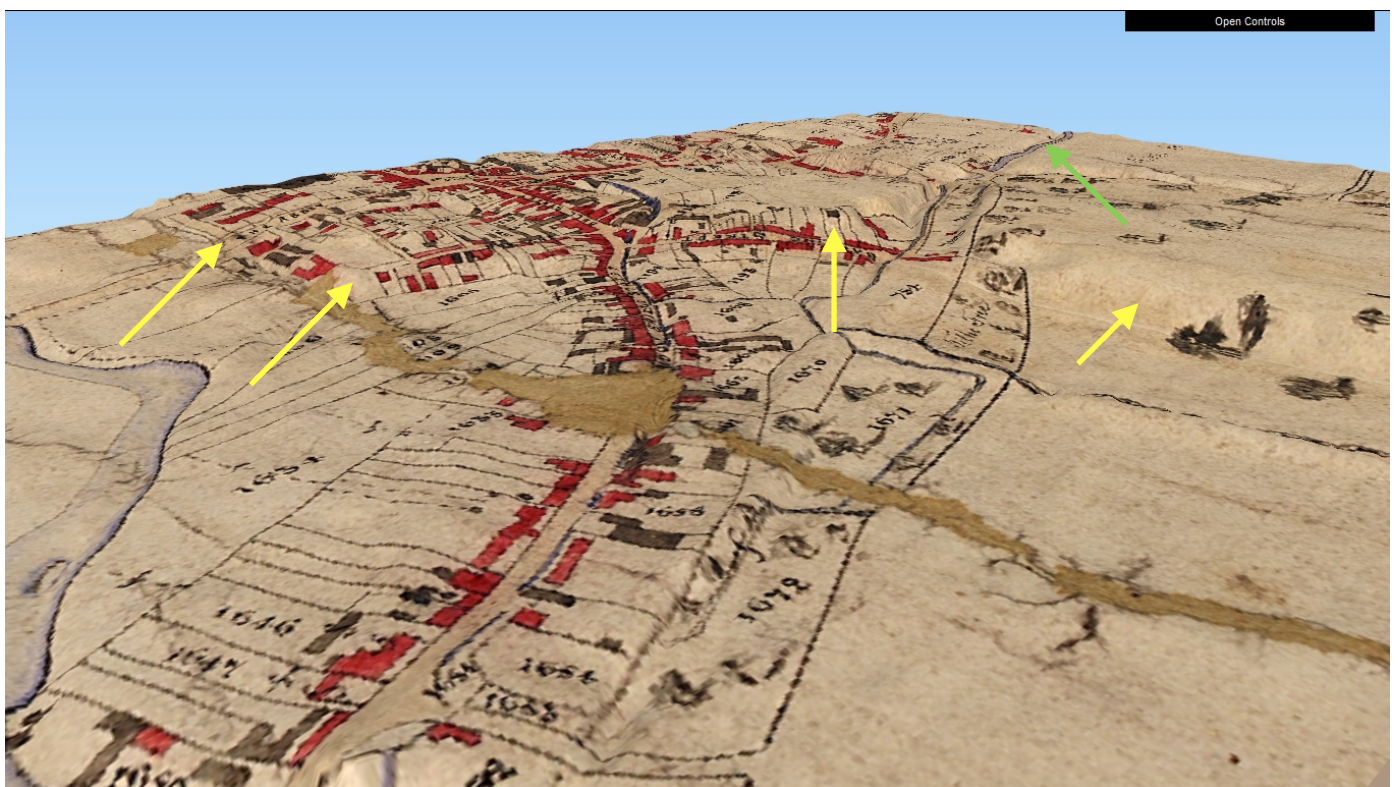
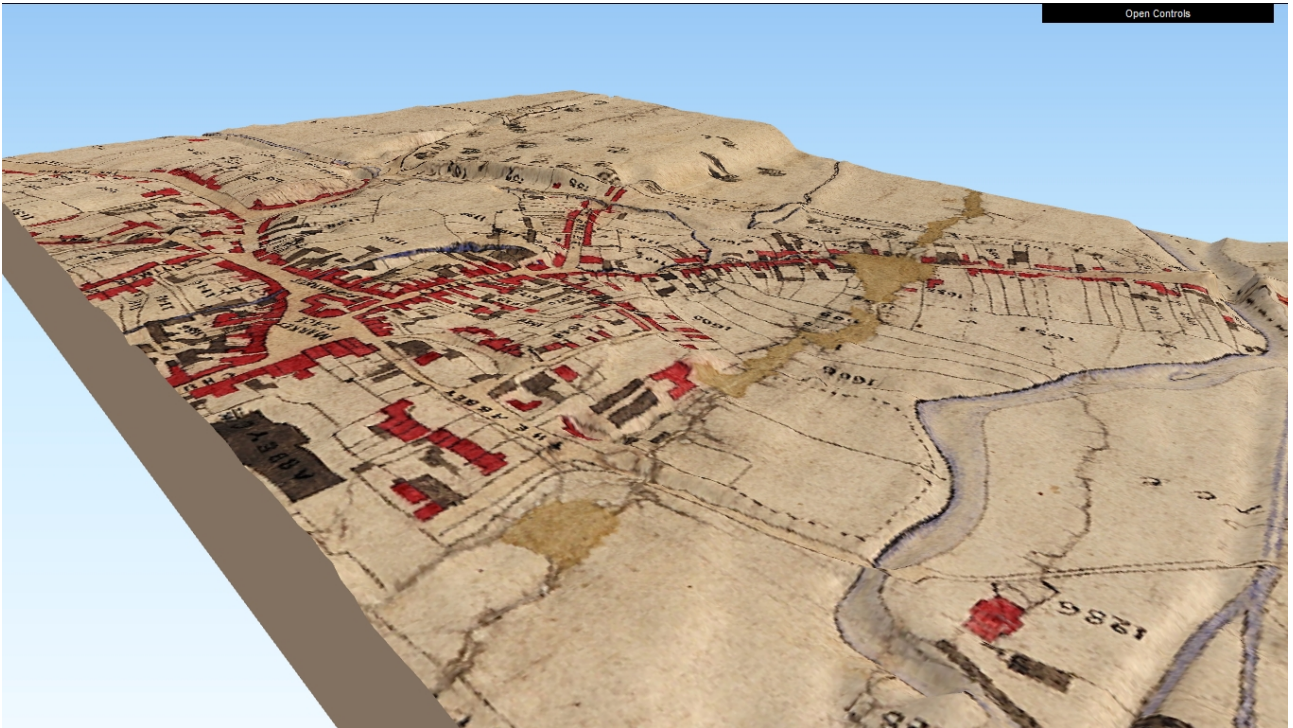


In order to study the development of the town of Romsey it is important to understand how it fits into the landscape. The images to the left show the river terrace adjacent to the alluvial floodplain. A green arrow points to the Tadburn. Draping the 1845 tithe map over the LiDAR and viewing it in 3D makes it easy to see how property boundaries relate to the terrace. The yellow arrows on the image below point to the terrace edge looking northeast along Middlebridge Street. This street is built out onto the floodplain along an artificially raised causeway. The word bridge in Old English can mean both a causeway and a bridge. Note the change in alignment of the boundaries at the top of Middlebridge Street along the edge of the terrace.







The view above looks south along the floodplain. It clearly shows Middlebridge Street extending from the terrace edge to the Test. The main evidence for iron smelting was found on the corner of the terrace roughly bounded on the map by Bell Street and The Abbey roadway.

In order to produce the 3D effect heights have been exaggerated by a factor of 5. The processing of the LiDAR has removed the bridge over the river.



This view looks west along The Hundred. Love Lane appears to lead out to the fields east of town. Do the parallel dotted lines represent ridge and furrow?





This is central Romsey situated on the river terrace. The west branch of the Fishlake is not drawn on the map as it runs underground along Church Street. The channel is visible as a depression entering the Horsefair from the north. I think that this marks the corner of the Abbey precinct, bounded on the north by Mill Lane. The Fishlake changes angle slightly at this point, perhaps making use of a pre-existing ditch, the *vallum monasteri*, on the east side of the precinct. A ditch would not have been necessary on the west side where the terrace edge formed a natural boundary. The southern extent of the precinct is unclear.

The east branch of the Fishlake extends south along a straight course before turning west and flowing over the edge of the terrace. This channel formed the boundary of Romsey Infra. A writ issued by Henry I (dated 1102x1129) refers to Bradebrigge, the bridge carrying The Hundred over the channel. The tithe map is slightly misaligned from the LiDAR, leaving the blue line to the right of the channel. The image above shows that the east branch of the Fishlake runs parallel to the edge of the terrace. Was its course chosen to deliberately define a rectangular area of land? Property boundaries east of the Fishlake are on the same alignment; note the boundary to the rear of houses on the east side of Latimer Street and Linden Road further east. The roads through the town don't conform to any sort of planned layout. Do these route ways pre-date the Fishlake - are they mid-Saxon in origin?

Latimer Street, like Love Lane, seems to lead to fields. The block of properties at the southern ends of these two roads looks like infilling. Did Romsey Extra have its own market here in the space between the roads?