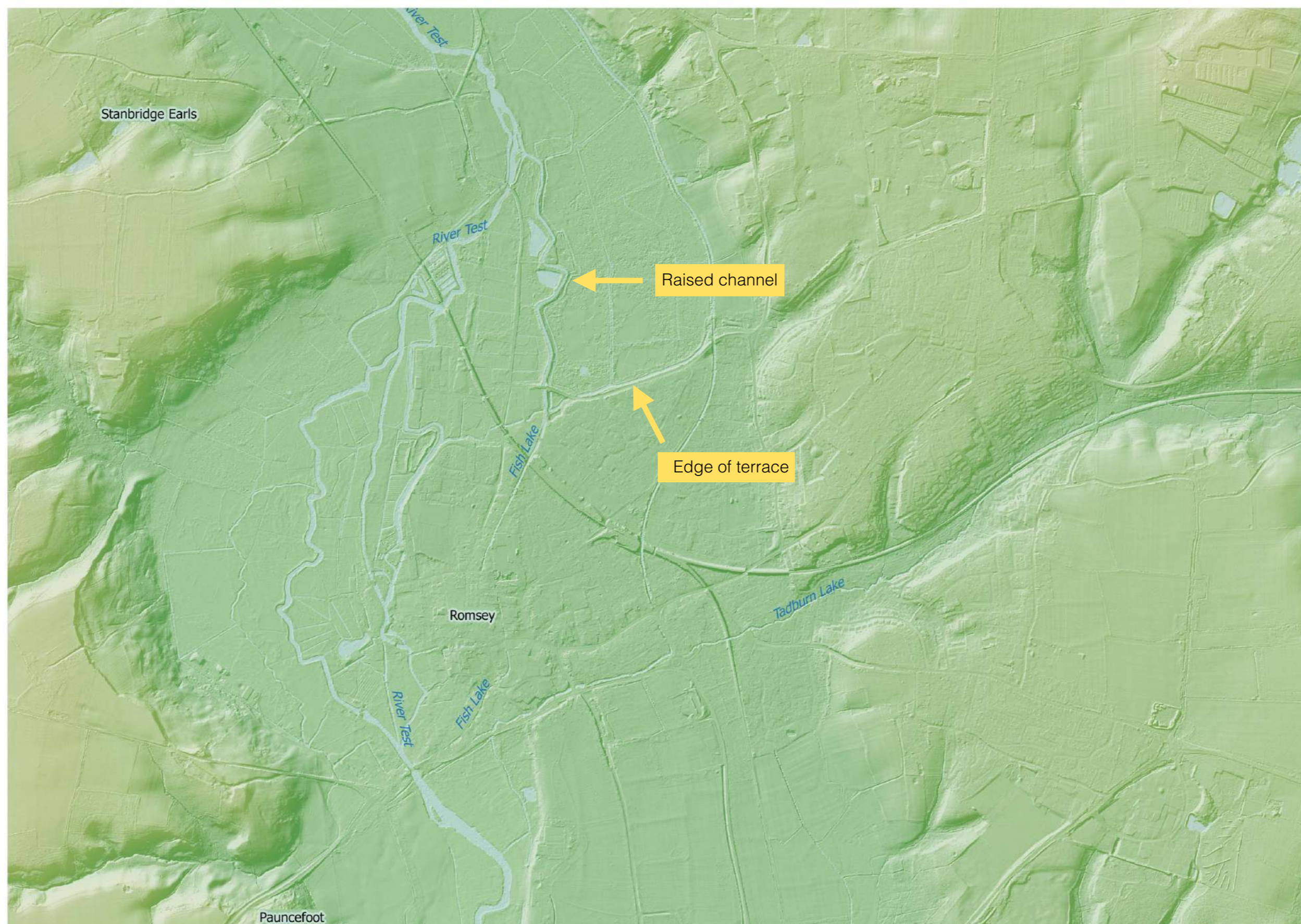


# THE FISHLAKE

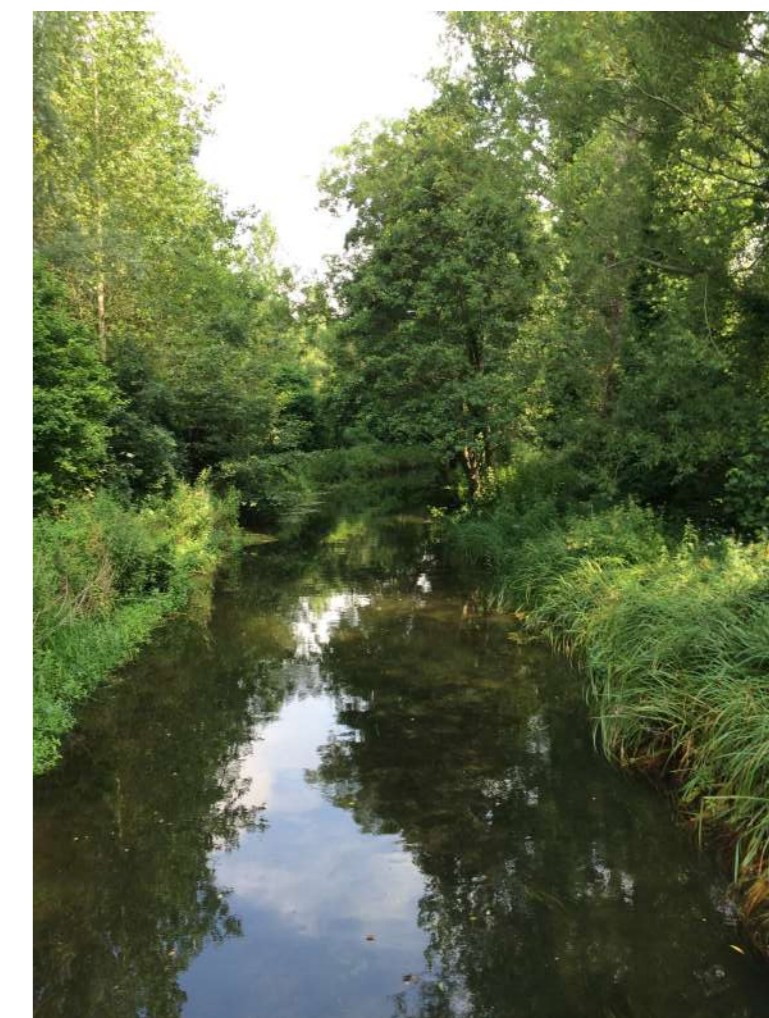
## Romsey's Man-Made Water Supply



The point where the Fishlake, upper right, branches off from the Test.



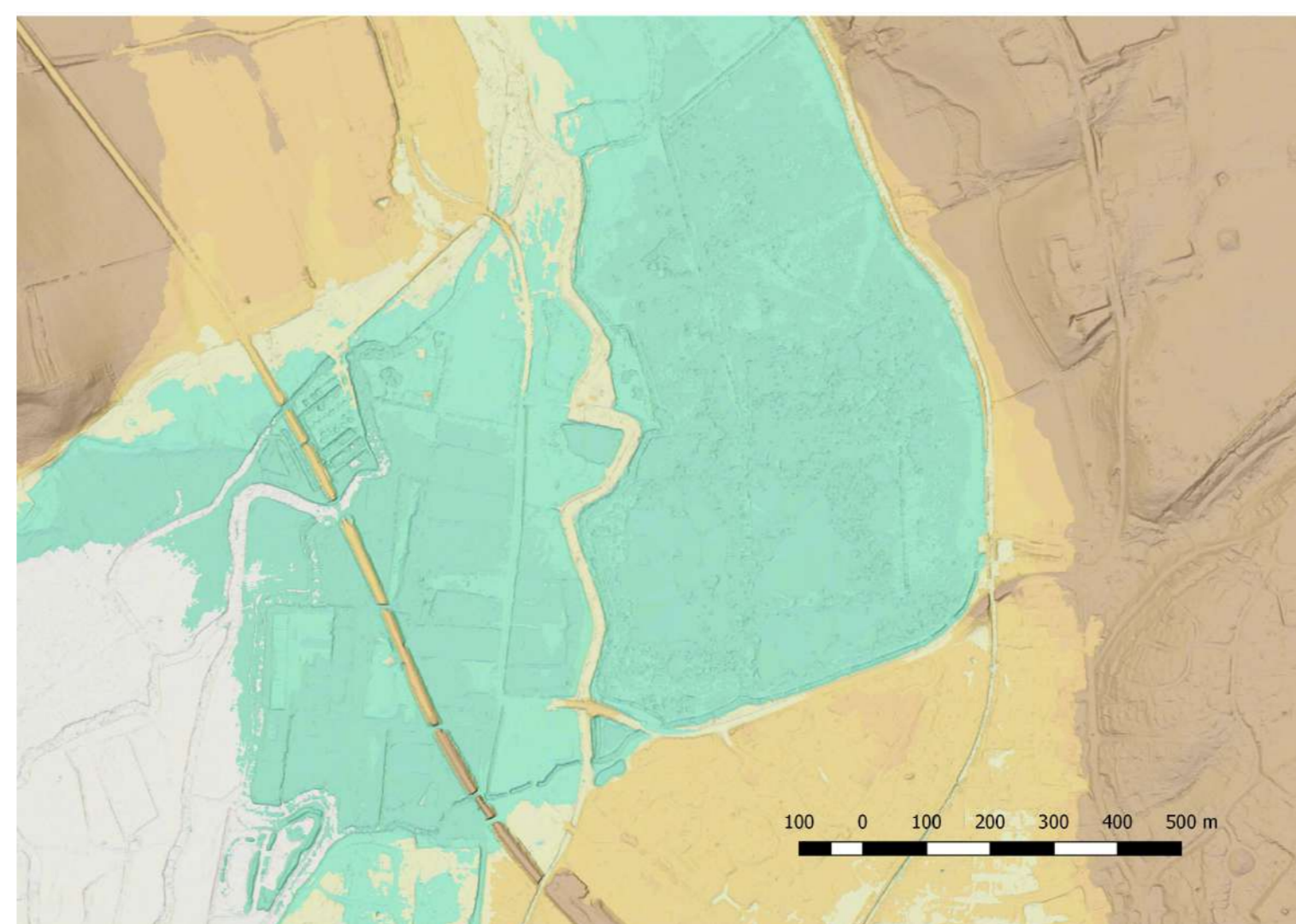
The construction of the Fishlake involved two separate engineering projects. The northern section is a raised water carrier that channels the water across and above the floodplain until it meets the edge of the river terrace. The water is taken into the centre of Romsey via a channel dug through the gravel.



The apparently naturally meandering stream is an artificial watercourse confined within substantial banks.



This image shows heights colour coded at one meter intervals between 15 and 20 meters. The pale grey areas are under 15 and the brown are over 20 meters. The Fishlake shows up very clearly as a raised channel crossing the floodplain.



The volume of water flowing into Romsey is now controlled via a sluice. Excess water is diverted into the Horsehead Ditch.



The Fishlake crossing the river terrace north of Romsey and behind King John's House. Here it flows through a deep cutting.

This LiDAR image shows the centre of Romsey. The Fishlake bifurcates near the Horsefair. The western branch follows the line of Church Street. It has been covered over and runs underneath the houses on the west side of the street. It is visible in Abbey Water. This branch fed the Abbey Mill from the 16th century.

The eastern branch crosses Portersbridge Street and flows under the Hundred. It appears again running along the side of the bus station. The water powered the Town (Duke's) Mill. This branch of the Fishlake, also known as the Holbrook, marked the eastern boundary of Romsey Infra from at least 1300. This gives the latest possible date for the construction of the Fishlake.

