

NAME Awbridge  
PARISH Awbridge  
HUNDRED King's Somborne  
DISTRICT Test Valley  
NGR SU 321242

GEOLOGY Bagshot sands with islands of Higher Terrace and Plateau gravels, surrounded by Pebble beds, London clay and Valley gravel.

SITE CONTEXT Upper Ratley is sited at 70m OD near the head of a small stream valley. Lower Ratley lies in the valley a little to the SE at 50m OD. The settlement near Stanbridge Earls lies on the S side of the junction between the small stream valley and the Test valley also at 50m OD. Generally the land around the settlements is undulating except to the E on the flood plain of the River Test.

PLAN TYPE & DESCRIPTION Irregular row.

The 'main' centre of Awbridge historically is the area of settlement to the NW of Stanbridge Earls School. The settlement consists of an untidy group of farms and cottages mainly strung out along the main road through the settlement but the plan appears to be verging on being an irregular agglomeration rather than a row. The principal group of buildings lies at the crest of the bank which slopes down to the NW.

The area of settlement where the SMR records 'Medieval village mentioned in Domesday Book' was practically void of settlement in the C19 with a few cottages within plots which suggest that they were taken in from road-side waste.

Two small hamlets, Upper and Lower Ratley each consisted of a few cottages strung along a lane.

An C18 map of Michelmersh also includes Awbridge and shows the Ratleys lying on the edge of an area of common. Was the main centre of Awbridge also originally on the edge of common land, becoming surrounded by fields as the inclosure of the common progressed?

#### AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

The area around the point where the main NW-SE road kinks at a junction with a lane from the SW was where the greatest concentration of buildings were in the C19 and, considering the position at the crest of the bank, this area would seem to have the highest potential for earlier settlement remains. Therefore it is covered by an AHAP. The building lines on either side of the road to the NW down to the stream are included in an AAP as settlement may have extended down slope.

Generally, this area is one with a more dispersed nature of settlement but further research is required to understand the processes involved in the development of medieval settlement in the landscape.

CHURCH & CHURCHYARD All Saints 1876 There was no medieval church on this site. Awbridge was in Michelmersh parish.

#### BUILDINGS

(Listed)

Barns Thatch Once 2 C17 extended C18 II  
Awbridge House C17 with additions of C18 II  
Awbridge Fm Hse Mid C18 with C19 wing II  
Redmans Cottage Mid C18 II  
Yew Tree Cottage C18 II  
Awbridge Danes House 1822-5 II\*  
Awbridge Danes Est Coach house, dovecote and wall 1822-5 II  
The Round House Once 2 early C19 II  
All Saints Church 1876 II

(Un-listed)

#### SMR DATA

4	32982448	Roman coin and pot
6	33772319	Med building mid C14
15	32602340	Med coin and pottery
36	32002420	Med village mentioned in Domesday Book
41	32002300	Awbridge Danes Regency park
51	31572368	Paleo flint tools (2)
62	32392342	Negative evidence
70	31872304	Dovecot C19

#### ADDITIONAL SITES/FEATURES

1	33182366	Site of cottage shown on Tithe map
2	32732308	Earthworks. Various boundaries and a possible lynchet in woodland near Lower Ratley

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES OS 1:2500 3223-3224, Tithe map 21M65/F7/157/2 (1841) (Michelmersh Tithe map); 63M48/6 (1774)

#### AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

#### BIBLIOGRAPHY

##### PRIMARY HISTORIC SOURCES

**Domesday** Hugh de Port. TRE Godwin from the King as 1 manor. Then and now it answered for 1.5 hides. Hugh acquired these two manors (Houghton and Awbridge) as 1 manor. Land for 4 pl. In lordship 1.5pl; 4 villagers with 3 pl; 23 slaves; meadow, 18 acres. Total value before 1066, later and now £4.

Bernard Pancevolt from the King. TRE Godwin from King Edward; he could go whither he would. Then it answered for 1 hide; now 1 virgate. Land for 2 pl. 2 villagers with 0.5 pl. Meadow, 7 acres; woodland at 2 pigs. Value before 1066 and later 60s; now 30s.

**Subsidy Rolls** Not recorded

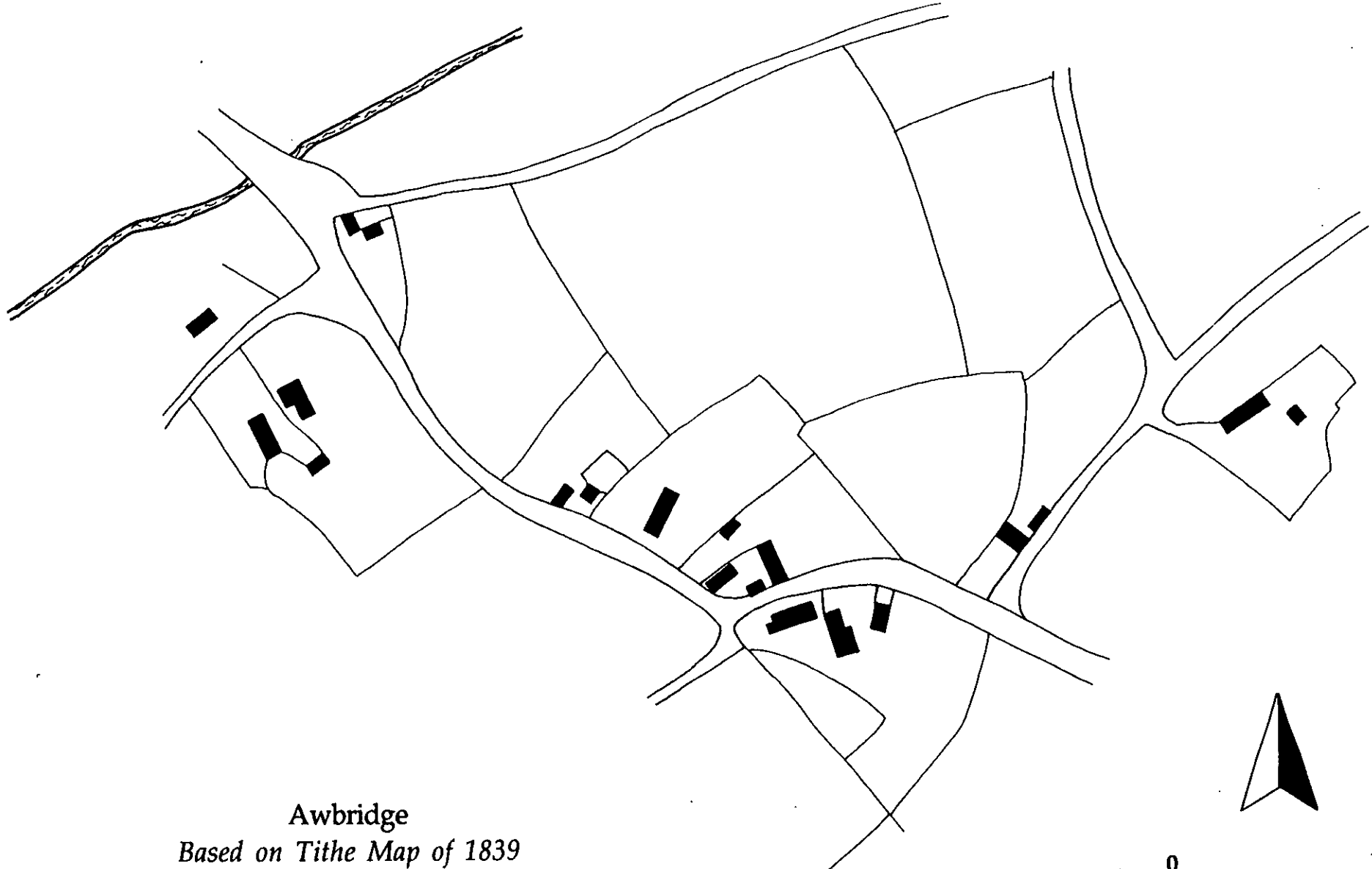
**Manorial Documents**

**Hearth Tax**

PLACE NAME 1086 *Abedric* OE *Abbodhrycg* 'ridge of the abbot' The manor belonged to St Peter's, Winchester.

PHOTOGRAPHS

OTHER PROJECT ARCHIVE ELEMENTS



Awbridge  
*Based on Tithe Map of 1839*

