

NAME Litchfield  
PARISH Litchfield and Woodcote  
HUNDRED Kingsclere  
DISTRICT Basingstoke and Deane  
NGR SU 461540  
GEOLOGY River gravels with a little on Upper Chalk.

**SITE CONTEXT** The settlement lies in a narrow, steep sided valley at 110m OD. To the W and the E the land rises to 170m OD. The W side of the village has been restricted by the C19 railway and now by the dual carriageway of the A34.

**PLAN TYPE & DESCRIPTION** Irregular row

The village lies along a N-S road. The church in 1737 was the most N building of the settlement with a large farm building adjoining the E boundary. A large house and associated outbuildings lie on the W side of the road and are probably the fore-runner of the present day Litchfield Farm. On the W side of the road is a short row of four houses with a building sited in a larger plot. S of this plot are the supposed remains of the DMV. The only other building shown is Litchfield Manor.

Along the N side of the road to the E there are earthworks, some of which may be settlement related.

Historic records suggest that Litchfield was never a large village and the possibility that some of the smallholders recorded in Domesday may have lived in outlying farms would indicate an even smaller settlement. The 'DMV' recorded on the SMR is more correctly either a shrunken or shifted village.

#### AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL

An AHAP covers the building lines on either side of the road through the main part of the village and includes the area of the suggested settlement earthworks to the S of the present day village. At the N end of the settlement and on the E side of the road the land is too steep to build on near the road frontage. The AHAP spreads to the E over the slight hill on the E side of the village to include the earthworks both on the hill and on the E facing slope.

**CHURCH & CHURCHYARD** St James. ?Norman and lancet windows in chancel. Evidence for there having been a S arcade of c.1200. N arcade of 3 bays of probable C13 date after the chancel was re-built.

First record of the church - 1271.

The churchyard was in 1737 sub-rectangular and quite small. It has since been extended to the road and the large building along its E boundary demolished.

## BUILDINGS

(Listed)

Church of St James II\*  
The Old Rectory Early C19 II  
Litchfield Fmhse Late C18 II  
Barn at Litchfield Fm C18 II

## SMR DATA

19	46195361	DMV
20	46155402	Med church

## ADDITIONAL SITES/FEATURES

1	46115376	Site of large house shown on Tithe map
2	46165379	Site of building shown on Tithe map
3	46195387	Site of house shown on 1737 map
4	46135389	Site of 4 buildings shown on 1737 map
5	46175399	Site of building shown on 1737 map. The churchyard has been extended over part of the site of this building. To the S the area is covered by garden and lawn. Another building adjoining the SE corner of the C19 churchyard was also depicted on the 1737 map
6	46275392	Earthworks. The hill to the E of the church has earthworks on its crest and E facing slope. The road to the E from the village centre which bounds this area on the S is very deeply cut through this hill. At the foot of the E slope there are a series of scarp slopes and level areas that may be settlement earthworks
7	46165386	Site of 2 cottages which were shown on the OS map but have since been demolished. The buildings are probably also shown on the Tithe map

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES OS 1:2,500 SU 4453-4553, 4653-4753, 4654-4754; Tithe map 21M65/F7/144/2 (1840); 19M61/1483 (1737)

## AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### PRIMARY HISTORIC SOURCES

**Domesday** Hugh of Port. Fartherling from him. Alnoth held it from the King jointly. Then and now it answered for 3.5 virgates. Land for 1 pl. It is in lordship; 1 villager and 10 smallholders with 0.5 pl. 2 slaves; meadow, 2 acres. value always 20s.

### Subsidy Rolls

1334	3. 16. 8
1524	0. 6. 2 (8 taxpayers)

### Manorial Documents

**Hearth Tax**

1665

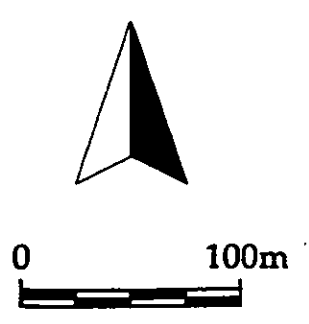
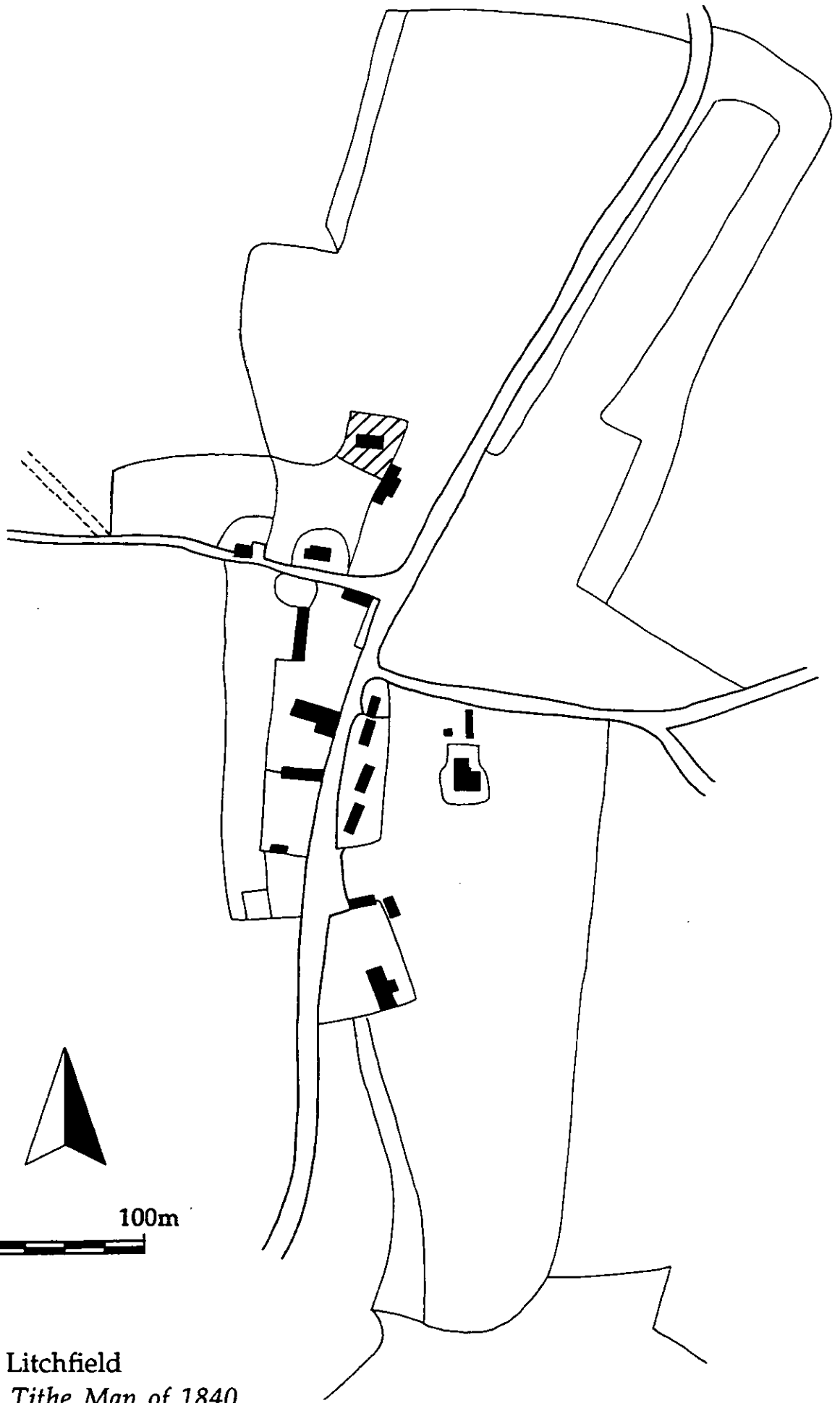
18 hearths chargeable (11 houses)

4 hearths not chargeable (4 houses) Total 15 houses

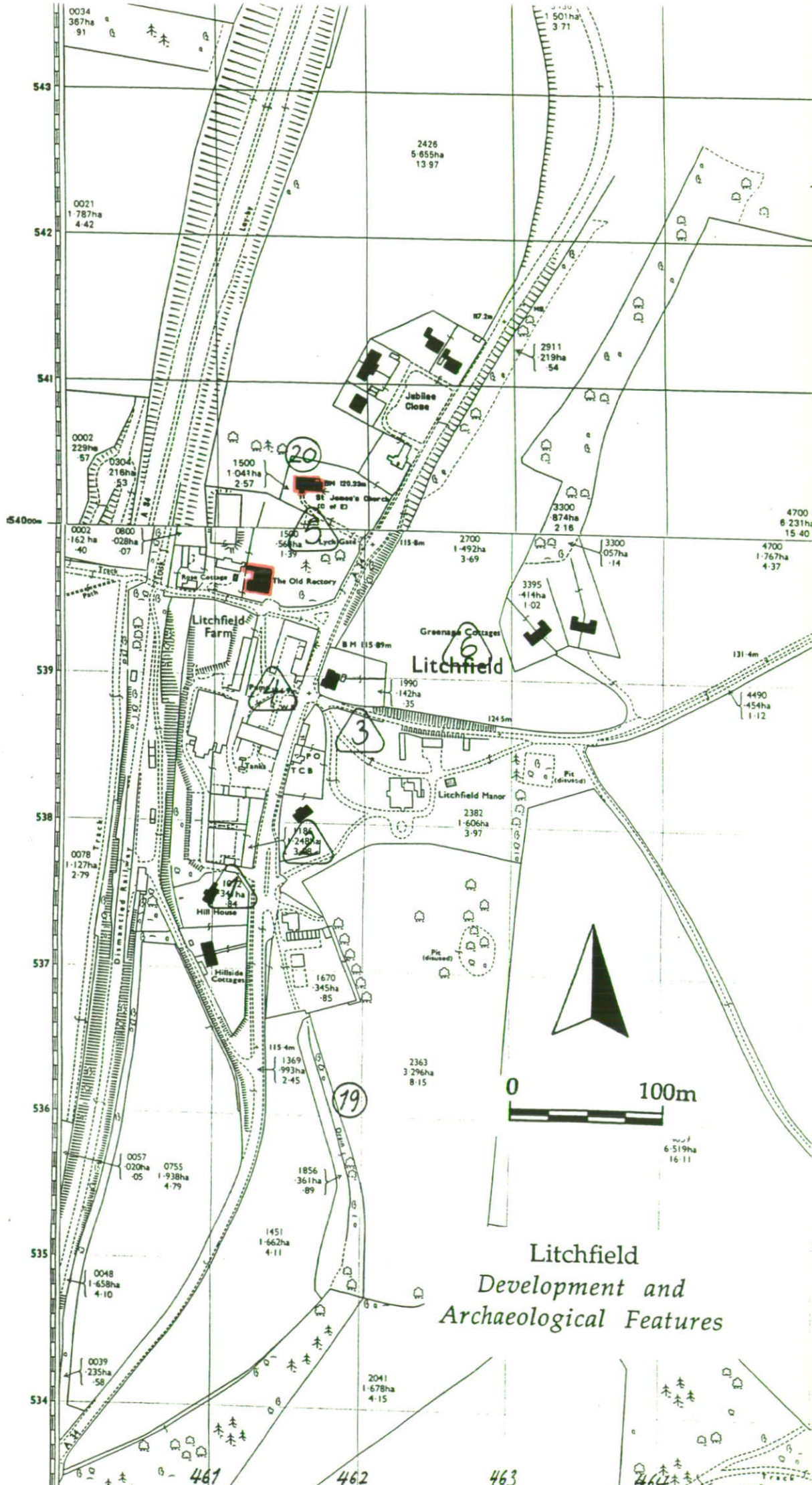
PLACE NAME 1086 *Liveselle*. The second element is OE *scylf* 'terrace, shelf'.  
*Field* in not found until 1539. The first element is uncertain. It may mean 'shelter'.  
The *hlywe* found in two A-S charter documents is taken to mean 'sheltered place'.

PHOTOGRAPHS 7/20-28

OTHER PROJECT ARCHIVE ELEMENTS



Litchfield  
*Based on Tithe Map of 1840*



Litchfield  
Development and  
Archaeological Features

# Litchfield Areas of Archaeological Potential

