

NAME Silchester  
PARISH Silchester  
HUNDRED Holdgate  
DISTRICT Basingstoke and Deane  
NGR SU 627620  
GEOLOGY Bagshot Beds, Bracklesham Beds and London Clay

**SITE CONTEXT** The large triangular green of the main area of settlement is almost outlined by the 100m contour line with the bulk of the settlement lying on the S slopes but not extending below 90m OD. Within this area there are ponds but no surface streams.

The church and manor are sited over 1km to the E of the settlement around the green at about 90m OD at a point where they overlook the valley of Foundry Brook to the E with the valley bottom at just below 60m OD.

**PLAN TYPE & DESCRIPTION** Common edge and church and manor

The main area of settlement is arranged along the edges of a large area of common. There are also several 'islands' of tofts and small fields on the common. Around the fringes of the common it is possible to see stages of encroachment, for example the area where the public house stands at the S apex of the green. The oldest buildings on the islands within the common are late C18/early C19 but the process of encroachment is certainly under-way by 1653? as some of the islands are shown on a map of that date.

The area S of the green, along the road to the SE on which Dial Cottage and Holly Tree Cottage stand, appears to be sited within the agricultural land rather than on the very edge of the waste and may represent one of the earliest areas of occupation.

Silchester Hall, now a Victorian building has incorporated the cellars of an earlier building and according to the owner stands on the site of a medieval house. This building is sited away from the edge of the common and stands on a platform which the owner believed to be a landscaped garden feature.

On the S edge of the village is Flex Ditch which slightly changes direction at the point where the modern road and the Roman road cross the line of the ditch. The modern road makes a significant dog-leg here to pass through at this point. The field in which New Site 2 is sited has a level change of approximately 1m down to the road on the corner which also seems to respect the boundary of the field so in part causing the dog-leg.

The church and Manor Fm are situated within the walls of the Roman city of *Calleva*. There is no evidence for there having been any other medieval settlement around them apart from the C12 timber hall found within the amphitheatre and suggested as being a fortification taken by King Stephen during the Anarchy.

**AREAS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL POTENTIAL**

The area around the church and manor is obviously of high archaeological potential sited as they are on the edge of the Roman city. However, it is possible that there was never any concentration of medieval settlement there but that it was dispersed over the wider area of the parish.

At the main centre of settlement on the edge of the large area of common an AHAP covers an area of the enclosed land around the common and one of the islands encroaching upon it. To the W at least two periods of encroachment onto the edge of the common are clear in the surviving boundaries. What is not clear is the date of these stages of development or whether the building lines have actually moved forward with the encroachment. Although a post-medieval date is often assigned to such settlement plans, in some areas of the country common edge settlement is thought to have been underway in the C12. S of the two islands is an area that represents an older limit to the common. This is also within the AHAP as it is possible that one of the early waves of common edge settlers may have occupied this area.

In the E part of the AHAP is Silchester Hall which, as stated above is possibly on the site of an earlier building, may be an element in a dispersed medieval settlement pattern and therefore has been included within the AHAP.

The AHAP also continues to the S covering the building lines on either side of the main road to Flex Ditch along which the AHAP extends to the W and E. The plot on the S side of the junction of Flex Ditch with the present road and the Roman road within which there were buildings in the C19 is also within the AHAP. The point at which the roads and the ditch cross is important as the relationships between the features may survive.

At the N end of the common, and also to the W of the main area of settlement, there are two island within the common which are AAPs. These islands were in existence by the C17 and may be of late or sub-medieval date.

**CHURCH & CHURCHYARD** St Mary. N arcade of *c.*1210 but N aisle has a lancet and doorway of *c.*1230, a date which corresponds with the S arcade better than the N. Chancel early C13. E window Perp. S aisle wall re-built 1325-50 with Dec windows.

## **BUILDINGS**

(Listed)

- Haines Fmhse, Ash Lane C17 early C19 II
- Halls Fmhse 1800 II
- Barn W of house 1800 II
- Woodmans Cottage, Bramley Rd C17 18 and modern II
- Pound House C18 II
- Old Malt House C17 and C20 II
- Barn C18 II
- Old Meadows C18 mid C19 II
- Lower Fmhse C18 early C19 II
- Stable C18 (SE) outbuilding and granary C19 (E) II
- 2 Barns SE and S C17 and C18 II

Byes Fm, Byes Lane 1718 early C19 II  
 Church of St Mary I  
 Old Manor Fmhse C16 C17 C18 II  
 Barn W and granary N C18 II  
 Cartshed C17 C18 II  
 Culhams Fmhse, Dukes Ride 1847 II  
 Dial Cottage, Holly Lane C18 II (Possibly earlier core)  
 Holly Tree Cottage C18 II (Possibly earlier core)  
 Holly House Early C19 II  
 Silchester House 1840 late C19 C20 II  
 Yew Tree Cottage, Tinkers Corner Early C19 II  
 Vine Cottage Early C19 II  
 The Old House (Edrington) C18 and 1900 II  
 Silchester Fmhse C18 early C19 II  
 Granary N Early C19 II  
 Silchester Hall Mid C19 II (Earlier cellars)  
 Rose Cottage, Little London Rd W part early C17 E part early C18 II

(Un-listed)

The Stores C18  
 The Cottage C17/C18

The majority of the buildings upon the islands and on the fringes of the common, apart from the modern ones, are of C19 construction.

#### SMR DATA

##### SU66SW

|    |          |   |
|----|----------|---|
| 3  | 63006200 | BA bronze palstave                          |
| 16 | 64346236 | Med church                                  |
| 41 | 62616171 | Linear bank and ditch SAM 417. Date unknown |

##### SU66SE

|   |          |                          |
|---|----------|--------------------------|
| 2 | 65086140 | Med moated site SAM12062 |
|---|----------|--------------------------|

#### ADDITIONAL SITES/FEATURES

|   |          |  |
|---|----------|--|
| 1 | 62196184 | Site of cottage on small 'island' on the common shown on Tithe map but demolished by 1873  |
| 2 | 62706170 | Site of cottage and outbuildings shown on Tithe map but demolished by 1873. The field surface is uneven although no definite earthworks could be discerned   |
| 3 | 62856222 | The area between Bramley Road and the road along the E side of the green has been extensively dug into presumably for the extraction of gravel leaving the area covered in earthworks. The 1911 25" OS map shows many areas of gravel extraction around the settlement |

CARTOGRAPHIC SOURCES OS 1:2500 SU 6261-6361, 6262-6362, 6462-6562  
 Tithe map 21M65/F7/209/2 (1841)

#### AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

### PRIMARY HISTORIC SOURCES

**Domesday** Ralph of Mortimer. Chipping held it from Earl Harold in freehold. Then it paid tax for 5 hides; now for 3 hides. Land for 5 pl. 9 villagers and 13 smallholders with 4 pl; 3 slaves. Meadow, 6 acres; woodland at 20 pigs. Value before 1066, 100s; later and now 60s.

Willian of Eu and Ralph Bloiet from him. Alstan held it from King Edward in freehold. Then and now it paid tax for 5 hides. Land for 5 pl. In lordship 1 pl; 5 villagers and 5 smallholders with 3 pl. 4 slaves; meadow, 2 acres; woodland at 60 pigs. Value before 1066 and later 100s; now £6.

### Subsidy Rolls

|      |                         |
|------|-------------------------|
| 1334 | 2. 12. 10               |
| 1524 | 4. 15. 2 (34 taxpayers) |

### Manorial Documents

#### Hearth Tax

|      |  |
|------|--|
| 1665 | 66 hearths chargeable (24 houses)<br>32 hearths not chargeable (24 houses) Total 48 houses |
|------|--|

PLACE NAME C2 *Kaleoua*; C4 *Calleva*; 1086 *Silcestre*. Disputed meaning. British name is from Primitive Welsh *Calliw*, a derivative of the Welsh word for 'grove' so either the ancient name has had OE *ceaster* 'Roman town/station' added to it or it is an unrecorded derivative of *sealh* 'sallow tree'. Latter theory less likely but the matter is far from settled.

## PHOTOGRAPHS

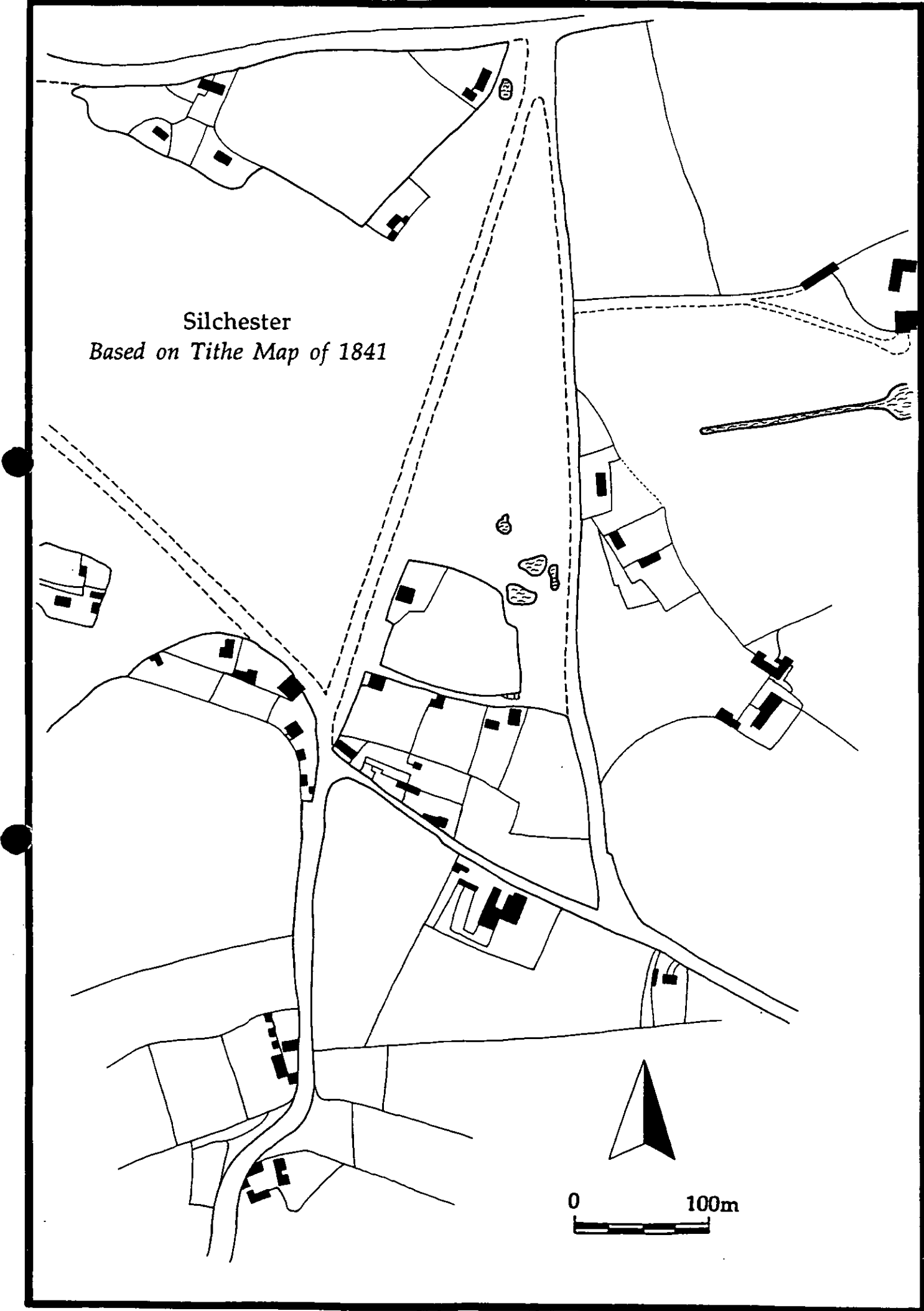
### OTHER PROJECT ARCHIVE ELEMENTS

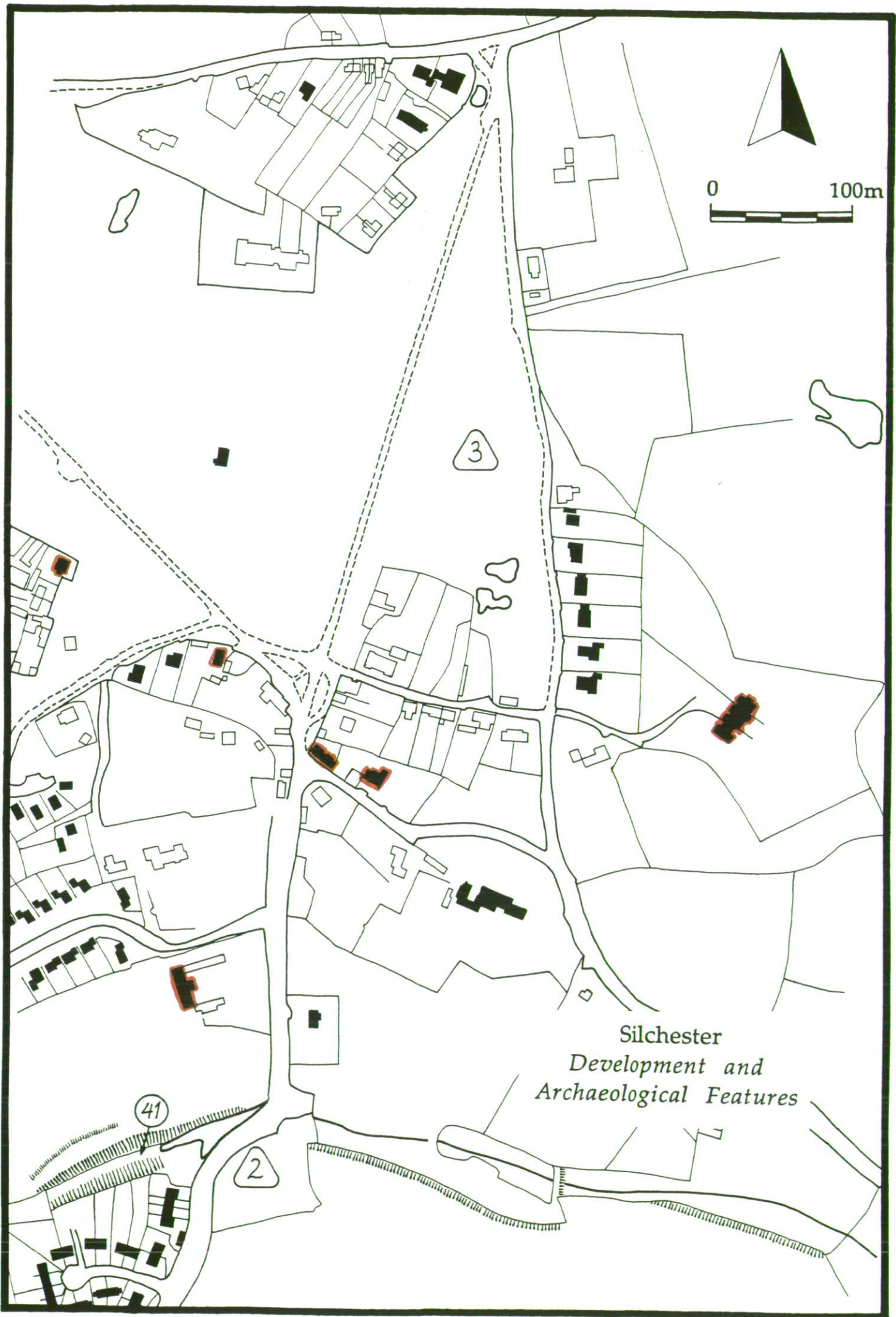
Mentioned in a charter of 946x947 (ref. 1504 in Sawyer, 1968, p 421).

1204 Licence to inclose park.

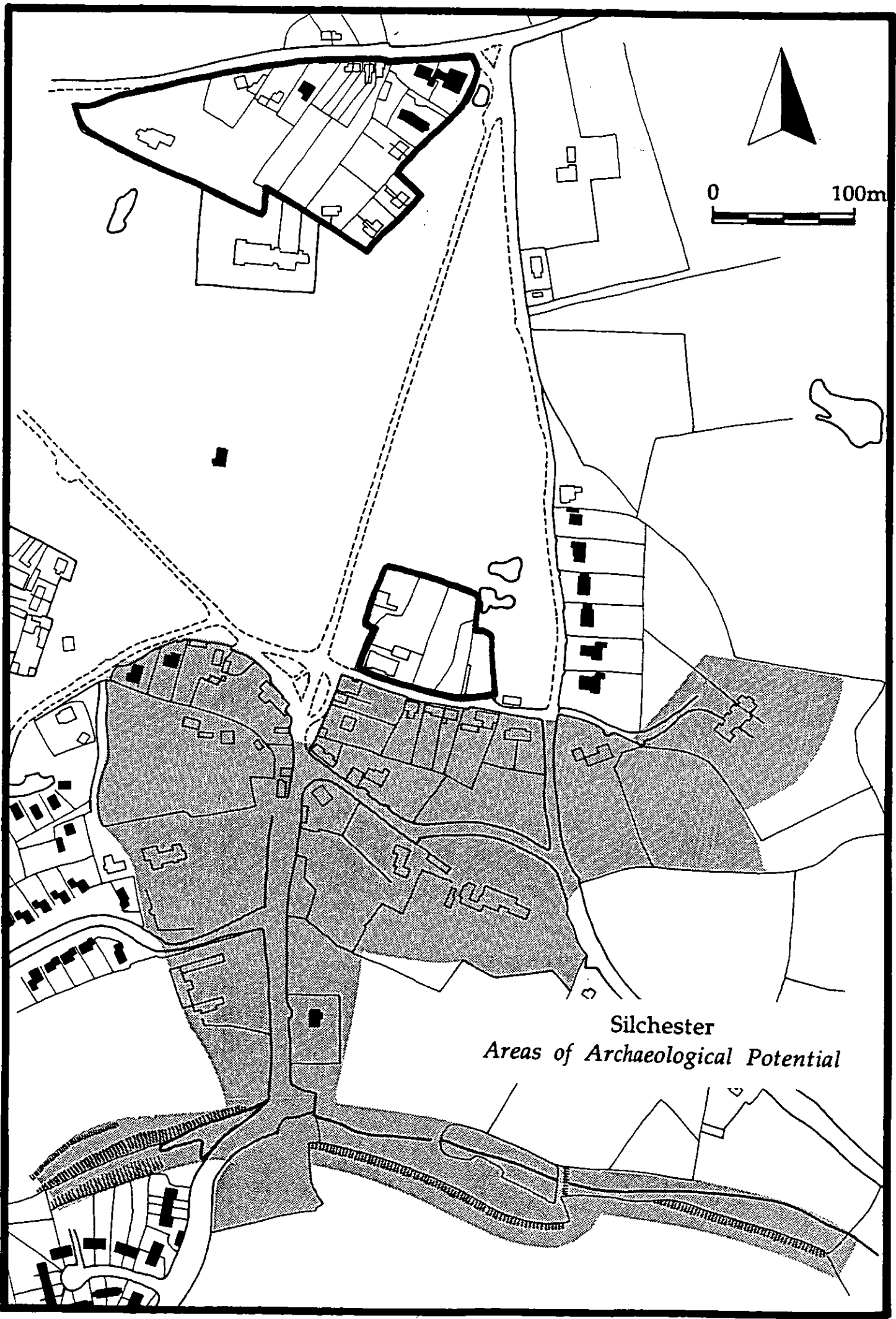
1348 Reference to a park and a windmill (VCH Vol IV p 51).

Silchester  
Based on Tithe Map of 1841





Silchester  
Development and  
Archaeological Features



Silchester  
*Areas of Archaeological Potential*