site is Scheduled, and has therefore been identified as being of significance to the nation as a whole. There is no formal access to the Scheduled Area, although there are tracks leading to Paddock Wood and within the wood.

5. ASSESSING TO WHAT DEGREE THEIR SETTINGS MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HERITAGE

The significance of each of the identified designated heritage assets is recognised in statutory terms through their designation. However, as an aid to decision-making it is important to analyse each of the heritage assets significance in more detail, and in the case of the proposed development, particularly the contribution that setting makes to their significance, in line with *National Planning Policy Framework* (paragraph 128-129).

Historic England's advice note on setting includes a '(non-exhaustive) check-list of potential attributes of a setting that may help to elucidate its contribution to significance'. As the advice note states, 'only a limited selection of the attributes listed is likely to be particularly important in terms of any single asset.'

The Historic England advice note identifies the fact that heritage assets, such as landscapes, can include many heritage assets and their nested and overlapping settings, as well as having a setting of their own. A Conservation Area that includes the settings of a number of listed buildings will also have its own setting, as will the village or urban area in which it is situated.

In order to reduce repetition, the assessment of the settings of the identified heritage assets will be considered together where appropriate. Those attributes listed by Historic England's advice note on setting that are pertinent to the significance of the heritage assets. For the purposes of the Neighbourhood Plan the assessment is quite broad brush in nature, in the event of a specific planning application further assessment would be required from the applicant in order to establish the potential impacts of any development on the setting of the heritage asset.

5.1 THE ASSET'S PHYSICAL SURROUNDINGS

5.1.1 *Topography*

Overall the landscape of the Chesterford is one of gentle undulations and curves, with no steep gradations and wide views in all directions. The overall trend of slope is downwards from the east to the flat valley floor of the winding River Cam.

The Roman town, fort and cemeteries are located in the valley floor of the River Cam, at a historic crossing-point of the river. The Great Chesterford Conservation Area, which includes All Saints' Church, is also located on the valley floor, immediately to the south of the older settlement. Approximately a kilometer to the south is the Little Chesterford church and hall complex, also sited on the valley floor, and again at a historic crossing-point. The Bordeaux Farm moated site is located on the western side of the valley, just where the valley sides start to gently rise. The Roman temple is sited on the northern slope of a shallow east-west valley, formed by a small tributary of the River Cam. The stream links the temple site and the Roman town site, which it bisects. The Paddock Wood moated site is located on one of the highest points of the area at the top of the valley slope, reflecting its historic defensive role. The local topography makes a **major positive** contribution to the setting of the heritage assets, whose siting is in part determined by the topography.

5.1.2 *Other heritage assets (including buildings, structures, landscapes, areas or archaeological remains)*

In Great Chesterford the location of the Roman town at a nodal point of a network of historic routeways has influenced the setting of the other heritage assets in the

immediate vicinity. The scheduled site represents the focus of what was a wider area of Roman urban activity, which included extra-mural settlement and cemeteries.

A kilometre to the east of the town is the Roman temple, which forms an integral part of the Roman town setting (and vice versa). The temple and town are linked by the stream and formally by a track, and are intervisible. The Roman temple makes a **major positive** contribution to the setting and significance of the scheduled Roman town, and vice versa.

There are numerous Late Iron Age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon sites in the wider Chesterfords' area, all of which are represented by below-ground features and deposits which have the potential to make a **minor positive** to **moderate positive** contribution to the setting and significance of the Scheduled town and temple.

The medieval and post-medieval settlement, designated as the Great Chesterford Conservation Area, is located to the south of its predecessor, in an area of former Roman extra-mural settlement. The impact of the Roman town on the morphology of its successor is most evident in the curve of Newmarket Road, which echoes the former line of the Roman walls (Fig. 1), as well as the locations of Carmel Street and the High Street which follow Roman road routes. The Scheduled Roman town makes a **major positive** contribution to the setting and significance of Great Chesterford Conservation Area,

The overall relationship of the Conservation Area in turn provides the physical surroundings of the All Saints' Church and its historical and architectural setting. Equally the church makes an important contribution to the setting and significance of the Conservation Area. In addition the Church is located within what was once an important component of the Roman town, the Second Walled Enclosure. All Saints' Church makes a **major positive** contribution to the setting and significance of Great Chesterford Conservation Area, and vice versa.

The Little Chesterford church and hall complex is located at the south-western corner of the historic settlement of Little Chesterford, which provides the physical surroundings of the church and hall complex and its historical and architectural setting, and vice versa. The historic settlement thus makes a **major positive** contribution to the setting and significance of the church and hall complex. There is evidence for Late Saxon and medieval occupation in the area, all of which are represented by below-ground features and deposits which have the potential to make a **minor positive** to **moderate positive** contribution to the setting and significance of church and hall complex.

Bordeaux Farm moated site is located to the rear of the current Bordeaux Farm, which includes a grade II Listed 17-18th century farmhouse, demonstrating a continuity of occupation and use of the farm since the medieval period. The current farm complex thus makes a **major positive** contribution to the setting and significance of the moated site.

The immediate setting of the Paddocks Wood moated site is the wood itself and the site of the Little Chesterford Park, now partially occupied by the Research Park. The park and woodland makes a **moderate positive** contribution to the setting and significance of the moated site.

5.1.3 *Land use, greenspace, trees and vegetation*

The largely rural setting of both of the scheduled Roman monuments and of the Great Chesterford Conservation Area reflects the original setting of these assets. The M11/A11 and the railway to the west form a more modern land-use, these however follow the lines of historic routeways. The rural setting makes a **major positive** contribution to the scheduled temple and a **moderate contribution** to the scheduled town and Conservation Area.

The historic core of Great Chesterford contains many mature trees, either as groups or as individual specimens, not least in the churchyard surrounding the All Saints' Church. These make a **major positive** contribution to the setting and significance of the Conservation Area and the church.

Little Chesterford church and hall complex is notable for its collection of mature trees and the open space beside the river, both of which make a **major positive** contribution to the historic asset, as does the largely rural setting.

Both moated sites, at Paddock Wood and Bordeaux farms occupy a largely rural setting, reflecting their original land-use, this makes a **major positive** contribution to the historic assets.

5.1.4 *Functional relationships and communications*

There is a relationship between the Scheduled Roman temple and the Roman town (both the designated areas and the undesignated areas). These were contemporaneous and inter-linked, both in a tangible way by track and stream, and because the temple would have formed a spiritual focus for the town's inhabitants, as evidenced by the extensive evidence for votive deposits at the temple. The temple site and the town site are inter-visible, and would have been more so in the past when the white building of the temple would have been more conspicuous and the town walls would have provided a higher viewing-platform. This relationship makes a **major positive** contribution to both monuments.

There is also the relationship between the Scheduled area and the areas of undesignated archaeology that make up the remainder of the Roman town, this includes the western cemetery and south-western cemetery areas, the extra-mural settlement to the south-east and south-west and the Second Walled Enclosure underneath the church and Bishops House. These areas make a **moderate to major contribution** to the Scheduled Roman sites.

An equivalent functional and spiritual relationship exists between the Great Chesterford Conservation Area and the All Saints' Church, and The Manor and St Mary's Church at Little Chesterford. St Mary's Church would also have provided a spiritual and social focus for the inhabitants of both of the Scheduled moated sites. These relationships make a reciprocal **major positive** contribution to each other.

5.1.5 *Integrity*

The scheduled Roman town, fort and cemeteries comprise 3 separate parts, separated by the Newmarket Road and an area of former quarrying. However, the quarrying has been landscaped and is currently under arable agriculture, as is the remainder of the scheduled area, and the Newmarket Road echoes the line of the town walls, meaning that the site on the ground can still be read as a single entity. Nothing above ground survives, however it is known that there are extensive surviving below-ground features and deposits that relate to the history and development of the scheduled monument, both within and outside the scheduled area. The wider landscape still remains largely rural in nature, with the present Great Chesterford echoing the location of the Roman extra-mural settlement and the M11/A11 and the railway largely following the historic Roman routeways into Cambridgeshire. To the east of the town is the temple, still located within an entirely rural landscape, looking eastwards to the sunrise and westwards to the town. . The integrity of the setting makes a **moderate to major positive** contribution to the setting and significance of the heritage assets.

Great Chesterford Conservation Area and All Saint's Church have remained essentially unchanged for hundreds of years. Its early street layout which incorporates parts of the previous Roman landscape as well as the medieval 'Midlands tradition' remains intact to this day. The wider setting of the Conservation Area and the All Saints' Church also remains largely intact, including the River Cam and its meadow-pasture, historic lanes such as Park Road and Cow Lane, and the open countryside beyond. The integrity of the setting makes a **moderate to major positive** contribution to the setting and significance of the heritage assets.

The Little Chesterford church and hall complex has also remained essentially unchanged since the 13th century. Here too the wider setting of the group also remains largely intact, including the River Cam and its meadow-pasture, the historic settlement of Little Chesterford, and the open countryside beyond. The integrity of the setting makes a **major positive** contribution to the setting and significance of the heritage assets.

The integrity of the immediate setting of the Bordeaux Farm moated site has been slightly compromised by the railway, which separates it from the current Bordeaux Farm. Otherwise the wider rural setting remains intact. The integrity of the setting makes a **moderate positive** contribution to the setting and significance of the heritage assets.

5.1.6 *Associative relationships between heritage assets*

There is a relationship between the Scheduled Roman town and the Scheduled Roman temple. These were contemporaneous and inter-linked, both in a tangible way in that the principal eastern road from the town led to the north-eastern corner entrance of the temple, and because the temple would have formed a spiritual focus for the town's inhabitants, as demonstrated by the extensive evidence for votive deposits at the temple. These relationships make a reciprocal **major positive** contribution to each other.

There is also the relationship between the Scheduled area and the areas of undesignated archaeology that make up the remainder of the Roman town, this includes the western cemetery and south-western cemetery areas, the extra-mural settlement to the south-east and south-west and the Second Walled Enclosure underneath the church and Bishop's House. These relationships make a **moderate** to **major positive** contribution to each other.

Within the Great Chesterford Conservation Area there are 66 listed buildings, a number of which have particular associations with each other and with All Saints' Church, as well as with the Conservation Area itself. The historical associations between the Listed Buildings, the church and the wider Conservation Area are fundamental to each of their significance. They make a **major positive** contribution to the setting and significance of the Conservation Area and All Saints' Church.

The historic settlement of Little Chesterford and its 10 listed buildings, which include the historic bridge over the Cam, is important to the setting and significance of the church and hall complex, as the parish church and lord of the manor for the majority of the inhabitants. Together they make a major contribution to the setting of the church and hall complex. The church makes a **minor positive** contribution to the setting and significance of the two scheduled moated sites, whose inhabitants would also have been parishioners, due to their associative relationship.

5.1.7 *History and degree of change over time*

The setting of Great Chesterford has evolved very gradually, and in piece-meal fashion over two millennia, with each successive phase being influenced by its predecessor. Historically, the setting of the settlements, both Roman and medieval, was gently undulating, farmed countryside comprising agricultural fields, set within hedged and ditched field boundaries interspersed with occasional small areas of woodland; this remains as the Conservation Area's extended setting today. The continuous usage of the Scheduled town for settlement and burial spanned a period of some 750 years, and three different archaeological periods. The setting of the Roman town and its medieval successor is also significant. This is most obvious when examining the morphology of the medieval settlement, which avoids impinging on the Roman walled area, most notably where Newmarket Road carefully echoes the line of the Roman walls.

The medieval settlement evolved from a historic core located on the site of the former extra-mural settlement, with the Roman road to Radwinter (Carmel Street/High Street) forming the eastern side, the Newmarket Road and the still standing Roman walls the northern limit and the church and river to the east. As the village grew during the later medieval and post medieval periods, this triangular form was reinforced as the traditional settlement pattern.

Since the mid-20th century there has been some new development, encroaching onto agricultural land, particularly on the eastern side of the village and more piecemeal development to the south and west. This 20th century development has made a **moderate negative** contribution to the setting and significance of the Great Chesterford Conservation Area and All Saints' Church by distancing them from their extended rural setting of open countryside. On the western and northern side of the settlement the railway and the M11/A11 largely follow historic routes, but effectively cut the settlement from its wider agricultural setting on the west and north and have made a **moderate negative** contribution to its setting.

5.2 EXPERIENCE OF THE ASSET

5.2.1 Views from, towards, through, across and including the assets

As set out in the Historic England guidance *The Setting of Heritage Assets*, the setting of a heritage asset is likely to include a variety of views that can be important contributors to understanding and appreciating an asset's significance. Important views can include those from, towards, through, across and including an asset. The visibility will be greatest during the winter when the deciduous trees no longer bear their leaves.

Significant identifiable views have been identified by this study, there are however numerous others that could have a role to play in assessing the impact of any individual development on the setting of the heritage assets, so this list should not be considered as definitive.

View (1) from the Icknield Way to the Great Chesterford Conservation Area and the Scheduled Roman town

This panoramic view (1) encompasses the Great Chesterford Conservation Area, the Scheduled Roman town and its surrounding countryside. The view makes a major positive contribution to the ability to experience and appreciate the setting and significance of the Conservation Area and the scheduled monument. The view contributes to understanding: the historic development of the settlement; the topographical position of the Roman and medieval settlements, their physical and historical relationship to each other, the role of trees in the setting of the Conservation Area, and the rural agricultural character of each of the assets wider countryside setting.

View (2) from the northern edge of Little Chesterford to Great Chesterford Conservation Area

This view (2) makes a major positive contribution to the ability to experience and appreciate the setting and significance of the Great Chesterford Conservation Area, from Little Chesterford including: the topographical position of the historic settlement in relation to the valley of the River Cam; the relationship of the church tower to the surrounding trees and Conservation Area, the role trees play in defining the character and appearance of the Conservation Area and the rural agricultural character of the Conservation Area's wider countryside setting, including the spacing between the two historic settlements.

View (3) from the farm track at north-western corner of the Scheduled Roman temple towards the Scheduled Roman town

This view (3) makes a major positive contribution to the ability to experience and appreciate the setting and significance of the relationship between the Scheduled Roman temple and the Scheduled Roman town including: the topographical position of the temple in relation to the Roman town; the relationship of the Roman town to the Conservation Area and the rural agricultural character of the temple's wider countryside setting, including the spacing between the two Roman sites.

View (3) from the farm track at north-western corner of the Scheduled Roman temple towards the Scheduled Roman town

This view (3) makes a major positive contribution to the ability to experience and appreciate the setting and significance of the relationship between the Scheduled Roman temple and the Scheduled Roman town including: the topographical position of the temple in relation to the Roman town; the relationship of Roman town to the Conservation Area and the rural agricultural character of the temple's wider countryside setting, including the spacing between the two Roman sites.

View (4 and 5) from the footpath behind the Bowling-Green towards the Scheduled Roman temple

These views (4 and 5) are from footpath on the eastern side of the Roman fort looking eastwards to the site of the Roman temple and westwards towards the Roman fort and town. They make a major positive contribution to the ability to experience and appreciate the setting and significance of the relationship between the Scheduled Roman fort and the Scheduled Roman temple, as well as the topographical position of the temple and the fort, and the rural agricultural character of the temple's wider countryside setting, including the spacing between the two Roman sites.

Views (6 and 7) from Cow Lane towards the Scheduled Roman temple and the Roman town

These two views (6 and 7) were taken from the same location on Cow Lane looking northwards to the temple site and north-westwards to the Roman town. They make

a major positive contribution to the ability to experience and appreciate the setting and significance of the relationship between the Roman temple and the town, as well as their relative topographical position and the rural agricultural character of the monuments' wider countryside setting.

Views (8-11) from Newmarket Road into the Scheduled Roman town

These four views (8-11) were taken from various points along Newmarket Road into the Roman town. Newmarket Road follows the former line of the Roman town walls and the views approximate to the location of roads that led into the town. Newmarket Road itself forms part of the Great Chesterford Conservation Area. The views make a major positive contribution to the ability to experience and appreciate the scale of the Scheduled town, as well as their relative topographical position and the rural agricultural character of the monuments' wider countryside setting.

Views (12-13) at Horse River Green

The views (12-13) into and out of Horse River Green have been identified as significant in the Conservation Area Appraisal for their role in linking the historic settlement to the wider countryside and to the river. They make major positive contribution to the ability to experience and appreciate the topographical position and the rural agricultural character of the Conservation Area's wider countryside setting.

Views (14, 21-23) relating to the Church

There are good views (14) from the churchyard of All Saints' Church into the grounds of Bishop's House, which forms a leafy backdrop to the church. Both the church and Bishop's House form important components of the Conservation Area. There are views of the church from the entrance of the churchyard on Church Road (21) and from the northern part of the churchyard looking towards the building. The views make a major positive contribution to the immediate setting of the All Saints' Church, as does the church and churchyard in relation to the Conservation Area. There is a further more distant view (23) from Carmen Street across the school field to the church which makes a moderate positive contribution to understanding the relationship of the church to the Conservation Area and vice versa.

View (15) from junction of Church St and Newmarket Road to the church

This view (15) is from the edge of the Conservation Area at the Newmarket Road/Church Street junction into the Conservation Area. There are good views of All Saints Church and of the impressive flint wall boundary to the churchyard. Both church and wall form important components of the Conservation Area. The views make a major positive contribution to the immediate setting of All Saints' Church, as does the church and churchyard wall in relation to the Conservation Area.

Views (15-20) from the edges of the Conservation Area inwards

Views (15-20) are from the outskirts of the Conservation Area looking into the Conservation Area. These include the view from Newmarket Road to the church

(15), London Road to the Cam and the King's Mill complex (16), the view down Carmen Street (17) and the view from Carmen Street out into the paddocks (18), the view along Newmarket Road (19) along the former line of the Roman town-walls, and down the High Street (20). These views illustrate both the impact of the Roman town on the later settlement, the visual impact of the church, the range of historic buildings present, the flint walls that are such a distinctive feature of the village and the role that the immediate rural setting and trees play in establishing the character of the Conservation Area. The views make a moderate to major positive contribution to the Conservation Area.

Views (24-26) relating to the hall and church complex at Little Chesterford

These views of the hall and church complex at Little Chesterford comprise a view from the High Street into the churchyard (24), one from the churchyard into The Manor (25) and a longer view from close to the historic bridge across the open area by the river to the former farmyard of The Manor. The views demonstrate the physical proximity and inter-relationship between St Mary's Church and The Manor and the historic settlement, as well as the significant role that open spaces, trees and the river plays. The views make a major positive contribution to the immediate setting of St Mary's Church and The Manor complex.

View (27) of Bordeaux Farm from London Road

This view (27) of Bordeaux Farm from London Road shows the current farm in the foreground with the Scheduled Monument forming the wooded backdrop, as well as some of the wider rural setting. The railway line separates the two phases of Bordeaux Farm, which are linked by a level crossing, but does not make a strong visual impact on the immediate setting. The views make a major positive contribution to the understanding of the development of Bordeaux Farm.

View (28) of Paddock Wood from Chesterford Research Park

This view (28) of Paddock Wood from Chesterford Research shows the wider setting of the woodland and open farmland (formerly Little Chesterford Park) that forms the wider rural setting of the Scheduled Monument. The Monument itself is largely out of sight behind North Park Cottage. However this view does demonstrate the prominent position in the landscape that this defensive site occupies. The view make a major positive contribution to the understanding of the setting of the monument.

5.2.2 *The rarity of comparable survivals of setting*

The Scheduled Roman sites are unusual in that their original rural setting has largely been preserved. In the case of the temple there is no development of any sort within the immediate vicinity and the linking views down to the Roman town are largely unimpeded, which adds to the importance and integrity of their setting. The town has been encroached on by a degree of historic and modern building, but this echoes the line of the former town walls, and the modern village is on the site of the

Roman extra-mural settlement, whilst the wider setting is one of a rural landscape. For many other Roman towns (as in Colchester and Cambridge) the town has been subsumed within ongoing urban development and the link with their immediate rural hinterland is no longer explicit, as it is at Great Chesterford.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Preserve the intervisibility of the Roman town and temple

The Scheduled Monuments of the Roman temple and the Roman town are linked both functionally and visually. The visible link between these two monuments is a major component in the understanding of the inter-dependence of the monuments and forms an integral part of the setting of the two monuments. The area including the bowls club, allotments and adjacent fields between the monuments should be protected from development.

2. Temple area

The temple was originally set within an open rural landscape, visible from the town and other view-points within the wider landscape. This open aspect should be retained to ensure that the setting of this monument is preserved.

3. Development along Newmarket Road

Those buildings already constructed along Newmarket Road are largely on the line of the former Roman town wall. There are significant views from Newmarket Road into the area of the Roman town and these should not be blocked. If development does take place in other areas along the road it should be restricted to the road frontage in order to avoid further encroachment into the Roman town.

4. Intervisibility and spacing between Great and Little Chesterford

At present there is a distinct open area, comprising fields, between the two historic settlements, reflective of their different origins and histories. The development on the southern edge of Great Chesterford is beginning to erode this separation. Any further erosion of this open space should be resisted to ensure the historic settlements retain their distinct identity.

5. Great Chesterford Conservation area

The Great Chesterford Conservation Area Appraisal <http://www.uttlesford.gov.uk/caa> provides detailed recommendations relating to the management of the Conservation Area covering buildings, boundary treatments, trees and landscape. These should be followed when new development or change is proposed that will impact on the Conservation Area or its setting.

6. Retention of open areas within Great Chesterford

A number of open spaces were identified as being significant in relation to the understanding and appearance of the Great Chesterford Conservation Area. These included Horse River Green, the churchyard, the grounds of Bishop's House, the school field in the centre of the town and the paddocks to the east of Carmen Street. Development should be avoided in these areas.

7. Open Space in Little Chesterford

The open space around the church and hall and the views along the river from the historic bridge southwards towards The Manor and northwards to Great Chesterford should be preserved with no development.

8. Infill development within Little Chesterford

Future infill-development within Little Chesterford should respect the nature of the present historic buildings and should be designed to reflect the historic architecture and layout, both in terms of design as well as boundary treatment.

9. Bordeaux Farm

The setting of the Bordeaux Farm Scheduled site directly relates to the modern Bordeaux Farm and the immediate rural landscape. Development that does not relate directly to the agricultural role of the farm should be avoided in this areas.

10. Promotion of the historic environment of The Chesterford

There is clear potential for the historic environment of the Chesterfords to be promoted to the occupants of the villages as well as to visitors. Currently there are no displays or information boards within the settlements explaining the long and nationally significant history of the area.

7. BIBLIOGRAPHY

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APPENDIX 1: Scheduled Monument descriptions

Name: Roman fort, Roman town, Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Great Chesterford

Type: Scheduled Monument

Status: Active

Preferred Ref: 1013484

Legal Description

The monument includes an early Roman fort which was superseded on the same site by a small Roman town, two cemeteries of Roman date and an Anglo-Saxon cemetery. It is located just to the south of the Essex- Cambridgeshire border on a terrace above the east bank of the River Cam. The monument is protected within three separate areas, divided by a rectangular quarry across the central part of the site and by Newmarket Road at its eastern end.

All of the elements of the monument survive as buried features and deposits with no upstanding masonry remains. However, the line of the town wall can be traced as an earthwork along the town's western edge. A fort was originally constructed on the site in the first century AD. This was superseded by a town (which was itself later walled), the north part of which overlay the main body of the fort. Cemeteries associated with the occupation of the town lie to the west and north. The history and layout of the site are known through field observations, from cropmarks and partial excavations.

The earliest Roman feature at the site is the fort. The majority of this lies beneath the northern part of the walled Roman town protected in the northern part of the southern area. The fort covered a rectangular area approximately 350m ENE-WSW by 310m with an additional annexe on the north part of the east side which measured c.150m by 75m. Both fort and north eastern annexe are enclosed by a single ditch c.4m wide and c.1.8m deep which survives as a buried feature. An earthen rampart was originally constructed on the inside of the ditch. The fort is believed to have been constructed following the Boudican revolt of AD60. In the second half of the first century AD, during the reign of Nero, the ramparts were pushed back into the ditch, deliberately backfilling it. The deposits and features within the fort enclosures include more ephemeral remains of the short-lived military camp which is believed to have been occupied for only 20 or 30 years from its initial construction.

The fort was followed on the site by the Roman town. A masonry wall, which was still visible in the mid-18th century, enclosed a polygonal area of approximately 14.5ha lying approximately north west-south east, its northern half overlapping the site of the earlier fort. Within the walls is a dense concentration of buried features and deposits which includes wall foundations and floors of both public and private buildings, roads, open spaces, rubbish disposal areas and industrial areas. Small scale partial excavation was first undertaken in 1847 by Neville who recovered large quantities of pottery and coins. In 1948-9 further partial excavation noted the remains of timber framed structures dating to the second century. These buildings were superseded by masonry structures in the fourth century, at which date the town wall was also constructed. Also within the enclosed area are three roads, visible as cropmarks on aerial photographs and as surface scatters of construction material,

which meet in the centre of the town. The entrance gates through which these roads ran are to the east, west and north. Also evident as a cropmark on aerial photographs is a large circular feature approximately 30m in diameter on the western side of the interior of the enclosed area. It is believed that this indicates the location of an amphitheatre.

Since the desertion of the Roman town, probably some time during the fifth century, the walls have subsequently been robbed for building material and hard core. During the 18th and 19th centuries the walls were quarried particularly for road mending. No remains of the wall survive above ground although parts have been found in several excavations along the eastern edge of the town, as buried foundations and lower courses. Elsewhere the line of the wall is indicated by a robbed-out foundation trench. At the northern end of the town the line of the wall can be traced as a surface scatter of flint within the ploughsoil.

A cemetery dating to the fourth century was partly excavated in 1856 between the western town wall and the River Cam; its remains are protected in the southern area. Twenty adult inhumations were recovered, along with 83 Roman coins. A second cemetery was partially excavated by Neville in 1859. These burials were located approximately 200 yards to the north of the enclosed town. A total of over 100 burials were recovered at this time including both inhumations and cremations. On the western edge of this area, which had been identified by Neville as a Roman cemetery, a mix of Roman and Anglo-Saxon burials were excavated in the 1950's. A total of 160 inhumation and 33 cremation burials were located on the eastern edge of the quarry which lies to the north west of the walled town. This northern burial area is believed to extend to the east at least as far as Newmarket Road, as further burials were recovered from the areas of 19th century quarrying adjacent to the road. Although the excavated burials on the northern side of the town are confined to the eastern and western edges of the northern area, it is believed that further burials are located right across the field in between. Burials have also been located inside the enclosed area of the town. Three human skeletons and two horse burials were found in 1971 in the garden of Crown Cottages in the south eastern corner of the Roman town. In 1967 two other burials had been located 73m further to the south west. These burials, within the town, are believed to be Anglo-Saxon in date.

Excluded from the scheduling are all modern buildings (including 'Fairacre') and structures, gravel, paving and tarmac surfaces, fencing and fence-posts, although the ground beneath these features is included.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Roman forts served as permanent bases for auxiliary units of the Roman Army. In outline they were straight sided rectangular enclosures with rounded corners, defined by a single rampart of turf, puddled clay or earth with one or more outer ditches. Some forts had separately defended, subsidiary enclosures or annexes, allowing additional storage space or for the accommodation of troops and convoys in transit. Although built and used throughout the Roman period, the majority of forts were constructed between the mid first and mid second centuries AD. Some were only used for short periods of time but others were occupied for extended periods on a more or less permanent basis. In the earlier forts, timber was used for gateways, towers and breastworks. From the beginning of the second century AD there was a gradual replacement of timber with stone. Roman forts are rare nationally and are extremely rare south of the Severn Trent line. As one of a small group of Roman

military monuments, which are important in representing army strategy and therefore government policy, forts are of particular significance to our understanding of the period. All Roman forts with surviving archaeological potential are considered to be nationally important. The Roman fort at Great Chesterford is one of the rare examples in the south east of England and is one of only four in Essex. Partial excavation has confirmed the survival in good condition of the defensive ditch and interior features below the later Roman town. The establishment of this town (which is the only town in Essex of this date to have been provided with a wall apart from Colchester) on the site of the early fort is itself a matter of great interest, and will illustrate the continuity between military and civilian rule in the Roman period. Large areas of the town survive undamaged by later development, which is now a rare feature as many Roman towns have undergone continuous settlement up to the present day. The town exhibits a great diversity of features illustrating, for example, a development from timber to masonry buildings and the construction of a defensive wall during the troubled period towards the end of the Roman period in Britain. The survival of the cemeteries in close association with the town will allow the study of the individuals who occupied the fort and settled in the town, giving direct evidence of diet and disease as well as other demographic information. The Saxon cemeteries which followed on from the Roman ones, are of great importance in their own right and offer important insights into the continued settlement and status of the site in the immediate post Roman period.

The different elements of Roman occupation and settlement and the later Saxon remains at Great Chesterford all combine to offer a unique insight into the social, political, military and religious life during the first seven hundred years AD in this part of south east England.

SCHEDULING HISTORY

Records show that the monument was originally scheduled on 3rd November 1951 as:

COUNTY/NUMBER: Essex 74

NAME: Roman site

Monument's inclusion in the Schedule was confirmed on 9th October 1981.

Monument included as:

COUNTY/NUMBER: Essex 74

NAME: Roman site

The reference of this monument is now:

NATIONAL MONUMENT NUMBER: 24871

NAME: Roman fort, Roman town, Roman and Anglo-Saxon cemeteries at Great Chesterford

SCHEDULING REVISED ON 01st November 1995

NGR: TL 5033 4299 (point)

Name: Romano-Celtic temple 400m south of Dell's Farm

Type: Scheduled Monument

Status: Active

Preferred Ref: 1017453

Legal Description

The monument includes the buried remains of a substantial Romano-British temple complex located within an arable field on the broad sloping hillside on the east side of the River Cam, 0.5km to the north east of the village of Great Chesterford. The site of the Iron Age settlement, Roman fort and market town for which Great Chesterford is widely known, lies about 1km to the west of the temple and is the subject of a separate scheduling. The central building was discovered in 1847 and excavated under the direction of the Hon R C Neville, later Lord Braybrooke of Audley End, who incorrectly interpreted the remains as part of a Roman villa. He exposed the foundations of a square cella (the inner sanctum of the temple) about 7m in width, surrounded by a narrow passageway, or ambulatory. The remains of two elaborate mosaic floors were found within this structure: a pattern of concentric circles surrounded by a square border in the cella, and an interlaced design within the ambulatory; illustrations of both were published in 1848.

The re-excavation of the temple in 1978 provided far greater details of the date and evolution of the structure. Evidence was found of a small Late Iron Age ditched enclosure and structure, similar in outline to the temple and probably a precursor to the Romanised building which was erected on the same spot in the period AD 60-70. The Romano-Celtic temple, with walls of mortared flint, internal plasterwork and tiled roof, remained in use throughout the later first and early second centuries, during which time a porch was added to the entrance. The building is thought to have been abandoned in the mid-second century and allowed to decay until major refurbishment took place after AD 270. In this final phase the porch was dismantled and replaced, the remaining walls strengthened (thereby reducing the floor space within the ambulatory), and the mosaics discovered in 1847 were laid. The restored structure remained in use until the late fourth century.

The temple is situated near the centre of a large enclosure, or temenos, which is slightly more rhombic than square in plan and measures approximately 100m in width. The results of limited excavations between 1983 and 1988 indicate that the enclosure boundary began with a palisade, perhaps in the Iron Age, which was subsequently replaced by a large ditch and ultimately superseded by a wall of mortared flint coursed with tile. Access was provided by an entranceway in the centre of the eastern arm where trackways of various periods led across a gap in the ditch and through two buttressed gateways or arches in the boundary wall. The foundations of a second building were found some 7.5m inside the precinct, situated directly between the entranceway and the temple. This building, also constructed in mortared flint, formed a narrow chamber with protruding doorways facing the temple at either end. The internal surface of the eastern wall had been rendered with painted plaster and evidence was found to suggest a plastered ceiling as well as a tiled roof. A small kiln or oven had been set into the flint and chalk floor towards the end of the building's life in the late third or fourth century, at which time similar features were built between the gateway and the temenos ditch. Pits and hollows of various sizes were found throughout the excavated areas, but a small excavation in the south western corner of the precinct revealed a distinct concentration of pits, some as much as 3m in depth, containing accumulations of ash, animal bone, oyster shells and pottery. These are thought to have been used for the disposal of waste from religious feasts which appear, from the evidence of animal remains, to have coincided with the culling of lambs in the spring and autumn. Other ritual activities are indicated by the large number of votive offerings including coins, brooches and other items of personal adornment, the majority of which were found in the area between the temple and the gateway. The single most spectacular object related to

the religious nature of the site is a silver mask with Celtic-type lentoid eyes and moustache, discovered during the 1978 excavations.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Romano-Celtic temples were built to meet the spiritual needs of the communities they served by venerating the god or spirit considered to dwell in a particular place. The temple building was regarded as the treasure house of its deity and priests rather than as a congregational building and any religious activities, including private worship, communal gatherings, sanctuary and healing, took place outside.

Romano-Celtic temples included the temple building and a surrounding sacred precinct or temenos which could be square, circular, rectangular or polygonal in ground plan. The temple building invariably faced due east and was the focus of the site, although it did not necessarily occupy the central position in the temenos. It comprised a cella, or inner temple chamber, an ambulatory or walkway around the cella, and sometimes annexes or antechambers. The buildings were constructed of a variety of materials, including stone, cob and timber, and walls were often plastered and painted both internally and externally. Some temenoi enclosed other buildings, often substantial and built in materials and styles similar to those of the temple; these are generally interpreted as priests' houses, shops or guest houses.

Romano-Celtic temples were built and used throughout the Roman period from the mid first century AD to the late fourth/early fifth century AD, with individual examples being used for relatively long periods of time. They were widespread throughout southern and eastern England, although there are no examples in the far south west and they are rare nationally with only about 150 sites recorded in England. In view of their rarity and their importance in contributing to the complete picture of Roman religious practice, including its continuity from Iron Age practice, all Romano-Celtic temples with surviving archaeological potential are considered to be of national importance.

Despite damage caused by prolonged ploughing, the Romano-Celtic temple complex 400m south of Dell Farm survives well. Limited archaeological investigations have clearly demonstrated both the size of the complex and the substantial and elaborate nature of its buildings and boundary walls. The resulting information provides a valuable insight into the ritual practices of the inhabitants of the adjacent Roman town at Great Chesterford, and indicates the considerable investment of individual or pooled resources required for its construction, itself a reflection of the particular significance of religion in Roman Britain. Although part of the site, including the central building, has been excavated, the greater part of the area within the temenos has not been explored.

Archaeological deposits within this area, including foundations, surfaces, pits and artefactual deposits will provide further information regarding the date and duration of the temple's use, the methods of construction employed and the nature of the ritual activity for which it was designed.

The evidence for ritual activity on the same site prior to the construction of the Romanised building is particularly significant. This may have provided a template for the later structure and suggests a strong continuity of expressed belief and of social organisation from the Late Iron Age into the Roman period.

Monument included in the Schedule 08th December 1997

NGR: TL 5141 4359 (point)

Name: Moated site, fishpond and enclosure at Bordeaux Farms

Type: Scheduled Monument

Status: Active

Preferred Ref: 1008700

Legal Description:

The monument includes a rectangular moated site with a fishpond and an associated enclosure situated on the floodplain of the River Cam, 600m west of Little Chesterford church. The moated site measures 56m SW-NE by 60m SE-NW and has arms which average 14m in width by 1.6m in depth. The northern arm remains waterlogged. A causeway 5m wide gives access to the island at its southern corner. 10m east, and on the same alignment as the moat, is an associated enclosure which measures 84m north-south by 62m east-west with ditches between 5m and 7.5m in width and a maximum of 0.5m in depth. The ditch forming the south-western side of the enclosure is extended approximately 20m south-eastwards, beyond its junction with the ditch forming the south-eastern side. Joining the northern arm of the moat and connected by a small channel is a fishpond, no longer waterfilled, which measures 30m east-west by 25m north-south and is about 1.6m deep. Further ditches adjacent to the site to the north and south represent later drainage ditches. The area was once used for the cultivation of watercress. The name Bordeaux is mentioned in 1307 and is considered to be connected with the family of Walter de Burdeaus.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. In some cases the islands were used for horticulture. The majority of moated sites served as prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between about 1250 and 1350 and by far the greatest concentration lies in central and eastern parts of England. However, moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, are widely scattered throughout England and exhibit a high level of diversity in their forms and sizes. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. Many examples provide conditions favourable to the survival of organic remains.

The moated site at Bordeaux Farms represents a complex type of moated site with an associated enclosure. It remains essentially undisturbed and as such will retain archaeological information relating to the occupation and development of the site, while the ditches will contain environmental evidence pertaining to the economy of the site and the contemporary landscape in which it is located.

Monument included in the Schedule 26th February 1993

Name: Moated site in Paddock Wood 560m north-east of Chesterford Park

Type: Scheduled Monument

Status: Active

Preferred Ref: 1008558

The monument includes a moated site situated in the south-west corner of Paddock Wood on a west-facing slope overlooking the River Cam, 560m north-east of Chesterford Park. It is defined by an irregular shaped moat and measures 68m east-west by 64m north-south. The arms are partly waterlogged and are 8m wide and 1.5m in depth. A central ditch 6m wide part bisects the island and is thought to be a later feature on the site. The Domesday Book indicates that the surrounding lands were within the manor of Manhall , but it is thought that until c1600 the manor house was located 2.75km south-west of the moat. In 1257 Richard, Earl of Gloucester, was granted a licence to build a castle on his land at Manhall. From 1970 to 1977 excavations were carried out by the Chesterford Park Archaeological Society in order to investigate the theory that the castle was built on this site. A crude stone wall was uncovered along with some metalwork finds including a knife blade with a silver damascene initial and pottery dating from the 13th or 14th centuries.

ASSESSMENT OF IMPORTANCE

Around 6,000 moated sites are known in England. They consist of wide ditches, often or seasonally water-filled, partly or completely enclosing one or more islands of dry ground on which stood domestic or religious buildings. In some cases the islands were used for horticulture. The majority of moated sites served as prestigious aristocratic and seigneurial residences with the provision of a moat intended as a status symbol rather than a practical military defence. The peak period during which moated sites were built was between about 1250 and 1350 and by far the greatest concentration lies in central and eastern parts of England. However, moated sites were built throughout the medieval period, are widely scattered throughout England and exhibit a high level of diversity in their forms and sizes. They form a significant class of medieval monument and are important for the understanding of the distribution of wealth and status in the countryside. Many examples provide conditions favourable to the survival of organic remains.

As confirmed by partial excavation, the moated site in Paddock Wood is well preserved and will retain further archaeological information relating to the occupation and development of the site as well as environmental evidence pertaining to the economy of its inhabitants and the landscape in which they lived.

Monument included in the Schedule 26th February 1993

NGR: TL 5370 4295 (point)

APPENDIX 2: Significant views

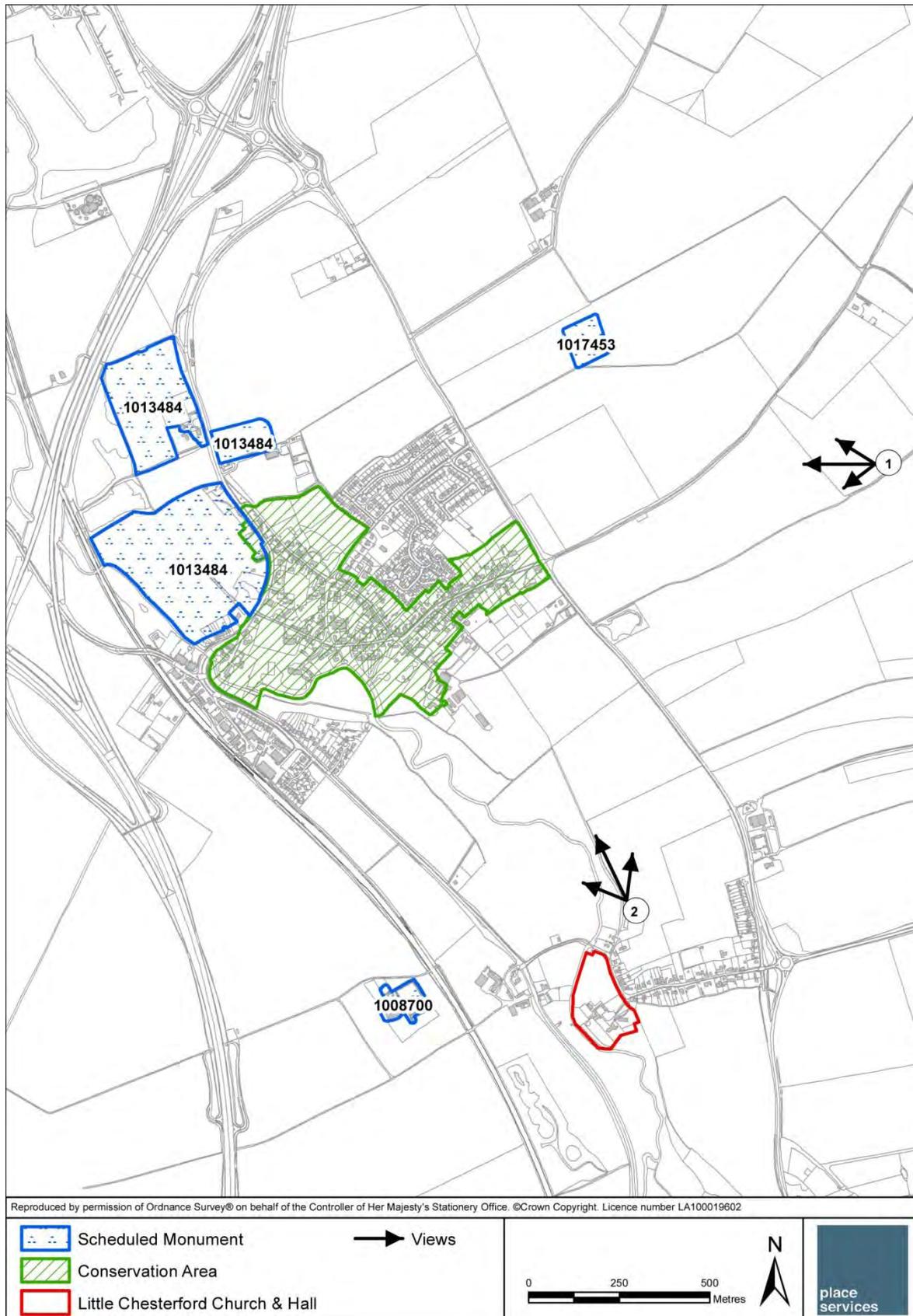


Fig. 5 Views towards Great Chesterford Conservation Area and Scheduled Monuments

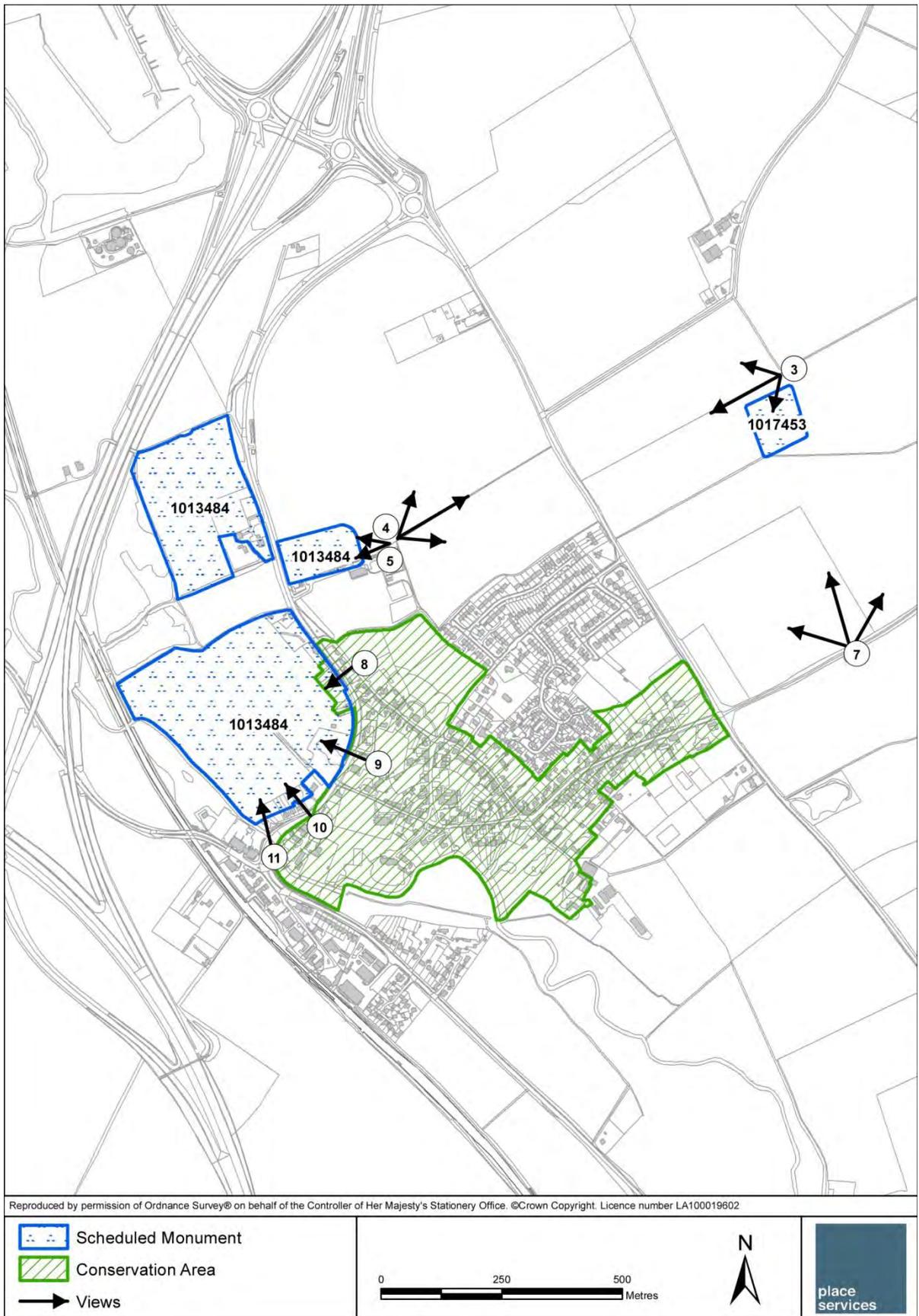


Fig. 6 Views between and towards the Scheduled areas

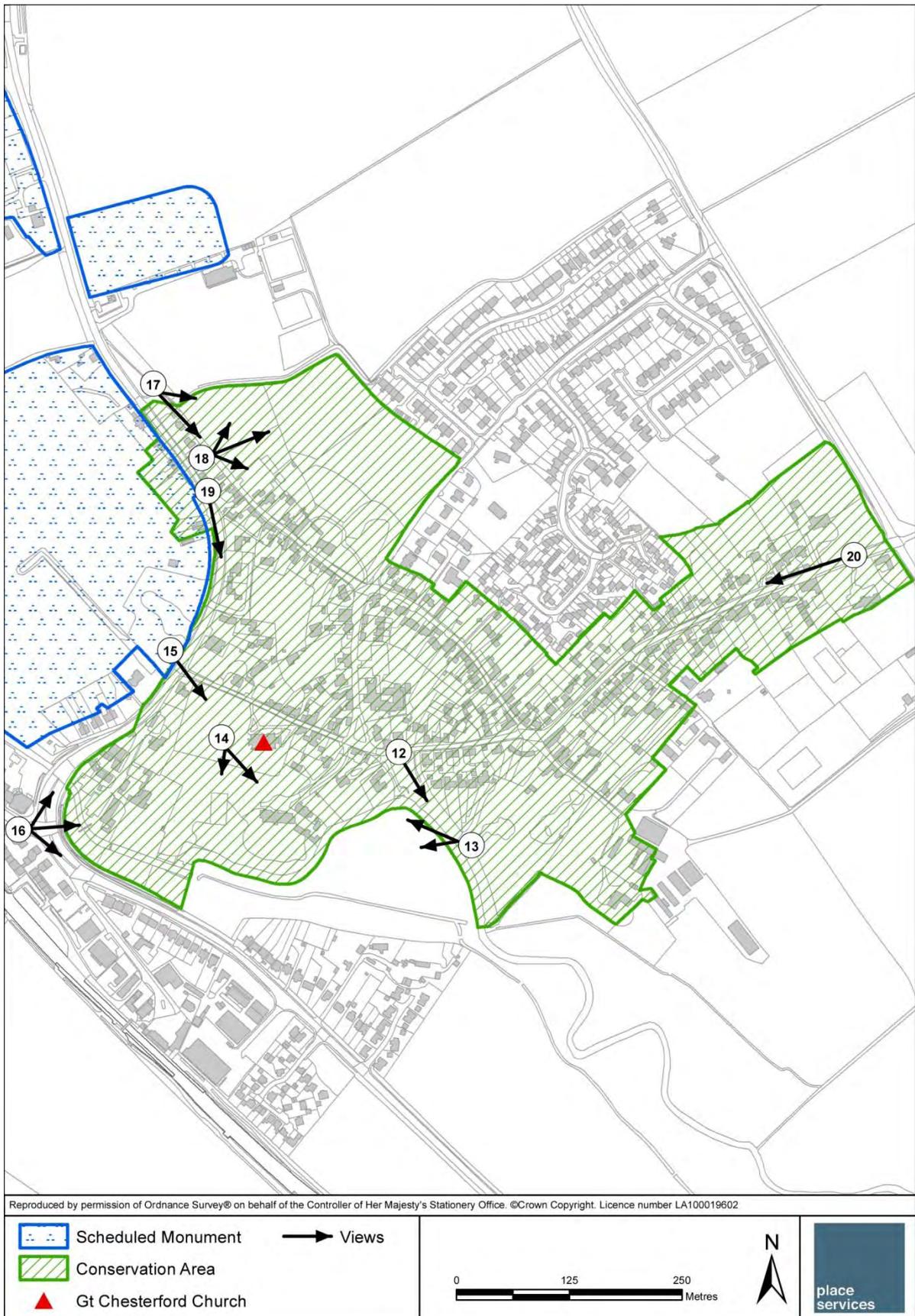


Fig. 7 Views relating to the Great Chesterford Conservation Area

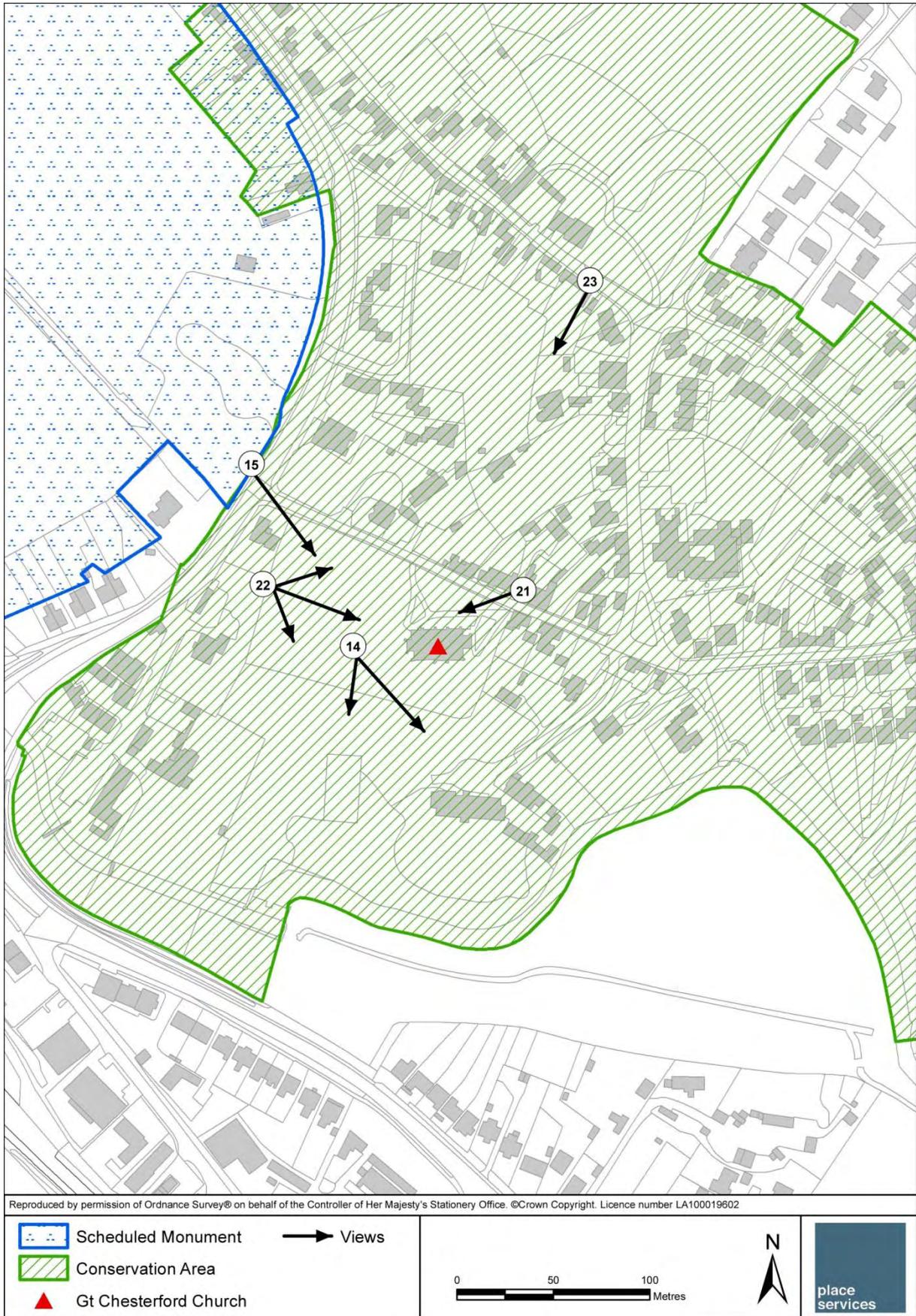
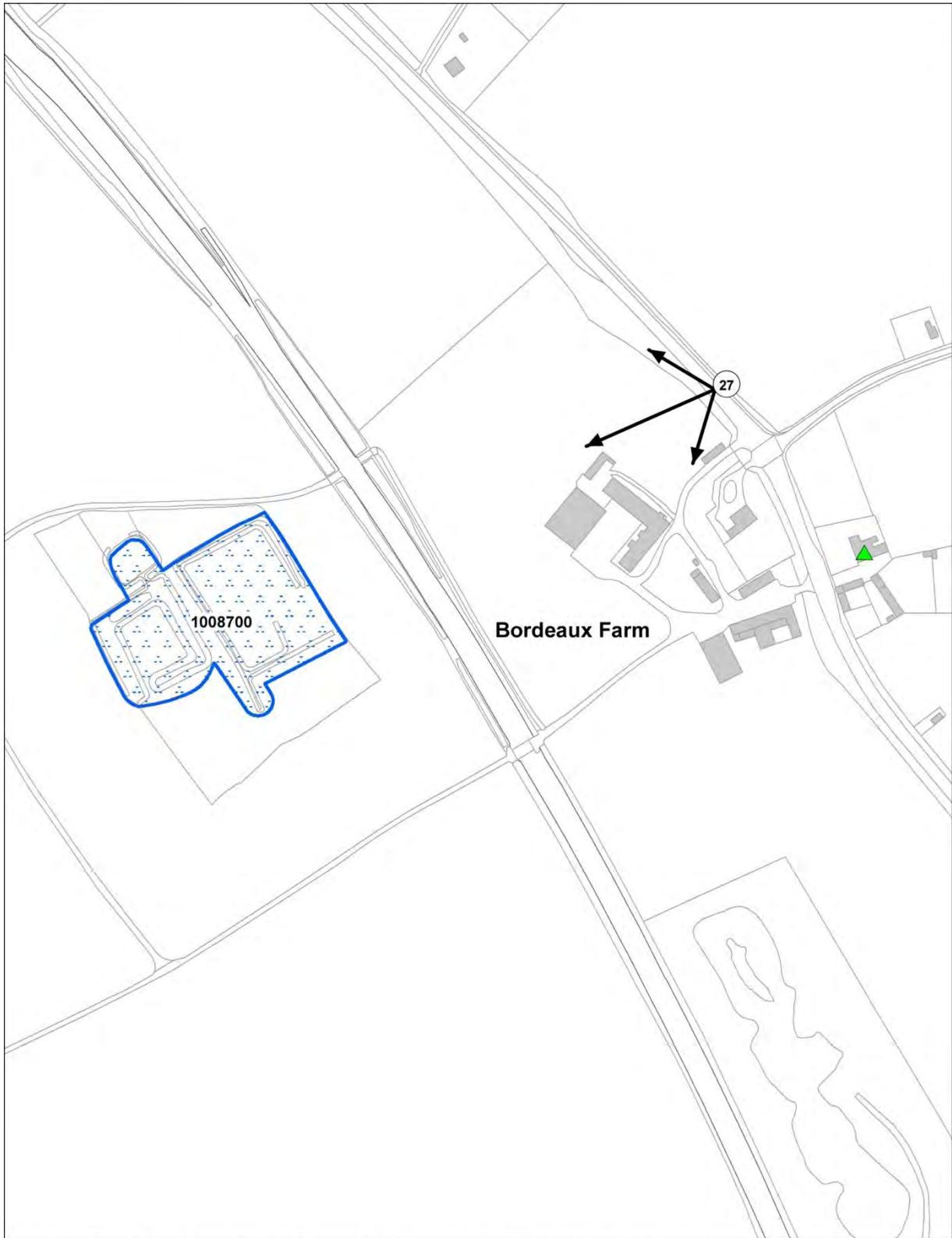


Fig. 8 Views relating to the Great Chesterford Conservation Area and All Saint's Church



Fig. 9 Views relating to the Church and hall complex at little Chesterford



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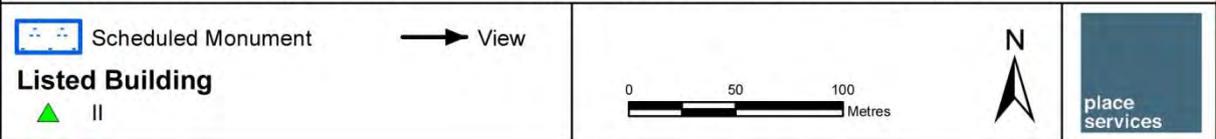


Fig. 10 Views from Little Chesterford to Bordeaux Farm Scheduled Area



View 1 View from the Icknield Way to the Scheduled Roman town and Great Chesterford Conservation Area



View 2 View from Little Chesterford looking towards Great Chesterford along the river valley



View 3 View from the farm track at the NW corner of the Scheduled temple towards the Scheduled Roman town (the open area behind the telegraph pole)



View 4 View from the footpath on the eastern edge of the Scheduled Roman fort looking eastwards to the temple site (in the slight valley behind the prominent tree in the far distance)



View 5 View from the footpath on the eastern edge of the Scheduled Roman fort looking westwards into the fort and the Roman town site behind it



View 6 View from Cow Lane across the Scheduled Roman temple site (in the middle distance) showing the open rural landscape setting



View 7 View from Cow Lane to the Scheduled Roman town(in the far distance) showing the open rural landscape setting



View 8 View from Newmarket Road into Scheduled Roman town



View 9 View from Newmarket Road into Scheduled Roman town



View 10 View from Newmarket Road into Scheduled Roman town



View 11 View from bridge across River Cam into Scheduled Roman town



View 12 View into Horse River Green towards the River Cam



View 13 View from Horse River Green looking north-west along the River Cam



View 14 View from All Saints' churchyard into Bishop's House grounds



View 15 View from junction of Newmarket Road and Church Road towards All Saints' Church



View 16 View from London Road into Great Chesterford Conservation Area and King's Mill



View 17 View from edge of the Conservation Area into Carmen Street



View 18 View from Carmen Street into the paddocks on the edge of the Conservation Area



View 19 View westwards along Newmarket Road showing the curve of the road as it echoes the Roman town walls



View 20 View down the High Street looking westwards



View 21 View from Church Street entrance to All Saints' Church



View 22 View from the churchyard towards All Saints' Church



View 23 View of All Saints' Church from Carmen Street across school field



View 24 View of St Mary's Church, Little Chesterford from the car-park



View 25 View from the churchyard of St Mary's Church to The Manor



View 26 View from the High Street close to the bridge looking southwards to The Manor



View 27 View across London Road, with the modern Bordeaux Farm in the middle distance and the Scheduled Bordeaux farm moated site behind



View 27 GoogleEarth Street View image from entrance to Chesterford Research park towards the Scheduled moated site at Paddock Wood

APPENDIX 3: Definition of the contribution made by setting to the significance of heritage assets

Table 1: Contribution of the element or attribute of the assets setting to the significance of the heritage asset, and/or the ability to appreciate the significance of the heritage asset.

Major positive contribution	The element or attribute of the assets setting makes a major positive contribution to the significance of the asset and/or the ability to appreciate/understand the significance of the asset
Moderate positive contribution	The element or attribute of the assets setting makes a moderate positive contribution to the significance of the asset and/or the ability to appreciate/understand the significance of the asset.
Minor positive contribution	The element or attribute of the assets setting makes a minor positive contribution to the significance of the asset and/or the ability to appreciate/understand the significance of the asset.
Neutral / uncertain contribution	The element or attribute of the assets setting makes a neutral contribution to the significance of an asset and/or the ability to appreciate/understand the significance of the asset, or its contribution to the significance of the asset is currently unknown.
Minor negative contribution	The element or attribute of the assets setting makes a minor negative contribution to the significance of an asset, and/or ability to appreciate/understand the significance of the asset.
Moderate Negative contribution	The element or attribute of the assets setting makes a moderate negative

	contribution to the significance of the asset and/or the ability to appreciate/understand the significance of the asset.
Major negative contribution	The element or attribute of the assets setting makes a major negative contribution to the significance of the asset and/or the ability to appreciate/understand the significance of the asset