

# BRISTOL & AVON ARCHAEOLOGY



Volume I 1982

# BRISTOL AND AVON ARCHAEOLOGY I - 1982

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*Bristol and Avon Archaeology* is the successor to *BARG Review* issued in 1980 and 1981. The editor wishes to record his debt to June Iles who acted as co-editor for *BARG Review* in all but name and helped pave the way for this journal, the first specifically for the archaeology of Bristol and Avon.

# A LATE ROMAN BUCKLE AND MEDIEVAL BUILDING AT STOCKWOOD, BRISTOL

P. Belsey and M.W. Ponsford

During 1976, Mrs P Belsey observed the route of a Bristol Water Works pipeline as it passed through Stockwood, Whitchurch (Avon). A late Roman copper-alloy buckle and part of its plate were found at ST 63586919 lying on stoney ground after topsoil removal about 2 m west of a 'much reduced circular earthwork with perhaps some outworks', reported by the late Dr E K Tratman in a letter to Mrs Francis Neale (of 12th December 1973) (Fig 1). No sign of a ditch was seen in the pipe trench, but the Tithe Award map of 1840 shows the angle of a field boundary in this area. The owner of the land, Mr Stowell of Hick's Gate Farm, thinks it was the remains of a wall bounding the former end of the Keynsham/Stockwood Lane and, if so, would ante-date the Tithe Award map which follows the present wall's position.

The second site was found when the rest of the pipeline was walked by members of the Field Section of the Bristol City Museum and R. Iles of Avon County Planning Department. Just south of Stockwood Lodge and at the top of a hill which slopes southwards towards Charlton Bottom, top-soiling for the pipeline had uncovered an area of dark soil and some stonework (ST 62926840). Subsequent investigation revealed the outline of part of a stone-built unmortared foundation of Lias Limestone and an earth floor within. The walls were c.l.m. wide. The west wall continued for 12.5 m and the southern eastwards for 15.5 m. (Fig. 2). Only one rounded corner had been found before the owner of the land (leased from him by the Water Authority) decided that he wanted no further work done. The building, from the quantity of pottery and other finds inside and around it, was probably domestic, but may also have been a farm outbuilding of some kind. It can be dated by the finds to the thirteenth century, but earlier occupation is suggested by the presence of eleventh-century sherds.

The only other feature noted was an area of what are probably 'Celtic' fields on the slopes below the building (see also Belsey, 1980, 48). These were not surveyed as the land belongs to the owner of the medieval building found. The finds are deposited in the City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery under Accession Numbers 202/1976 (medieval finds) and 28/1979 (Roman buckle and plate).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Authors would like to thank Bristol Water Works for their co-operation at the time of fieldwork, and for maps; Barbara Cumby for drawing the plans to publication standard; Susan Giles for drawing the late Roman buckle fragments, Tony Woolls for preliminary drawings of the medieval finds.

## *The Late Roman Buckle*

The buckle falls readily into Type IIA, one of the categories of Hawkes' and Dunning's typology of animal-ornamented buckles (1961). It consists of a loop and tongue of a buckle and the central strengthening piece and a small fragment of the outer layer of the buckle plate. The loop measures (with tongue) 3.5 m in length and is 3.9 cm wide. The tongue, loop and the plate were held together by an iron hinge-pin which had broken in antiquity and is now nearly all oxidised. The alloy fragments are, despite being incomplete, in excellent condition with little trace of corrosion.

The loop is in the form of a pair of opposed crested dolphins whose tails terminate as 'eared heads'. Fine lines, rather than notches, emphasise the edges of the crests. The hinge attachments are simple loops. 'Eared heads' also terminate the side pieces of the tongue, and there is, centrally placed, an incised 'ring-and-dot' motif, also used for the eyes of the dolphins. The tongue also terminates in a loop to take the hinge-pin.

The strengthening plate is almost complete, but is broken on the lefthand side in the drawing (Fig 3). Overlying this was a fragment of the outer plate which would, like the Sea Mills plate (see below), have been doubled over at the hinge-pin and rivetted to the strengthening plate. The outer plate is broken at some punched ornament which suggests that the decoration consisted of lozenges and triangles in this technique. A double row of punctulations at the right-hand edge was probably repeated down the other side (Fig 3 reconstruction).

The Stockwood piece closely resembles examples from Colchester, Essex and Lydney Park, Gloucestershire, both of which have similar tongues (Hawkes and Dunning, 1961, fig 17 e and k). The plate would probably have been solid and unlike the one from Sea Mills (Hawkes and Dunning, 1961, fig. 18 e). The Sea Mills plate is re-drawn here for comparison and to show the less highly-decorated back of the plate (Fig 3). This also shows that some plate fragments, such as the Camerton example, are probably backs, not fronts, of the outer plate (see below). The ring-and-dot motifs provide a link with the Tortworth strap-end on which the decoration is composed of them.

The original paper on these buckles has been up-dated (Hawkes, 1974). Buckles of Type IIA are thought to be an insular type and there is an established concentration of these in Gloucestershire and east Gwent. To those published by Hawkes in 1974 can be added a further Type IIA from Saintbridge, Gloucestershire, associated with coins and a shell-tempered pot of late fourth-century date (Goodburn, 1976). Part of the back of a plate of Type IIA has recently been seen by staff of Bristol Museum among a collection

of metalwork said to have come from Camerton, Avon (Fig. 3). Buckle fragments of Type IA have also been recently found at Gloucester (Hassall and Rhodes, 1974, figure 26, 35) and at Ilchester, Somerset (Leach *et al.*, 1982).

In view of the common association of this metalwork with late Roman military units, it is instructive to look at local finds and their find-spots. Late Roman, i.e. fourth-century, metalwork has been found at Lydney Park, Gloucestershire, North Wraxall, Wiltshire, Sea Mills, Bristol, and at Tortworth, Stockwood and Camerton, Avon. It has

also been found in some quantity in Cirencester and Gloucestershire generally. The Stockwood buckle was found only 1 km. from the Keynsham villa (K1 on Fig 1), which had a squatter occupation, probably after the disaster of AD 367 (Bulleid and Horne, 1925). The picture of a force of *foederati*, or even town militia, protecting town and villa (and temple?) towards the end of the fourth century is potentially attractive for this area where fire and destruction have been demonstrated at several villas, including Kings Weston, Brislington, North Wraxall, Box, Keynsham I, Combe Down, Wellow II and possibly Atworth (Brangan,

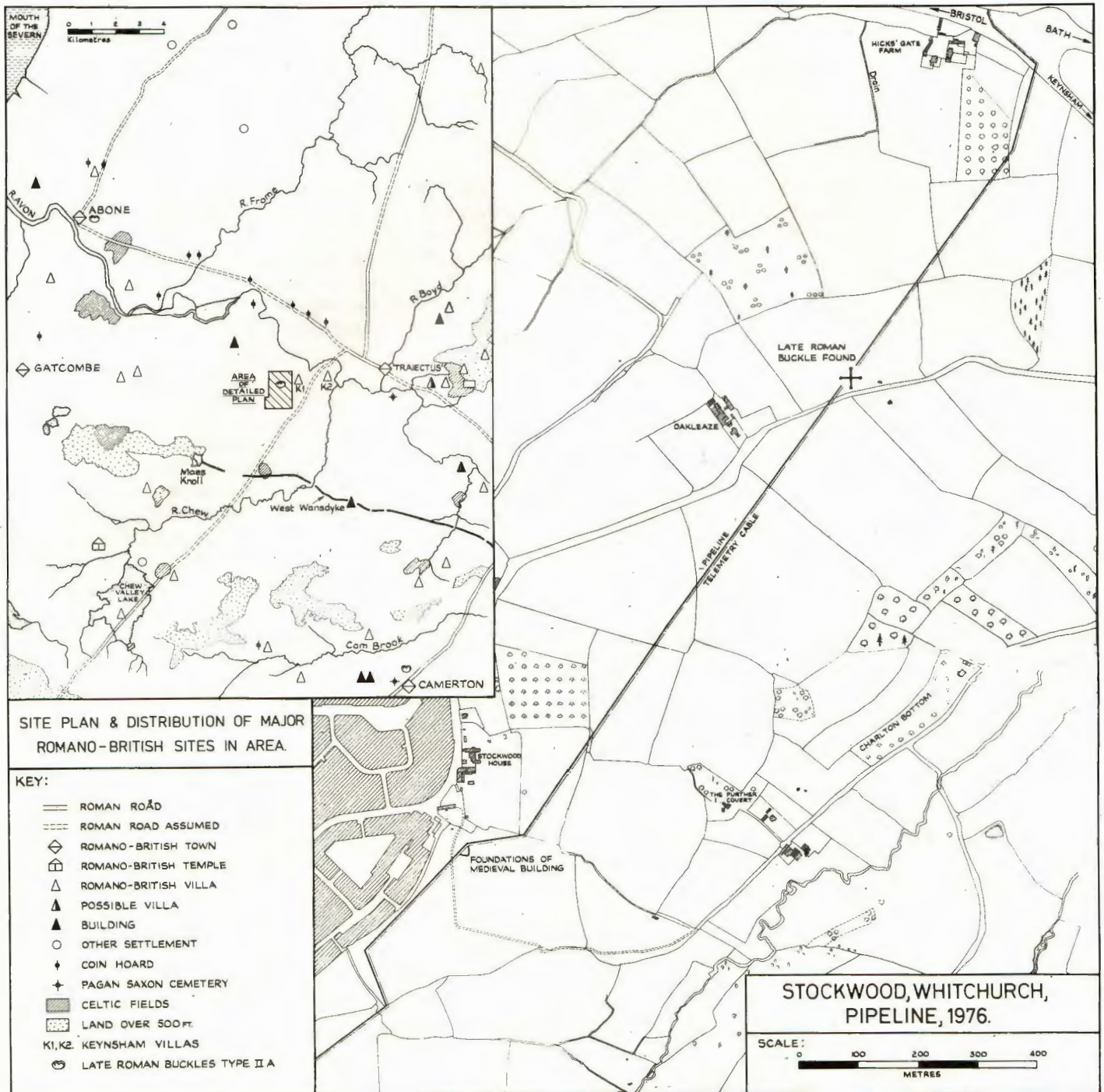


Fig 1

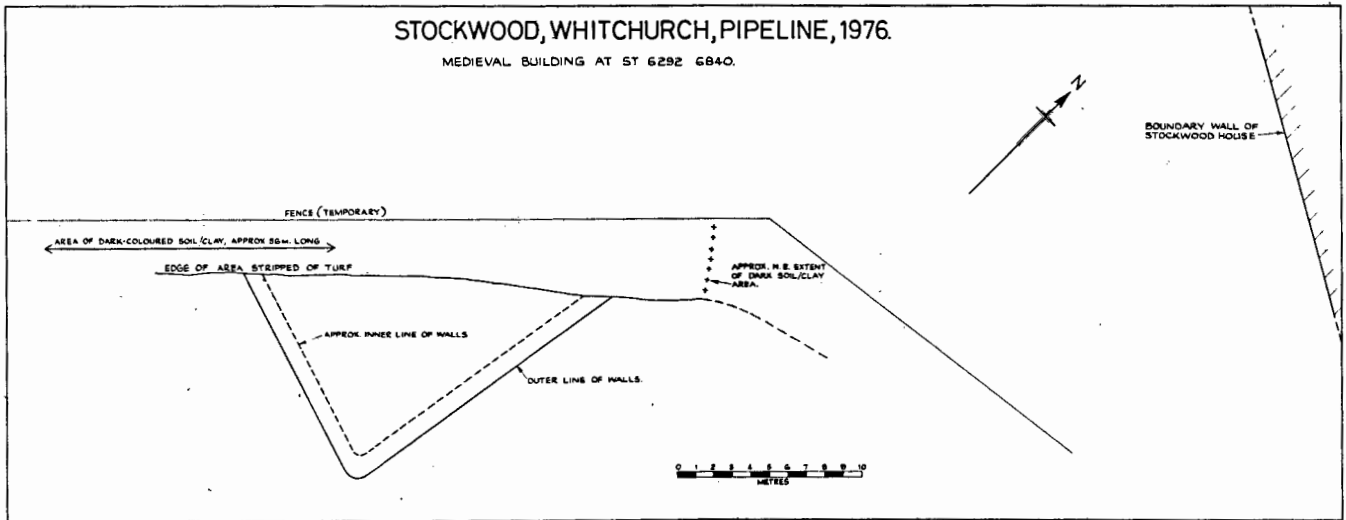


Fig 2 Medieval building, Stockwood

1976). Some buildings were reconstructed or re-occupied afterwards. Is it possible that, as Hawkes suggests, these were being run by or had been presented to Germanic mercenaries in payment for their services (Hawkes, 1961, 31 and 1974, 390)? The Stockwood find is close to a villa where new owners took over at the end of the Roman period. Both Camerton and Sea Mills continue late, the former also having a squatter occupation; Sea Mills was occupied into the fifth century (Wedlake, 1958; Reeve, 1966). In all, there is more than a little evidence to promote a good case for a defensive military (but not necessarily Germanic) presence in the area.

The Germanic content of these objects has been questioned by Simpson (1976) who feels that it is difficult to prove that the wearers were indeed mercenaries. At Gloucester, there was an important burial containing silver buckles resembling those of Simpson's Group II which are normally of copper alloy (Brown, 1976). Brown and Simpson together seem to imply that though this may be the burial of a regular soldier he was not a German. Because of the richness of the grave-goods he may well have been an officer in the late Roman army, particularly in view of the fact he was buried in a prominent place in an important Roman town.

This scant picture of a military presence in the area of the lower Severn designed to meet the threat of barbarian, particularly Irish, incursions will no doubt become rounder as more finds of military metalwork are made. The organisation of the late Roman army of Britain remains one of the most intriguing problems of that period and one to which the west country is beginning to provide potential answers.

### The Medieval Finds

Despite the short period of time (a couple of hours) which was allowed for the excavation, a number of objects were found in the dark clay soil over the medieval site. Only one layer AC, was stratified in the strict sense. The layers, were:-

- AA General dark deposit around building (too general).
- AB Over wall foundations and west of it (therefore disturbed).
- AC Over floor east of the north-south wall, i.e. inside building (stratified, but surface only).

### THE POTTERY

The material was fabric-sorted and typed in the usual way. Comparisons were made with the medieval wares excavated

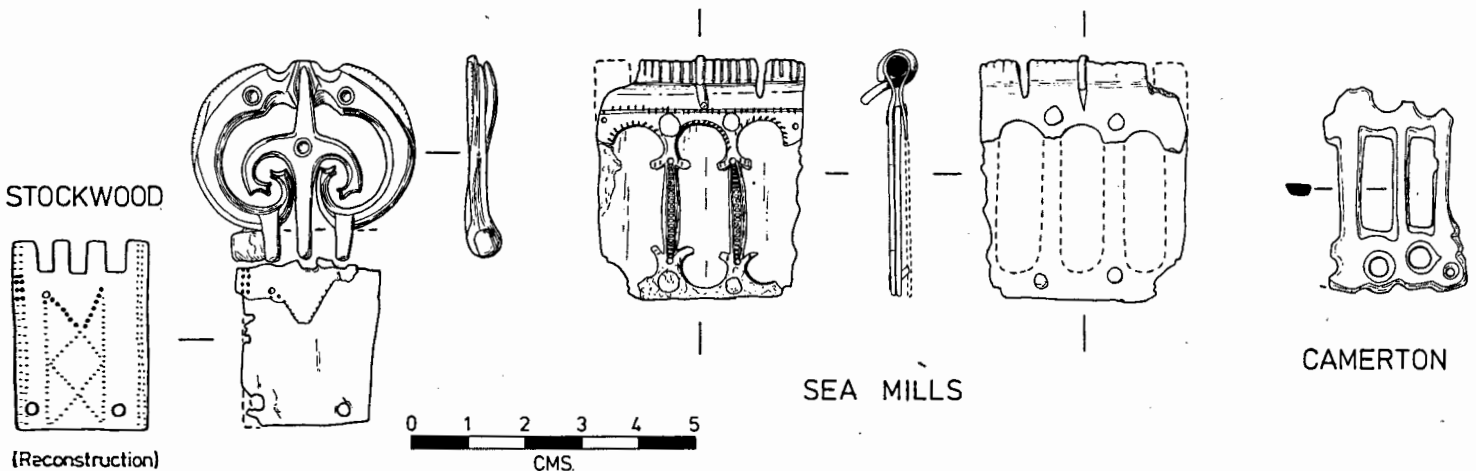


Fig 3 Roman buckles

from Bristol sites, particularly the castle. Bristol equivalents are indicated thus: BPT (Bristol Pottery Type) 46.

Coarse Wares

1. Hand-made, red surfaces, tempered with limestone and fossil shell, some haematite, some pits where inclusions have leached out. The fabric is known in Bristol in pre-Conquest contexts and is common at Mary le Port Street (Rahtz forthcoming, fabric A).
2. Similar to 1, but the inclusions are finer and distributed much more evenly. The finish is characteristically good. The rim forms are simple or squared and everted. Common at Bristol Castle c. 1080 - 1100 (Price and Ponsford 1979b, BPT 115).
3. Hard sandy grey fabrics with grey to light red or buff surfaces. The inclusion consists of more visible red quartz, flint and probably haematite. They are not obviously calcereous. Such wares are common in the region and are also known by the variants Bath A and Cheddar J (Vince, 1979, 27-28; Rahtz, 1979, 317; Price and Ponsford, 1979a, BPT 46). They do not seem to appear in Bristol before c. 1200
4. As fabric 3, but inclusions are of quartz and limestone and some flint.
5. Similar to Ham Green coarse ware (see 7), but the inclusions are noticeably larger (1-2mm.) with some limestone. The ware resembles material found in Long Ashton parish, east of the A38, at ST 554648 by Arthur Barker in 1974 (Acc. No. BRSMG: 20/1982).
6. As BPT AA from Bristol Castle (Price and Ponsford, 1979a). Dark fabric with occasional reddish surfaces, some quartz, limestone and haematite inclusions. Has a characteristic infolded rim form.
7. Ham Green ware, as found at the kiln site (Barton, 1963). Red fabrics usually, with fine quartz grit (BPT 32).
8. Lime-gritted fabric with grey core and buff-brown surfaces. Related to Minety (Wiltshire) ware. (BPT 84; Price and Ponsford 1979b).
9. Quartz-gritted fabric with some pits, resembling some pre-

Conquest material from Bristol Castle.

10. Similar to 1 and 8, but limestone distribution less even, grey to light red surfaces.
11. Quartz-gritted fabric; inclusions frequent and up to 1mm. in size. Resembles some tripod pitchers thought to come from Wiltshire; may once have been glazed.

Glazed Wares

12. Ham Green B as described by Barton (1963) (BPT 27).
13. Bristol (Redcliffe) ware (BPT 118) (Price and Ponsford, 1979a).

Discussion

The pottery has been compared with that from medieval Bristol. Fabrics 3, 8 and 12 are typical of the thirteenth century and provide a date for the building. Fabric 5 is of interest as it may be the elusive Long Ashton ware (Le Patourel, 1968). It is hoped to carry out further work at Barker's site, including a magnetometer survey. Of the other fabrics, 6 and 11 are of later eleventh - and early twelfth century date and 2 seems to cease by 1100 at Bristol Castle. Fabric 1 (and probably 9) is almost certainly of pre-Conquest date, implying that there is a much earlier period of occupation on the site.

POTTERY CATALOGUE

Coarse Wares (Fig 4)

1. Body sherd, decorated with 'wheel' stamp. Such stamps are not uncommon on vessels in this fabric from Mary le Port Street and Peter Street, Bristol (fabric 1, AA).
2. Rim and neck sherd, red surface skin (fabric 2, AC).
- 3-13 Rim and base sherds showing range of form in fabric 3. Includes fragments of base of flat-bottomed straight-sided vessel (13); Nos. 4 and 9 from AA, Nos. 6 7 and 10 from AB, Nos. 5 8 12 and 13 from AC.
- 14-19 Rim and base sherds showing range in fabric 4. Club rims such as 14 and 15 are typical of the period 1200-1250 at Bristol Castle (Ponsford, 1979). Nos 14 and 19 from AA, Nos. 15 17 and 18 from AB, No. 16 from AC.

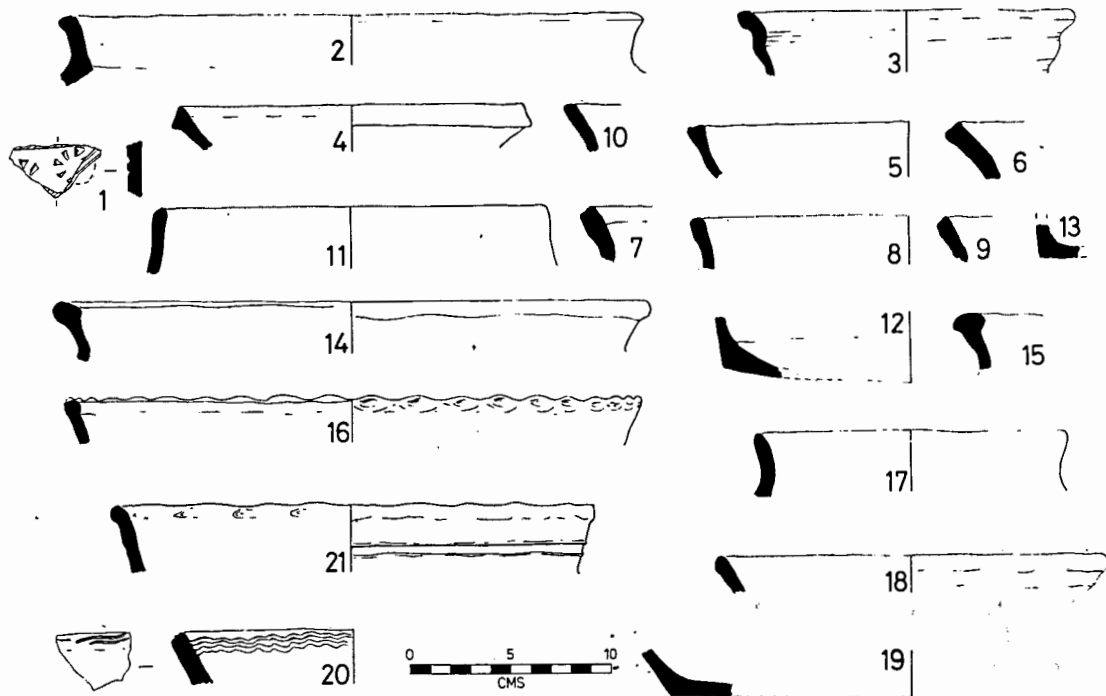


Fig 4 Medieval coarse pottery, Stockwood

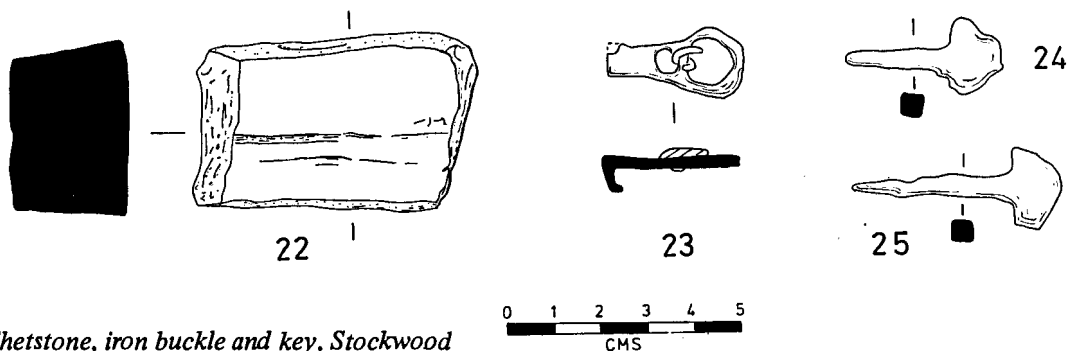


Fig 5 Whetstone, iron buckle and key, Stockwood

20. Rim sherd decorated internally and on rim with lines of wavy combing, two-toothed on rim, three-toothed inside. The surface is coated with glaze showing that it was fired with glazed wares. The decoration on this and 21 is common on Ham Green ware also (fabric 5, AC).
21. Rim sherd, red fabric, grey core. Decorated with thumb-nailing on the rim top and two parallel grooves on the exterior of neck (fabric 5, AC).

The quantity of sherds in each fabric are shown in the table.

FABRIC	CONTEXT		
	AA	AB	AC
1	1	2	—
2	1	—	1
3	7	14	11
4	29	46	45
5	13	19	21
6	1	3	4
7	7	6	1
8	—	3	2
9	—	—	1
10	1	—	—
11	—	—	1
12	3	—	—
13	1	—	2

#### OTHER FINDS (Fig 5)

From AB came fragments of brick or tile; one of these was certainly from a pantile, demonstrating the disturbed nature of this context.

22. Fragment of medieval whetstone in Pennant Sandstone (Context AA). Other finds from AA were two pieces of Pennant Sandstone, a little bone and oyster shell, a flint flake, and two small iron fragments.
23. Iron buckle, probably medieval (plan view drawn from X-radiograph; (context AB). Other finds from AB included eighteen sheep-size bone fragments, a sheep's tooth and some oyster shells.
24. and 25. Iron fiddle-key (horse-shoe) nails, probably medieval (Context AC). Other finds from this context were a headless nail; fragment of iron sheet; one flint; 34 sheep-size bone fragments; 1 cow's tooth, 1 oyster shell.

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# EXCAVATIONS AT PETER STREET, BRISTOL

## 1975 - 1976

### E. J. Boore

Since the brief account of excavations at Peter Street appeared in the BA. RG Bulletin, of Spring 1976, Vol. 5 no. 7, considerable post-excavation work has taken place. This article represents a summary of that work. The site (ST 591731) lies in the parish of St. Peter's and is situated between the medieval roads of Peter Street and Narrow Wine Street, (Fig. 1). An area of over 600 sq. m. was investigated and in places excavated to a depth of over 3 m. The excavations occurred in advance of landscaping and the then proposed construction of ornamental gardens and other features. The site began during snow in March 1975 and continued until the end of the drought in August 1976.

The site lies on the crest of a natural peninsular bordered by the river Frome on the north and to the west, and the river Avon on the south. The excavation was sandwiched between Bristol Castle to the east and the Norman town on the west. The later Newgate extension to the town walls incorporated the area into the medieval town of *Bricgstow*. Excavations carried out by P. A. Rahtz at St. Mary-le-Port in 1962-63 (1) and below the north-east defences of Bristol Castle by M. W. Ponsford in 1969 (2) have both provided evidence for late Saxon occupation in this area. The nearby Bristol bridge may be on the site of the original bridge referred to in the Saxon town named, *Bricgstow*, 'settlement at the bridge'. St. Peter's is probably Bristol's oldest church having its origins in the late Saxon period. A mid-12th century document (3) describes St. Peter's as existing in the time of Robert FitzHamon (1087-1107). To the west at the corner of Peter Street and Dolphin Street there existed an old water supply known as St. Edith's well which may also date from the late Saxon period.

There are documentary references to the Bristol Jewry occupying part of the area from the late 11th century until their expulsion in 1290 (3). Anti-semitic riots occurred in 1266 and 1275 when houses including the synagogue or *Scole Judeorum* were ransacked and burnt. A *Domus Conversorum* (i.e. school for the conversion of Jews) also existed and is said to have been founded by Robert, Earl of Gloucester and Robert FitzHarding (before 1147, the former's death). In 1312-1315 the townsmen rebelled against the castle and the Crown during the so-called Burgesses' Revolt. The town erected siege structures, including a crenellated wall, across the end of Wine Street (3).

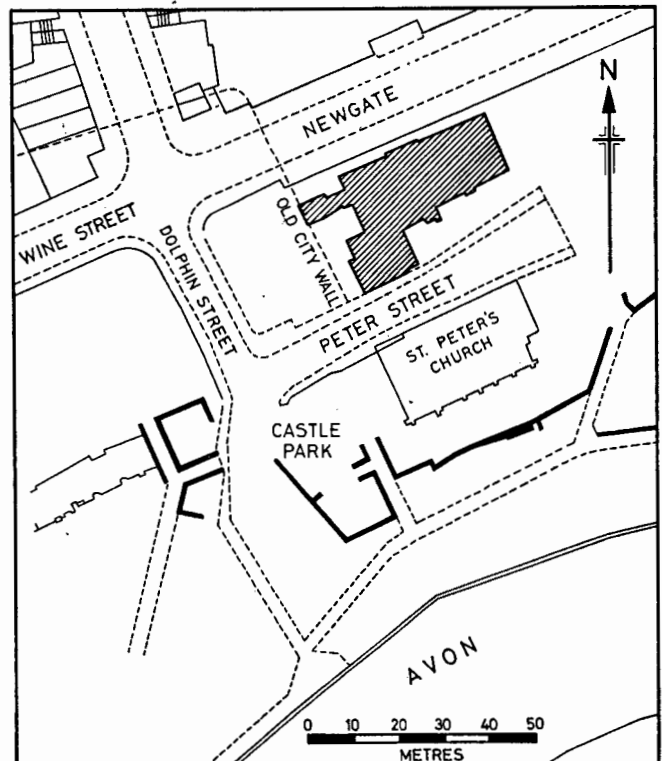
The later medieval period of the 15th and 16th centuries records redevelopment of the area by wealthy merchants, including William Canynges IV, afterwards Dean of Westbury College. Simon Oliver (d 1419) and Sir Richard Newton, alias Cradock (c 1370 - 1448), both Recorders of Bristol, are described as owning property in the area. Artisans including a goldsmith are also noted

in contemporary sources (6). Millerd's map of Bristol of 1673 shows the area of the site as intensively occupied with a lane called Chequer Lane joining Wine Street and Peter Street. By the time of Plumley and Ashmead's map of 1828 the lane is called Church Lane. The area thrived commercially until the blitz of 1940.

The documentary sources suggested much potential for the site particularly with regard to the possibilities of correlating archaeological and documentary evidence. It was hoped by using archaeological techniques to discover more about the Saxon settlement and also obtain dating evidence for the town wall. The latter and a large cellared building attached to it were discovered in the western half of the area by M. W. Ponsford in 1970 (4). In addition to recording and identifying buildings it was hoped that associated finds would reflect the character of the occupation and provide evidence for other activities like trade, industry and diet.

#### Summary of Main Periods

The site was intensively occupied and contained a complex sequence of buildings and features. The insertion of late



PETER STREET: LOCATION PLAN

Fig 1 Site location plan



cellars and repeated replacement of drainage systems from the 18th century onwards disturbed the site stratigraphy but did not obliterate it. One building (B.2) enjoyed long and continuous occupation, reflecting changes in use through structural alterations. Tenements were subdivided and amalgamated and it was not uncommon for walls to be repointed rather than replaced.

The following notes suggest the main aspect of each period but may be subject to future alteration. The plan (fig 2) indicates the main structural features on the site.

#### PERIOD I: PREHISTORIC

The natural ridge between the rivers Frome and Avon is comprised of Triassic Sandstone. In the area covered by the site the red sandstone was covered by a deposit of fine, pale yellow sand varying up to 1 m in depth. No features were discovered which could be assigned to this or the Roman period. Residual finds consisted of flint scrapers, fragments of blades, flakes and some flint nodules not derived from the local river gravels.

#### PERIOD II: ROMANO-BRITISH

Residual finds included a bronze bow brooch dated to the mid-first century and a coin of Constantius II (A.D. 324-361). Pottery spanning the same period was also found along with a fragment of box flue-tile. The pot-sherds were from shallow dishes, storage jars and a flagon, all probably of local origin. The finds suggest the presence of Romano-British site in the area, perhaps a small rural farmstead similar to that discovered during the Greyfriars excavation in 1973 (5). At present there is no recognised evidence for any occupation between Period II and Period III.

#### PERIOD III: LATE SAXON (10th-11th Centuries)

Considerable material survives for this period though unfortunately little in the way of structures. Large amounts of pottery, particularly cooking pots, were found, some decorated with stamped rosettes and wavy combing. Evidence for trade is indicated by a rim and handle sherd of red-painted, late 10th-century, North French pitcher which was recovered from a later context. The finds came from cess-pits or in later contexts of Period IV. Iron slag was found also.

Towards the east end of the site a north-south gully, 420 m x 0.70 m x 0.40 m was the earliest feature which may define a boundary division. Evidence for timber structures was indicated by post-holes. Another structure consisted of a feature 2 m x 1.30 m x 0.40m, with an east-west gully 1.56 m x 0.70m x 0.50m at the north end and post-holes 0.30m x 0.25m in the opposite corners at the south end (not on plan).

#### PERIOD IV: 11th and 12th Centuries

A wall, 4.60m x 1.60 m x 2.10 m on a north-south alignment was discovered in the north-west corner of the site and was a continuation of the town wall discovered by M. W. Ponsford in 1970. Only the east face was revealed showing a solidly constructed wall of Brandon Hill Grit and Pennant Sandstone bonded in an orange-brown, sandy mortar. Part of the external foundation trench survived and was seen to cut 1.10 cm into the yellow sand natural. This area was badly disturbed though pottery from the foundation trench was dated to the late 11th, early 12th centuries (6).

The eastern half of the site was honeycombed with pits which often cut each other. Many of these were subsequently backfilled with cess material. The intensity of these pits is interpreted as quarrying for the pale yellow sand, as many

of the pits cut through this upper layer of natural to the level of the red sandstone. It is suggested that this quarrying activity was associated with the building of the town wall on the west and possibly the castle on the east.

#### PERIOD V: 12th-13th Centuries

This phase is defined west by a number of straight-sided pits, including pits originally lined with wood, and one stone-walled feature. The cut features were all cess-pits. Eventually the cessy material, which consisted of a greyish-green, slightly clayey silt, overwhelmed the pits and gradually covered much of the western half of the site. This ubiquitous deposit produced large amounts of finds.

Further east the remains of a building (B.1) were discovered. The building was approximately 7 m square with a floor of Pennant Sandstone slabs. The eastern half was divided into two rooms with an east-west timber partition wall defined by post-holes and a single course of Pennant Sandstone foundations. In the north-west corner a small cellar was constructed of Carboniferous Limestone. The cellar was 3 m square and 1.60 m deep. The entrance was from the east, although the eastern wall had been almost completely demolished. The destruction material partly filled the cellar. The north cellar wall contained a re-used, 12th century, oolitic limestone cresset lamp in its construction. The eastern half of B.1 suffered from extensive stone robbing and north of the cellar were indications of burning. Subsequently the cellar destruction levels were buried beneath cess deposits and large pits were dug through the floor level on the east, and throughout the south-west area. The pits contained cess-like material and industrial waste. Building B.1 may represent one of the documented Jewish buildings described above.

#### PERIOD VI: Late 13th-14th Centuries

The main structural feature discovered was a wall and bank constructed of Pennant Sandstone and red sandstone bonded in dark red, clayey sand (Figure 2). It was situated some 12 m east of the town wall, running on a NW-SE alignment just south of Wine Street. The surviving dimensions of the north section of the wall were 4.50m x 0.60 m x 0.75 m. Only the west face survived, the eastern half of the wall having been destroyed by later intrusions. Further south a short section of east face survived, giving overall dimensions of 12m x 1.40 m x 0.75 m. This wall may represent the remains of the documented, crenellated wall erected across Wine Street during the Burgesses' Revolt of 1312-1315.

The paucity of documentary references for this period is reflected in the archaeological remains. This was probably a reaction to the instability of the period represented by the late 13th-century anti-semitic riots and the early 14th-century Burgesses' Revolt.

Towards the latter half of the 14th century, however, occupation was re-established. A lane was constructed over the remains of the wall described above, and joined Wine Street to Peter Street. The southern end of the wall was completely demolished and served as make-up for the lane. East of the lane, plot boundaries were established in the form of gullies and roughly-constructed stone walls. The boundaries, in part followed lines suggested by the pattern of pit digging in the previous period where property rights may have existed but were less well-defined. The main activity within the tenements consists of digging

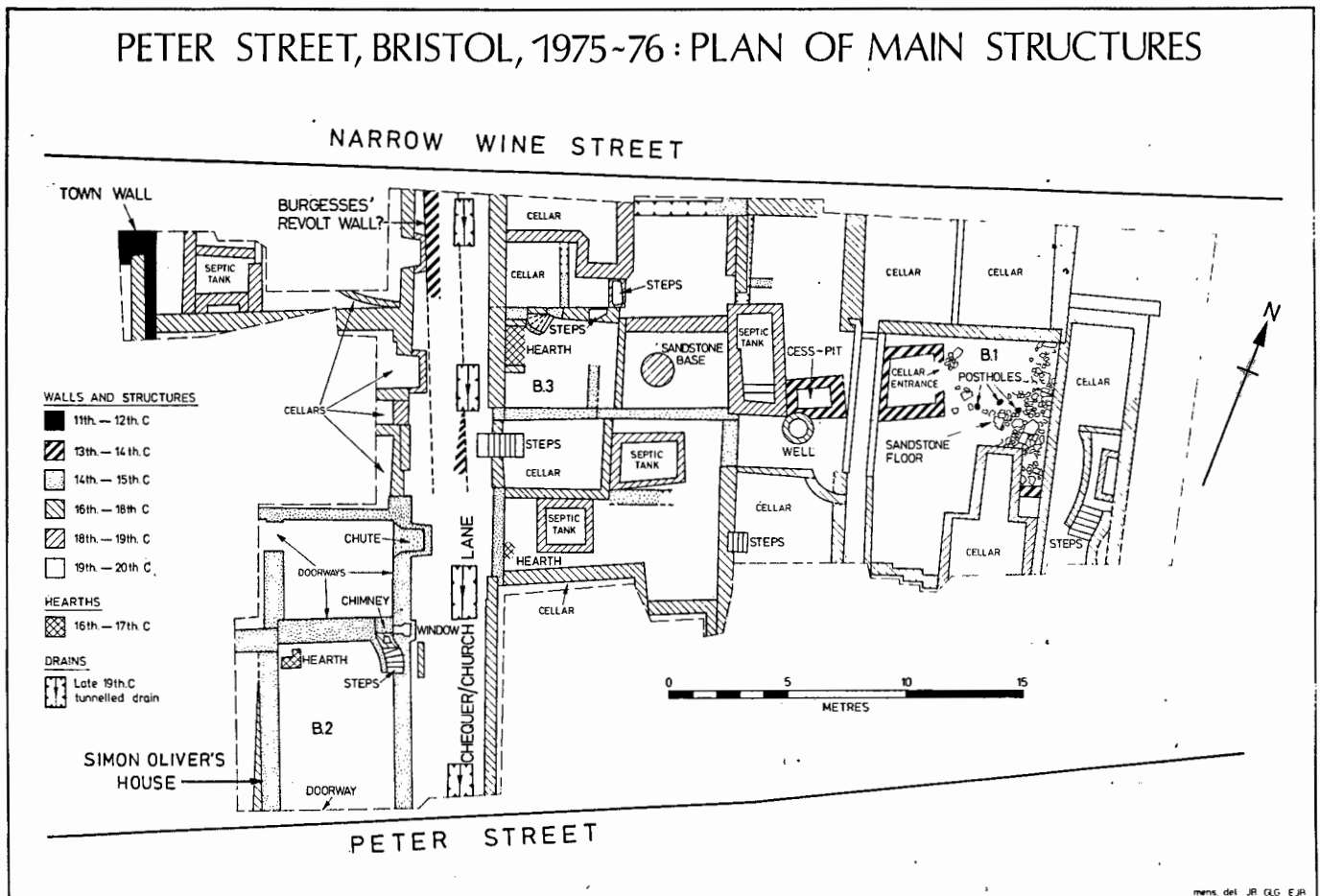


Fig 2 Plan of main features

rubbish pits associated with minor timber buildings as might be expected in back gardens. These tenements, which measure approximately 5 m x 13 m fronted Wine Street and Peter Street.

#### PERIOD VII: Late 14th-15th Centuries

The lane was repeatedly relaid gradually thereby raising its level throughout this and the succeeding periods. The original lane of sand and small stones was improved with the laying of rough stone cobbling. There were many instances of patching by using the nearest material to hand, including domestic rubbish of pottery, shell, animal bone and mortar. During the 14th century many lane layers were constructed of industrial waste consisting of black ash and metal slag to give a metallised surface. Wheel ruts and the many examples of repair testify to the increasing traffic along the lane. At the same time as industrial waste was used for lane improvements many pits throughout the site were filled with similar material, which points to the proximity of industrial activity in the area.

William Worcestre (c. 1480) wrote that both Simon Oliver and Sir Richard Newton (see above, 3) owned property along the lane. Archaeological and documentary evidence have identified Oliver's property which was situated in the south-west corner between the lane and Peter Street. The property (B.2) consisted of two cellars, the southern cellar comprising a barrel-vaulted structure with an entrance from Peter Street (Fig 1). This half of the building probably represented part of the site

of Oliver's shops. The cellar behind, which originally had a timber ceiling, represented the foundations of Oliver's house, which was entered from the lane. Access was gained from the shops to both cellars by a curving stairway on the east side. A doorway connected the house cellar with that beneath the shops. A window constructed of oolitic limestone in the east wall provided light for the steps. Several structures were found in the north cellar walls, including small wall-cupboards and a chute from the lane. The dimensions of the property were 6 m x 13 m. The property continued in use for a long period, undergoing modifications but still retaining its essential medieval character (7).

On the east side of the lane and further north were the remains of a similar early 15th-century building (B.3). This building contained a room on its south side with a cellar on the north linked by a curving stairway. Both B.2. and B.3 were constructed mainly of Pennant Sandstone bonded in orange, sandy mortar. In the later medieval period Building B.3 subsequently underwent alterations associated with industrial activity. It is tentatively suggested that B.3 may represent the remains of Sir Richard Newton's house which may have been subsequently owned by one of the artisans recorded as living in the area.

Further east were discovered substantial remains of a back garden to a property, which probably fronted Peter Street. In addition to the rubbish pits there were a number of regular features including parallel, straight-

sided gullies and a square pit. They all contained the same, very sandy soil and oyster shell fill. This later medieval occupation possibly reflects mixed gardening the gullies representing bedding trenches for plants and the pit for soft fruit bushes, or possibly even rose trees (8). Between the features were traces of clay paths.

#### PERIOD VIII: 16th-18th Centuries

Miller's map of Bristol (1673) gives the impression that the area was completely built-up which has been confirmed archaeologically. The previously un-named lane was now called Chequer Lane, a name possibly derived from an inn sign (3).

Earlier buildings underwent alterations and additions including the building of cellars. The steps in B.2 and B.3. were both blocked in, the former with a double flued chimney. In the lane east of Oliver's building (B.2) were found a line of post-holes. These are interpreted as rubbing posts for the protection of the corner of the building and for providing support for an overhanging upper storey.

The remains of three pitched-stone hearths were found, the largest situated in the north-west corner of B.3 south room. All were incomplete though the remains in B.3 suggest that there was originally a substantial hearth here perhaps used for more than domestic purposes. The town wall was completely demolished by this time though it continued to serve as a foundation for later walls and as a boundary.

Further east a well was discovered.

#### PERIOD IX: 18th-19th Centuries

More cellars were created and also a number of septic tanks. The problem of waste disposal is further indicated by the laying of a system of stone-built drains throughout the area. Drainage problems seem acute as shown by their frequent replacement. Both the septic tanks and extensive drainage system also reflect the increasing intensity of occupation in the area. Documents describe some buildings as warehouses, reflecting an increase in commercial activity. Three central tenements west of the lane, and possibly two on the east fronting the lane, are aligned east-west. Rocque's map (1742) still shows Chequer Lane, but by the time of Plumley and Ashmead's version (1828) the name has become Church Lane.

#### PERIOD X: 19th-20th centuries

Church Lane became a cobbled road during the early part of this period. The stone drains were replaced by ceramic pipes. The laying of pipes along the lane was achieved by digging four straight-sided pits to the level of natural red sandstone (3.10 m). The pits, spaced approximately 6 m apart, were then joined by tunnelling (a few of the timber roof supports survived in situ) and the pipe laid along the tunnel. This method of laying drains, possibly carried out by children, has been found on other sites in Bristol including Bristol Castle (9) (13), St. Bartholomew's Hospital, in Lewins Mead (10) and at the recent excavations in Redcliff Street (11). Many of the buildings were repaired during this period. This included repointing the walls. Walls which on first appearance seemed to be late in date in fact masked earlier ones, an example being the west wall of B.3. Building B.2. was still thriving and served as Melhuish's Restaurant. Both cellars functioned as storage and kitchen areas.

The area suffered badly from the blitz in 1940. In the post-war period most of the site was levelled and used as a

car-park. West of the excavation a Civic Restaurant was constructed and to the east there existed a cinema. Both buildings were subsequently demolished.

#### *The Finds*

Considerable quantities of finds were recovered; these were prolific in the cess-pits of Period V. The metal finds included a medieval iron arrowhead, part of a bronze barrel lock, a bronze strainer and an exceptionally well-preserved, three-wick bronze lamp (12). Coins ranged from a silver penny of Henry II (1154-1189) to a Victorian half-penny (1837-1901). Bone objects included a gaming counter with ring-and-dot decoration and part of a sheep's scapula covered with red pigment identified as the iron ore haemetite. Perhaps the most intriguing bone finds were tuning pegs from medieval stringed instruments and two bone whistles. In addition to stone mortars many counters of pottery and Pennant Sandstone, in various sizes, were found. A large number of whetstones were recovered including several of Norwegian schist, one which may be of German origin and many from the local area.

A substantial amount of pottery spanning all the periods was recovered. Post-medieval finds included an almost complete Donyatt skillet and a Bristol delft plate with floral decoration. Spanish lustre-ware sherds from shallow dishes also occurred on the site. The medieval pottery included an almost complete late 12th century tripod pitcher, probably from the Gloucester area and a number of semi-complete cooking pots of local origin dated to the 12th and 13th centuries. A very fine, almost complete jug, decorated with a hunting scene and made at Ham Green in the 13th century was found in a context of Period V. Redcliffe (Bristol) pottery of the 14th-15th centuries was also well-represented; a fine example of this ware was represented by part of an aquamanile in the form of a knight on horseback, dated to the 14th century. A large amount of medieval pottery found was from the Wiltshire area and there was also some from Stamford. Medieval jugs from the Saintonge area of South-West France were also well-represented. Large quantities of glass of the later period were found. Also many fragments of roof-tiles of Pennant Sandstone and slate. One fragment of slate from a medieval context (Period V) was covered with scratched doodles.

At present the finds are still being studied but I would like to express my thanks to Dr D T Moore of the British Museum (Natural History) for his work on the hones; Mrs S Scott and Miss S Wall for their work on the bones; Mr O Kent who is working on the clay-pipes; Dr D J Williams for his analysis of the red pigment on the scapula; Mr. D Dawson who has identified most of the coins and Mr M W Ponsford for his work on the pottery. Work is continuing on the pottery though Miss J L Everton has carried out invaluable recording work. A list of soil samples for analysis was submitted to the D.o.E. at the end of 1980.

## Conclusions

Finds from the excavation cover a time-span from the prehistoric period to the mid-20th century. Occupation appears to be at its height in four main periods; during the late Saxon Period III and the succeeding Period IV of the late 11th and early 12th centuries when two major building projects were taking place, namely the building of the town walls and Bristol Castle; Period VII of the late 14th-15th centuries witnessed the development of the area by merchants and local dignitaries; finally ever-growing occupation culminated in Period X when in living memory the area is remembered as a bustling patchwork of roads and lanes containing shops, domestic houses, warehouses, pubs, restaurants and markets.

Industry and commerce date back to the quarrying activities of Period III and the Jewish occupation of the 12th and 13th centuries. Buildings certainly existed in the former period and it is possible that at this date the beginnings of property boundaries were established. Boundaries which were maintained with little deviation throughout the succeeding occupation.

The finds reflect the character and fortunes of the area. Trading connections were established with France from the late 10th century and increasing during the 13th century as a result of the growth of the wine trade. The gaming counters and musical instrument remains representing the lighter side of medieval life. The relatively sedate, post-war character of the area culminated in 1978 when the area was officially opened by the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Councillor C. E. Merrett, as Castle Park.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavation was carried out by the Department of Archaeology and History of Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery with the aid of a grant from Bristol City Council, the Bristol Threatened History Society and the Department of the Environment. Messrs. Nott Brodie Company Limited gave considerable assistance throughout the excavation. We were particularly grateful for the loan of two Portacabins for use on site. The author would also like to express his personal thanks to Mr N Partridge, site agent, for the use of equipment and for his general enthusiasm and support. The Engineer's Department of the City of Bristol Council which was

involved in the landscaping was most helpful particularly the site foreman, Mr A Nutty.

I am extremely grateful for the comprehensive documentary references and background information kindly supplied by Frances Neale and her continuing support. This information greatly enhances the understanding and interpretation of the excavation. Subsequently documentary references have been generously supplied by J Bryant, Dr R Leech and Dr R H Price. Mr P Leech of CRAAGS kindly commented on the Roman Pottery and Mrs A Everton on the flint work. I am most grateful to all the volunteers, students and colleagues who took part in the excavation and particularly to those volunteers from the Community Services Project. It is impossible to mention all those who worked enthusiastically during the excavation but I extend my particular thanks to the site planner, John Bryant and volunteers Mrs M Gorely, W. Cocks, M O'Connell, J Warrilow and all those volunteers who made such a contribution to the excavation. The plans were drawn by Mrs B Cumby.

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# EXCAVATIONS AT BRISTOL BRIDGE, 1981

## B. Williams

Stage 2 of the Redcliffe Project was completed in September, 1981, at Bristol Bridge. The site is situated on the south side of the River Avon, immediately south of Bristol Bridge with a frontage on Redcliff St. and Bridge Parade. The impending development of the site (at which building work is already well advanced) presented the opportunity to examine part of the medieval waterfront, previously not possible in Redcliffe. (See *BARG Review 2, 1981, 35*).

Waterfront archaeology is becoming increasingly popular largely through its past neglect. The importance of such sites and the major role they played in the development of their immediate surroundings needs emphasising. Excavations and research on the Thames waterfront in London and other towns and cities in Britain and abroad have demonstrated their potential, not only by their archaeology but also by their preservation of the environmental record. The Bristol Bridge excavation amply demonstrated this potential in 1981.

Since it is possible that Redcliff St. developed southwards from Bristol Bridge there was a good chance of finding 12th-century structures on the site: structures or evidence of occupation of that date had eluded our investigations at the south end of Redcliff St. in 1980 (Williams, 1981). Furthermore, it was hoped to locate the remains of the 13th-century bridge and/or its approach or predecessor over the river Avon (Bristol Bridge). The approach may have been found on a watching brief recently carried out on the site although no evidence of the bridge was found. There is still the opportunity to search for the 13th-century bridge or its earlier version in the site on the opposite side of Bridge Parade, adjacent to Courage Western Ltd. Redcliffe probably developed during the 12th century. The church of St. Mary Redcliffe was there by the mid 12th century and the Templars had probably established a church in the adjoining suburb of Temple by c1140. Robert of Gloucester gave the area to the Templars before he died in 1147 (Lobel and Carus-Wilson, 1975). No evidence of 12th century structures was found in the excavation at Bristol Bridge, however, but this was due entirely to the location of the excavation trench which had to be concentrated, for the most part, on the immediate waterfront. Earlier structures on waterfront sites are normally located well back from the present river or existing quays; new ones were subsequently built out from these, riverwards, either because of silting or the desire to acquire more land.

A watching brief carried out on the site during November and December, 1981, revealed probable 12th-century structures behind, i.e. east of, the 13th century waterfront. These included a stone quay wall and rubbing post, timber building platforms or jetties and a row of substantial timber piles aligned east to west which may have been the 13th century bridge approach immediately south of Bristol Bridge. A ditch, 3.7m wide aligned east to west may have

continued beneath Redcliff St. and may have been an early attempt to drain the marsh. Built over the ditch were two medieval cellars with barrel-vaulted roofs.

### *The excavation (figure 1)*

The excavation proper was concentrated on a trench 17.5m north south by 3m to 5m wide along the existing waterfront immediately north of 144 Redcliff St. A second trench at right angles to its southern end was intended to section the area between the waterfront and Redcliff St., but it stopped c.14m. short of Redcliff St. against an impenetrable mass of 19th century walling.

Approximately 8.5m east of the present harbour wall was a bank of alluvial clay, about 1.76m deep, sloping down sharply to the river. This was probably the medieval foreshore which had accumulated as silt against the 12th century waterfront. It is likely that the waterfront was extended towards the river after it became choked with silt, probably in the 13th century. Prior to the construction of a waterfront complex in the 13th century, the southern bank of the river Avon appears to have narrowed towards Bristol Bridge, probably as a result of the bridge's presence. The wider part of the river, about 16m south of the existing bridge, was straightened and reclaimed in the 13th century. This was done by constructing a revetment of planks and staves on the foreshore, of which the northern part survived (revetment 1). The river bank immediately behind revetment 1 was strengthened with large stones. Reclamation of the waterfront at Bristol Bridge continued in the 13th century with the construction of buildings and docks on the foreshore.

About 7.5m north of revetment 1 was revetment 2. This was also of timber and formed the back of a dock associated with building 1. The south wall of building 1, aligned east to west, extended 5.5m west of revetment 2 to form one side of dock 1. Revetment 2, only partially excavated, extended beyond the northern limit of the site. It was of the 'post and plank' type identified elsewhere, and consisted of a substantial base-plate in to which three vertical members were jointed and pegged (Figure 2). Levels of horizontal planking, much of it re-used from redundant ships, was added to the landward face of the uprights and secured in place by the pressure of the refuse which had been dumped behind. The structure was held upright by two tie-backs, one of which was anchored to the alluvial bank. A diagonal timber, angled out from the landward side of the revetment and jointed to the base-plate, probably formed part of a back-brace.

The remains of a hurdle structure, aligned north to south, was found 1.6m west of revetment 2 on the foreshore. This had obviously been designed to dam the river to allow the foundations of the revetment to be laid.

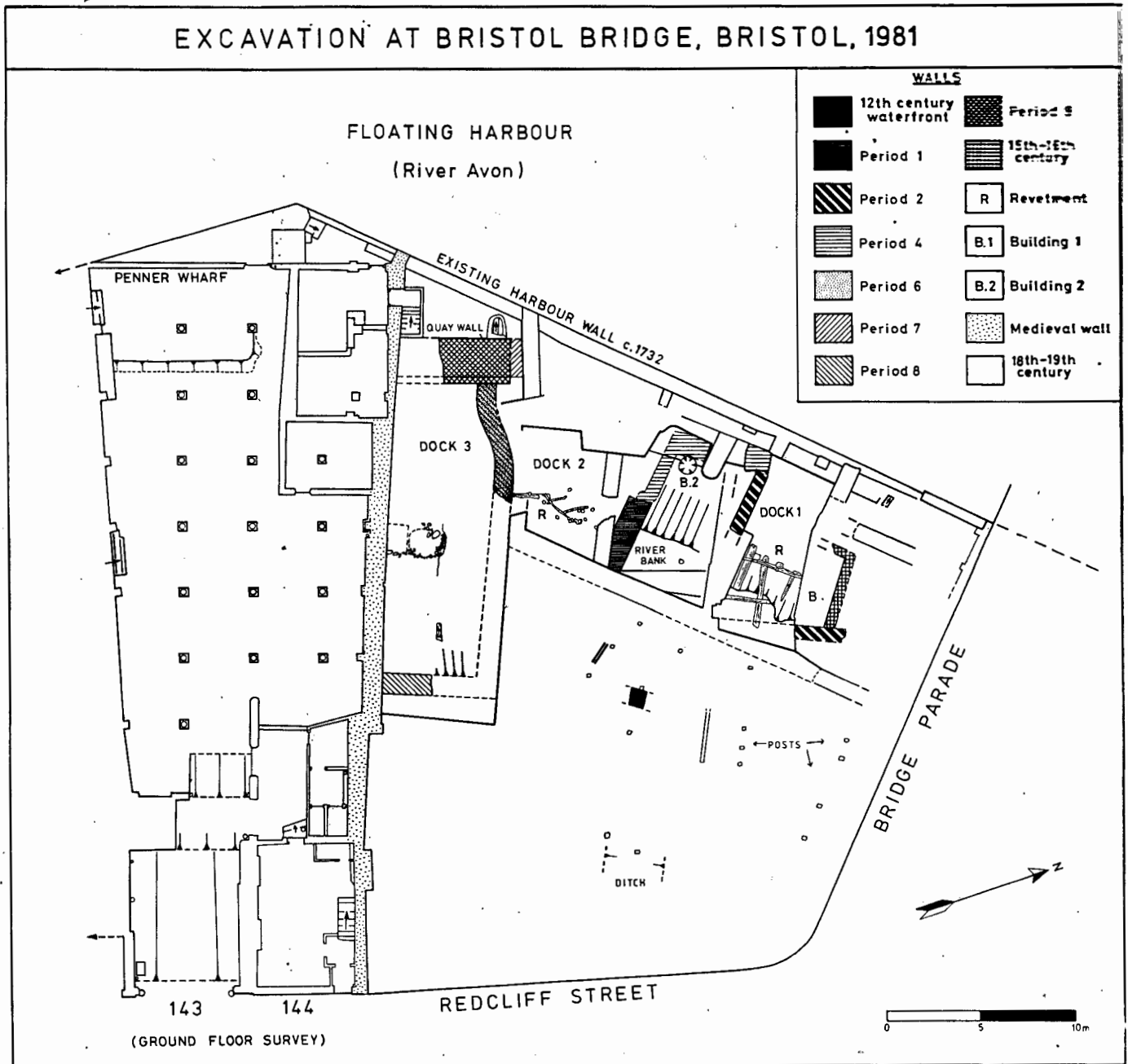


Fig 1 Excavation at Bristol Bridge: period plan

Dock 1 silted up to a depth of .2m and eventually went out of use in the 14th century. Before it went out of use altogether however, building 2, of stone construction, was built against its south side. The side of building 2 against the river corresponded with the front of dock 1. To the south of building 2, revetment 1, which had been built earlier, was re-used in the 13th century as the back of dock 2. The overall dimension of the dock was about 6m by 6m. It may have been built as a replacement for dock 1 to the north and appears to have gone out of use in the late 13th or early 14th century. Subsequently, it was filled in with highly organic refuse and another was built on its south side (dock 3).

Dock 3 was altogether more substantial. It measured 17m east to west by 6m wide north to south, was built of stone, and incorporated a timber rubbing post against the wall

at its eastern end to protect ships from damage when docking. The dock went out of use in the 14th century. Its entrance was blocked by a stone quay wall and the dock interior was subsequently filled in from its eastern and southern sides, mainly with organic refuse. There was no archaeological evidence to suggest what might have happened to the waterfront at Bristol Bridge immediately after the disuse of the docks, or the reason for their disuse. It is possible that loss of trade through unsuccessful competition with 'the Quay' and 'the Back' of Bristol forced them to close. Equally, the dock may have become choked with silt and consequently of no further use. The action of 'reclaiming' the waterfront by encroachment on the river had the effect of deepening the berth for ships, thereby enabling larger vessels to moor at the quays. The rebuilding of the quays at Bristol Bridge may also have

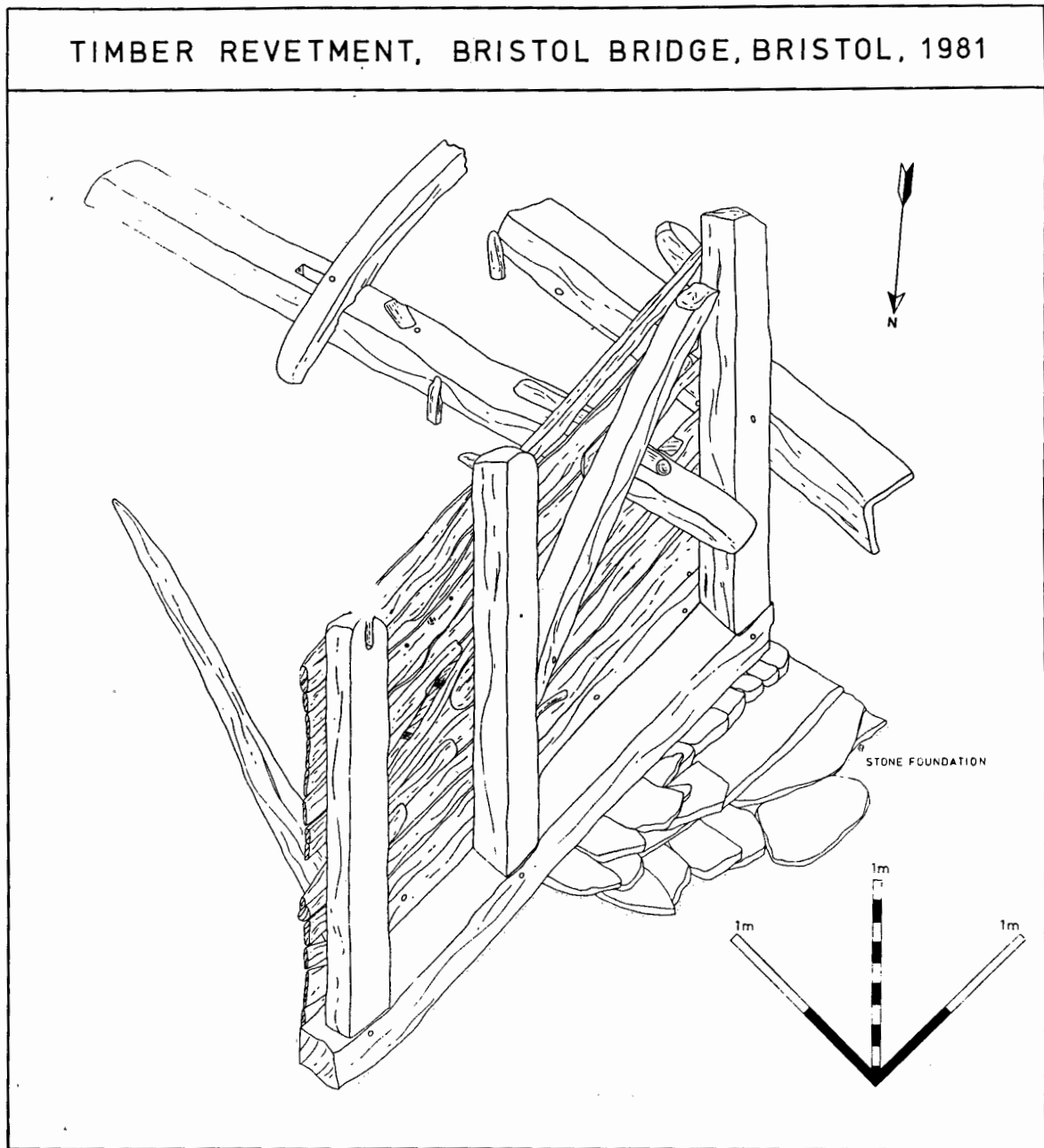


Fig 2 Excavation at Bristol Bridge: timber revetment

been connected with the desire of the individual owners of the properties to acquire more land for building purposes.

Constructed over dock 3 in the 14th century was building 3. No walls to this building were found but two hearths, one circular and the other square, implied an industrial use. The circular hearth or vat-base had a wall around it with an opening through its west side and resembled the vat-bases found in the 1980 excavation at the south end of the street (Williams, 1981). The square hearth to its south, partially robbed, disappeared beneath the north wall extension of 144 Redcliff St.

#### *Survey of 144 Redcliff St. (Building 4)*

This building, now demolished as part of the development at Bristol Bridge, was a fine example of medieval domestic architecture. It measured about 38.5m in length between

Redcliff St. and the Floating Harbour, and 7m wide. Although added to and completely rebuilt internally, the medieval exterior north wall survived virtually intact to the top of first floor level. The building was twice extended towards the river in the medieval period and comprised three separate structures. Internally, the original building measured c.14m. in depth east to west with a ground and first floor. The north exterior wall contained five medieval windows, three on the ground floor and two on the upper; all of them were blocked in the post-medieval period and only one had survived undamaged.

Both extensions to the rear of building 4 were made in the medieval period. The first of these added nearly 15m to its length and a single light window on the first floor, identical to one in the first floor, north wall of the original structure. This extension partially overlapped the original north wall and one window of building 4. The second

addition extended the building by a further 7.5m. The western extension contained no windows and now extended 1.5m west of the 14th century blocking of the quay wall of dock 3.

Preparatory work on the historical material to the site, including 143 and 144 Redcliff St. has been done but although the results look promising, no mention of the docks or quays on the site has yet been found. None of that material has been included here since further work is required on the documents before any conclusions can be drawn from them.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The excavation at Bristol Bridge was carried out by the Department of Archaeology and History of Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery and would not have been possible without the co-operation and generosity of Prudential Pensions Limited, colleagues in the City of Bristol Council, the Bristol Threatened History Society, The Bristol Magpies, Pritchard and Company and Norwest Holst Western Limited and their staff at Bristol Bridge who remained patient and helpful throughout the watching brief.

The department would like to thank the excavation team, especially Eric Elias and John Bryant (site supervisors/surveyors), Jayne Boore (finds supervisor), Margaret Adlington (sieving assistant), and Rosie Crowley.

We would also like to thank Ian Beckey, Mike Baker, Patricia Connor, Tim Cooper, Louise Butler, Mark Everton, John Lowe, Mark Anglis, Reg Hughes, those members of BAARG who participated, and all those people, too numerous to mention, who put so much time and effort into the excavation and its research and organisation. Special thanks go to Bruce Leviton and Martin Bell for instigating and assisting in the sampling of the environmental remains and their helpful comments throughout. The National Maritime Museum, especially Sean McGrail for identifying and agreeing to conserve the timbers from the excavation; Jennifer Hillam, dendro-chronologist at Sheffield University for agreeing to undertake work on the timbers; the staff at the Bristol Records Office for so much assistance; the Dickinson-Robinson Group for allowing access to their building on Redcliff St. Finally the writer would like to add his personal thanks to these and his colleagues at Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery for their help and encouragement.

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# TIMBER STAIRCASES IN NORTHAVON HOUSES TO THE MID 18th CENTURY

## L. J. Hall

### Stair Positions

The earliest medieval houses were either single-storeyed throughout, with no need of a stair, or were stone-built first-floor halls with external stone stairs, as at Saltford Manor near Bath. By the end of the 15th century most open-hall houses had upper chambers at one or both ends, reached by a simple ladder or straight stair. These rose either from the room below or from the open hall, as at Wood Lane Cottage, a 15th century house in Horton. The two doorways to the upper chambers survive in the partition walls, although the actual ladders were replaced by a winder stair when the hall was given an upper floor in the 16th century (1). No early ladder stairs are known to survive in the area. Bushes Farm, Horton has winder stairs in both the kitchen and the inner room; their positions suggest that they predate the flooring of the open hall in the late 16th or early 17th century. The actual stairs may, of course, have been rebuilt since in their original positions.

When open halls were floored over from the mid-16th century onwards, a winder stair was usually inserted at the same time as the hall stack, replacing any previous ladders or stairs. Both the stair and the fireplace were built

against the wall dividing the hall from the through-passage, with the doorway from the passage between them. This three room and through-passage plan became standard in the area until the mid-17th century. As other plan-types evolved during the 17th century, so other stair positions were used and more elaborate types of staircase were developed (1). The winder stair is very compact and can be fitted in almost anywhere. Common positions are beside a gable-end fireplace (although over half the known examples are secondary stairs), next to a lateral stack or a central stack that does not back onto a through-passage, or in a corner of a room away from the fireplace. Two main factors governed the location of the stair in the 17th century. One was the growing desire to use the stair as a decorative feature and so to site it in a more prominent position. The other was the wish to give independent access to as many first-floor rooms as possible from a lobby at the stairhead. Stair turrets are common, sited either on a long wall (the earliest dated example was built at Morton Grange, Thornbury in 1594 or more usually, in the angle of an L-shaped house. Dated ones are at 309 and 311 Badminton Road, Mayhill, Westerleigh (1642), Church Farm, Pucklechurch (1651), Rangeworthy

### TYPES OF STAIRCASE

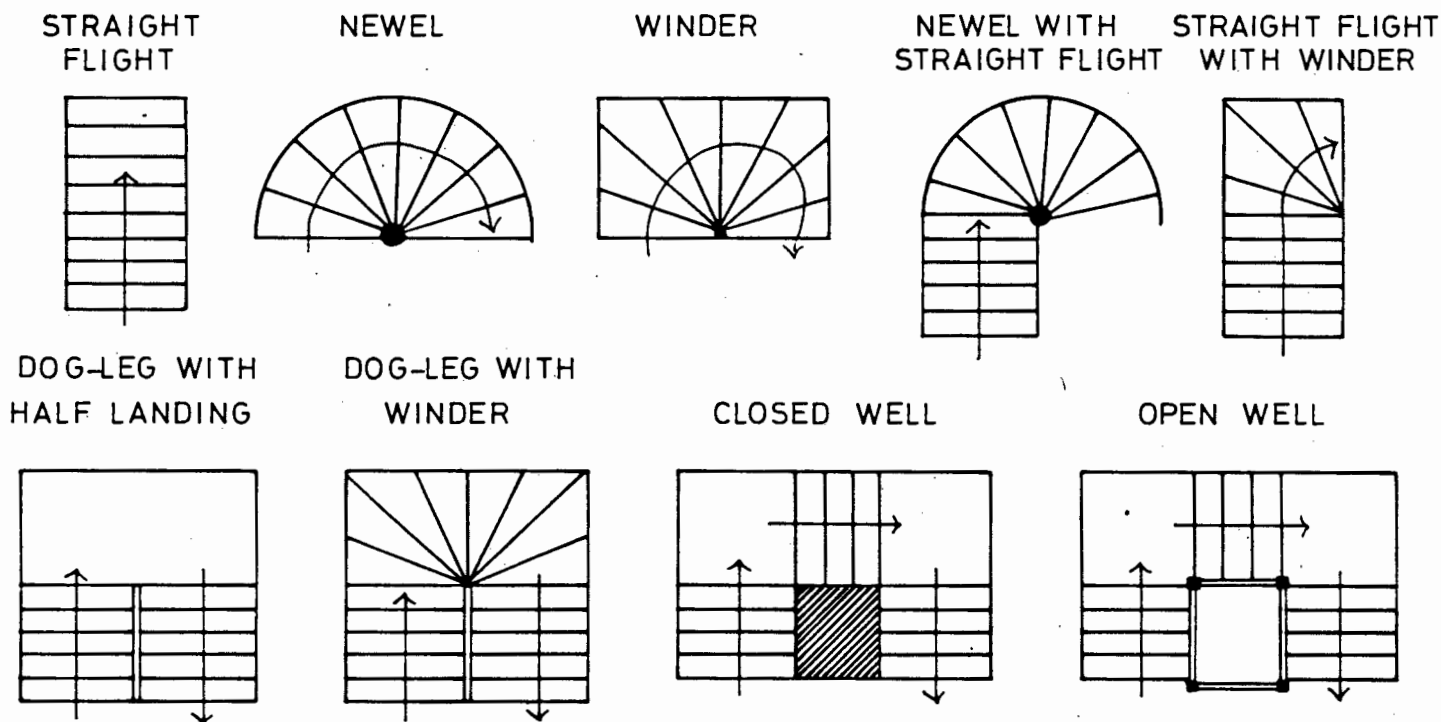


Fig 1

Court (1664) and The Grey House, Pucklechurch (1678). Most turrets are externally square, but a few are round or octagonal. Alternatively a number of L-shaped houses have a stair contained within the rear wing, often at the end of a passage leading from the front door. Examples are Manor Farm, Compton Greenfield (1637), Dibden Farm, Mangotsfield (circa 1640) and The Nook, Iron Acton (1688).

Four houses have the stair in the porch, an unusual feature which evidently did not become popular. At Lyde Green Farm, Pucklechurch (circa 1650) and Boyt's Farm, Tytherington (16th century) it is only the first-floor stair that is in the porch, and the attics are reached by a separate stair. The reverse occurs at Newhouse Farm, Tytherington (circa 1630), where the main stair rises from a lobby beside the front door and the attic stair is in the upper part of the porch. Downend Park Farm, Bristol (early 17th century) has a single stair serving both floors contained within the very tall porch; the strong lock on the door shutting off the stairs on the first floor suggests that the owner was concerned by the proximity of the front door and the stair, and wanted extra security.

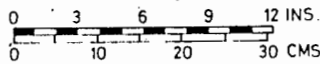
In the late 17th and 18th centuries the staircase in the more important houses was placed even more prominently in a wide central entrance lobby (i.e. with no back door) or passage (i.e. with a back door). Dated examples are Upper Hempton Farm, Patchway (1657) (2), Wick Court, Wick (circa 1665). Faber's Farm, Hambrook (1698), 9 Dowry Square, Bristol (1723) and Step House, Frampton Cotterell (1733).

### Structure

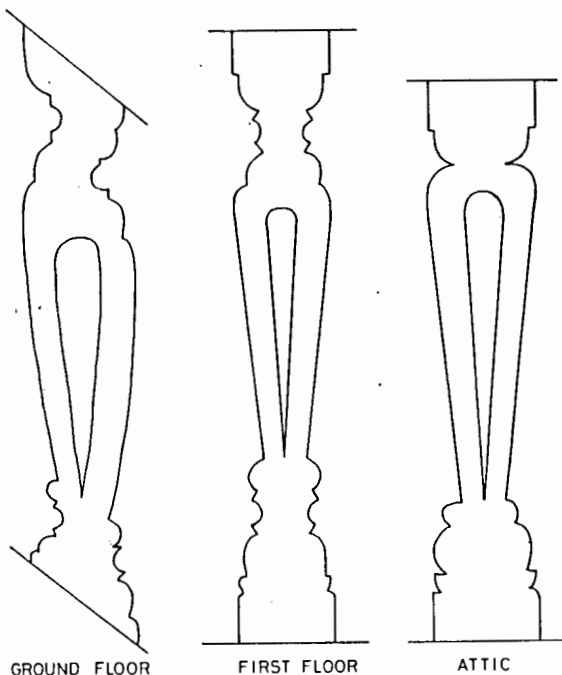
**WINDER STAIRS.** The commonest type of stair is the simple winder, built of separate wooden treads and risers and usually concealed behind doors top and bottom. Sometimes the ground-floor flight is built of solid rubble, with wooden treads and risers on top of the stone as at Lower Coombesend Farm, Old Sodbury, where a small service wing and stair were added in 1654. Sometimes the winder stair was built in truly semi-circular fashion, but was more often fitted into a rectangular recess by a chimney stack or the square corner of a room. Occasionally they are found in positions such as in a turret or central entrance lobby where a more elaborate stair might be expected. Usually the use of an inferior type of stair denotes a smaller or poorer house, but this is not always the case. Church Farm, Pucklechurch is a wealthy house with a plaster overmantel dated 1651, but the stair turret in the angle of the L-plan contains a winder stair. In a few cases the layout demanded a straight stair with a winder at top or bottom, or both, to enable easy access to the stair. Winder stairs continued to be built from the 16th to the 19th century, and most are impossible to date. Where space permitted many were replaced by straight stairs in the 19th and 20th centuries, and the empty recesses were often turned into cupboards.

**NEWEL STAIRS.** The newel stair, although in many ways similar to the winder, is distinguished from it by the presence of a large central newel post. This post is usually

### FLAT BALUSTERS



8. MEADS FARM, WICKWAR



GROUND FLOOR

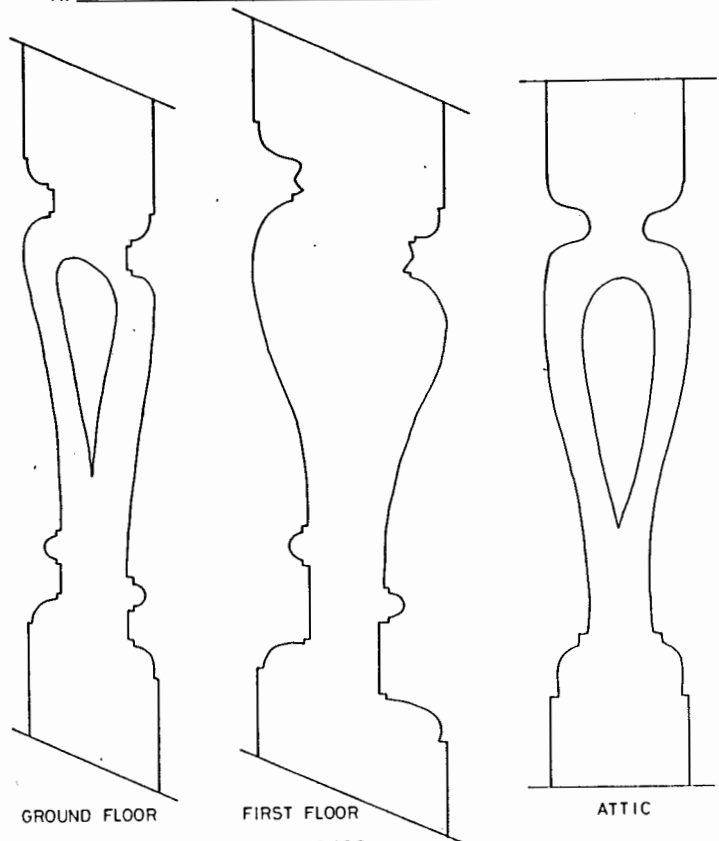
FIRST FLOOR

ATTIC

Fig 2

c.1640

11. THE MANOR HOUSE, GAUNTS EARTHCOTT, ALMONDSBURY



GROUND FLOOR

FIRST FLOOR

ATTIC

1603/80

circular, occasionally octagonal, about six inches in diameter, and extends through more than one storey from the ground floor to the attic. This enormous timber means that the true newel stair is much more expensive than the wimple winder and is usually found in superior houses. The stair almost always describes a true semi-circle, although occasionally it may be fitted into a rectangular recess. The most common location is in a turret, as at Morton Grange (1594) and Thornbury Grange, both in Thornbury, 309 and 311 Badminton Road, Mayhill (1642) and South End House, Charfield (1664). It also occurs in the porch at Downend Park Farm, Bristol (early 17th century, in the corner of a room at Hampstead Farm, Sodbury (2) (early 17th century) and Street Farm, Alveston (1628), and beside a gable-end fireplace at Yew Tree Farm, Frampton Cotterell. At Hill House, Olveston (circa 1635) the stair is in a small rear wing and combines a newel with straight flights.

Like winders, newel stairs are usually composed of separate treads and risers. Occasionally these are laid on top of a rubble base, as at Hick's Farm, Winterbourne (1630). At Home Farm, Old Sodbury (circa 1600) and Goosegreen Farm, Yate (late 17th century) the treads are solid blocks of oak, beautifully polished and very striking in appearance. This perhaps represents the end

of the tradition which in medieval times produced ladder-stairs with solid treads; none are known in the Bristol area, but a few have survived in other parts of the country.

**DOG-LEG STAIRS.** Sometime in the 17th century the dog-leg stair evolved. It comprises two parallel straight flights, separated either by a half-landing or by winders. The simpler versions have a framed partition between the two flights, filled in with lath and plaster; the corner posts are usually either moulded or chamfered and stopped. Examples are Manor Farm, Compton Greenfield (1637), Dibden Farm, Mangotsfield (circa 1640) and Moorend Farm, Hambrook (1676). In the second half of the 17th century a more elaborate type is found. The ends of the treads and risers are covered by a closed string which supports a balustrade and handrail. Possibly the earliest of this type is in the porch at Lyde Green Farm, Pucklechurch, built circa 1650. Others are at Frith Farm, Yate (circa 1680), which has twisted balusters and Faber's Farm, Hambrook (1698) and The Priory, Thornbury (circa 1700) which both have elegant turned balusters.

**WELL STAIRS.** This type consists of short straight flights, separated by quarter landings, which leave a square or rectangular central space. This space can be filled in with a solid core, as at Rangeworthy Court (1664), or with framed

### FLAT BALUSTERS

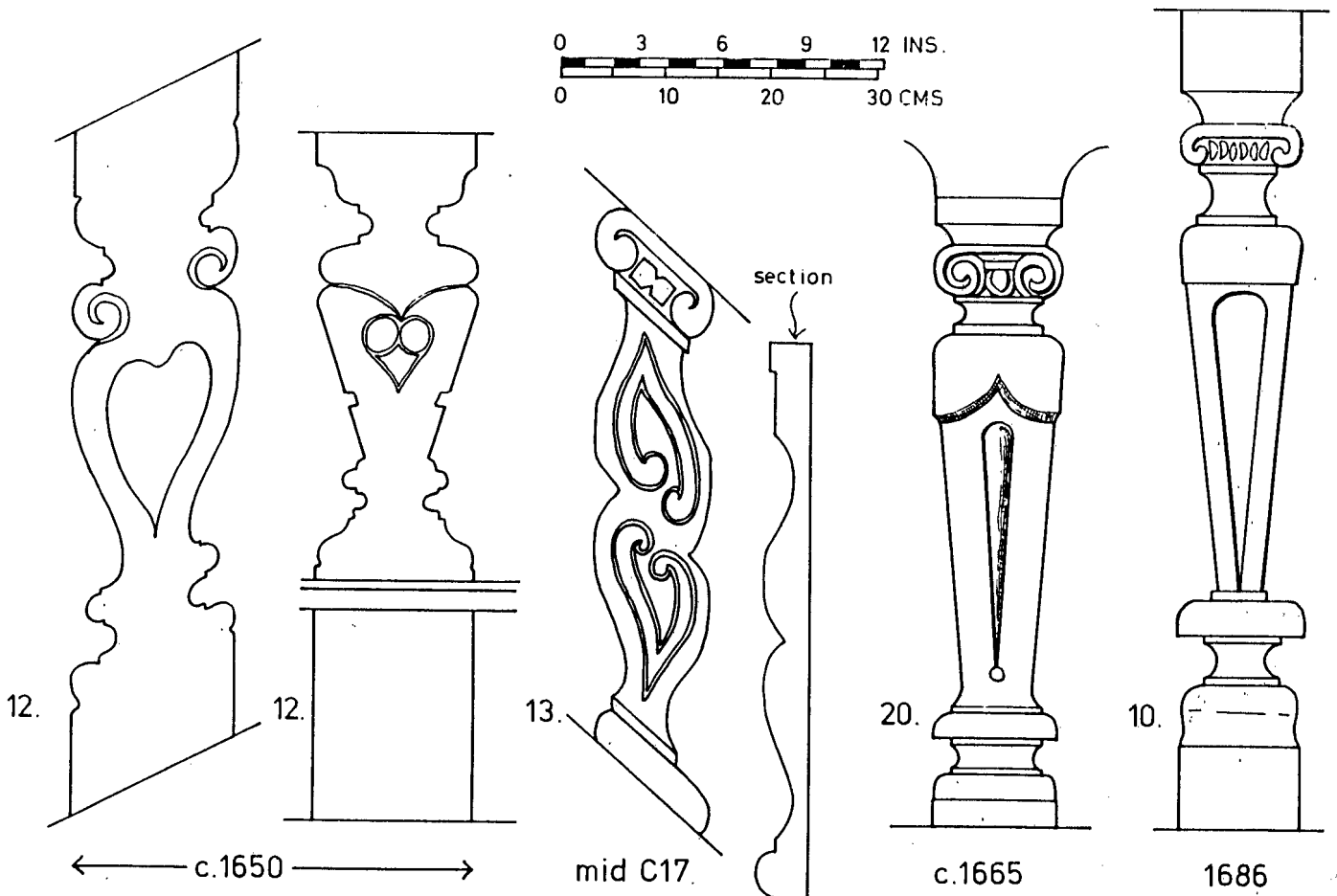


Fig 3

TURNED BALUSTERS

Hall: Northaven Staircases 19

← c.1620-40 →

0 3 6 9 12 IN  
0 10 20 30 CM

c.1600

1628

c.1635

1678

c.1693

1.

2.

3.

4.

7a.

7b.

5.

16.

1698

c.1670

c.1690

← c.1700 →

c.1670

17.

14.

15.

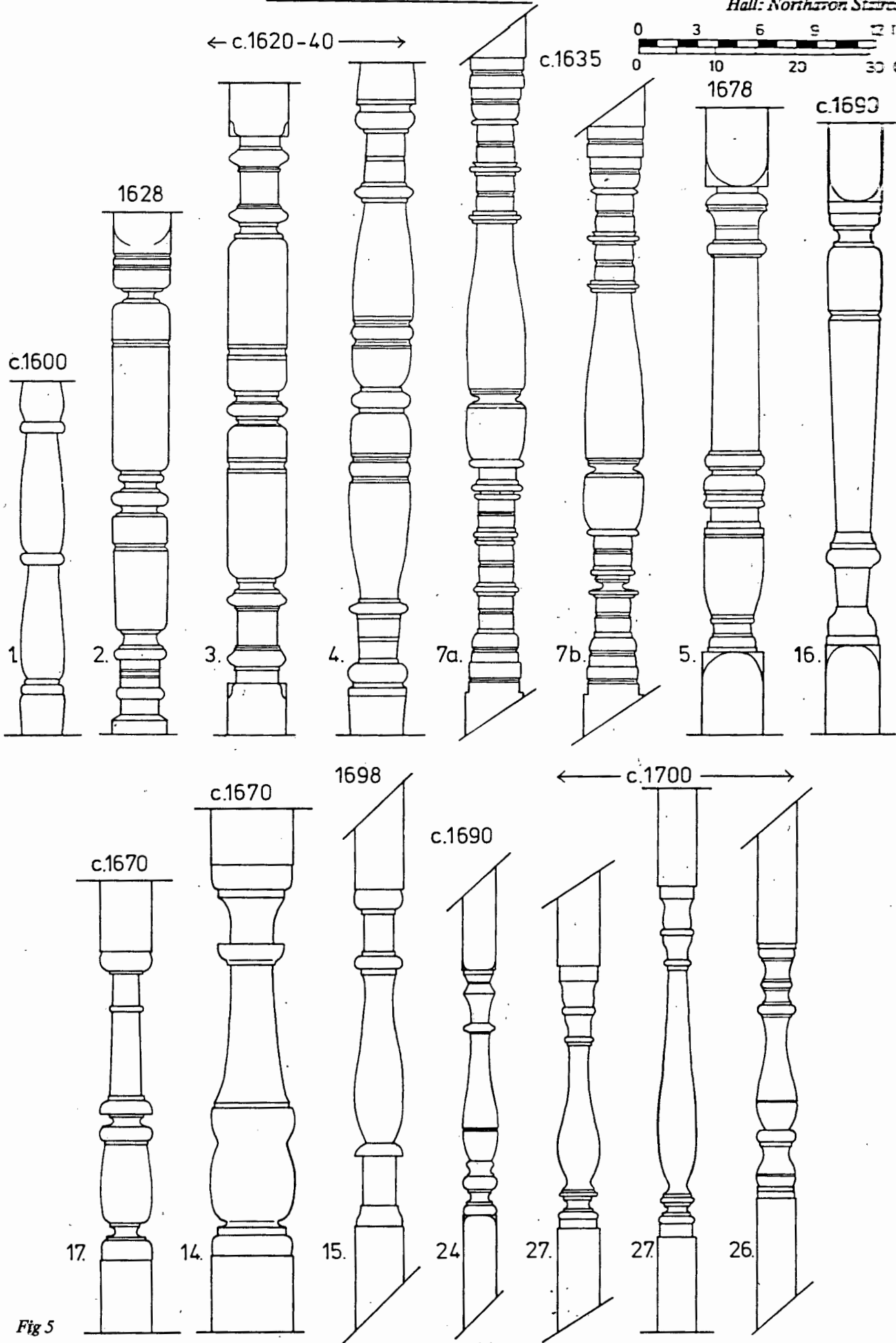
24.

27.

27.

26.

Fig 5



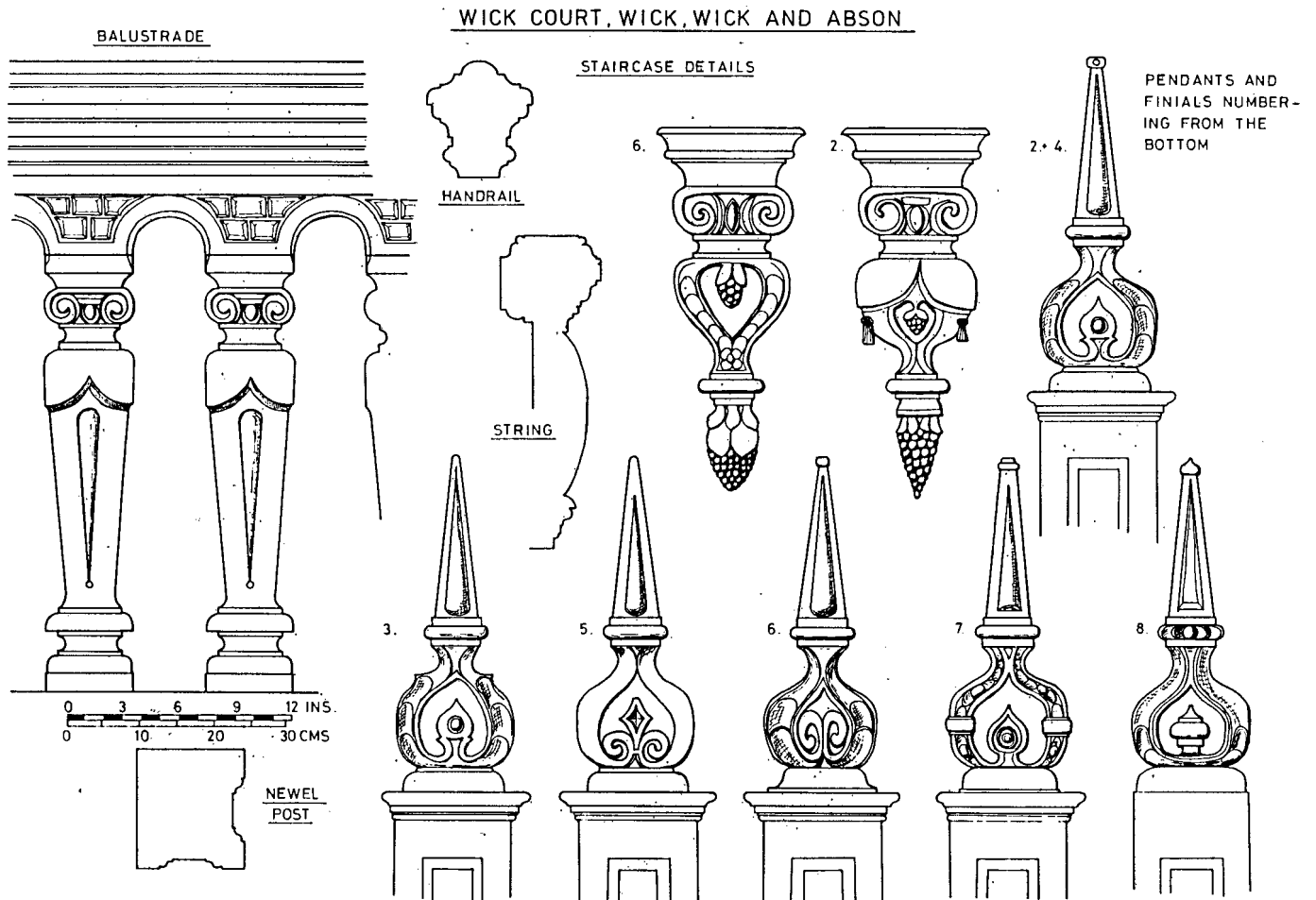


Fig 4

lath-and-plaster partitions. The latter occurs in the attic stair at Newhouse Farm, Tytherington (circa 1630) and there is a cupboard in the central well. The more usual type, however, has an open wall and, like the dog-leg stair, is only round in the better quality houses. Where space is restricted or the ceilings are unusually high the quarter landings may be replaced by continuous winders to give the extra height as at Perrinpit Farm, Frampton Cotterell (circa 1700). The construction is similar to the dog-leg, with a closed string, balustrade and handrail, and a square newel post at each corner decorated with pendants and finials. The earlier examples have flat balusters, as at Meads Farm, Wickwar (circa 1640) and Harcombe Farm, Winterbourne (mid-17th century (3)). Wick Court, Wick (circa 1665) has very elaborate carved balusters. From about 1670 turned balusters are more common, with twisted ones popular in the 1680s and 1690s. Two have no balusters at all, but instead have plain horizontal rails between the handrail and the string. They are Mudgetown Farm, Iron Acton (circa 1650) and Lynch Farm, Littleton (circa 1700).

The open-well stair continued in popularity in the 18th century, but the construction changed to the open string. In this the ends of the treads project beyond the string and the much smaller balusters sit in twos or threes directly on the treads. The string is decorated by the addition of cut-out brackets applied beneath the treads. Examples

of this type of stair are at 9 Dowry Square, Bristol (1723) (4) and Step House, Frampton Cotterell (1733). Mayshill Farm, Mayshill, Westerleigh (early 18th century) has what is virtually a dog-leg stair, but with a tiny open well and a continuous winder joining the two main flights. Another open-string dog-leg stair is at 5 Dowry Square, Bristol, built in 1759 (4). The main stair has open strings with wrought-iron balusters; the attic flight has a closed string and turned balusters of two different designs (fig 7, no. 33). The closed string also survives in the open-well stair at The Mount, Winterbourne.

#### *Decorative Detail.*

**BALUSTRADES.** The simpler types of stair do not provide much opportunity for decoration and most are strictly functional. Sometimes there is an open landing at the top of a winder or newel stair, protected by a balustrade, as at Street Farm, Alveston (1628) and Rookery Farm, Pilning (1678). It was also possible by adding short straight flights to a newel or winder to have a short balustrade at ground and/or first-floor level, as at Street Farm, at Hampstead Farm, Sodbury (circa 1630) (2) and Rock Farm, Littleton (late 17th century). The latter is unusual in having a second handrail against the wall. Hill House, Olveston (circa 1635) has longer straight flights combined with a newel stair in such a way as to provide balustrades all the

## TWISTED BALUSTERS

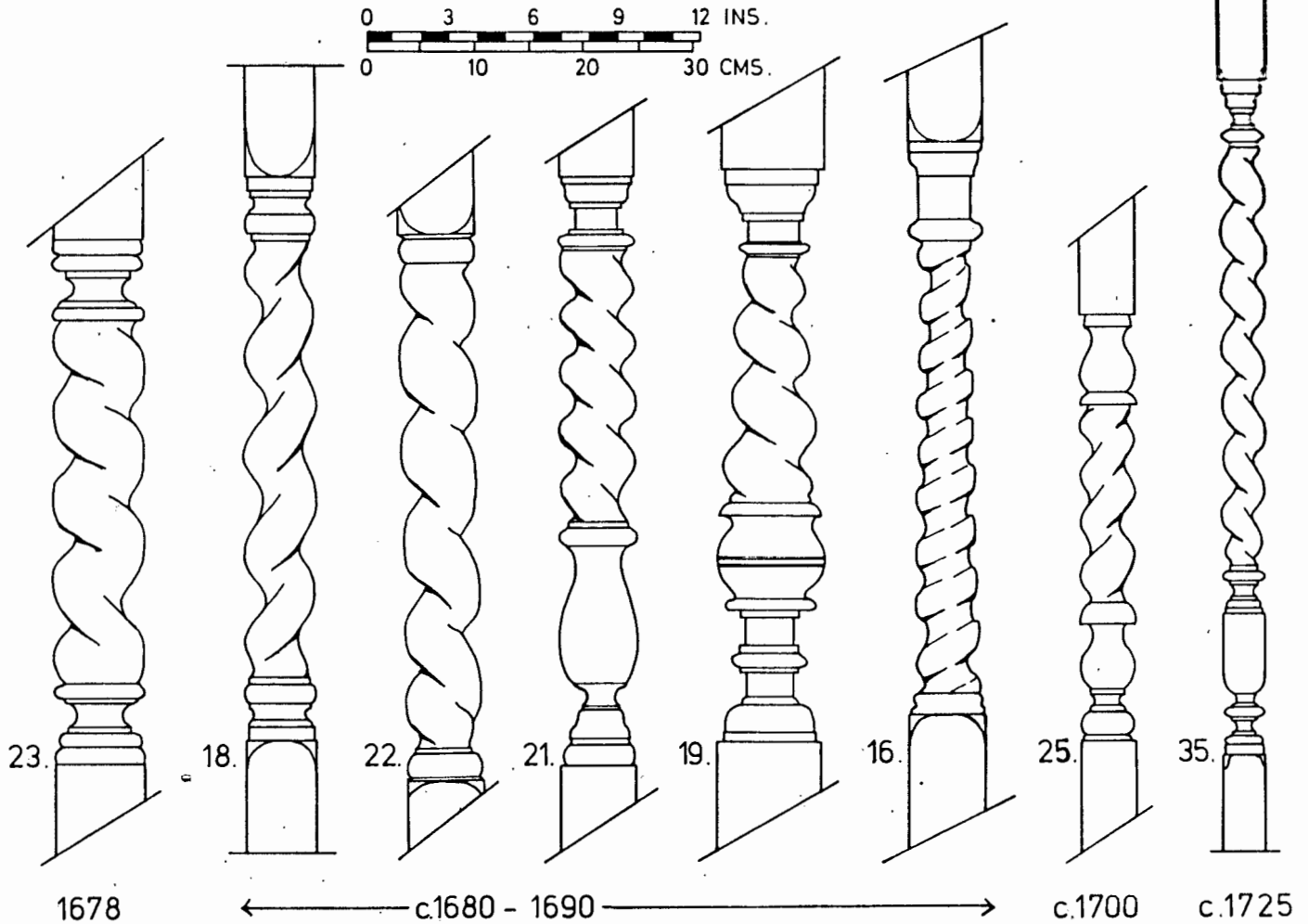


Fig 6

way up, and at its mid-point (first-floor level) the newel itself has been carved to match the balusters. The Manor House, Gaunts Earthcott, Almondsbury also has a balustrade on every floor, and the stair is basically a straight flight with a winder at the top. The house has dates of 1603 and 1680, but it seems likely that the stair is mid 17th century. Newhouse Farm, Tytherington (circa 1630) has a straight flight with a winder at the bottom and the first-floor landing is protected by a long balustrade. A similar arrangement occurs at Commonwealth House, Latteridge, Iron Acton (1686). The most ingenious use of a winder stair is at Church Cottage, Keynsham, where the stair, inserted in a central passage when an ear wing was added circa 1690, is almost free-standing. It has a single balustrade of twisted balusters on the ground floor and a first-floor landing protected on three sides by a balustrade of turned balusters.

**BALUSTERS.** There are two basic types, the flat baluster and the turned baluster. The design of flat balusters usually incorporated a central cut-out, and often the balusters are of a slightly different design on each floor, as at Meads Farm, Wickwar (circa 1640) and The Manor House, Gaunts Earthcott (mid 17th century) (fig 2). The variation is even more marked at Lyde Green Farm, Pucklechurch (circa

1650), where the balusters on the flight have cut-out heart shapes while those along the landing have an incised pattern (fig 3, no. 12). Three examples from the second half of the 17th century are not strictly flat balusters. Those at Lower Hazel Manor, Olveston and Commonwealth House, Latteridge (fig 3, nos. 13 and 10) are flat on one side and carved on the other, while those at Wick Court, Wick (circa 1665) are carved on all four sides (fig 3, no. 20 and fig 4). All three have at the top a design which is derived from the classical Ionic capital, and they are more elegant than the earlier examples. At Great House Farm, Little Sodbury (circa 1670) the back stair has at the top a short row of flat balusters whose outline is exactly the same as the turned balusters of the main stair. Flat balusters are also used for ventilation grilles over cupboard doors (1).

Turned balusters are much more common, and in the first half of the 17th century they were generally turned from a three-inch-square post. The earliest consist of two cylindrical or slightly bulbous columns and are symmetrical about a central narrow band. The columns are decorated with incised grooves. At Hill House, Olveston (circa 1635) the balusters are not symmetrical, but consist of a taller bulbous shaft above a much shorter one (fig 5, no. 7). The design is very similar to a staircase at Little

## C18th OPEN STRINGS AND TURNED BALUSTERS

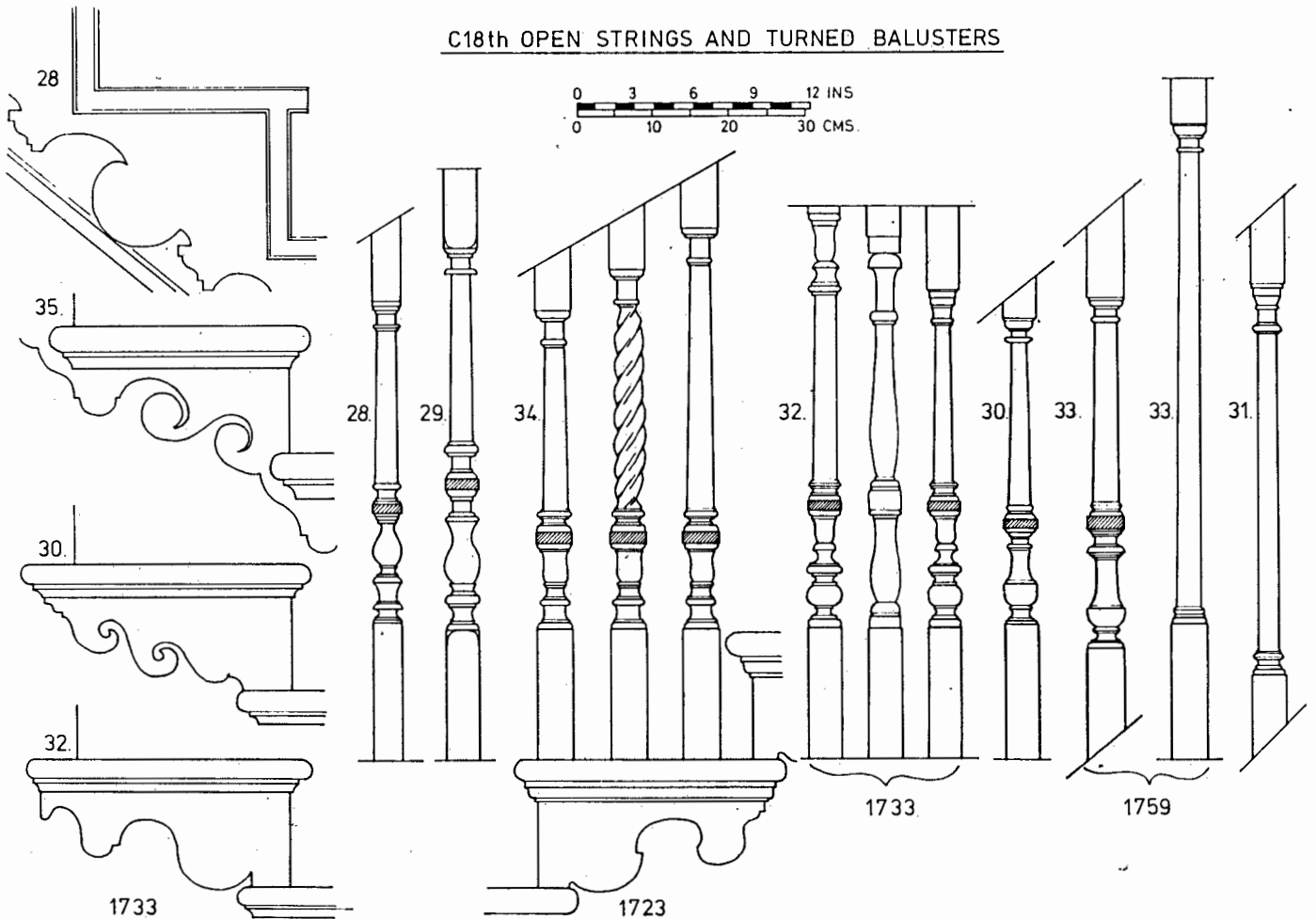


Fig 7

Sodbury Manor which was added circa 1635, although here the balusters are symmetrical (5). A later and more elegant example is at Rookery Farm, Pilning (1678) (fig 5, no. 5). The first-floor balusters at Church Cottage, Keynsham (fig 5, no. 16) have a single tapering shaft, divided into two sections by an incised groove near the top. This is a rather late use of the incised groove, which is only rarely used after 1650. Another feature rarely found in the later 17th century is the shaping of the square blocks which form the top and bottom of each baluster; in most early examples the corners are rounded off or given a small ogee moulding.

From about 1670 turned balusters are much more elegant, and the turned section is proportionately shorter than in the earlier ones. Most are turned from slightly smaller blocks of wood, although Great House Farm, Little Sodbury (circa 1670) has exceptionally massive balusters (fig 5, no. 14). The shafts usually now have a bulbous shape and there is no symmetry about a horizontal axis. Incised grooves are still used very occasionally, but are much thinner than earlier ones and only occur singly.

A variation popular from about 1680 to the early 18th century is the twisted baluster (fig 6). Some consist simply of a twisted shaft with a short section of turned bands and hollows top and bottom. The earliest dated one is 1678 at The Grey House, Pucklechurch. Others have the twisted shaft set above a short bulbous section, giving a more

interesting and elegant appearance.

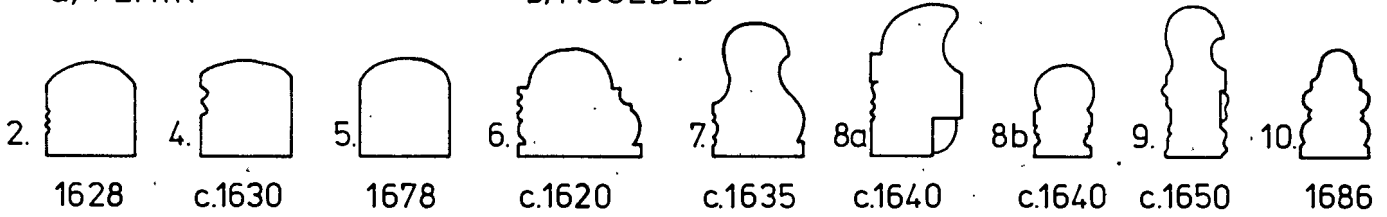
In the 18th century the plainer turned baluster was again in fashion, but now turned from a much smaller two-inch-square post (fig 7). In most cases the square blocks top and bottom are absolutely plain, but very occasionally the corners are rounded off. The columns consist of a slightly tapering shaft set above a section of complex mouldings, usually with bulbous, spherical or cup-shaped components. In almost every case the two sections are separated by a square unturned block (shaded on the drawings for clarity). Occasional twisted balusters occur; at the Old Malthouse, Morton, Thornbury the open-string stair has two twisted balusters to every step (fig 6, no. 35), while at 9 Dowry Square, Bristol (1723) only the central one of the three balusters per tread is twisted (fig 7, no. 34). Other variations occur at Step House, Frampton Cotterell (1733), where it appears that some "odd" balusters were used to make up the numbers, particularly in the attic flight. The standard baluster is the right-hand of the three shown in fig 7, no. 32. By the second half of the 18th century much plainer balusters were sometimes used, consisting simply of a tall tapering column with a short moulded section top and bottom. Examples are in the top half of the attic flight at 5 Dowry Square, Bristol (1759) and at The Mount, Winterbourne. In both cases the stair has a closed string, whereas all the other examples have open strings. The main stair at 5

HANDRAILS

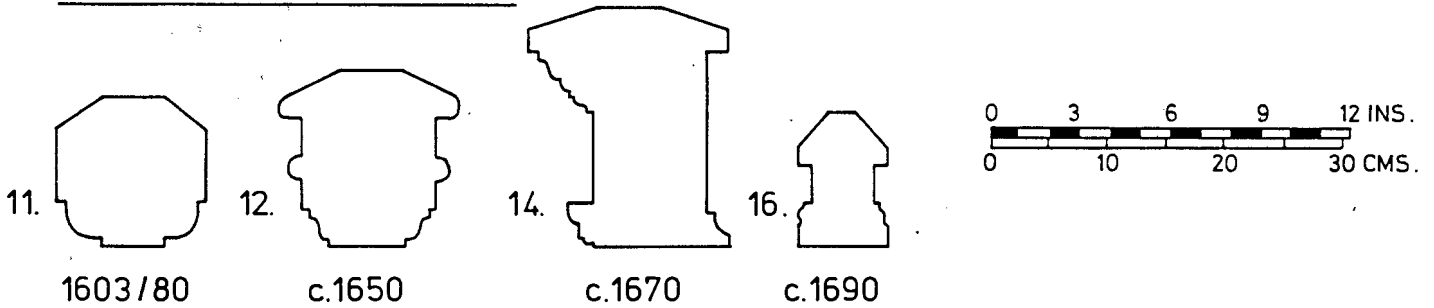
"GRIP" HANDRAILS

a) PLAIN

b) MOULDED

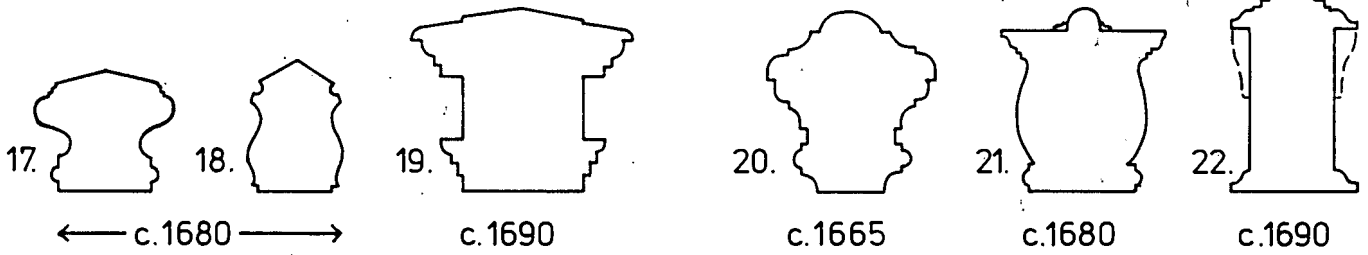


FLAT TOP + SLOPING SIDES

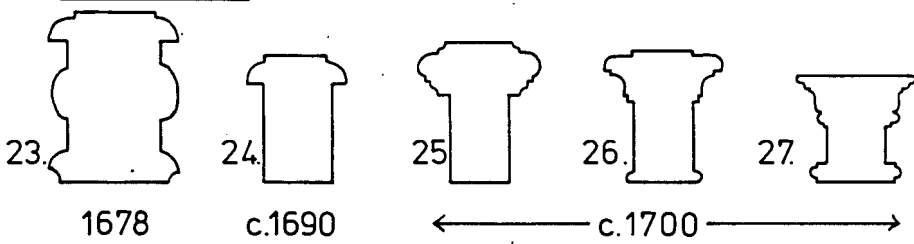


POINTED TOP

ROUNDED TOP



FLAT TOP



C18th CURVED TOP

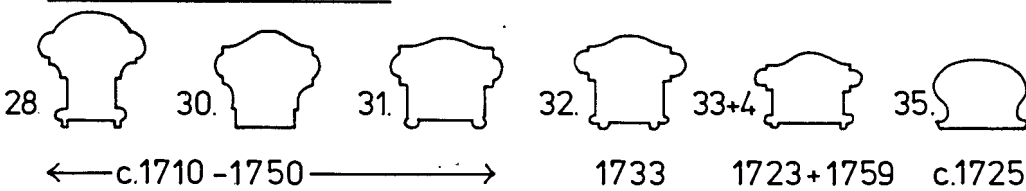


Fig 8



Dowry Square has wrought-iron balusters; none have been seen by the writer in rural houses, but they are probably common in Bristol and Bath. The ultimate development in the 19th century was to reduce the balusters to small square pillars of iron, as at Durley Hill House, Keynsham and Bagstone Court Farm, Wickwar. HANDRAILS. The earliest handrails are a simple "grip" type (fig 8). The plainest are a square-sectioned block of wood with a rounded top and scratch moulding along one side. Gradually they developed to a more sophisticated form with a rounded top and a hollow on the outer side into which one's fingers fit comfortably. The type occurs until the mid 17th century; the sole later example is at Commonwealth House, Latteridge (1686) and it differs from most earlier ones in being symmetrical in section (fig 8, no. 10). In the second half of the 17th century a much larger handrail with a flat top with sloping sides became popular. Most consist of a rectangular block of wood to which mouldings have been applied, but some

are carved from a single block (fig 8, nos. 11, 17 and 18). Many variations are known – as with the other stair components, no two are exactly the same and the local carpenters evidently felt free to use their imagination to adapt the current style. Some handrails have a pointed top, others a rounded top, and almost all are symmetrical. One example (fig 8, no. 22) originally had dentils below the top moulding, as well as on the string (fig 9, no. 22), but these have been removed. By the end of the 17th century the most common type of handrail had a flat top and was rather smaller than the mid-17th century ones. In the 18th century the handrail changed abruptly to a much smaller design with a curved top and simple applied mouldings, and a much greater degree of standardisation is apparent. Most were made of mahogany, not oak, to contrast with the white-painted balusters, and were ramped over the newel posts instead of being tenoned into them. In this way the handrail flowed in a continuous smooth curve instead of being interrupted at every turn of the stair. In

STRINGS

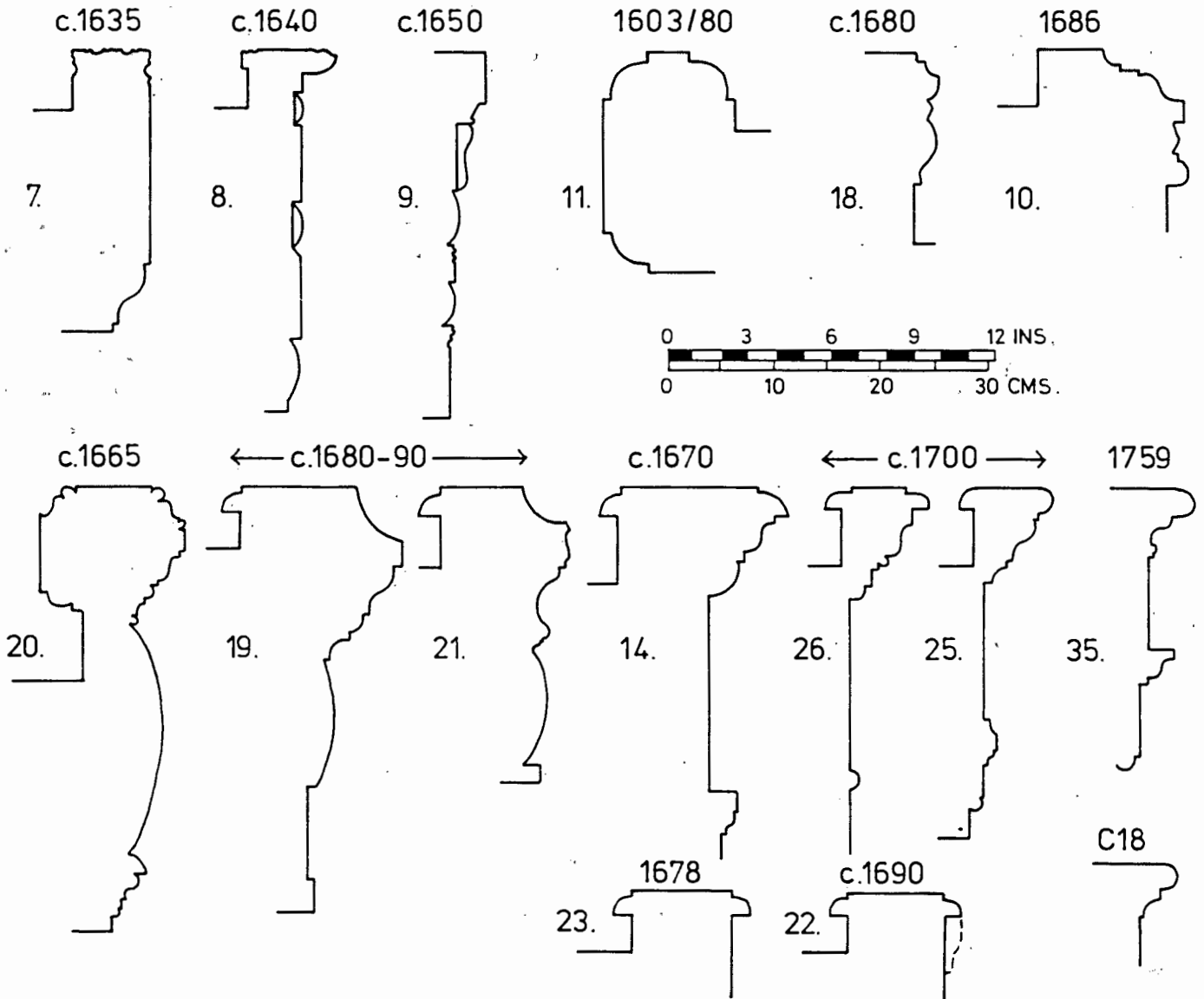


Fig 9

FINIALS AND PENDANTS

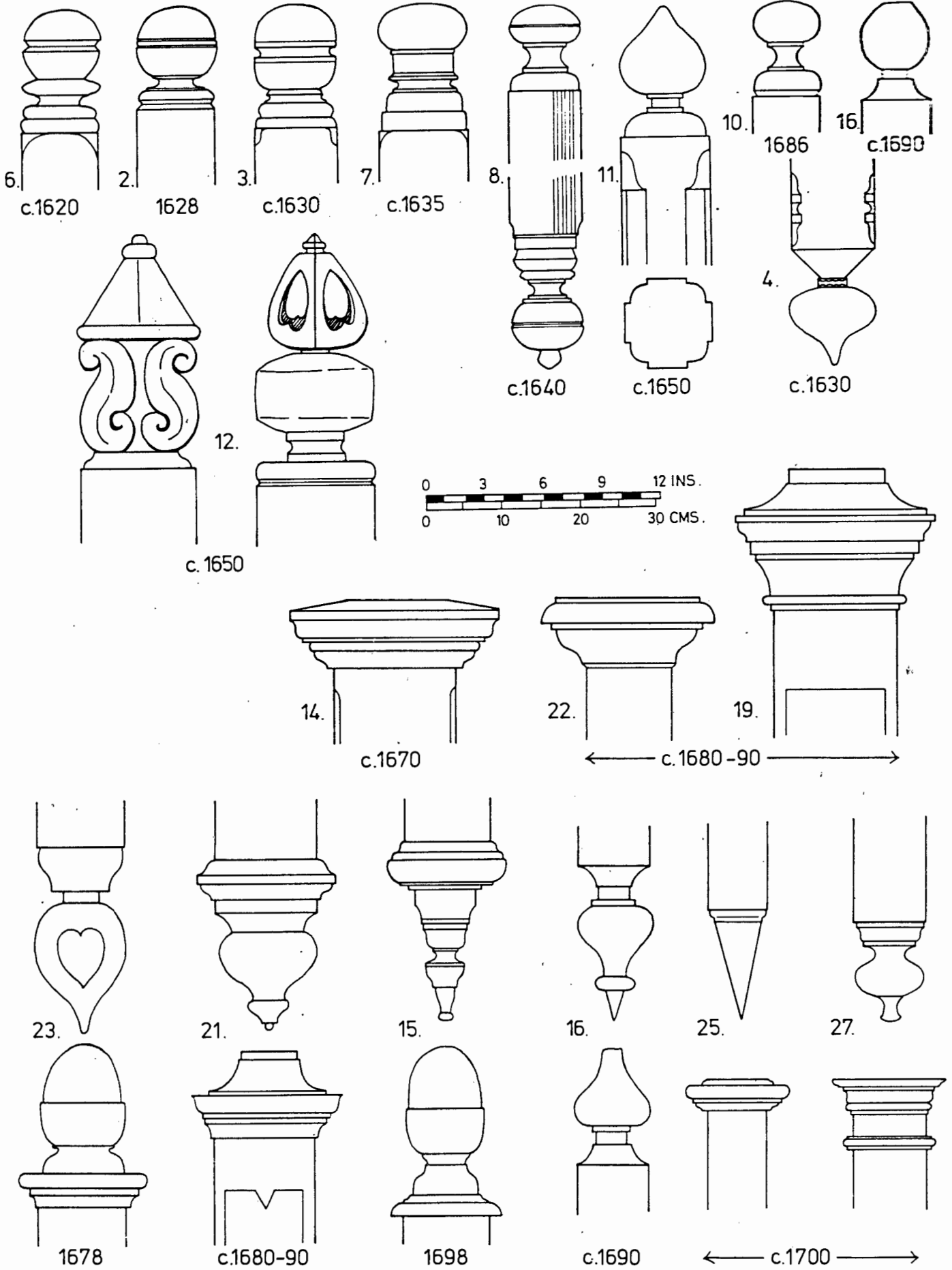


Fig 10

the better-quality stairs a matching half-handrail was applied to the opposite wall, some times with panelling beneath. Examples are at 9 Dowry Square, Bristol (1723) and The Mount, Winterbourne.

**STRINGS.** The earliest known strings occur around 1635 at Little Sodbury Manor and Hill House, Olveston (fig 9, no. 7). The latter is basically a rectangular block decorated with scratch mouldings and an ogee curve at the bottom. The slightly later ones at Meads Farm, Wickwar and Mudgetown Farm, Iron Acton are also fairly simple in section, but in profile they are decorated with carved bands and dentils and each has at the bottom a projecting band of carving (1). Later strings gradually became more complex. The mid-17th century one at The Manor House, Gaunts Earthcott, which is ovolo-moulded top and bottom, is apparently unique (fig 9, no. 11). The others are decorated with a variety of hollow, quarter round and ogee curves. That at The White Hart, Littleton is exceptionally elaborate, as below the moulding is a wide band of chip carving (fig 9, no. 18 shows only the moulded part). Most 18th century stairs have a very simple moulding to the open string (fig 9), and the main decorative features are the applied brackets beneath (fig 7).

**NEWEL POSTS, PENDANTS AND FINIALS.** In the first half of the 17th century the newel post at the end of a balustrade was usually either a square post, decorated on two sides with scratch moulding, as at Street Farm, Alveston and Meads Farm, Wickwar, or a slightly larger version or the turned balusters, as at Hampstead Farm, Sodbury (2) and Newhouse Farm, Tytherington. Most are capped with a fairly crude ball finial, perhaps decorated with one or more incised grooves. The open-well stair at Meads Farm has matching pendants on the lower ends of the upper newel posts. Smaller and plainer ball finials on plain square newel posts sometimes occur in the late 17th century, as at Commonwealth House, Latteridge (1686) (fig 10, no. 10). Church Cottage, Keynsham (circa 1690) has a similar finial on the first-floor balustrade and a curved pyramidal finial on the ground floor (fig 10, no. 16). Similar pyramidal designs occur in a pendant at Newhouse Farm, Tytherington and a finial at The Manor House, Gaunts Earthcott (fig 10, nos. 4 and 11). The Manor House is unusual in that the newel post is not square but is ovolo moulded, along with the string and handrail. By the second half of the 17th century the newel post was square or rectangular with sunken panels and a flat moulded cap. In some cases this cap supported a decorative finial, in others it was left plain, and some have since lost their finials (such as Frith Farm, Yate — fig 10, no. 21). Often the lower ends of the upper newel posts of an open-well or dog-leg stair carry pendants of a different but complementary design to the finials.

As with the strings and handrails, the design of finials and pendants develops from the simple early-17th century examples to very elaborate ones from the middle of the century and back to plainer, but more sophisticated ones by about 1700. Two very elaborate finials survive at Lyde Green Farm, Pucklechurch from circa 1650 (fig 10, no. 12) and the most elaborate of all are at Wick Court (circa 1665), where every pendant and finial (eight of each) is of a different design (fig 4). The square newel posts have sunken panels surrounded by a small ogee moulding, and

the risers of the stair are also decorated with simple panels. A less complex method of decorating the risers was to add a few lines of scratch moulding, as at Moorend Farm, Hambrook (1676) and Dennisworth Farm, Pucklechurch (circa 1690).

Around 1700 finials went out of fashion, the newel posts having instead a plain flat cap of the same moulding as the handrail. In the 18th century the square newel post was often replaced by a turned one, being simply a larger version of the balusters. In most cases the handrail passed over the top of the newel posts, so to finish it off the bottom step was wider than the rest to enable the handrail to end in an elegant curve. In a very steep stair it was not practical to ramp the handrail and instead it was tenoned into the newel posts as the earlier ones had been. In this case the newel posts were capped with a plain ball finial or a flat cap.

### *Conclusion*

The 17th and early 18th century was a period of immense change in staircase design, when the stair evolved from a simple winder, usually concealed behind a door, to the full splendours of the openwell stair with all its potential for show and elaboration. The more elaborate stairs are of course only found in the better-quality houses, while the poorer ones retained the humble winder, but their decorative details can be of great help in determining the date of the building, whether its initial building period or a time of major alteration.

### NOTES

- 1 For more details, see *Rural Houses of North Avon and South Gloucestershire 1400-1720* by Linda J Hall (Bristol Museum, forthcoming). Many of the houses referred to in this article are dealt with in detail in this book.
- 2 Demolished in 1979.
- 3 This stair was unfortunately removed during "restoration" a few years ago.
- 4 Information on the dates of the Dowry Square houses from Ken Harper of Joseph Colman and Son, 9 Dowry Square, Bristol.
- 5 "Little Sodbury, Manor, Glos"; Christopher Hussey, *Country Life*, October 7th, 1922.

## Key to numbers in figures

- |     |   |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 1.  | Court Farm, Pucklechurch — balusters of ventilation grille              | 16. | Church Cottage, Keynsham  |
| 2.  | Street Farm, Alveston   | 17. | Stair from house on the site of <del>The Maltings</del> , Old Sodbury, now in 8, High Street, Thornbury |
| 3.  | Hampstead Farm, Sodbury   | 18. | The White Hart, Littleton-upon-Severn, Aust   |
| 4.  | Newhouse Farm, Tytherington (drawn from photos, not measured)           | 19. | Dennisworth Farm, Pucklechurch  |
| 5.  | Rookery Farm, Pilning (drawn from photos, not measured)                 | 20. | Wick Court, Wick, Wick and Abson  |
| 6.  | Porch House, Thornbury  | 21. | Frith Farm, Yate  |
| 7.  | Hill House, Olveston  | 22. | Wigmore House, Thornbury  |
| 8.  | Meads Farm, Wickwar: 8a = main handrail; 8b = attic handrail            | 23. | The Grey House, Pucklechurch  |
| 9.  | Mudgedown Farm, Iron Acton  | 24. | Blanchworth Gallery, Alkington  |
| 10. | Commonwealth House, Latteridge, Iron Acton                              | 25. | Perrinpit Farm, Frampton Cotterell  |
| 11. | The Manor House, Gaunts Earthcott, Almondsbury                          | 26. | The Old Vicarage, Hawkesbury  |
| 12. | Lyde Green Farm, Pucklechurch (details drawn from photos, not measured) | 27. | The Priory, Thornbury   |
| 13. | Lower Hazel Manor, Olveston (drawn from photo, not measured)            | 28. | Mayshill Farm, Mayshill, Westerleigh  |
| 14. | Great House Farm, Little Sodbury  | 29. | Stone Court, Stone, Ham and Stone (drawn from photo, not measured)                                      |
| 15. | Fabers Farm, Hambrook, Winterbourne (drawn from photos, not measured)   | 30. | Chestnut Farm, Mayshill, Westerleigh  |
|     |   | 31. | The Mount, Winterbourne   |
|     |   | 32. | Step House, Park Lane, Frampton Cotterell   |
|     |   | 33. | 5 Dowry Square, Bristol   |
|     |   | 34. | 9 Dowry Square, Bristol   |
|     |   | 35. | The Old Malthouse, Morton, Thornbury  |

# ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE CHURCHES OF BRISTOL, ABBOTS LEIGH AND WHITCHURCH 1540 – 1850 D. Dawson

This paper is the sequel to the survey published in the last issue of the *BARG Review* (Dawson 1981). It continues the examination of churches in the south-west part of the present archdeanery of Bristol into the period between the dissolution of the monasteries and the eve of the great ecclesiastical census in 1851 when this, the first scientific analysis of contemporary patterns of worship, shook mid-Victorian England (Fig 1). Much of the data summarised in the appended checklist was collected in 1975-7 but has been updated where possible.

Like the previous survey, priorities for further fieldwork and conservation are suggested and sites have been graded using the system described below. In this way, this paper can be used as a second supplement to the policies suggested in 1965 (Leighton *et al.*).

## *Churches in the Landscape*

The study of post-Medieval changes to the landscape is now accepted as being important in its own right as well as being essential to the recognition of earlier evidence. Churches are an integral part of this process of change. In this period the picture is complicated for, although the buildings of the established church are relatively easy to identify, many buildings were used by what can appear to be a bewilderingly kaleidoscopic variety of non-conformist communities. Their contribution to the landscape should not be underestimated especially as it has been proved to be terribly vulnerable.

(Lindley; Binney & Burman; Stell; Dawson 1977).

## SOURCES OF INFORMATION

The appended gazetteer is an attempt to assess the surviving archaeological evidence but it must be noted that the list is incomplete. Although most if not all purpose-built places of worship have been included, the ordinary houses, barns and other suitable structures used for occasional or regular nonconformist worship are difficult to locate and identify and few can be traced without more exhaustive documentary research and fieldwork. (Should anyone be looking for the Portbury Wesleyan Mission Room it is now in the collections of the City of Bristol Museum as a fine specimen of GWR broad gauge carriage body). Some manuscript material was used in compiling the list of lost churches, but most of the information is derived from published maps, directories and other printed sources, most of which are listed in the bibliography. Consequently, the information for the area within the 1835 boundaries of Bristol is likely to be more complete.

## CHURCHES IN THE RURAL LANDSCAPE c.1540-1850

The Church of England c.1540-1750 (Fig 2)

Fortunately all the Medieval parish churches in the area survived in to this period, even the great collegiate church at Westbury-on-Trym (Westbury 1.1) cf. Dawson, 1981, 11). The pilgrimage chapel of St. Anne (Brislington 1) had no place in the reformed church so it was not surprising that it fell into ruin. It would however be interesting to know why some chapelries prospered to become parish churches in their own right and why others such as Lawrence and Kings Weston (Henbury 2 & 4) went out of use. In this instance there was still a substantial enough community at Kings Weston for the 1650 survey to recommend unification with Shirehampton to form a separate parish (Elrington 96). From this same survey it is clear that the process of fragmentation of the large Medieval parishes continued. Almondsbury was reduced presumably in the 16th century by losing Horfield, Filton and Elberton, and Bristol St James in the 17th century by losing Stapleton and Mangotsfield (Elrington 95-6) and a similar process happened at Keynsham. On the other hand, Henbury, Westbury, Bitton and Bedminster remained intact.

Two new chapels are known, both built in the parish of Westbury. The first, at Shirehampton (Westbury 3.1) and which may have existed before 1540, owed its survival to the patronage of the Society of Merchant Venturers. It was completely rebuilt in 1727. The second is the proprietary chapel built by John Cossins for the household at Redland Court (Westbury 2.4) but this was not consecrated as a chapel-at-ease until 1790.

The Church of England 1750-1850 (Fig 2)

The ever growing demand for raw materials, especially fuel, for Bristol's industries, encouraged the development of a scatter of small industrial communities particularly in the area of the coalfields to the east of the city in the former royal forest of Kingswood and after 1748 to the south in Bedminster. The first attempt to care for some of these was the creation by Bishop Butler in 1756 of a new parish carved out of the old parish of SS. Philip & Jacob and centred on the new church of St. George (St. George 4). Further finance could not be found until the 1818 Church Building Act established a national fund for new building. Then the new parish of Kingswood (Holy Trinity) was formed in 1821 out of Bitton and a chapel built at Fishponds (Stapleton 4 – parish 1830).

These were followed by the chapels of Frenchay (1834; parish 1836) and Christ Church, Hanham (1842; district 1844) and the district church of St. Michael, Two Mile Hill (St. George 6 – 1845). Northwest of the city, the district of St. John the Evangelist (Clifton 12) was created in 1841 and a parish assigned to Shirehampton (Westbury 3.1) in 1844, while to the south the charming neo-

BRISTOL 1981 — CHURCH SITES c.1550 — 1850 SURVEYED  
(except those in fig.3)

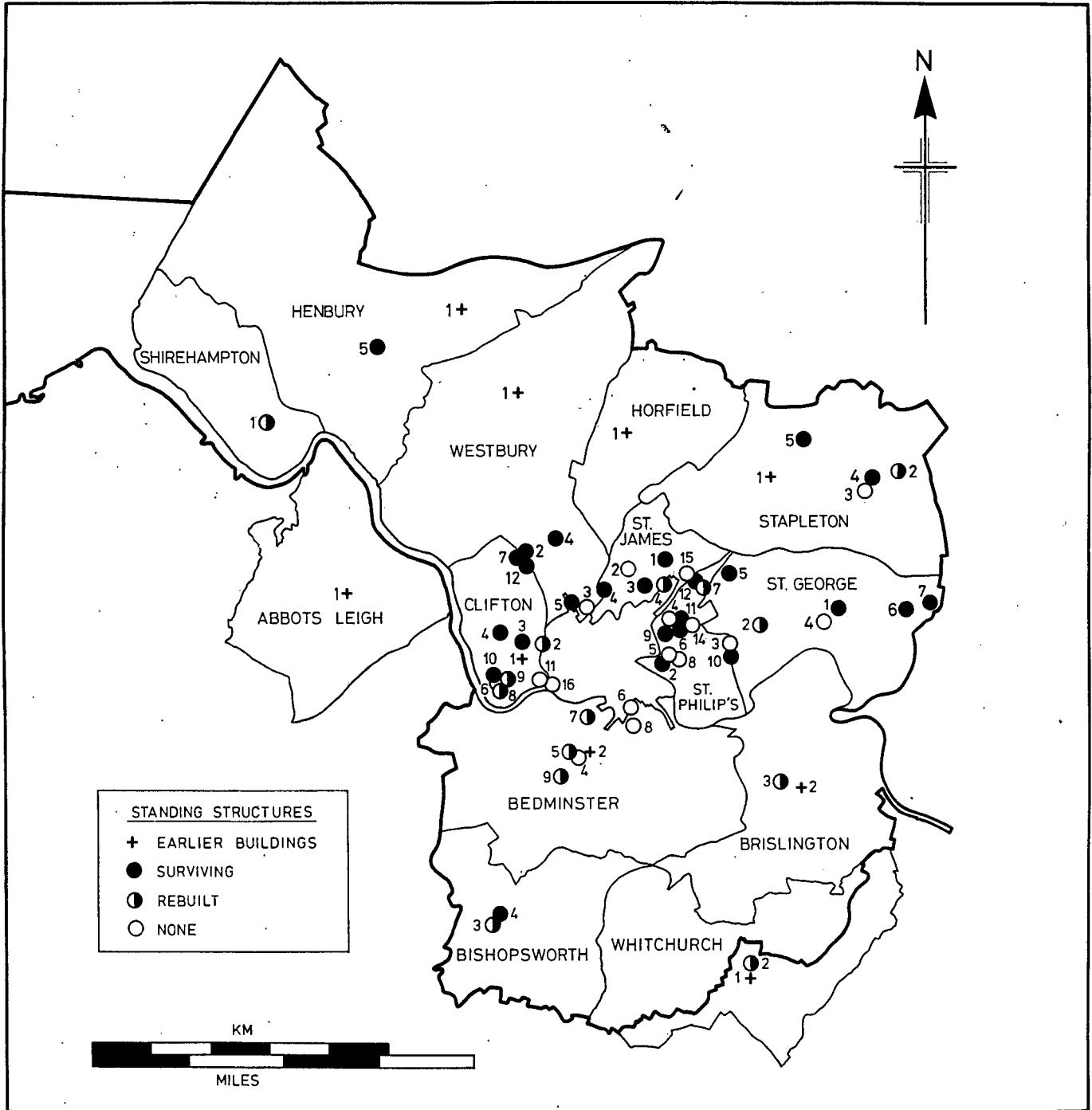


Fig 1 Bristol 1981 — church sites c.1550-1850 surveyed

Romanesque chapel of St. Peter was built to serve the village of Bishopsworth (4).

Nonconformist places of worship c. 1540 - 1850

(For a handy introduction to the Nonconformist movement see David A Barton, *Discovering Chapels and Meeting Houses*, Shire, 1975). Although the Baptists, Presbyterians and Independents had been active in the Bristol area since the 1580's and the Quakers since 1654, it was not until 1662 that the term Nonconformist came into use to define

all those who refused to comply with the Act of Uniformity. Persecution did not eradicate these dissenters but seems to have effectively ensured that they and their beliefs were dispersed over the entire countryside. After the passing of the 1689 Toleration Act, congregations again became openly active, especially among the communities on the coalfield where the older movements were joined by the Moravians c 1670 and in the 1730's by the Whitfieldites and Wesleyans. Of the 40 meeting houses in the deanery of

## THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND IN THE BRISTOL AREA, 1550-1850

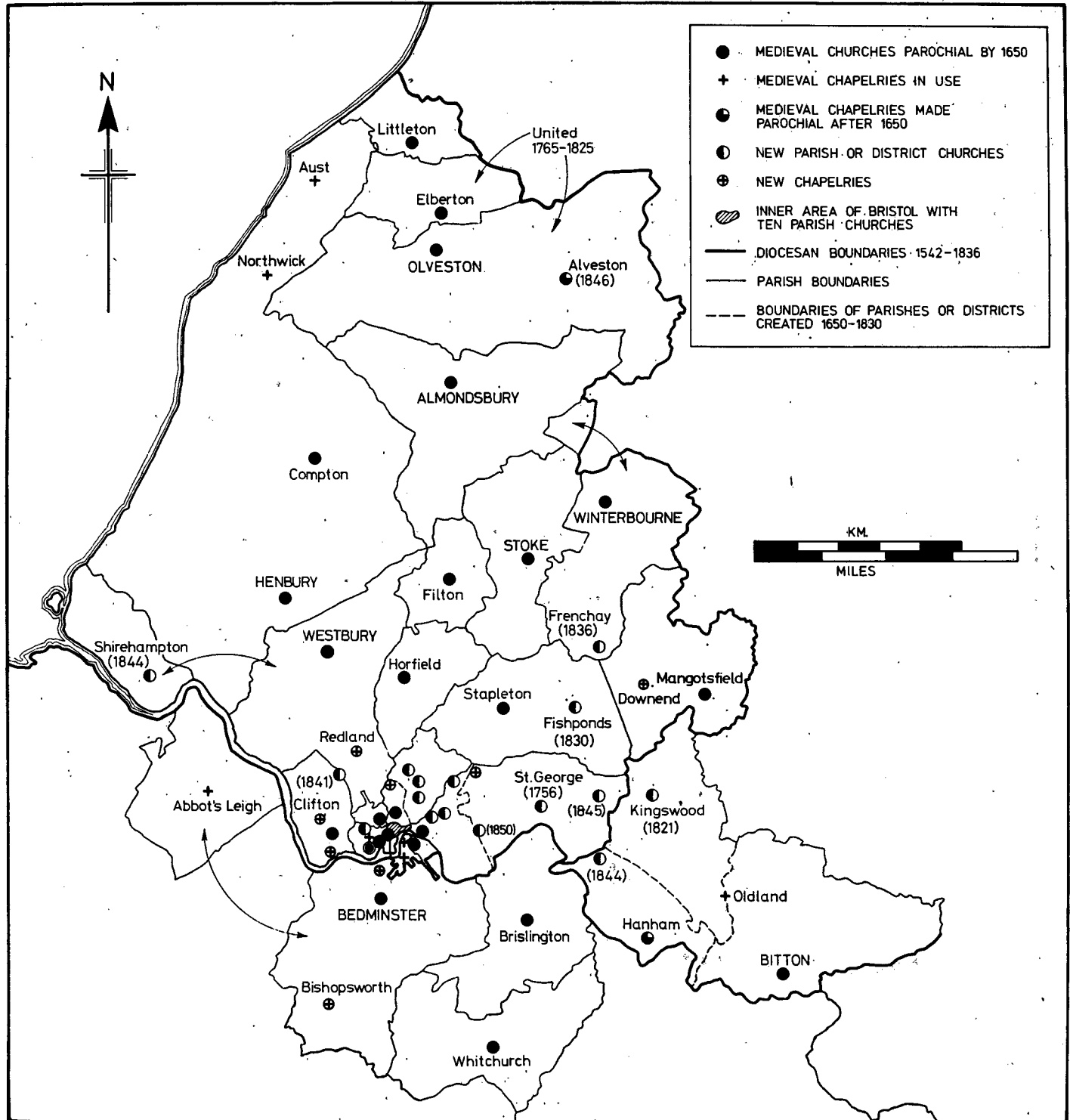


Fig 2 The Church of England in the Bristol area, 1550-1850

Bristol registered between 1762 and 1808, 14 were located in the city and 12 in the four parishes of St. George, Stapleton, Mangotsfield and Winterbourne (List in BAO).

Unfortunately, with the sole exception of the Friends' Meeting House at Kings Weston of 1718 (Henbury 5), none of these early rural buildings survive within the survey area (Fig 1). Just outside however are the Unitarian church (1691-1720) and the Friends' Meeting House (1808) at Frenchay and Whitfield's Tabernacle (1741 & 1802) at Kingswood (Burrough 20, 37).

#### CHURCHES IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE c 1540 - 1800 (FIG 3)

##### The Church of England

The tumult of the Reformation deprived Bristol of all its large monastic churches except the abbey church of St. Augustine (W-1). This was chosen in 1542 as the cathedral for the new but rather impoverished diocese which comprised the counties of Bristol and Dorset and part of south Gloucestershire. (St. Mary Redcliffe and St. Thomas, as chapelries of Bedminster in the diocese of Bath and Wells, remained in an anomalous position until 1845 when Bedminster was transferred). It of course retained its status after the unification of Bristol and Gloucester dioceses in 1836.

Although all the parish churches were reordered to meet the new liturgical requirements (Betley, 1979), only one, St. Lawrence (11), was closed. It was not until the late 18th century that further closures took place, both in the central area: St. Leonard (12) for street widening in 1771 and St. Ewen (6) in 1788 to extend the Council House. Offsetting these losses, the other 15 were sumptuously refurnished and in the late 18th century five were substantially if not completely rebuilt (St. Werburgh (19), St. Nicholas (15), St. Michael (W-9) and St. Thomas (RT-8)). Not only did the two almshouse chapels of the Three Kings (W-10) and Trinity (4) survive, but a chapel was provided for the new Colston's Almshouse (W-13). These developments reflect both the prosperity of the city and the way its population continued to expand without any major extension to the built-up area until c.1700. From then onward however ways had to be found of raising the necessary finance to endow new church building. The churches of the medieval suburbs had been provided by the patron who promoted the suburb, but this was now usually beyond the promoter's means. When the problem arose as a result of extensive building in the parish of St. James, it was the Common Council who bore the cost of obtaining the Act of Parliament and who made substantial contributions towards the costs of endowing and building the new parish church of St. Paul (StJ-16) in 1787 (Ison 76-81). The only other new building was Dowry Chapel (Clifton 6) which was built by private subscription to serve the spa at Hotwells in 1744-6.

##### Nonconformist places of worship

Nonconformism has played an important part in the development of the city (Davies). By 1700 eight congregations were active here and, with the exception of the Huguenots who met in St. Mark's chapel (W-7), they had begun to make their mark on the townscape by building their own meeting houses. By then those of the Baptists had been established at Pithay (24), and Broadmead (StJ-5), the Independents at

Castle Green (22), Tucker Street (RT-15) and Lewins Mead (StJ-18), and the Quakers at Rosemary Street (8) and in Temple (RT-10). None of these early buildings have survived but Miller's plan of Bristol of 1673 shows the then new Rosemary Street Meeting as a fine two-storied building surmounted by a cupola.

Only two more chapels were built in the early 18th century the French Protestant (W-14) (1727) in the new suburb of Orchard Street and Wesley's New Room (StJ-10) (1739) in the medieval suburb of Broadmead) but the pace of building began to increase in the latter half of the century. Many older chapels were rebuilt (eg. Rosemary Street (StJ-8) (1747) and Lewins Mead (StJ-18) (1789-91) and 11 new ones erected (eg. Whitfield's Tabernacle (StJ-17) (1753), the Moravian Church (StJ-11) (1756), Salem (W-20) (1775) of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, and the Jesuits' chapel (W-15) (1788). All these 11, except Lady Hope's chapel (Clifton 10) (1786) at Hotwells were in the medieval city or the new suburbs immediately surrounding it. By 1800, 10 out of the total 22 chapels and meetings were situated in the former parish of St. James.

#### CHURCHES IN THE URBAN LANDSCAPE 1800-1850

##### The Church of England

In 1835 the city boundaries were extended in an attempt to include the steadily growing urban area. The absorption of the parish of Clifton, the out-parishes of St. James, St. Paul and SS. Philip and Jacob, Redland and the built-up part of Bedminster brought the two medieval parish churches of Clifton (1) and Bedminster (2) within the city. As both of them were fairly small country churches which had probably been reduced in size after damage in the Civil War they were struggling to cope with the increase in worshippers. In Clifton, now a rapidly growing fashionable spa, the money to build a replacement was easily raised by subscription and sale of the freeholds of the pews (1816-22) and a further provision was not made until Christ Church (4) opened in 1844 as parish church for Clifton Down.

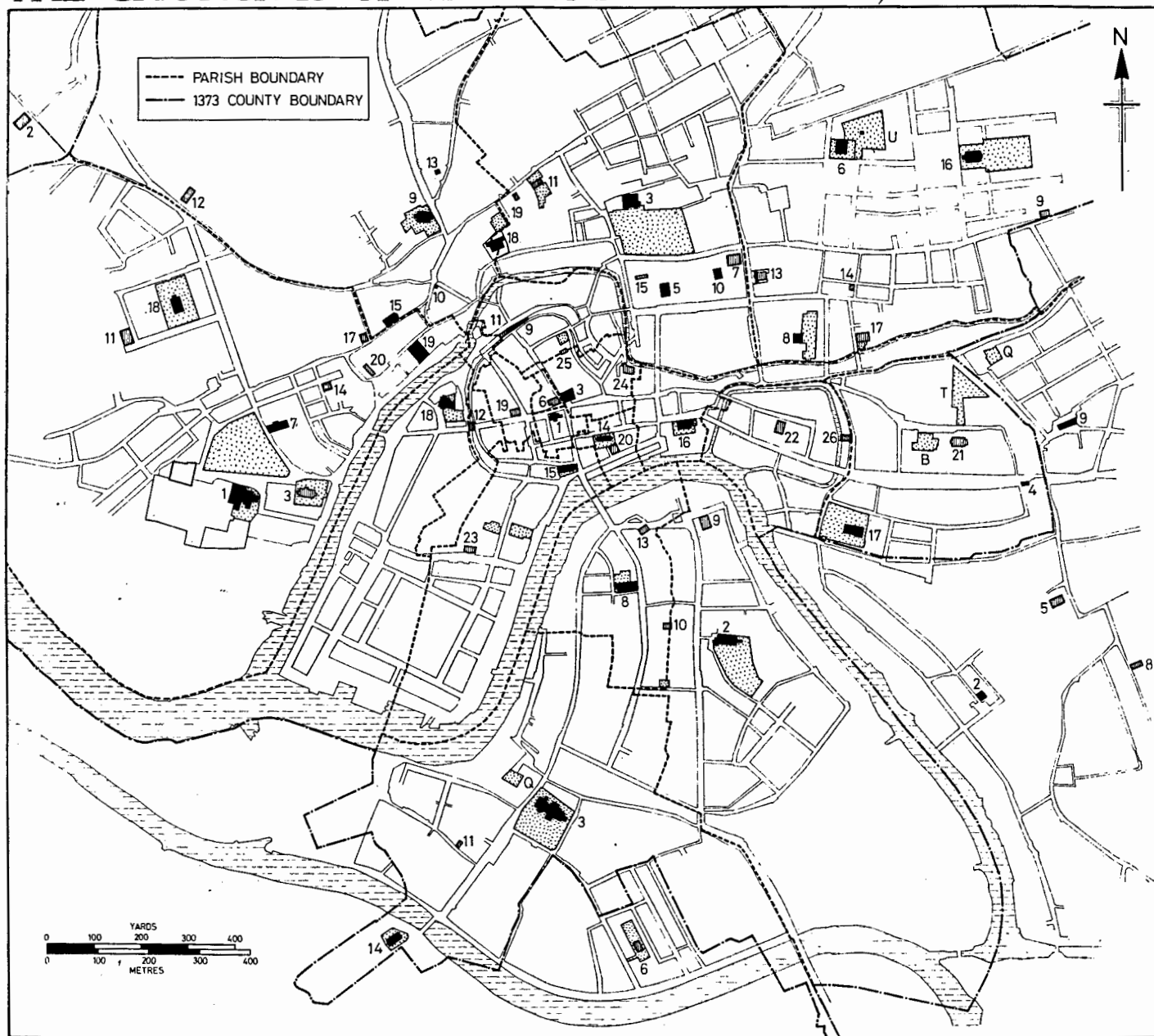
The rest of the city had to wait for the 1818 Act before funds could be found. The first two chapels were situated in fashionable new suburbs: St. George (W-18) (1823) on Brandon Hill and Holy Trinity (Clifton 9) (1830) in Hotwells. They were later made parochial in 1832 and 1863 respectively. The pressure on Bedminster was solved by building the chapel-at-ease of St. Paul (7) in 1831 and in 1853 replacing the medieval and 17th century parish church (2). It was in the parishes of St. James, St. Paul and St. Philip, spilling over into St. George, that expansion was most spectacular beginning with Holy Trinity (SS Philip & Jacob Without 6) (1832) and St. Matthew, Kingsdown (St. James Without 4) (1835) and followed by six other churches. These served the fast growing suburbs of St. Philip's, Kingsdown, St. Paul's, Montpelier, Baptist Mills, Easton and Barton Hill and presaged the spate of new church building in the late 19th century.

##### Nonconformist places of worship

The rate of building by the nonconformists as has been said started to gather momentum in the 1790's. They had the advantage of having much greater freedom of action to tailor their buildings to their needs and resources. Within the boundaries of the mediaeval city 20 new meeting places



## THE CHURCHES OF THE CITY OF BRISTOL, c. 1550–1850



**Fig 3** *The churches of the city of Bristol, c.1550-1850*  
 Key to gazetteer: parishes within the 1373 boundary named from the Avon on the left working clockwise (Dawson 1981,13): Western suburbs (W), St. Augustine-the-Less (3), St. Michael (9); St. James Within (StJ), St. James (3), St. Paul (16); Redcliffe-

*Temple (RT) south of river, Temple (2), St. Thomas (8), St. Mary Redcliffe (3); inner area (between rivers), St. Stephen (18), St. Leonard (12), St. Werburgh (19), St. John Baptist (9), St. Ewen (6), Christchurch (3), St. Peter (16), Castle Precincts, SS. Philip & Jacob (17), St. Mary-le-Port (14), All Saints (1), St. Nicholas (15).*

appeared between 1800 and 1850. Some like Tailors Court (25) apparently used existing buildings but many were architect designed structures and substantial additions to the townscape. Many have since been demolished and just three survive: Zion (RT-14) (1830), Brunswick Chapel (StJ-6) (1834-6) and, grandest of all, the Irvingite Chapel (W-19), (1839-40). Another 25 were built in the new suburbs including two Roman Catholic churches. As far

as one can tell from surviving evidence, most of these were more vernacular in style (eg. Anvil Street (SS Philip & Jacob 2) (1834), Durdham Down (Clifton 7) (c.1836) and Mount of Olives (Westbury 2.2)). Nevertheless, some architect designed buildings were erected in the wealthier areas such as Clifton (Buckingham (3), 1842-7) and Cotham (Highbury (Westbury 2.5), 1842-3)).

### Grades Used

These are similar to those used for the survey of mediaeval churches.

- A of exceptional archaeological importance and deserving preservation of the site (applies to places preserving substantial evidence of their early internal fittings as well as the building).
- B of archaeological importance and deserving some (possibly full) investigation in the event of disturbance through demolition or building works.
- C of archaeological interest and deserving a watching brief in the event of disturbance.
- D of no foreseeable archaeological interest

The grades a, b, c & d are similar to the above but are intended to indicate the potential of the structure above ground alone as some types of building works can seriously affect the fabric.

### Priorities

These priorities are based on the urgency of possible problems of the whole or parts of the site. Although it can be argued that preservation is primarily a planning problem, it must be remembered that when preservation fails, the site can become an acute archaeological problem in that resources may have to be found to record it. Please note, all burial grounds (BG's) deserve recording and their inscriptions properly calendaring in the way recommended by the Council for British Archaeology (Jones 1979).

#### URGENT PROBLEMS

- a) Unitarian Burial Ground (U) (StJ-18)  
A substantial number of memorials are due to be removed and they should be recorded before this happens.
- b) Central Hall (21) Grade Cd  
The site, which is due to be redeveloped, is to be site watched by City Museum staff.
- c) St. Jude, Poyntz Pool (SS Philip & Jacob Without 9) Grade Cd  
Redundancy has been proposed and if future developments entail disturbance of ground levels site watching will be desirable. It is assumed that the RCHM will record the building complex.

#### MEDIUM TERM PROBLEMS

- a) Anvil Street Chapel (SS Philip & Jacob Without 2) Grade Cc  
This unlisted building appears to be empty and is in an area where redevelopment is likely to occur. It will probably require recording and site watching.
- b) Wesley Burial Ground (Bedminster 5)  
The area is very untidy and now the chapel has been demolished the memorials appear to be vulnerable. They require recording.

#### POSSIBLE FUTURE PROBLEMS

- a) All churches still in use  
There are occasions when building works are necessary, either to maintain a building or to alter it or its furnishings to meet new requirements of use, but which may involve the destruction of archaeological evidence. Richard Morris has drawn attention to these in the booklet *Churches and Archaeology* (Morris 1979).

- b) Buildings converted to other uses  
The same comment applies, but those which are not listed by the DoE are particularly difficult to monitor and they are:-  
Durdham Down Wesleyan Chapel (Clifton 7) Grade Cc  
Clouds Hill Baptist Chapel (St. George 1) Grade Cc  
Anvil Street Chapel (SS Philip & Jacob Without 2) Grade Cc  
Mount of Olives (Westbury 2.2) Grade Cc
- c) Uncleared graveyards  
All burial grounds should be recorded as soon as is practicable. So far St. George, Holy Trinity West Street and Redfield have been surveyed:

### Conclusion

Inevitably, post mediaeval archaeology tends to be low on the list of archaeological priorities but it is to be hoped that the priorities suggested here are taken seriously. The author would be delighted to hear of any omissions from the gazeteer.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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## Catalogue

### 1 MEDIEVAL CHURCHES IN USE 1550 - 1850

(Notes on period 1550 - 1850 only: further details in Dawson 1981, 17-26)

\* mark substantial structures surviving of this period.

#### Abbots Leigh

(1) HOLY TRINITY ST 740544

Chapelry of Bedminster.

Drastically restored after a fire in 1848.

Grade Cd.

#### Bedminster

(2) ST. JOHN BAPTIST ST 58477140

Parish church: mother church to Abbots Leigh, St. Mary Redcliffe, St. Thomas Martyr, St. Paul (1841) and St. Peter Bishopsworth (1842).

Substantially rebuilt after damage in 1645 but demolished for a new building in 1853.

Grade A.

#### Brislington

(2) ST. LUKE ST 62067078

Parish Church: formerly a chapelry of Keynsham.

Grade Cd.

#### City (Inner)

\* (1) ALL SAINTS ST 58877302

Parish Church.

Alterations include: 1711 - 1716 tower rebuilt (designed by William Paul, completed by George Townsend), lantern added 1807 (designed by Luke Henwood) and 1850 chancel rebuilt (Burrough, 11).

Grade Ab.

\* (3) CHRISTCHURCH ST 58897307

Parish church.

Completely rebuilt 1787-1790 (probably designed by William Paty) but altered later. Description with plan (Ison, 51, 72-76).

Grade Bb.

(4) TRINITY CHAPEL ST 58767318

Hospital chapel.

Rebuilt in 1796; rigorously restored 1881-1883.

Grade Cd.

- (6) ST. EWEN ST 58877306  
Parish church until 1788 when united with Christchurch.  
Demolished by 1824 for new Council House; plans and section (Harding, 235, 245-246).  
Grade C.
- (9) ST. JOHN BAPTIST ST 58747315  
Parish church; 1580 united with St. Lawrence.  
Grade Aa.
- ((11) ST LAWRENCE ST 58737314  
Parish church until 1580 when united with St. John Baptist.  
Grade D.
- (12) ST LEONARD ST 58747296  
Parish church until 1766 (8) when united with St. Nicholas.  
Demolished 1771.  
Grade C.
- (14) ST. MARY-LE-PORT ST 58987362  
Parish church.  
Grade Bc.
- \* (15) ST NICHOLAS ST 58927293  
Parish church; 1766 (8) united with St. Leonard. Upper church completely rebuilt 1762 - 1769 (designed by James Bridges; completed by Thomas Paty). Description with plan (Ison, 52, 65-70).  
Grade Bb.
- (16) ST PETER ST 59117308  
Parish church  
Grade Ab.
- (17) ST. PHILIP AND JACOB ST 59477299  
Parish church; extensive parish divided in 1756 with St. George; mother church to Holy Trinity (1832), St. Luke, Barton Hill (1842), St. Jude (1844), St. Simon (1844), St. Michael, Two Mile Hill (1845) and St. Mark (1848). Extensive alterations made in 1764 and in early 19th century (Burrough, 12).  
Grade Bb.
- (18) ST STEPHEN ST 58677298  
Parish church  
Grade Ba.
- (19) ST. WERBURGH ST 58807301  
Parish church; closed 1876.  
Rebuilt, 1758 - 1761 (designed by James Bridges) (Ison, 31); demolished 1878  
Grade C.  
*City (Western Suburbs)*
- (1) CATHEDRAL OF THE HOLY AND UNDIVIDED TRINITY ST 583726  
1542 Diocese created; 1836 united with Gloucester; 1897 reconstituted.  
Alterations and destruction of the Close described (Cobb, 36-51); 1931 the Bishops Palace (part of the former conventual buildings) burnt in the Reform Bill Riots, but much survives incorporated in Cathedral School.  
Grade Aa.
- (3) ST. AUGUSTINE-THE-LESS ST 58497272  
Parish church; mother church of St. George, Brandon Hill (1823). Chancel lengthened 1708; extensively rebuilt in 1823 and 1840; 1956 demolished.  
Grade B.
- (7) CHAPEL OF ST MARK ST 58387283  
(THE LORD MAYOR'S CHAPEL)  
Extra-parochial chapel; 1541 granted to Bristol Corporation;

c. 1687 made available for French Protestant refugees; 1722 fitted out for Mayor and Corporation.  
Repaired and refurbished 1830.

Grade Bb.

- \* (9) ST. MICHAEL ST 58517329  
Parish church.

Completely rebuilt except for the tower 1775 - 1777 (designed by Thomas Paty). Described (Ison, 70-72).  
Grade Cc

- (10) FOSTER'S CHAPEL ST 58587318  
(THREE KINGS OF COLOGNE)

Hospital chapel.

Grade Cc.

*City (St. James Within)*

- (3) ST. JAMES ST 58887346

Parish church; extensive parish divided by 1650 with Mangotsfield and Stapleton and in 1787 with St. Paul, Portland Square; mother church to St. Matthews, Kings-down (1835). South aisle rebuilt in 17th century.  
Grade Bb.

*City (Redcliffe - Temple)*

- (2) TEMPLE ST 59317272

Parish church.

Grade Bb.

- (3) ST. MARY REDCLIFFE ST 591722

Chapelry of Bedminster.

Grade Ba.

- \* (8) ST. THOMAS THE APOSTLE ST 59107276

Chapelry of Bedminster.

Completely rebuilt except for the tower 1789-94 (designed by James Allen).

Described (Ison, 84-88).

Grade B.

*Clifton*

- (1) ST. ANDREW ST 57407290

Parish church; mother church of Holy Trinity, Hotwells (1830) and Christchurch (1844); 1952 parish united with Christchurch with latter as parish church.

Medieval church demolished 1822; new church built 1816-1822 to the north (ST 57387292) (designed by James Foster) (Ison, 26, 34); burnt out in 1940; demolished in 1954 except for foundation platform (CPAB, 155-156).  
Extension BG in Clifton Hill (ST 57647302)

Both BG's have been recorded.

Grade B.

*Henbury*

- (3) ST. MARY THE VIRGIN ST 563787

Parish church; mother church of St. Thomas, Northwick, Aust Chapel and Compton Greenfield, 'a parish with Henbury'. (Elrington, 95).

Grade Bb.

*Horfield*

- (1) HOLY TRINITY ST 591767

Parish church; formerly a chapel of Almondsbury.  
Completely rebuilt except for the tower 1847-1929.

Grade Bb.

*Stapleton*

- (1) HOLY TRINITY ST 61557597

Parish church; 'formerly a chapel to St. James, Bristol'. (Elrington, 96). Rebuilt by 1857.

Grade Cd:

*Westbury-on-Trym I*

(1) HOLY TRINITY ST 57337740  
Parish church; mother church to Shirehampton (by 1650) and Redland (1790).  
Grade Ab.

*Whitchurch*

(1) ST. NICHOLAS ST 612674  
Parish church; formerly a chapelry of Keynsham.  
Grade Bb.

## II CHURCHES IN USE FOR WORSHIP

*Bedminster*

(5) EBENEZER (formerly WESLEY CHAPEL)  
British Road (formerly Victoria Road) ST 58237143  
On the W side of the former village  
Wesleyan Methodist: 1837 opened to replace chapel in Shim Lane (see (4) below) (Jefferies)  
Wesley Chapel built 1837-7; new church built 1885-6 and old building converted to use as school rooms (Arrowsmith 58); 1975 church reopened after rebuilding of the late 19th-century building; c. 1980 the original of 1836 was demolished and the site awaits redevelopment. BG retains its memorials.  
Grade Cd

(7) ST. PAUL Coronation Road ST 58487196  
On the S bank of the New Cut on Three Acres Ground.  
Church of England: 1831 chapelry of Bedminster; 1848 district assigned; 1852 parish assigned (Kirby 174).  
Original building erected 1829-31 (designed by C. Dyer) (Cleeve); 1879 & 1881 part refurnished; 1892 chancel added. 1941 badly damaged by bombing; 1958 reopened after rebuilding on the same plan and incorporating the original tower and west front (Nicholls & Taylor 283, Taylor 79). BG Survives in good condition.  
Grade Cd (DoE grade C)

(9) WEST STREET BAPTIST CHURCH  
West Street ST 57957094  
On the main road to SW of the former village  
Baptist; 1837 founded (Arrowsmith 48).  
Original building seems to have survived until 1941 when it was destroyed by high explosive bombs; congregation still using a prefabricated building put up then (Shipley & Rankin 66).  
Grade Dd

*Bishopsworth*

(3) Bishopsworth United Reformed Church  
Highridge Road ST 56966851  
Originally built in open ground S of settlement  
United Reformed (formerly Congregational): founded 1828 (Jones 58-60)  
Present building erected 1929 - 30 on same site.  
Grade Dd  
(4) ST. PETER BISHOPSWORTH  
Church Road ST 57036866  
In settlement, possibly on the site of the medieval chapel (Dawson 1981, 21)  
Church of England: 1844 district chapelry of Bedminster; 1852 parish assigned (Kirby 174)  
Original building erected 1842-4 (designed by S.C. Fripp),

in use (Burrough 51-2) and restored 1883 (Arrowsmith 92).  
BG still in use and in good condition.

Grade Cd (DoE grade C)

*Brislington*

(3) BRISLINGTON UNITED REFORMED CHURCH  
Wick Road ST 610708  
On hill W of village  
United Reformed (formerly Congregational); founded 1796 in a barn; rebuilt 1827, 1894 and 1901 (Jones).  
Grade D

*City (Inner)*

(21) BRISTOL CENTRAL HALL (formerly OLD MARKET STREET CHAPEL)

Old Market Street ST 59627320  
In the medieval suburb of Old Market  
Methodist Mission: on the site of the Wesleyan Methodist chapel opened in 1817; additional land acquired to build the Central Hall which opened in 1924. Future in doubt.  
Grade Dd

*City (Western Suburbs)*

(13) COLSTON'S CHAPEL  
St. Michael's Hill ST 58517339  
Part of Colston's Almshouse in medieval suburb  
Church of England: founded in 1691 and formerly advertised for regular worship.

Grade Cc (DoE grade I)

(18) ST. GEORGE BRANDON HILL  
Great George Street ST 58137297  
In the 18th/19th-century development of Bullock's Park  
Church of England: 1823 chapelry of St. Augustine-the-Less; 1832 parish assigned out of St. Augustine's; 1938 parish reunited with St. Augustine-the-Less (Kirby 168).  
Original building of 1823 (designed by Sir Robert Smirke) is still in use but was reordered in the 1870's (Burrough 41). BG has been cleared of most of its memorials and is laid out as gardens.

Redundancy and further use as a concert hall has been proposed.

Grade Dd (DoE grade B, entrance steps, piers etc. grade II)

(19) ST. MARY-ON-THE-QUAY (formerly the IRVINGITE CHAPEL)

Colston Avenue ST 58607305  
On the Medieval waterfront  
Roman Catholic: 1840 opened by the followers of the evangelist Edward Irving; 1843 purchased by the Roman Catholic Church and renamed; 1871 purchased by the Society of Jesus.

Original building, erected 1839-40 (designed by R. S. Pope) is still in use but has been refitted inside.

Future has been in doubt.

Grade Bd (DoE grade II\*)

*City (St. James)*

(5) BROADMEAD BAPTIST CHURCH  
Union Street (formerly off Broadmead) ST 58897332  
Within the medieval suburb of Broadmead  
Baptist: 1671 premises, a former Quakers' Meeting House, occupied by a congregation founded c. 1640 (Haydon 133).  
No trace survives of the building of 1690 which was extensively remodelled before it was damaged in 1940 and demolished (Nicholls & Taylor 290-3). The present building (designed by R. H. Sims) was erected in 1969 but its spire was dismantled c. 1975. BG in Redcross Street (B) (ST 59557320) was purchased jointly with Pithay in 1679

but has been built over and is now due for redevelopment (Haydon 209)

Grade Dd

(10) JOHN WESLEY CHAPEL (THE NEW ROOM)

Broadmead ST 59077337

Within the medieval suburb of Broadmead

Methodist: 1739 founded by John Wesley; 1808 trustees assigned the building to the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists; 1929 purchased and restored; 1952 given to the Methodist Church and reopened (Edwards).

An extremely important complex preserving the Meeting House with its furnishings and ancillary buildings mostly as rebuilt in 1748.

Description with plan (Ison 50, 61-2, pl. 7a)

Grade Aa (DoE grade I, entrance screen grade I)

(16) ST. PAUL

Portland Square ST 59467374

An integral part of the contemporary square and adjoining streets.

Church of England: 1787 parish created out of St. James; 1943 parish united with St. Clement with St. Paul as parish church; 1955 parish united with St. Barnabas with St. Paul as parish church (Kirby 174).

Original Gothic building, 1789-94 (designed by Daniel Hague) is still in use, but was reordered in 1894 with an extension of the chancel, removal of galleries and refurnishing. BG has been cleared except for a very few memorials and most of the area is now a public park.

Description with plan (Ison 51, 76-81, pl. 8c, 12b, Gomme *et al* 178-80)

Grade Cc (DoE grade A)

(18) UNITARIAN CHURCH

Lewin's Mead ST 58677330

Within the medieval town N of the Frome

Unitarian: 1693 appears to be the date of the chapel's foundation (Nicholls & Taylor 304)

Present building was erected 1789-91 (designed by William Blackburn) and "is a large, elegant and costly place of worship; and may be ranked among the principal public buildings" (Mathew 1800, 131). It retains all of its original furnishings and is little altered beyond the installation of the organ, lobbies, and new lighting system. The BG in Brunswick Square (U)(ST 59267372) retains its Speaking House (built c. 1780 to provide cover for the funeral oration) and memorials from the 18th-century and later.

Future of the chapel is in doubt. The Speaking House is due to be repaired and some memorials cleared to convert the BG into a public park.

Description with plan (Ison 50, 81-4, pl. 13a, Gomme *et al* 190-2)

Grade Aa (DoE grade II\*)

City (Redcliffe-Temple)

(14) ZION UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Coronation Road ST 58907197

On the S bank of the New Cut

United Reformed (formerly Congregational); 1830 church founded in a building provided by the manufacturer John Hare (Cozens).

Original building still in use but has been refurnished.

Surrounding BG contains a few memorials.

Grade Cd (DoE grade II)

Clifton

(3) BUCKINGHAM CHAPEL

Queens Road ST 57407324

In an area laid out in the 1840's mostly with terraced housing. Baptist: founded 1842

Gothic revival building, erected 1842-7 (designed by R. S. Pope) still in use (Burrough 50, Crick 20-1)

Grade Dd (DoE grade II)

(4) CHRIST CHURCH

Clifton Green ST 57027336

At E end of the Green in an area developed for housing in the early 19th-century.

Church of England: 1844 consecrated as parish church for Clifton Down; 1952 parish united with St. Andrew with Christ Church as parish church; 1963 parish united with Emmanuel with Christ Church as parish church (Kirby 162)

A fine Gothic revival building with a complex structural history. The original aisleless cruciform building (designed by C. Dyer) was begun in 1841 but completed (with alterations by E. Christian) in 1857. In 1859 the steeple was added (by John Norton) and in 1885 the aisles (by W. Basset Smith)(Gomme *et al* 294-5, Arrowsmith 79).

Grade Dd (DoE grade B)

(9) HOLY TRINITY

Hotwell Road ST 57167257

In the 19th-century extension of the spa of Hotwell Church of England: 1830 founded as chapelry of Clifton; 1863 parish assigned; 1938 parish united with St. Andrew-the-Less and St. Peter with Holy Trinity as parish church (Kirby 163).

Original building, erected 1829-30 (designed by C. R. Cockerell) is still in use but had to be rebuilt in 1958 (by T. H. B. Burrough) after being gutted in 1940 (Burrough 43, Maggs)

Pre-war state described (Gomme *et al*. 246-8)

Grade Dd (DoE grade B)

St. George

(2) SHREE SANATAN DEEVYA MANDAL (formerly REDFIELD WESLEYAN CHURCH)

Church Road ST 61397349

In 18th-century settlement of Redfield

Hindu Temple: 1815 founded as a Wesleyan Methodist Chapel from Rose Green; by 1976 closed after unification with Bethesda; 1981 new church converted into a temple (Trotman).

The original building stood until the 1930's when it was completely rebuilt for new school rooms. This structure is now used by the Almar Dance Club. The new church was built on E side in 1884 (Trotman 20). BG retains its memorials but is due to be cleared. It is being recorded by J. Saysell.

Grade Dd

(5) ST. MARK;EASTON

St. Mark's Road ST 60867435

In the 19th cent. suburb of Easton, on ground given by Sir Richard Colt Hoare.

Church of England: 1848 district chapelry out of St. George and Stapleton (Kirby 171, Arrowsmith 85).

Original building, erected 1848 (designed by C. Dyer, completed by S. B. Gabriel) still in use (Burrough 57,

Crick 19-20). BG retains memorials but they are deteriorating.

Grade Cd (DoE grade B)

(6) ST. MICHAEL, TWO MILE HILL

Two Mile Hill Road ST 63887380

On W side of Kingswood

Church of England: 1845 district out of St. George (Kirby 173). Original building, opened in 1848 (designed by S. B. Gabriel) is still in use. Extensive BG retains its memorials.

Grade Cd

(7) SALVATION ARMY CITADEL (formerly BOURNE CHAPEL)

Two Mile Hill (formerly High Street) ST 64107385

On W side of Kingswood

Salvation Army: 1841 probably founded by Primitive Methodists; 1873 taken by Salvation Army after opening of the new Bourne Chapel (Braine).

Building apparently partly rebuilt in 1879.

Grade Dd.

*St. James Without*

(1) IVY CHURCH (formerly the ORPHAN ASYLUM CHAPEL) Ashley Hill ST 59857457

At Hook's Mills

Assemblies of God (Pentecostal): built in 1827 as the Church of England chapel to the Asylum for Poor Orphan Girls. Original building still in use but extensively repaired and refurbished.

Grade Dd

(4) ST. MATTHEW, KINGSDOWN

Cotham Side ST 58757409

In the early 19th-cent. suburb of Kingsdown

Church of England: 1835 chapelry of St. Paul; 1870 consolidated chapelry out of St. James, St. Andrew, Montpelier, and Westbury-on-Trym (Kirby 172)

Original building erected 1833-5 (designed by Thomas Rickman) is still in use and retains its original galleries, pews and other furnishings. (Gomme *et al* 293)

Grade Aa (DoE grade B)

*SS Philip & Jacob Without*

(7) KENSINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Stapleton Road ST 60467411

In extensive 19th-cent. suburb.

Baptist: founded in 1831

Original building destroyed by fire in 1855 and present building was opened in 1888 (Arrowsmith 47).

Grade Dd

(9) ST. JUDE THE APOSTLE

Lamb Street ST 59797331

On reclaimed land on the site of the Bullring in Poyntz Pool, E of Old Market

Church of England: 1844 district out of SS Philip & Jacob; 1937 parish united with St. Matthias with St. Jude as parish church (Kirby 169).

Original building erected 1848-9 (designed by S. B. Gabriel), and ancillary structures still in use.

Redundancy proceeding

Grade Cd (DoE grade C)

(10) ST. LUKE, BARTON HILL

Queen Anne Road ST 60907298

In 19th-cent. suburb of Barton Hill round the Great Western Cotton Works, but near the original centre of the manor of

Barton Regis.

Church of England: 1843 consecrated as chapelry of SS Philip & Jacob; 1850 district chapelry assigned; 1945 parish united with Christ Church, Barton Hill with St. Luke as parish church (Kirby 170)

Original building erected 1843-50, still in use but modern block of rooms has been built against the W front. BG has been cleared and only one forlorn memorial survives.

Grade Cd

(11) ST. NICHOLAS OF TOLENTINO

Lawford's Gate ST 59957350

In 18th-cent. suburb of St. Jude's

Roman Catholic: founded 1848

Original building, erected 1848-51 (designed by C. Hansom) and part opened in 1850, is still in use with additions of 1873 (Arrowsmith 97)

Grade Dd

(12) SS. PETER & PAUL (formerly ST. SIMON)

Lower Ashley Road ST 60307421

In the suburb of Baptist Mills

Greek Holy Orthodox (formerly Church of England): 1844 district out of SS Philip & Jacob; 1956 parish united with St. Agnes with latter as parish church; 1960 appropriated for use by the Greek Holy Orthodox Church (Kirby 175)

Original building, erected 1846-7 (designed by Hicks & Gabriel) is still in use (Arrowsmith 94)

Grade Dd

*Stapleton*

(2) FISHPONDS BAPTIST CHURCH

Downend Road ST 63787606

E of main settlement of Fishponds

Baptist: 1841 founded from Downend (Eayrs 160-1)

Original building, erected 1847-51, appears to have been rebuilt perhaps c. 1902. BG retained in good condition with its memorials.

Grade Cd

(4) ST. MARY, FISHPONDS

Manor Road ST 63257600

In settlement of Fishponds

Church of England: 1820 chapelry of Stapleton; 1830 parish assigned (Kirby 171). BG purchased 1806

Original building (tower and nave) erected 1820-1, survives except for the chancel rebuilt in 1871 (*pace* Gomme *et al* 292 there is no evidence for a S aisle). N aisle added in late 19th-cent.. BG retained in use in good condition with its memorials.

Grade Cc (DoE grade C)

(5) STAPLETON BAPTIST CHURCH

Broom Hill ST 621766

A rural chapel outside the gates of Stoke Park

Baptist: no information found

Present building is a Greek revival structure bearing the date 1833 on the pediment

Grade Dc

*Westbury-on-Trym, 2 (Redland-Stoke Bishop)*

(4) REDLAND CHAPEL

Redland Green ST 57977498

A rural chapel on the hill above Redland Court

Church of England: 1740 founded by John Cossins of Redland Court as his proprietary chapel. 1790 consecrated a chapelry of Westbury; 1925 parish assigned (Kirby 164) Original building erected 1740-3 (designed probably by

William Halfpenny) still in use and retains all its furnishings. BG contains a rich collection of 18th-19th cent. memorials. Description and plan (Ison 50, 54-61, pls. 4-6, Denning 85-9. Gomme *et al* 135-40)

Grade Ab (DoE grade A)

(5) ST. MARY COTHAM (formerly Highbury Chapel)  
Cotham Road ST 58227385

Built on Gallow's Acre, Cotham Green, site of the burning of the Marian Martyrs

Church of England, formerly Congregational: 1843 church founded from Penn Street Tabernacle (Ayres 28); c.1975 closed when congregation moved to join that of Christ Church, Redland Road; 1976 consecrated as St. Mary on closure of St. Mary, Tyndalls Park; parish recently united with St. Saviour, Woolcot Park, on closure of that church.

Original building erected 1842-3 (designed by William Butterfield, nephew of one of the founders) (Ayres 16-24, Crick 20-1); 1863 tower and transepts added (designed by E. W. Godwin) (Burrough 54)

Grade Cc (DoE grade B)

*Westbury, 3 (Shirehampton)*

(1) ST. MARY, SHIREHAMPTON

High Street ST 53097691

In the settlement of Shirehampton

Church of England: by 1595 clergy paid by the Society of Merchant Venturers (McGrath 18); 1650 survey chapel to Westbury (Elrington 96); 1844 parish assigned (Kirby 171)

Date of foundation is uncertain and may have been a medieval chapel built to serve Hungroad and the seafaring community at Shirehampton. The chapel-at-ease to Westbury known to have been built in 1727 on the site of the present church, may be in the same location as the earlier documented buildings. A new Gothic revival church was erected in 1827 and was subsequently enlarged (Arrowsmith 89) but was destroyed by fire. The present building was erected 1929-30 (designed by P. Hartland Thomas). BG has been partly cleared of memorials but some early 18th-cent. and later examples survive.

Grade Cd

*Whitchurch*

(3) WHITCHURCH UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

Wells Road ST 612677

On N side of the village

United Reformed (Congregational): founded 1831 Present building erected alongside in 1865 and original chapel later demolished (Jones).

Grade Dd

### III CHURCHES CONVERTED TO SECULAR USE OR DISUSED

*City (Inner)*

(23) COOPER'S HALL

King Street ST 58807282

In 17th-cent. suburb

Independent congregation was worshipping here from 1850 in the building designed as a company hall and now converted for use as a foyer to the Theatre Royal (Mathew). Grade Dd (DoE grade II\*)

(25) TAILOR'S COURT CHAPEL

Tailor's Court ST 58857315

Within the medieval city in the parish of St. John Baptist secular 17th-cent. building used by an Independent congregation, advertised in the 1830's (Mathew). It has since been extensively restored and is now used as offices.

Grade Cd (DoE grade II)

*City (Western Suburbs)*

(15) JESUITS CHAPEL

Trenchard Street ST 58527310

On N side of medieval city in St. Michael's parish

Roman Catholic: founded in 1788, the first regular Roman Catholic chapel in Bristol; later superseded by St. Mary-on-the-Quay and used as St. Joseph's School (Nicholls & Taylor 273-4).

Original building, erected 1788-90; in 1981 has been cleared of burials and part demolished for conversion to housing.

Grade Cc (DoE grade II)

*City (St. James Within)*

(4) PROVIDENCE

Grosvenor Road ST 59747422

Baptist: founded 1847 (Nicholls & Taylor 294); later used by Plymouth Brethren (Arrowsmith 49) and until c.1978 by the Bristol United National Spiritualist Church.

Building which appears to have been rebuilt c.1900, has been converted for use as commercial premises.

Grade Dd

(6) BRUNSWICK CHAPEL

Brunswick Square ST 59247368

On a square laid out in 18th-cent.

Congregational: founded 1834 by a congregation which first met at Pithay; closed after the war.

Original building, erected 1834-6, was damaged in the war but has been repaired and has been stripped for use as a warehouse. BG part survives with memorials (Jones 70-6).

Grade Cd (DoE grade II)

(8) FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

Quakers Friars (Formerly Rosemary Street) ST 59277331

In the conventual buildings of the former Blackfriars, Society of Friends (Quakers): founded 1670 on Dennis Hollister's ground in the Friars; closed and sold to the City in 1956 for conversion into a Registry Office (Mortimer 14-15)

Original building, rebuilt in 1747, is still in use but its galleries and furnishings have been removed.

Surrounding ground was used as a BG but land for further BG's (Q) was purchased in 1665 in Redcliff Pit

(ST 59037234), part lost in recent road widening but the rest laid out as a public garden), and in 1708 in River Street (ST 59657338), later used to build a workhouse and now the site of the new meeting house.

Description and plan (Ison 50, 62-5, Pl. 7b)

Grade Bc (DoE grade I)

*Clifton*

(2) PRO-CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF THE APOSTLES

Park Place ST 57727320

On a difficult site with poor foundations in a contemporary residential area

Roman Catholic: 1842 chapel to St. Augustine opened (Nicholls & Taylor 274-5); from 1844 church to St. Mary Clifton (Mathew); 1847 rededicated to the Twelve Apostles; 1850 created pro-cathedral for the new diocese of Clifton; 1970 closed on opening the new cathedral in



Pembroke Road.

Complex building history from 1834 to 1876 (designed by H. Goodridge and C. Hansom).

Described with plan (Crick 5-6, 31-32).

Grade Cd

(7) DURDHAM DOWN CHAPEL

Wesley Place ST 573747

In small settlement on Black Boy Hill

Wesleyan Methodist: 1836 first advertised (Mathew); c.1894 probably closed on the purchase of Mount of Olives (Westbury 2,2)

Original building converted into a private house

Grade Cc

(8) GRENVILLE CHAPEL

Grenville Place ST 56967247

In Hotwells near Cumberland Basin

Wesleyan Methodist: opened 1839 (Nicholls & Taylor 303); 1875-9 rebuilt (designed by Foster & Woods)(Binney & Burman 241); c. 1965 closed.

Converted to use as a warehouse

Grade Dd

(10) HOPE CHAPEL

Hope Chapel Hill ST 56907266

In the 18th-cent. suburb of Hotwells

Independent: founded by Lady Glenorchy and Lady Henrietta Hope: opened 1786; 1837-8 enlarged at the rear (Nicholls & Taylor 295); by 1976 closed.

The building has been stripped of pews and the BG partly cleared of memorials to provide parking space for use as a community centre.

Grade Cc (DoE grade II)

(12) ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST

Apsley Road ST 57477451

On the edge of the settlement of Black Boy Hill

Church of England: 1841 district out of Clifton and Westbury-on-Trym (Kirby 169); c.1980 declared redundant and parish united with All Saints.

Original building, erected 1841 (designed by J. Hicks), transepts added in 1864-5 (Arrowsmith 84, Crick 18), and now used by the Arts Opportunity Theatre Company.

BG retains memorials except on the Whiteladies Road side.

Grade Cd (DoE grade C)

*Henbury*

(5) FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

Kings Weston Road ST 54937815

An isolated rural setting

Society of Friends (Quakers): no information found; included in map of 1769 (Donne).

Surviving building appears to be contemporary with the date over the door - 1718, but is incorporated in a substantial 19th-cent. dwelling house called 'Ferns Hill'.

Building now used as a house called 'Quakers Meet'. A walled BG (presumably associated) survives in Kings Weston Lane (ST 540779). The Gate is inscribed -

FRIENDS BURIAL GROUND 1690

Grade Bb(BG DoE grade II)

*St. George*

(1) CLOUD'S HILL CHAPEL

Cloud's Hill ST 62477370

Near the parish church of St. George

Baptist: founded in 1828 by the Bristol Baptist Itinerant Society (Ayres 159); 1870 replaced by the opening of St.

George Baptist Church on Summerhill Road.

Original building, opened 1831, appears to survive as part of the present school.

Grade Cc

*St. James Without*

(3) ST. BARNABAS

Ashley Road ST 59497417

In 19th-cent. suburb of St. Paul's

Church of England: 1843 district out of St. Paul; 1955 parish united with St. Paul with latter as parish church and St.

Barnabas to be used as St. Barnabas City Road Primary School (Kirby 166)

Original building, erected in 1843 (designed by S. T. Welch) was paid for by the Church Building Association (Arrowsmith 76, Gomme, *et al* 293) and is still in use although its future is uncertain.

Grade Dd

*SS. Philip & Jacob Without*

(2) ANVIL STREET CHAPEL

Anvil Street ST 59807279

In 18th-19th cent. industrial suburb along Avon Street

Independent (Congregational): founded as a Fragment School 1833 (Arrowsmith 50); 1834 chapel founded from the Tabernacle (Jones 26); c.1906 came under the care of Highbury and used for the Broad Plain Mission.

Original chapel of 1834 still stands but appears to be disused.

Grade Cc

(5) EBENEZER PRIMITIVE METHODIST CHAPEL

Midland Road (formerly Orchard Street, The Batch)

ST 59917300

In 18th/19th-cent. suburb S of Old Market

Primitive Methodist, the first built in the City; 1850 first advertised (Mathew) (Arrowsmith 54); used later as a Christadelphian Hall.

Building now used for light industrial purposes appears to have been rebuilt in the late 19th-cent.

Grade Dd

(6) HOLY TRINITY

Trinity Road ST 60057338

In post-Medieval suburb E of Old Market

Church of England: 1832 chapelry of SS. Philip & Jacob;

1834 district out of SS. Philip & Jacob; c. 1976 church closed on opening of Easton Family Centre.

Original building, erected 1829-32 (designed by Rickman & Hutchinson) (Pevsner 455, Gomme *et al* 292-3), is now used as Trinity Community Centre. All memorials in BG have been cleared for car parking space after recording by J. Saysell.

Grade Cd (DoE grade B)

*Westbury-on-Trym, 2 (Redland-Stoke Bishop)*

(2) MOUNT OF OLIVES

Black Boy Hill ST 57417474

In small settlement on Black Boy Hill

Reformed Methodist: 1849 opened as Mount Olive Reform Wesleyan Chapel also known as Durdham Down Wesleyan

Reform Chapel; later United Methodist Free Church; c. 1894 purchased by the Wesleyan Methodists and renamed Wesley

Hall (Arrowsmith 60); by 1936 used as Mount of Olives Pentecostal Church; 1981 closed and congregation moved to St. Saviour's, Woolcot Park.

Original building in use as Downs Fitness Centre.  
Grade Cc

#### IV SITES CLEARED

##### Bedminster

###### (4) BEDMINSTER CHAPEL

Sheene Road (formerly Shim Lane) ST 584713

On the S side of the village

Wesleyan Methodist: 1811 opened in converted wool warehouse; 1837 relegated to use as Sunday School on opening of Ebenezer (5); 1861 closed. History (Jefferies).

Building demolished in 1970's; site levelled and used for light industrial building.

Grade D.

###### (6) LANGTON STREET CHAPEL

Near Clarence Road ST 59357213

Between Langton Street and Wellington Street in early 19th-cent. suburb of Redcliffe.

Wesleyan Methodist: 1828 opened to replace Guinea Street (City-Redcliffe II) (Nicholls & Taylor 303); 1941 gutted by fire (Shipley & Rankin 64); 1962 replaced by new building in Cathay.

Building demolished and BG cleared for high-rise housing; site occupied by Broughton House.

Grade D.

###### (8) WESLEY CHAPEL

Princess Street (formerly Princes Street) ST 59227185

In the early 19th-cent. suburb S of the New Cut

Wesleyan Methodist: 1833 opened; 1844 closed (Jefferies 10); probably the same building reopened as Bible Christian Methodist; 1876 closed on opening of Redcliffe Crescent.

Area cleared since the war and used to extend Victoria Grove.

Grade D.

##### City (Inner)

###### (20) BRIDGE STREET CHAPEL

Bridge Street ST 59017300

Within the medieval town in the parish of St. Mary-le-Port Independent (Congregational): 1786 opened to replace Tucker Street (City-Redcliffe 13); 1868 closed on opening of Clifton Down Congregational Church (Jones 17-23, Nicholls & Taylor 295)

Building was later redeveloped and the site excavated for cellars. The area was cleared down to the cellar floor level after extensive war damage and has been landscaped for a park.

Grade D

###### (22) CASTLE GREEN CHAPEL

Castle Green ST 59317314

Within the Castle Precincts, an area redeveloped by the City after 1656

Independent (Congregational): one of the earliest identifiable dissenting congregations meeting by 1654 in the Governor's house (Haydon 72-4); chapel apparently rebuilt in 18th-cent. and 1815; 1901 sold on opening of new church at Greenbank (Arrowsmith 51, Jones 11-17).

Building was redeveloped but the whole area had been landscaped after post-war clearance. Some traces might survive.

Grade C

###### (24) PITHAY CHAPEL

The Pithay ST 58987315

Within the medieval town in the parish of Christ Church

Particular Baptist: congregation in existence by 1652

(Hayden 70-1); 1815 closed on opening of Old King Street Chapel (City-St. James 13); used by Independents (Mathew 1819), Tent Methodists (Mathew 1823-31) and Baptists 1832-61.

Building rebuilt in 1791. By 1884 it had been incorporated into Messrs. Fry's factory and was demolished to extend the works in 1907 (Spear & Arrowsmith 32, Pritchard 229). All traces probably obliterated by post-war development if not earlier. Site occupied by a garage.

Grade D

###### (26) WELSH CHAPEL

Lower Castle Street ST 59427315

On the edge of Castle Ditch (Castle Precincts).

Independent Welsh speaking congregation first met in Baker's Hall in 1821; 1823 chapel opened; 1940 burnt (Arrowsmith 53, Jones 53-8, Shipley & Rankin 54). Site obliterated in post-war street widening and landscaping but some traces may survive.

Grade D

###### (27) ZOAR

Castle Street (precise site unlocated)

Within the Castle Precincts

Independent no information except advertisements (Mathew 1833-5). Area cleared and landscaped for park.

Grade D

Certificates for Registering Meeting Houses noted for houses in St. John's parish (1804), King Street, St. Stephen's (1804) and St. Stephen's (1806) (List).

##### City (Western Suburbs)

###### (11) BETHESDA

Great George Street ST 58077288

In late 18th-cent. suburb on flank of Brandon Hill

Seceders: 1819 built; taken over by the Christian Brethren and became their mother church; 1940 gutted by fire (Shipley & Rankin 36)

Site cleared and incorporated in the adjoining park.

Archaeological traces might be preserved.

Grade C.

###### (12) BLIND ASYLUM CHAPEL

Queens Road ST 58097318

Attached to the Blind Asylum built on the edge of the city Church of England: 1834-8 built (designed by Thomas Rickman); 1920's closed (Crick 9-10).

Site occupied by the Great Tower of the University completed 1925.

Grade D

###### (14) FRENCH PROTESTANT CHAPEL

Orchard Street

In late 17th-cent. development of land of the former Hospital of St. Mark

French Protestant: 1727 opened for refugee congregation formerly using chapel of St. Mark's; advertised up to 1824 (Latimer 155, Mathew).

Site occupied by the offices of the Trustees of Bristol Municipal Charities.

Grade D

###### (16) LIMEKILN LANE CHAPEL

St. George's Road (formerly Limekiln Lane) ST 57917258

On the main road to the Hotwell and on the edge of the early 19th-cent. industrial area of Canon's Marsh

Wesleyan Methodist: advertised 1821-32 (Mathew); 1833

closed on opening of Hotwell Road Chapel (Clifton II); apparently renamed St. George's Road chapel and reused by the Reformers (United Methodist Free); 1899 closed on opening of Brandon Chapel (Arrowsmith 57)  
Building demolished for street improvements

Grade D

(17) LODGE STREET CHAPEL

Lodge Street ST 58487304

In late 18th-cent. suburb on the steep hillside above the Whitefriars

Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion: 1830 opened to replace Salem (20 below); 1910 closed (Arrowsmith 53, Jones 33-5)

A delightful Gothic building which survived until 1967 (Gomme *et al* 297) when the site was cleared and dug out for approaches to a multi-storey car park.

Grade D

(20) SALEM CHAPEL

Colston Street (formerly St. Augustine's Place) ST 58527299

On the site of the Carmelite Friary and facing the main quayside

Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion: 1775 opened; 1830 closed on opening of Lodge Street; 1838 reopened by the Independents 1858 taken over by the Christian Brethren and later used by the Salvation Army; closed by 1904 (Mathew)

Building originally erected as Assembly Rooms which were refitted for use as a chapel (Mathew 1794, 80; 1800, 133) and new Gothic windows inserted (Gomme *et al* 176)

Building demolished by 1904 (Arrowsmith 53) and site occupied by Radiant House (1935)

Grade D

(21) ZION CHAPEL

Colston Avenue (formerly St. Augustine's under the bank) (precise site unlocated)

On the main quayside

Baptist: advertised (Mathew 1823-4); advertised as Methodist (Mathew 1827)

Grade D

A meeting house in St. Augustine's Place was granted a certificate in 1802 (List).

*City (St. James Within)*

(7) EBENEZER

Merchant Street ST 59107341

In the medieval suburb of Broadmead

Wesleyan Methodist: 1795 built to replace the New Room (10 above); 1950's closed on removal of congregation to Filton (Arrowsmith 58, CPAB 158)

Building described with elevation (Mathew 1800, 133); 1869 repaired and improved; 1950's demolished for comprehensive redevelopment of the area for new shopping centre.

Grade D

(9) GIDEON

Newfoundland Street ST 59617367

In the 18th/19th-cent. suburban development of St. Paul's Calvinistic Independent (Congregational): 1809 built by antinomian members from the Tabernacle; 1820-2, 1837-47 closed; c. 1930 finally closed (Jones 50-3)

Site taken for recent road widening for M32 extension

Grade D

(11) MORAVIAN CHURCH

Upper Maudlin Street ST 58707342

Built on ground formerly belonging to the Franciscan Friary United Brethren (Ancient Episcopal Moravian Church): 1756 built; 1973 closed (Arrowsmith 53-4, Nicholls & Taylor 304)

Building extensively altered in 1896. In 1973 the whole site including the BG was cleared and the memorial stones removed to the BG of the Moravian Church at Kingswood. Roman occupation of part of the site was excavated by the City Museum and University of Bristol in 1974-6

(Parker *et al*)

Grade D

(12) NEW JERUSALEM

Bridewell Street (formerly Bridewell Lane)

(precise site unlocated) ST 58977220

In the medieval town by the banks of the Frome between Bridewell Lane and St. James Back

New Church Society (Swedenborgian): 1791 opened in a building formerly used as a Roman Catholic Chapel; 1830 closed on removal of congregation to rooms in Lodge Street (Arrowsmith 56)

Building enlarged in 1790's (Mathew 1800, 134). Site probably occupied by the magistrate's courts or the former fire station

Grade D

(13) OLD KING STREET

Merchant Street (formerly Old King Street) ST 59167339

In the medieval suburb of Broadmead

Baptist: 1815-7 built by congregation from Pithay; 1955 closed (Williams)

Building refurbished but in 1956 demolished (CPAB 158, V1b) (Pevsner 411) for comprehensive redevelopment for new shopping centre.

Grade D

(14) PROVIDENCE

Near Horsefair (formerly Callowhill Street) ST 59337342

In 18th/19th-cent. suburban development E of Broadmead Independent 1805 probably licensed (List); 1819-34 advertised (Mathew); 1836-40 advertised as Methodist and 1841-3 as Independent (Mathew)

Area cleared for redevelopment as new shopping centre in 1950's

Grade D

(15) ST. JAMES BACK CHAPEL

Silver Street (formerly St. James Back) ST 58957333

In the medieval suburb of Broadmead

Presbyterian: meeting house licensed 1672; wrecked in 1681 and the congregation later reformed at Tucker Street (Hayden 74-5). Independent chapel at or near same site; 1823-35 advertised (Mathew); 1838-9 advertised as Baptist (Mathew)

Grade D

(17) TABERNACLE

Penn Street ST 59387334

In 18th/19th-cent. suburban development E of Broadmead in former Black Friar's Orchard

Whitfieldite (Congregational): 1753 opened by George Whitfield; closed in late 1950's (Jones 23-8, Nicholls & Taylor 303)

Building survived substantially intact with its preacher's house and later (1834) schoolroom until its demolition for new shopping centre (CPAB 185, Pevsner 412). BG in

Redcross Street (ST 596733) (T) was purchased in 1806 but sold to the City in 1885 and laid out as St. Matthias Park Grade D

(19) WELSH BAPTIST CHAPEL

Upper Maudlin Street ST 58687339

Part of 19th-cent. infill of land along Maudlin Lane  
Welsh Particular Baptist: 1840-1 built; c. 1970 closed (Arrowsmith 48)

Original building survived but with new furniture of 1901 until demolition in 1978 to build an underpass to the Infirmary  
Grade D

*City (Redcliffe-Temple)*

(9) COUNTERSLIP CHAPEL

Counterslip ST 59217293

In the Medieval suburb of Temple

Baptist: 1810 opened by congregation from Tailor's Court; 1876 closed on opening of new church in Victoria Street (Nicholls & Taylor 294)

Site occupied by the former Tramways Generating Station (1898)

Grade D

(10) FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE

Victoria Street (formerly Temple Street) ST 59237272

In the Medieval suburb of Temple and by the Law Ditch.  
Society of Friends (Quakers): 1667 built as a second house for the Rosemary Street meeting; 1832 converted for use as a cholera hospital (Mortimer 1967, 14-5) and closed c.1834  
Site occupied by a garage

Grade D

(11) GUINEA STREET (later WYCLIFFE) CHAPEL

Guinea Street

In the 17th/18th-cent. suburb on Redcliff Hill

Wesleyan Methodist: 1779 opened by John Wesley; 1828 closed on opening of Langton Street (Bedminster) (Jefferies 5,10) 1848 leased by Independent and renamed; c. 1894 closed on opening of Totterdown Congregational Church (Arrowsmith 53). Building demolished in 1890's to build St. Mary Redcliff Hall and now part of the site of Phoenix House

Grade D

(12) TEMPLE STREET CHAPEL

Temple Street (site unlocated)

In Medieval suburb of Temple Fee

Wesleyan Methodist: advertised 1837-41 (Mathew)

Grade D

(13) TUCKER STREET MEETING-HOUSE

Bath Street (formerly Tucker Street) ST 59117287

In the medieval suburb of St. Thomas

Independent 1686 opened in converted theatre by congregation from St. James Back; 1786 closed on opening of Bridge Street (Nicholls & Taylor 295)  
Building demolished in clearance to build Bath Street (opened 1792)

Grade D

*Clifton*

(5) CLIFTON METHODIST CHAPEL

(site unlocated)

Wesleyan Methodist: advertised 1836-40 (Mathew)

Grade D

(6) DOWRY CHAPEL (later ST. ANDREW-THE-LESS)

Chapel Row ST 56937259

In the 18th-cent. spa of the Hotwell

Church of England: 1744 chapel; 1881 district chapelry out of Clifton (OC); 1938 parish united with Holy Trinity and St. Peter with Holy Trinity as parish church; 1958 ~~closed~~ closed (Kirby 165)

Original building opened in 1746 (designed by George Tilly) (Ison 48) and demolished in 1872, never having been consecrated. Replaced by St. Andrew-the-Less, built 1872-3 (designed by James Foster). BG in use 1784-1855 (Nicholls & Taylor 279-80) but both the church and BG cleared after their sale to the City in 1963 to build housing

Grade D

(11) HOTWELL METHODIST CHAPEL (Later ST. PETER CLIFTON) Hotwell Road ST 57827266

On the main road below the early 19th-cent suburb of Clifton Wood

Wesleyan Methodist: 1833 opened to replace nearby Limekiln Lane Chapel (City-Western 16); 1855 acquired by Church of England; 1856 district chapelry out of Clifton (OC); 1938 parish united with St. Andrew-the-Less and Holy Trinity with latter to be parish church and St. Peter to be demolished (OC) (Kirby 174)

Original building used as the parish hall on the completion of the new church on adjoining land in 1882 (Arrowsmith 92). Both buildings demolished after sale to the City for development for housing

Grade D

*St George*

(3) PILL MARSH CHAPEL

(site unlocated)

Wesleyan Methodist: advertised 1836-41 (Mathew)

Grade D

(4) ST. GÉROGE

Summerhill Road

ST 62457362

Built to serve the extensive mining and industrial area E of the medieval town

Church of England: 1756 parish created out of that of SS. Philip & Jacob (Kirby 168)

Original building erected 1752-6 (designed by Samuel Glascodine) (Gomme *et al* 149); demolished and rebuilt 1845-6; burnt and rebuilt 1878-80 (designed by R. E. Massey) (Arrowsmith 80, Nicholls & Taylor 278, Pevsner 453); declared redundant and demolished in 1975 after the church was accommodated in the adjoining parish hall. Site to be used to build housing but BG remains except the memorials have been removed. They were recorded by the AGBA before clearance.

Grade D.

*St. James Without*

(2) ST. ANDREW, MONTPELIER

Belmont Street

ST 59127487

In the 19th-cent suburb of Montpelier

Church of England: 1845 district out of St. Pauls and Horfield; 1956 parish united with St. Bartholomew with the latter as parish church; 1963 declared disused (Kirby 165)  
Built 1845; 1878 chancel lengthened and organ chamber and vestries added (Taylor 104, 106); 1969 demolition authorised. Site part landscaped for playground.

Grade D

*SS. Philip & Jacob Without*

(3) BARTON HILL CHAPEL  
(precise site unlocated)

In the then rapidly growing suburb of Barton Hill Independent: 1845 founded from Kingsland (see 8 below); 1877 closed and reused as Barton Street City Mission Hall; damaged in 1940 and demolished 1946 (Sanigar 113); 1882 new chapel opened in Bridge Street (ST 60517290)

Grade D

(4) DOLMAN'S CHAPEL

Eugene Street (precise site unlocated) ST 599735  
In the late 18th-cent. suburb later known as St. Jude's Little information found (and possibly confused); founded by Dolman as Wesleyan Methodist (Mathew 1794, 80); later Baptist (Mathew 1800, 133); Primitive Methodist (Mathew 1841); Independent (1842); Bristol City Mission (1843-4); Primitive Baptist (1847) and Baptist (1848).

BG apparently cleared

Grade D

(8) KINGSLAND CHAPEL

Kingsland Road (formerly The Dings) ST 60087293  
In the 18th/19th-cent. suburb of The Dings Independent (Congregational): 1836 founded from the Tabernacle (Arrowsmith 52, Jones 26)  
Original building survived though converted into a warehouse until its demolition in 1980 (Dawson 1980, 25)

Grade D

(13) ST. PHILIP'S CHAPEL

The Dings (precise site unlocated)  
Wesleyan Methodist: advertised 1836-40 (Mathew)

Grade D

(14) THRISSELL STREET CHAPEL

Thrissell Street ST 60357350  
In the early 19th-cent. heavily built up area E of Lawfords Gate

Baptist: opened 1836; closed in the 1880's  
Original building burnt and rebuild in 1855 (Nicholls & Taylor 294) but the whole area was cleared and redeveloped for warehousing in the 1970's

Grade D

(15) WESLEY CHAPEL

Lower Ashley Road ST 60217430

In Baptist Mills

Wesleyan Methodist: opened 1837; closed in 1970's  
Original building replaced c.1876, incorporating the stone from which Wesley preached in 1739 (supposedly), but demolished to build the M32 Outer Circuit Road junction (Arrowsmith 60)

Grade D

*Stapleton*

(3) FISHPONDS CHAPEL (later TRINITY METHODIST CHURCH)

Fishponds Road ST 63207578

In settlement of Fishponds

Wesleyan Methodist: founded 1833; closed in 1970's  
Original chapel replaced in 1894 but this had been demolished by 1975.

Grade D

*Westbury-on-Trym, 2 (Redland-Stoke Bishop)*

(3) PORTLAND CHAPEL

Portland Street ST 58517382

In 18th/19th-cent. suburb of Kingsdown

Wesleyan Methodist: opened 1792 (Lieut. Webb was one of the founders); closed 1973

Original building was lengthened in 1871, but remained derelict for some time (Amery *et al* 49) before the whole complex, including the BG (closed 1906) was cleared (Lambert). All that survives is the facade of the Luton Memorial Hall (1883-5) incorporated in the new sheltered accommodation on the site

Grade D

# AN 18th CENTURY BAKERY AT CHRISTMAS STEPS, BRISTOL

## J. Bryant and D. Kear

The property known as 1 and 1A Christmas Steps is situated at the junction of Christmas Steps and Host Street in the parish of St. Michael, central Bristol, outside the line of the medieval walls and just west of the course of the river Frome (Fig 1). A public house bounds the property to the west. Tenements adjoined on the south side, with a warehouse on the site later.

Recording of Nos. 1 and 1A was carried out prior to redevelopment at the invitation of the owners, Bristol Municipal Charities, in 1977 and 1978, for the Department of Archaeology and History, City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery. The history is largely based on documents now in the Bristol Record Office (B.R.O.). Nos. 1 and 1A once constituted three premises, each facing Host Street. They originally formed part of the estates of the Hospital of St. Bartholomew, being conveyed to the Corporation of Bristol for the use of the Grammar School in 1621. These were amongst the last of the lands to be so transferred (Hill, 1951, 15).

### History

Israel Constant, farrier, occupied the southernmost property in 1700 and appears to have been the lessee until c.1719 although he did not occupy the premises himself after 1706 (Land Tax, assessments for 1700, 1706, 1707; St. Michael's Poor Rate, assessments for 1718, 1721 (BRO)). Hugh Willis was the occupant from c.1721 to c.1726, followed by Daniel Warner. The lease granted to Samuel Sharp in March 1746 (Bristol Bargain Book, 1744-1750 (BRO)) gives the property as 'now or late in the possession of Richard Jones Nailor'. He was the occupant from 1732 until 1745. Abel Edwards occupied the central property in 1700, being succeeded by John Russell, then by William Sweet, farrier. Sybella Cullmore was a later occupant (Lease of 1743 quoted in 1746 lease).

The corner property, then at the junction of Horse Street and St. Michael's Steps (now Host Street and Christmas Steps), was occupied by Samuel Jocham in 1700 (Land Tax assessments). Charles Awre of Arr, baker, succeeded Jocham in c.1715 (St. Michael's Lamp and Scavenging Rate assessment, 1716 et. seq. (BRO); Poll Book, 1722). Edward Boucher or Butcher followed Awre's widow as occupant. Richard Bond, baker, was in residence in 1734, and Edmund Jordan, baker, from 1736 to 1740 (St. Michael's Lamp and Scavenging Rate assessment (BRO); Poll Books for 1734 and 1739). At the time of the 1746 lease, the property was let to George Adams, gent.

Samuel Sharp, baker, was granted a lease of all three properties on 4th March 1746, on condition that he would within two years, rebuild two of the tenements and pull down and rebuild the front of the third. The fronts of the new buildings were 'to be carried up and built upright

from the ground not less than two feet from and within the present story posts in order to widen the said street'. Rebuilding apparently took place in 1747 or early 1748, since the Lamp and Scavenging Rate assessment for 1748/9 names the property as 'Saml. Sharps new house'.

The lease to Sharp was renewed in 1758, when the property was described as 'all that messuage or tenement formerly three tenements lately pulled down and rebuilt agreeable to the covenant in the above lease'. Dimensions were given in the 1746 lease and 1765 renewal at 45 feet for the Horse Street frontage, the depth being 25 feet at the southern end and 32 feet at the northern end. Edward Sharp, also a baker, succeeded Samuel as lessee in 1770. Benjamin Sharp, baker, is shown at this address until 1794 by the street directories, the first entry being for the year 1775 (Sketchley, 1775, 87). The son of Samuel, Benjamin, is recorded as Benjamin Sharp, Gent., in Paul Street, Kingsdown, in 1797 and 1800 (Mathews, 1797 & 1800).

William Merry took over the bakery at Host Street in about 1802, but did not become lessee until 1817 or 1818. Directory entries list William Merry, Junior, from 1823, and William Merry and Son, bakers, from 1826 to 1840. A renewal of lease in 1831 described the premises as 'messuage or tenement and bakehouse situate in Host Street', and a plan was attached. Edwin and George were named as other sons of William, Senior. William bequeathed to William, Junior, his 'leasehold messuage or dwellinghouse shop and premises in which testator had carried on his business as a baker situate in Host Street' (Will of July 1840 in BRO - BMC Expired Leases bundle). In the same year the Corporation, by an order of the Court of Chancery,

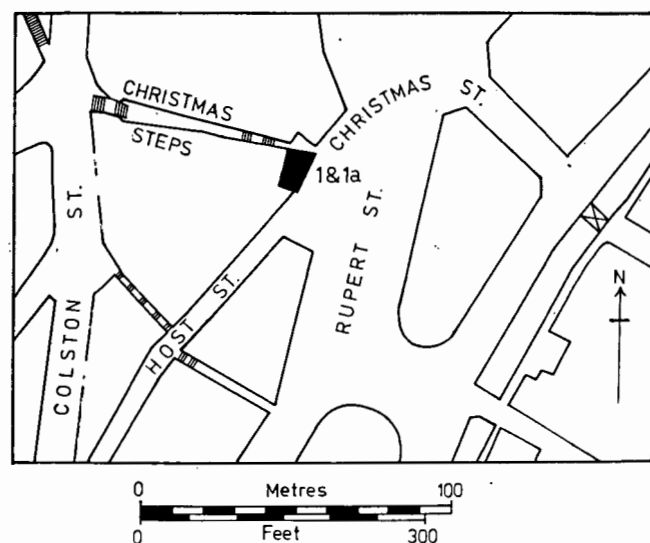


Fig 1 Location of 1, 1a Christmas Steps

reconveyed the property to the Trustees of Bristol Municipal Charities (BRO – Summary of History of 1 and 1A Christmas Steps). William Merry, Junior, continued to operate the bakery at Host Street until about 1867 although he moved residence to Kingsdown Parade in about 1840 (Mathews, 1840-1866).

Adam Witt, baker and flour dealer, took over the premises from Merry (Mathews, 1868). Mathews Directory for 1882 records Witt at 1 Christmas Steps as a baker and confectioner. Rose Ashcroft succeeded Witt, firstly as baker and confectioner, then as tobacconist and confectioner. In about 1889 the two sides of the business were split, the bakery passing to J. Hookings, thence to William Maggs in 1894. William Harry Maggs is recorded at the premises from 1914 until 1969, after which the property fell vacant (Wright's and Kelly's).

Mathew's directory for 1890 gives the first entry for 1A Christmas Steps with Charles Clarke, tobacconist, in occupation; Edgar Hopkins, William Ray and Emily Thwaites were successive occupants after Clarke. Thomas V. Lyddon, tobacconist, was the final occupant of the rather small shop. Business ceased in the early 1970's, since when the premises have remained empty.

### Survey

The main elevation faced Host Street (Fig 1), the southern part being at a different height to the remainder. Whereas most of the property was rebuilt in 1747, only the facade of the southern part was renewed; hence the differing floor levels. One bay wide and three storeys high, this section lacked both cellar and garret. Brick reinforced with timber studs and rails was used for the front wall. Since brick was still rarely used on a large scale locally, the builder may have included the timber because he was unsure of his material. Renderings of light brown and dark grey cement were applied externally. Bristol's dirty atmosphere changed the cream-painted rendering to yellow ochre after a time.

Access to the ground floor was through a three-plank door. The room was lit solely by one window (blocked by the time that the property was surveyed). One sash window lit the single room on each floor. The water closet at the first floor level was served by a small fixed window. Pantile-covered, the roof was rather more shallow than others on the building. A brick quarter-dome filled the gap between No. 1 and the adjacent warehouse at street level.

That part of the property rebuilt in 1747 possessed a three-bay facade, with three main floors plus an attic storey. The front wall was constructed of stone and brick, rendering in dark grey cement and painted in a cream wash. Access to the bakers house, and also possibly the shop, was by way of a doorway positioned off-centre. At one time there was a pedimented porch. No. 1 (The Bakers House) contained three main rooms on each floor, the central ground floor room was lit by a sash window, and the outside shutters for the window survived until renovation. On the corner of Christmas Steps was the bakery shop, illuminated by a pair of sash windows in each elevation (Prout, c.1832 (a)). Sash windows lit the first and second floor rooms, but dormers with casements served to light the garrets (Prout, c.1832 (a) & (b)). There was a pantiled roof, gabled at the south end and hipped at the north end, with brick chimney stacks. Clinker rendering was

applied to the ground floor wall below window-sill level (see Jenner, in Gomme, Jenner & Little, 1979, 166). A wartime hydrant sign was painted a little above the sill level. At pavement level, a grille provided ventilation for the cellar.

The Christmas Steps facade of No. 1 was constructed of stone and brick, rendered in the same manner as the Host Street frontage (Fig 2). Three storeys high and one bay wide, the facade includes a 19th-century shop entrance and a plate-glass window (replacing the earlier pair of sash windows). Access to the cellar could be gained through a flap below the shop window. The north elevation of No. 1A was constructed almost entirely of rubble (principally Brandon Hill quartzite and pennant sandstone). Four storeys high, the elevation also contained a shop doorway and window at ground floor level, with a 20th-century advertising hoarding to one side of the doorway. Double doors gave access to all upper storeys. Small fixed windows provided limited light for the first and second floors. Putlock holes were visible in the wall. Between the shop window and the front of the 'Gaiety' public house there remained the end of a wall of probable 15th century date.

Internal walls were constructed from a variety of materials. The wall dividing No. 1 and 1A was of stone and brick at ground floor level, and brick reinforced with timber on upper floors. Partition walls were constructed of brick, timber or lath and plaster. Chimney breasts were of stone.

Cellarage was only provided below part of No. 1 (Fig 3). A trapdoor and stone steps gave access from the shop; stone steps and a flap gave out onto Christmas Steps. The two cellar rooms had stone walls and flagstone floors with shallow brick barrel vaulting. Ventilation, and possibly a little light, were provided in the southern room by an opening at pavement level. Close to the north-west corner of the northern room was a shaft, formerly extending up to ground floor level, and probably an old well shaft providing water for the bakery.

Two rooms of the bakers residence were situated on the ground floor, the southernmost being a kitchen and scullery (Fig 3). The room contained a kitchen range in the south wall, with a copper to one side and a staircase to the other, with a sink which also provided water. During the demolition work a freestone window of probably 17th century date was discovered in the area of the stairs. It must have lit the stairs in the period before construction of the adjoining warehouse. The west wall of the kitchen was made convex because of the requirements of the oven beyond – the wall may have followed the line of an earlier one. Like the other ground floor rooms, the kitchen was paved with flagstones. Heating in the central room was provided by a fireplace which had been rebuilt in the inter-War period and possibly also in the 19th century. Brick blockings in the west wall indicated earlier connections with the bakery working room, possibly because the room may once have been used for the preparation of materials. Originally, there had also been an access to the main building entrance via the north-east corner of the room, but that doorway was later blocked.

The shop occupied the northern ground floor room of No. 1, entered by a doorway in the north-east corner (Prout, c.1832 (a)). Shop fittings of later 19th century date were found in situ when the room was surveyed. It is likely that the main staircase, which later commenced at

first floor level, initially began in what was later the south end of the shop: the location of the steps to the cellar would support this view. At first, there was a small fireplace in the shop, but it was later blocked. One doorway led to the bakehouse and another connected with the rest of the ground floor.

Bread was prepared and baked in the room west of the shop. Until about 1889 the room reached to the Christmas Steps frontage, but at that time the small lock-up shop was constructed at the north end of the room for the tobacconists business. The shop had its own front entrance, together with plate-glass window, and counter, shelves and other fittings. It was not connected with the remainder of the building.

The remainder of the working area continued in use, with the oven located at the southern end behind a wall of medieval and later date. Further medieval walling survives in the west wall, where one relieving arch remained intact, together with part of a second arch. Medieval walling was identified by the colour of mortar used. Detail drawings of the walls, not published here, are held at the City of Bristol Museum. Adjoining the oven was a proving cupboard, where the bread received its final proof prior to baking. Proving requires a strict temperature control, and in this instance heat was provided by a gas-fuelled device in later times. Quarry tiles were used for flooring. In common with the other rooms of No. 1A, there was no ceiling as such. The beams, joists and floorboards of the floor above remained exposed. A ladder situated at the northern end

of the room gave access to the first floor. Adjacent to the oven was a trapdoor giving access to the upper storeys for the transport of materials to the bakehouse from the storerooms above. The wooden trough in which the dough was mixed and kneaded remained in the room until renovation began. It was 2.47ms. long by 0.79 ms. wide, and about 0.65 ms. deep. Nearby was a slate gravestone, some 1.84 ms. by 0.92 ms., dedicated to the memory of N.M. Page, who died in January 1847. Possibly the slab has been used in the bakery, since the face was eroded and carried traces of a white material (flour?).

South of the bakery working room was the oven, of the side-flue type (Sheppard & Newton, 1957, 111). Projecting forward of the outer of the two doors was a stock or platform consisting of a flat cast-iron plate supported by corbelled freestone blocks, below which a small area of medieval wall survived (possibly the wall of an earlier oven). Heat for the oven was provided from a fire-box on one side of the oven entrance, fuelled by coal or coke. Internally, the oven was entirely of brick construction with a shallow crown or vaulted roof. Apparently dating from the 1740's rebuilding, the oven was approx 3.5m in length internally.

Above the oven was a stone-floored storeroom with a blocked window in its west wall (Fig 3). The remaining first floor area of No. 1A was also storage space, but floored with a double layer of boards. A ladder gave access to upper storeys; a doorway connected with the first floor of the baker's residence. Double doors gave access to



Fig 2 Elevations of bakery



Christmas Steps for the movement of materials. The north end was raised above the level of the rest of the floor; a small fixed window provided some light. The west wall was of stonework, irregular and obviously of several periods.

Principal room of the baker's accommodation was the northern first floor room of No. 1, panelled from floor to ceiling, with doors and window shutters to match (the north window has no shutters). A fine cupboard was provided in the north-eastern corner of the room and a fireplace with cast-iron grate in the north-western corner; beneath the east window was a seat. Beyond the south-eastern doorway lay a closet, situated behind the main staircase, and possibly originally a through-room to the central room. Like the

principal room, the window was provided with a window-seat and shutters, and there was also panelling.

The main staircase was built in the dog-leg form, lit by a small window from the closet. South of the staircase was the central room, served by a fireplace with cast-iron grate. No shutters were fitted to the window, but there was a window seat. Two steps led down into the southern room, lit by a single sash window and heated from a cast-iron grate. Stairs reached to the ground and second floors. The south wall of the building was of 16th or 17th century date up to the level of this storey. Partitioned off in the north-east corner of the room was a 19th century water closet. Above the room was another of similar size

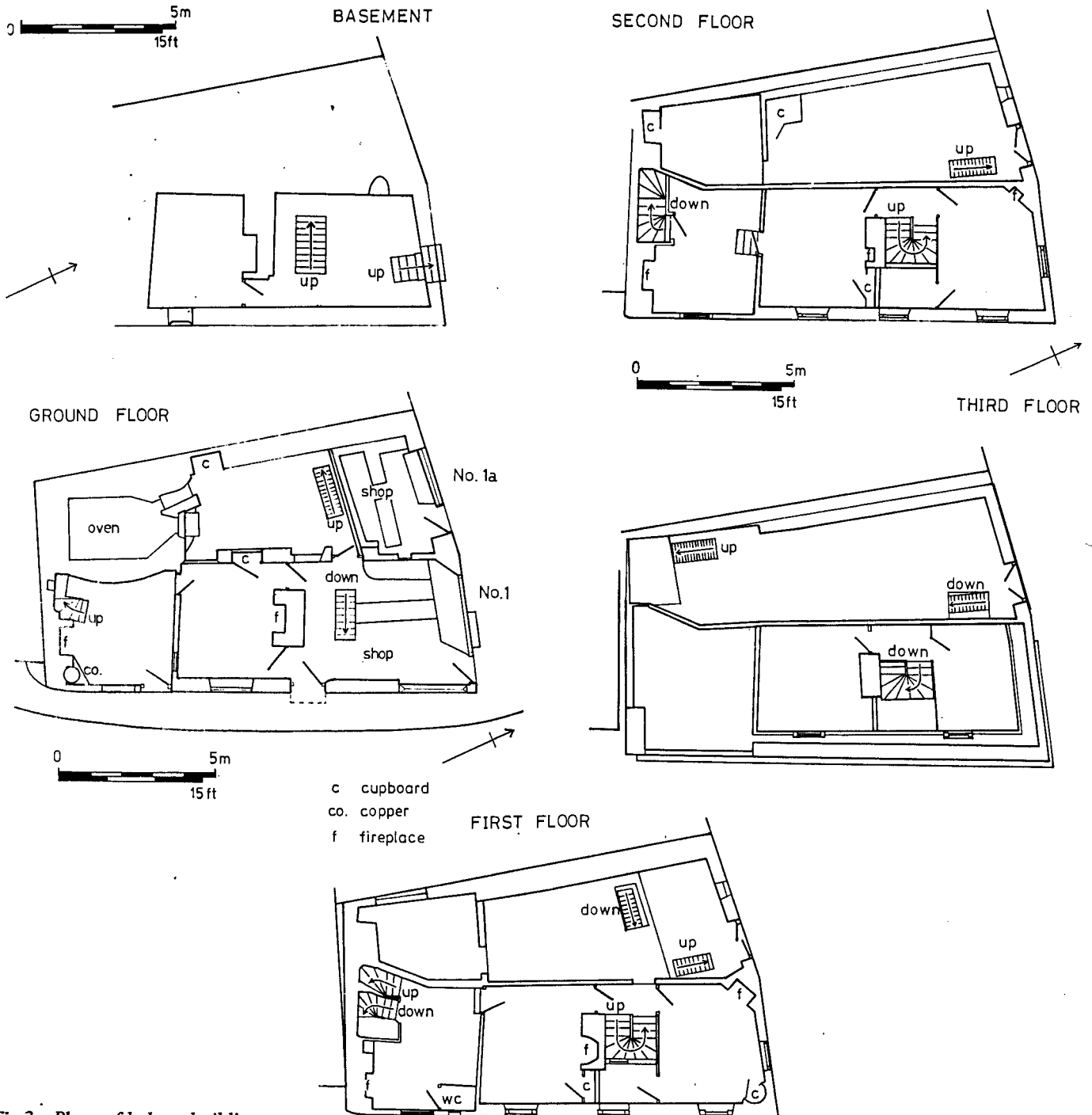


Fig 3 Plans of bakery building

and nature, but without a water closet, probably intended for use as a bedchamber (Fig 3).

Four steps higher than the first bedchamber was a second example, lit by a sash window, complete with window-seat and served with a fireplace with iron grate. North of the chimney-breast was the dog-leg staircase giving access to upper and lower storeys, on this floor illuminated only by lights above the doors at either end of the landing. Doors and other features were less elaborate than those on lower storeys. Beyond the staircase was a third bedchamber, heated by a small fireplace in the north-west corner, lit by two sash windows (one with a seat), and with a doorway leading to a closet behind the stairs. Initially the closet possessed a sash window complete with seat, but the window was later blocked. There is a possibility that the room had once connected with the central bedchamber; the room had probably served as a dressing room.

West of the baker's accommodation was the bake-houses's second floor, used for storage, approached by way of a ladder from the first floor, with a further ladder climbing up to third floor level. Double doors and a small fixed window were provided in the north wall, and there was a double layer of floorboards. Trapdoors gave access to the upper and lower floors for the internal movement of materials.

A single room, open to the roof, constituted the third floor of No. 1 (Fig 3). Double doors were fitted in the north wall. At the south end of the room was a raised platform approached by a wooden ladder. The east wall contained a hatch leading into the roof space above the south end of No. 1 both brick and stone had been used in the construction of the west wall; an iron fitting attached to the wall may have supported some kind of spring balance for the weighing of materials. Accommodation at the top of the baker's house was limited to the garretts, both unheated, but each lit by a dormer with casement windows. Between the rooms lay the top of the main staircase with a small storage area.

The roof of No. 1A was constructed in the 18th century with second-hand timbers. It was of common rafter type (ie: all rafters were of similar size), with one purlin and several diagonal braces on each side. Three pairs of collars supported the ridge purlin, the ridge itself being slightly west of centre. Further collars were fixed immediately below the purlins, and these were usually nailed to the rafters, though a lap-joint was sometimes used. A similar roof was built for the northern two-thirds of No. 1, but the ridge was off-centre because of the difference in height between the wall plates. The southern end of No. 1 had a different form of the common rafter type, with no braces and only one collar, and a plank ridge-purlin. No second-hand timber was used.

Considerable rebuilding was required in order to rehabilitate the property. Work commenced in the autumn of 1978 with the demolition of the southern third of the building (the oven was retained). The remainder was re-roofed, floors were replaced, and new windows fitted. Wherever possible, the original features were retained. The panelling, main staircase and most doors and fireplaces were restored. Further recording took place at that time. Rebuilding work was completed in 1979 and the property was reopened in October of that year as a small office

unit. Work is at present in progress to extend the 'Gaiety' into the ground floor of Nos. 1 and 1A, and should be completed at the end of 1981.

The survey drawings, notes, photographs and other documents are held by the Department of Archaeology and History, City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery (Accession No. : BRSMG.147/1980).

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Recording of Nos. 1 and 1A would have been impossible without the permission of Bristol Municipal Charities, the owners. Full co-operation was received from the Architects, Moxley Jenner & Partners (in particular Mr. Peter Floyd), and from the Builders, Messrs. Higgs & Hill. The History of the property was mainly researched in the Bristol Records Office with help from Miss Mary Williams, City Archivist, and her staff. Advice and assistance were provided during the recording of the building by Dr. Roger Price and Mr. Bruce Williams, Director and supervisor respectively, of the City Museum Archaeological Excavation at St. Bartholomew's Hospital.

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# AVON ARCHAEOLOGY 1981

## R. Iles

Since the demise of the *Archaeological Review* for Wessex and the South-West in 1972, notes on new finds, surveys and progress reports on excavations have appeared in county journals. The lack of a county journal for Avon meant that this important material was often split between the *Proceedings of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society* (for 1976-1979) and the *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* (for 1978-80). Some of this material also appeared together in the first two issues of *Avon Past* but with additional plans and information. The following review covers not only work carried out in Avon in 1981 but also discoveries for 1980 from South Avon.

1981 saw the continuation of major excavations in Bristol and Bath. In Bristol, the City Museum's Redcliff Project continues to throw light on this very important, but neglected, medieval suburb and port, prior to major redevelopment. In Bath, the Bath Archaeological Trust are re-excavating part of the Roman Temple precinct with particular attention being paid to the evidence of Saxon and Sub-Roman occupation as well as the Roman levels.

Much work is also being done on Avon's rural archaeology, but with the emphasis on survey and conservation rather than excavation. BAARG parish surveys are continuing for many places and several should be completed soon. A programme of measured surveys of earthwork remains is being drawn up by the County Planning Department. The first priority for this detailed survey work is medieval and other remains not previously recorded by the Ordnance Survey. Similar surveys are also being carried out for sites with management agreements. The 1979 Ancient

Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act is now in operation and has helped to give fresh impetus to the management of field monuments. Some of the most important sites in local authority ownership in Avon are now being actively conserved. A pilot scheme for conserving historic landscape features, as well as 'sites', is currently being carried out on Duchy of Cornwall Estates near Bath.

### Prehistoric

**CHEW MAGNA, Blacklands, ST 58226400.**

This site was suggested by Crook and Tratman (PUBSS, 6, S1) as probably 'Bow Ditch', described by Collinson and Rutter as a Roman Camp with triple ramparts. Three strip lynchets, traces of mining and bomb craters have been noted by R G J Williams (Fig 1). A scatter of Iron Age/Romano-British pottery was found in dark earth just to the east of the hilltop.

**CLEVEDON, Blackstone Rocks, ST38527020.**

A polished flint axe (Fig 2) was found by N Roberts on the beach at low tide, following a winter of storms. It was lying in a shingle bank, eroded away by sea action, and close to Blackstone Rocks. The axe shows no sign of having been rolled, suggesting this has been its first exposure.

**LONG ASHTON, Nightingale Valley, ST56307315 (approx).** Silver quarter-stater found south of the path up the Valley, just west of the railway. The coin is in poor condition but the inscription is thought by the British Museum to be of ANTED. (L V Grinsell)

**MARSHFIELD, Ironmongers, ST798760**

A considerable number of flint implements, including several barbed and tanged arrowheads, and a hammerstone were found during field walking. (R Iles).

**WELLOW, Stoney Little Long Barrow.**

A new Department of Environment guide, written by L V Grinsell, has been produced.

**WICK AND ABSON, Wick Rocks, ST708734.**

At Wick Rocks the river Boyd runs in a narrow gorge through outcrops of Carboniferous Limestone which for several centuries have been subjected to intensive quarrying. In the 18th century "camps" on each side of the gorge were noted by a number of antiquaries, including Atkyns, Rudder and Bigland. That on the South East side, in Doynton Parish, (ST709730 approx). seems to have been quarried away at an early date, and survives only in place-names such as 'Bury House', 'Oldbury Lane' and 'Castles Wood'. Of the northern earthwork, in Wick and Abson Parish, more is known. Richard Warner, writing in 1801, describes it as a 'noble Roman camp ... forming a long square, and defended on 3 sides by a broad ditch and double vallum. Its area, which consists of more than 12 acres, contains within it the Rock House and 3 or 4 cottages' (1). The site is also mentioned by Seyer in 1820 (2) and by

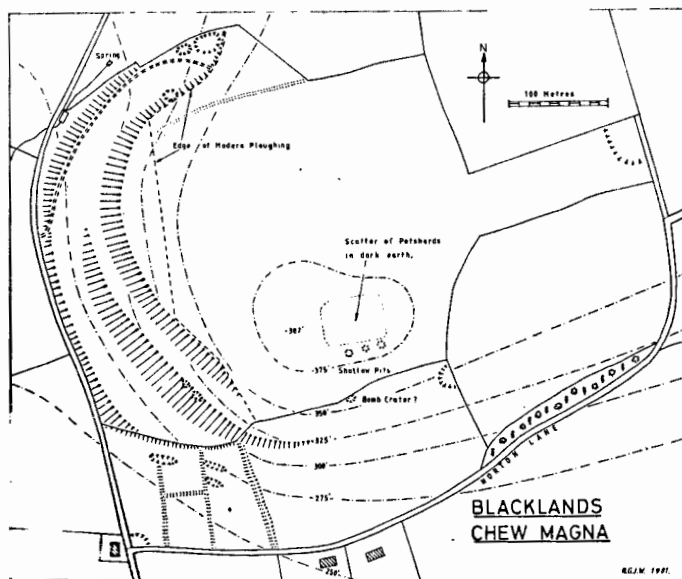


Fig 1 Blacklands, Chew Magna

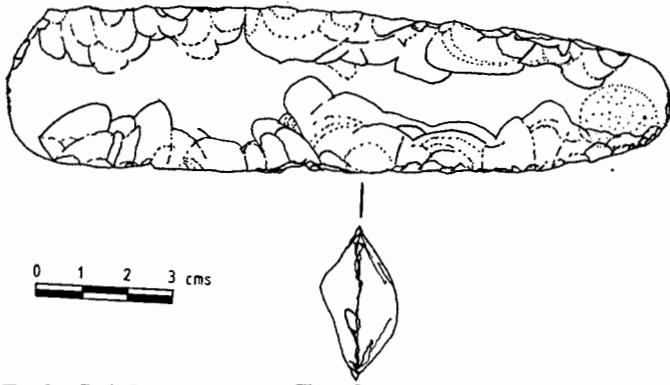


Fig 2 Polished stone axe, Clevedon

Witts in 1881 (3) but has been largely ignored by 20th century writers, as well as by the Ordnance Survey. The most recent account is that of 1918 by E J Burrow, whose published 1914 drawing, taken from ST70847335, looking S, fails to show any features of possible archaeological significance (4).

The surviving remains of Warner's 'Noble Roman Camp' consist of two banks to the north west of the demolished Rock House, running northwards from ST70727328 to ST70727343 (Fig 3 and 4). The line of the inner bank is continued by field boundaries and a change in level northwards to a group of cottages at ST70737360, and then eastwards along a knife-edge ridge between two disused quarries to ST70907360. The site thus delineated corresponds almost exactly with Warner's description. Nevertheless, despite its excellent defensive position, the

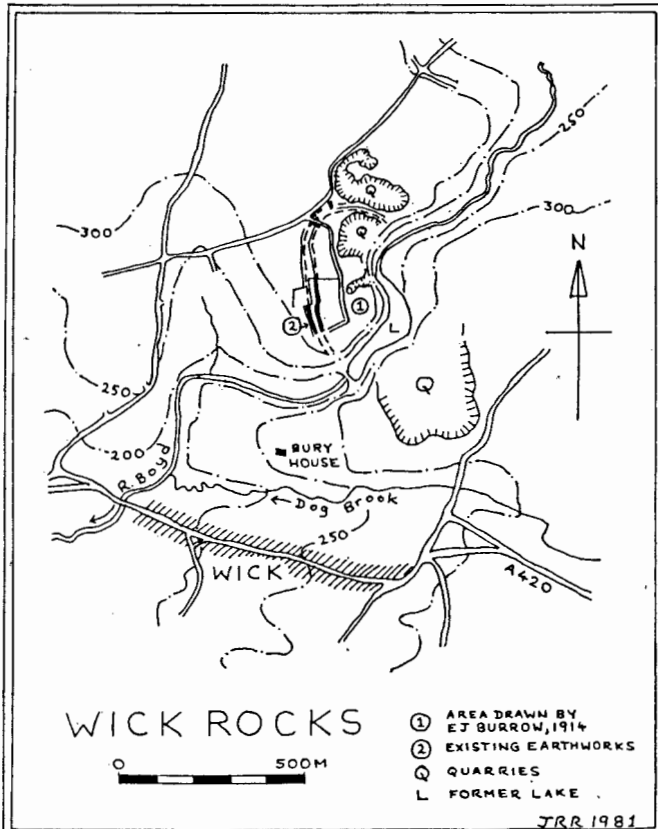


Fig 3 Possible hillfort, Wick Rocks, Wick

existing banks could very well have been produced by outcropping limestone strata. However, as at ST70727345, the core of the inner bank has been eroded, it can be seen to consist not of bedrock but of small pieces of limestone, some of which appear to be deliberately laid. No finds of Iron Age or Roman material appear to have been reported from the site. (J Russell and M Ashley).

(1) R Warner — *Excursions from Bath* (1801) p 211.

(2) S Seyer — *Memoirs of Bristol* (1820) Vol 1, p 74.

(3) G B Witts — *Archaeological Handbook to Glos.* (1881) p 18.

E J Burrow — *Camps of Gloucestershire* (1918) pp 82-3.

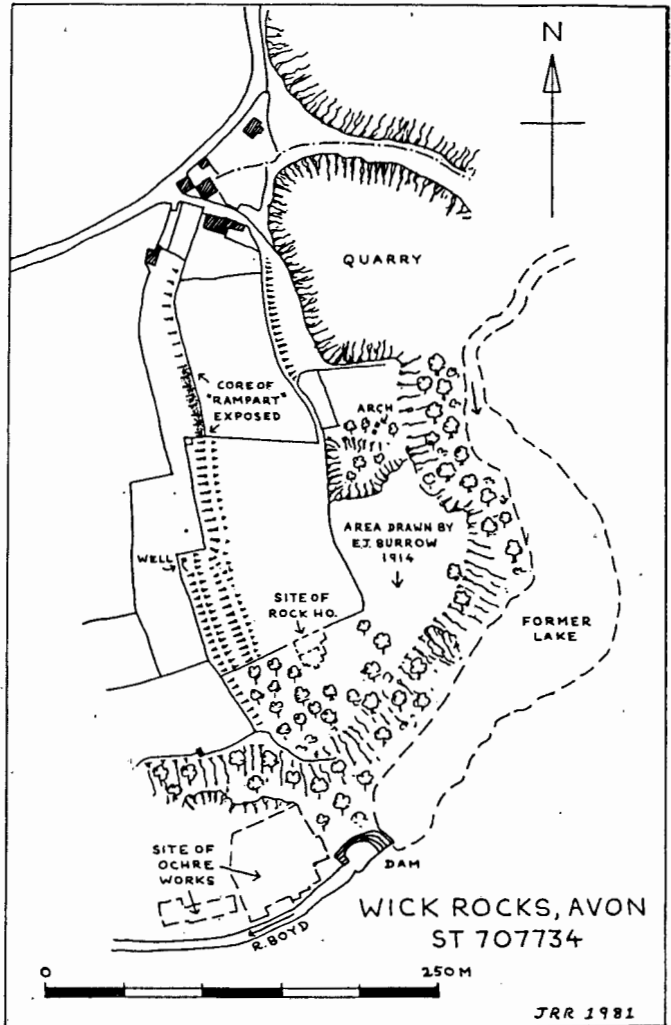


Fig 4 Possible hillfort, Wick Rocks, Wick

### Roman

#### BATH, Roman Baths.

Re-excitation of the south eastern part of the Roman temple precinct was directed by Peter Davenport for Bath Archaeological Trust. Post Roman layers survived in some of the area. These showed a series of late or sub-Roman repavings interleaved with flood silts. They were covered by the rubble from the final collapse of the Roman buildings. The consolidated surface of the rubble became the foundation for clay floors and hearths of mid-saxon

date. Flooding continued and further attempts at consolidation were made. A shallow well was sunk down to Roman pavement level. Burials began to be inserted (provisionally early 8th century onwards?) and the area was used as a cemetery until the late 16th century. However, a large stone building, possibly of 12th century date, was inserted into the cemetery area. This is probably an Abbey Gateway. The Roman structures are still being studied, but considerable detail as to phasing interpretation has been extracted. The overall plan of the precinct has been reinterpreted as against previous reconstructions.

**BATH, Abbey Green, ST752647.**

An obviously reused bathstone block decorated with a sculpted face and scallop surround in relief was discovered 2m high in a wall that is part of, but pre-dates, 4 Abbey Green, an early 18th century house. Much uncertainty surrounds its date but it was probably religious in function.

The face is native rather than classical in style and character but the scallop, originally a classical design, suggests some Roman influence. Dates advanced so far range from Romano-Celtic through Saxon to Norman, Romanesque and Medieval! Professor George Zarnecki cannot accept it as medieval and in fact most opinion at present leans tentatively towards a Romano-Celtic date, with the possibility that it was an internal relief carved in the dressed walls of a substantial religious building possibly related to the large Temple complex close by around the hot spring. It would be from such a structure that stone could easily be robbed after its collapse. (S Bird).

**BATH, Crystal Palace, Abbey Green.**

A salvage excavation was carried out during alterations to cellars of this Public house by Peter Davenport. Below its floors were several medieval burials, possibly belonging to St. James, moved to Southgate in the mid-14th century. Below the burials and slightly disturbed by them was a yellow mortar layer, covering a limestone rubble wall, an area of stone paving and, to the west of the wall, part of a four colour, geometrical mosaic. The mosaic had partly slumped, suggesting either hypocaust or earlier pit below. The excavation ceased at this level, but another one was undertaken in the adjacent cellar of 2 Abbey Street by R D Bell and J Austin. This located the black border of the mosaic, with further Roman phases below it. At a later Roman phase a well was cut through the mosaic. Further medieval burials were also found.

**HUTTON ST339587.**

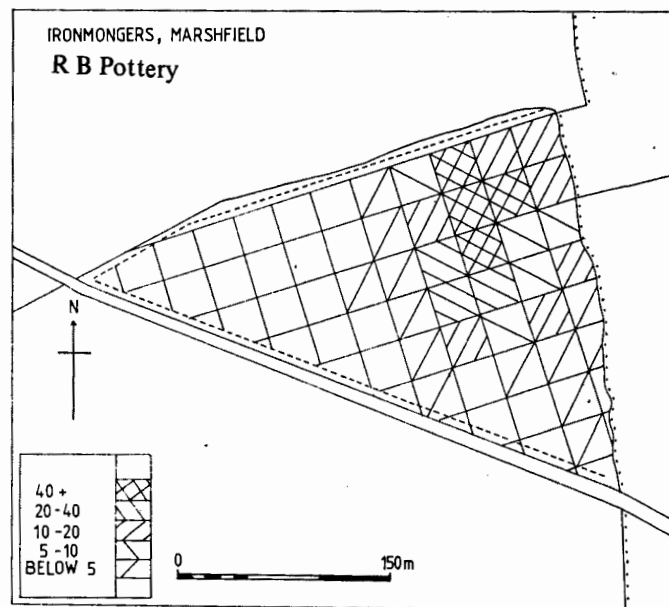
Continued surveillance of housebuilding at Woodside, Oldmixon by H Coward revealed further evidence of a small Romano-British settlement.

**MARSHFIELD, Ironmongers ST798760.**

The discovery of an underground flue, probably used for a corn-drying oven, during ploughing was followed by a detailed field survey by members of BAARG (Fig 5). This showed the extent of a Roman settlement with an extensive spread of building materials, including pennant sandstone tiles and patches of opus signinum. Finds include considerable quantities of pottery, several Roman metal objects and part of a human skull. (R Iles).

**LOXTON**

Romano-British pottery has been found in the garden of the Manor House Farm, Loxton. (J Evans).



*Fig 5 Roman settlement, Ironmongers, Marshfield*

**PORTISHEAD ST490766**

A silver denarius of Faustina, wife of Antonius Pius, and struck soon after her death in 141 AD, was dug up in a garden in Nore Road (J Evans).

**WESTON-SUPER-MARE ST313623.**

A Roman coin, an *as* of Vespasian, was dug up in the garden of 31 South Road (J Evans).

### *Medieval and later*

**ALMONDSBURY, Over ST58458225**

Two large platforms, probably the site of deserted farms, noted by R Iles. They lie next to the road, just outside of Over Park.

**BATH, Abbey Green and Roman Baths.**

See reports on medieval finds under Roman section.

**BATH, Upper Borough Walls ST 751649.**

During redevelopment of this site two pieces of a sword were found by a workman in the vicinity of the former city ditch. Its form and section suggested a Norman date. Attached to the blade were traces of leather, indicating that the weapon may have been broken and discarded while inside its scabbard (S Bird).

**BRISTOL, Bristol Bridge.**

See detailed interim excavation report by B Williams.

**BRISTOL, Tower Lane ST58867317**

Between November 1980 and January 1981 a watching brief was undertaken south of the Tower Lane site, excavated in 1979-80 (*BARG Review* 1, 1980), by E J Boore for Bristol City Museum.

Early Medieval: c. 12th century (Fig 6)

Excavations revealed the north undercroft wall (W1) continuing west, in the same build, into the north-west section of the site. A circular stone feature immediately west of the undercroft may represent a column base in this west extension. This chamber was subsequently divided by the latter insertion of wall (W2). Quoins of oolitic limestone were recorded in the SE and NW internal corners of the undercroft east. Wall (W3) butting on to the south east

TOWER LANE, WATCHING BRIEF 1980-81

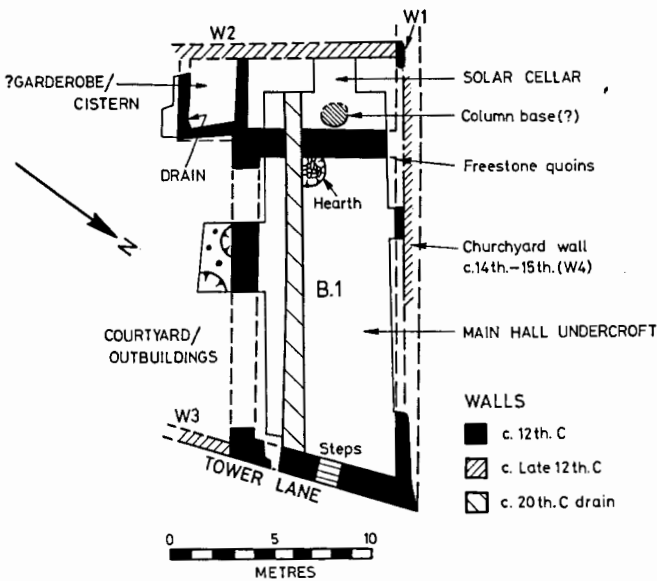


Fig 6 Norman building, Tower Lane, Bristol

external corner of (B1) suggested a courtyard area or possibly contemporary outbuildings. The drain in the south east corner of the garderobe/cistern structure is provisionally associated with a stone arch feature, 1.25m x 0.65m, recorded below and towards the west end of the standing wall, south of the site (see conduit Fig 7). Building (B1), 22m x 9m, is interpreted as a stone-built first floor hall consisting of a trapezoid-shaped undercroft east below the hall, and a chamber, probably a solar to the west, with vaulted basement or kitchen beneath. South of the solar is a contemporary garderobe or cistern structure. The plan of (B1) is similar to the more complete manor house at Boothby Pagnel Lincolnshire of c 1200 (1).

TOWER LANE, WATCHING BRIEF 1980-81

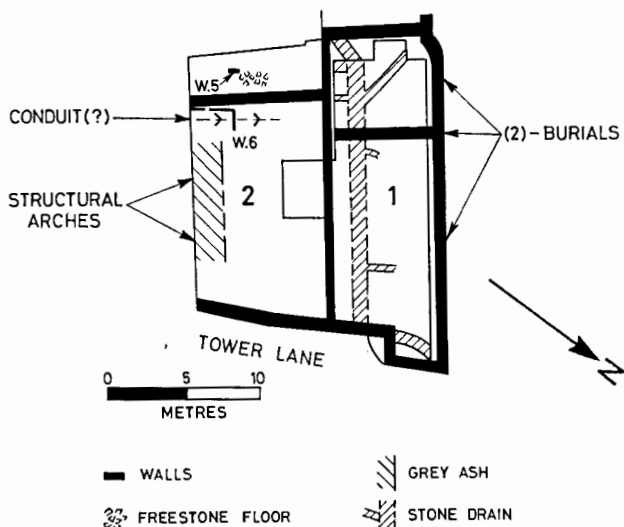


Fig 7 13th-19th century features, Tower Lane, Bristol

Later Medieval: c 13th - 15th centuries (Fig 7)

A later medieval wall (W4) was constructed over the destruction level of (B1) north wall (W1). Three adult burials were discovered north of (W4), the central grave containing a double burial. Wall (W4) was probably the original churchyard boundary wall and later served as the foundation for the latest churchyard wall represented by the north wall of 1, Tower Lane.

A short length of medieval wall (W5) running north-south was recorded in the south-west corner of the site. East of (W5) were traces of crushed oolite which represented a south extension of the freestone floor in (B3) of Period V (c 14th century), described in the earlier report.

Post-Medieval: 16th - 19th centuries

The disturbed remains of a cellar (W6) were found towards the south-west corner of the site. Further east, strengthening arches were built at foundation level into the standing wall south of the site. Grey ash, deposits north of this wall, confirmed the plan for Period X in the earlier report.

The late 19th-century stone drain running east-west across the site was revealed south of the later ceramic drain.

Finds included a complete base of a c 16th-century Nether Stowey chafing dish.

Messrs. Kenneth Needs Company Limited kindly allowed access to the site. I would like to extend my personal thanks to the site Agent, Mr. G. Pinches, the Site Engineer Mr R. Martini and Mr John Joyce, Director/Foreman of Paul-Gar Construction, together with Don O'Reilly and Jim McLoughlin. My thanks to Mike Baker who helped in exposing the south-east corner of building (B1). The plans were drawn by B Cumby.

1. Wood M, Norman, domestic architecture, *Royal Archaeological Institute* (1974) 44-6, Fig 10.

HANHAM ABBOTS ST64906995.

The earthworks, south of Hanham Court, first noted in 1980 have been surveyed by J Russell and M Ashley.

Remains of at least three stone-based structures can be distinguished, as well as a boundary-bank and a holloway linking the site with a lynched field to the north-east. The date of the site is uncertain but is probably early post-medieval.

HAWKESBURY ST768870.

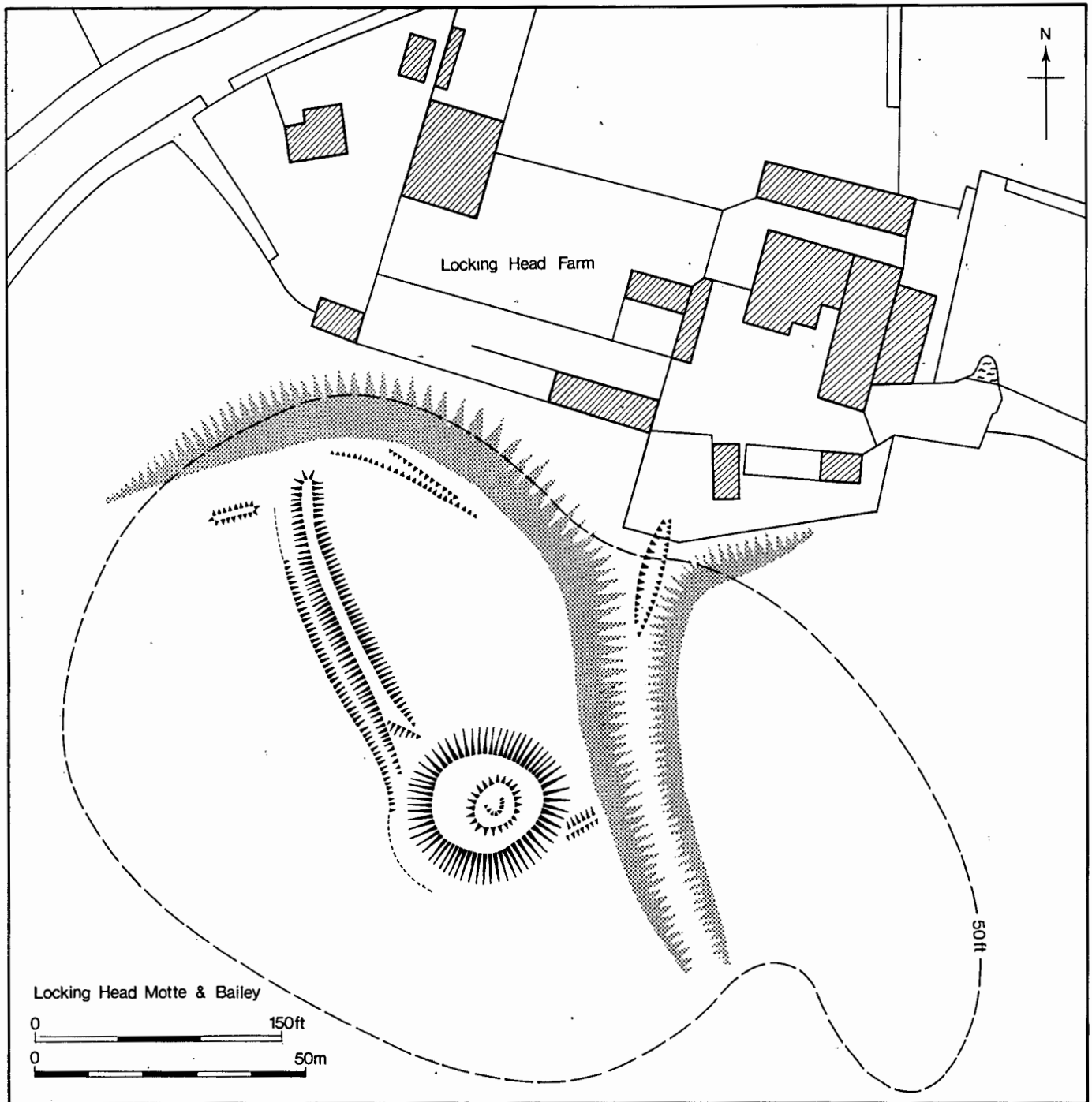
Just to the north of the parish church is the site of the medieval manor house demolished in the early 19th century. Eastwards from the manor house are the remains of formal garden terraces on the north side of the road. On the south side of the road and going up the hill towards Hawkesbury Upton are a series of platforms, probably the sites of former cottages (G White).

KEYNSHAM, Keynsham Abbey ST 655688

Excavations continued by Folk House Archaeological Society. Portions of a substantial stone screen were recovered 22 feet west of Pulpitum in the lay nave. Substantial remains of a reverberatory furnace were found. It was cut through the floor of the Chapter House. Slag analysis showed that it was probably used for bell metal. It could have been used for melting down the seven Abbey bells after the dissolution or for bell casting in the 16th or 17th centuries (B J Lowe).

LOCKING, Locking Head. Motte and Bailey. ST36386087.

This castle earthwork lies on a County Council small holding. A measured survey was carried out by R Iles in preparation for a management plan for the site (Fig 8).



*Fig 8 Motte and bailey castle, Locking Head Farm, Locking*

The earthworks lie in the centre of oval shaped knoll on the edge of the levels. To the east of the castle is a very deep holloway, predating it and forming the eastern boundary of the bailey. The west side of the bailey is bounded by a bank about 1.5m high with a slight external ditch, which probably continued around the motte. The north side of the bailey is a steep natural slope. The motte lies to the south end of the bailey. It is only about 2m high with a terrace about half way, the upper part is presumably the remains of a building excavated in 1902/3. There is a local tradition that there was a windmill on the motte.

**MARSHFIELD, Westend Town Green ST 769743**

Excavations were conducted in a field known as Stable Ground immediately north of Westend Town Green, as a

training excavation for BAARG. It was hoped to determine if there was, as the name suggests, a settlement here, west of the medieval town of Marshfield. The field name, St. Pancras Close, further to the west, is also thought to be a potential settlement (1). In an area of 75 sq.m. was found several east-west dry stone foundations, the latter producing the line of the stone boundary of the green. At their west ends, several other walls were identified at right angles, and on their extreme west edge traces of a clay floor. Several sherds suggested the medieval origin of these structures which may well have had organic superstructures, as there was little stone rubble left and little sign of ploughing. The field is permanent pasture. The structures were probably building foundations. BAARG is grateful

to the Knight farmers for permission to excavate. (M W Ponsford and R Iles).

(1) Williams, S, 1981, Westend Town, Marshfield, *BARG Review* 2, 73-4.

**NEWTON ST LOE, St Loe's Castle ST694639**

A seventh season of excavation was directed by C J Arnold on behalf of Bath College of Education. An area, site 'J', at the north-western extent of the medieval site was excavated. A project aimed at producing a scale drawing of the south-west face of the surviving tower was instigated. 1981 saw the publication of the first interim report on the excavations. (*Proc Somerset Archaeol Nat Hist Soc*, 124 (1980), 77-86).

**NEWTON ST LOE ST687633**

Excavation of a suspected ringwork, discovered in 1979, proved it be no more than a large quarry scoop (C J Arnold).

**NORTON MALREWARD, Norton Hawkfield. ST593648**

The earthwork remains of two mills and some house platforms have been sketch surveyed by R G J Williams (Fig 9). The sites of both mills are quite well preserved and there are some walls and a sluice extant on the lower site. They possibly originate in the medieval period and were certainly disused by 1800. The mills formerly lay in separate parishes and the old boundary is routed in such a way that the catchment areas for each mill is in the respective parishes; the mill for Norton Malreward is in a narrow strip of land protruding into Norton Hawkfield parish.

**NORTON MALREWARD, Pickwick Farm ST591661.**

A survey (Fig 10) of the deserted settlement near Pickwick Farm has been completed by R G J Williams. A small excavation in the 1960's by K Barton located buildings at

sites 'A' and 'B' (*Proc Univ Bristol Sptlaeol Soc*, 12 (1959-71) (99-112). Two periods of occupation were found: Iron Age and early Romano-British; and, 12th century to about 1860 when the site was finally abandoned. A 17-18th century farmhouse is indicated at 'C' and the sites of early buildings not previously noted are shown at 'D' and 'E'. Smyth Estates plans in Bristol Record Office (AC/PL 121,5) show the layout of farmbuildings in 1851 and 1737. The settlement pattern dating from the early medieval period is well defined and may in fact originate from the first period of occupation. Remains of other early fields which survive in the area are probably associated with the settlement.

**SISTON, Mill Farm. ST67817460.**

Immediately north of Mill Farm is an embanked pond about 70m long fed by a tributary of the Siston Brook, with a parallel leet to the west. It is uncertain whether this represents a mill-pond or a fish-pond; despite the name, it seems unlikely that any of the existing structures at Mill Farm could have housed a mill. To the east of the farm, at right angles to the pond, are further banks of uncertain purpose. (J Russel and M Ashley).

**SISTON, Siston Common ST 66457447.**

On a west-facing slope is a group of three pillow mounds (Fig 11). Two are rectangular, about 40m long and 5m wide, while the third is circular, 12m in diameter. All the mounds have flat tops and clearly defined drainage ditches. They are probably of 17th or 18th century date. The Avon and Gloucestershire Tramroad (1832) cuts across the southern most mound, and also a small circular earthwork to the north, probably 17th-18th century bell pit (J Russel and M Ashley).

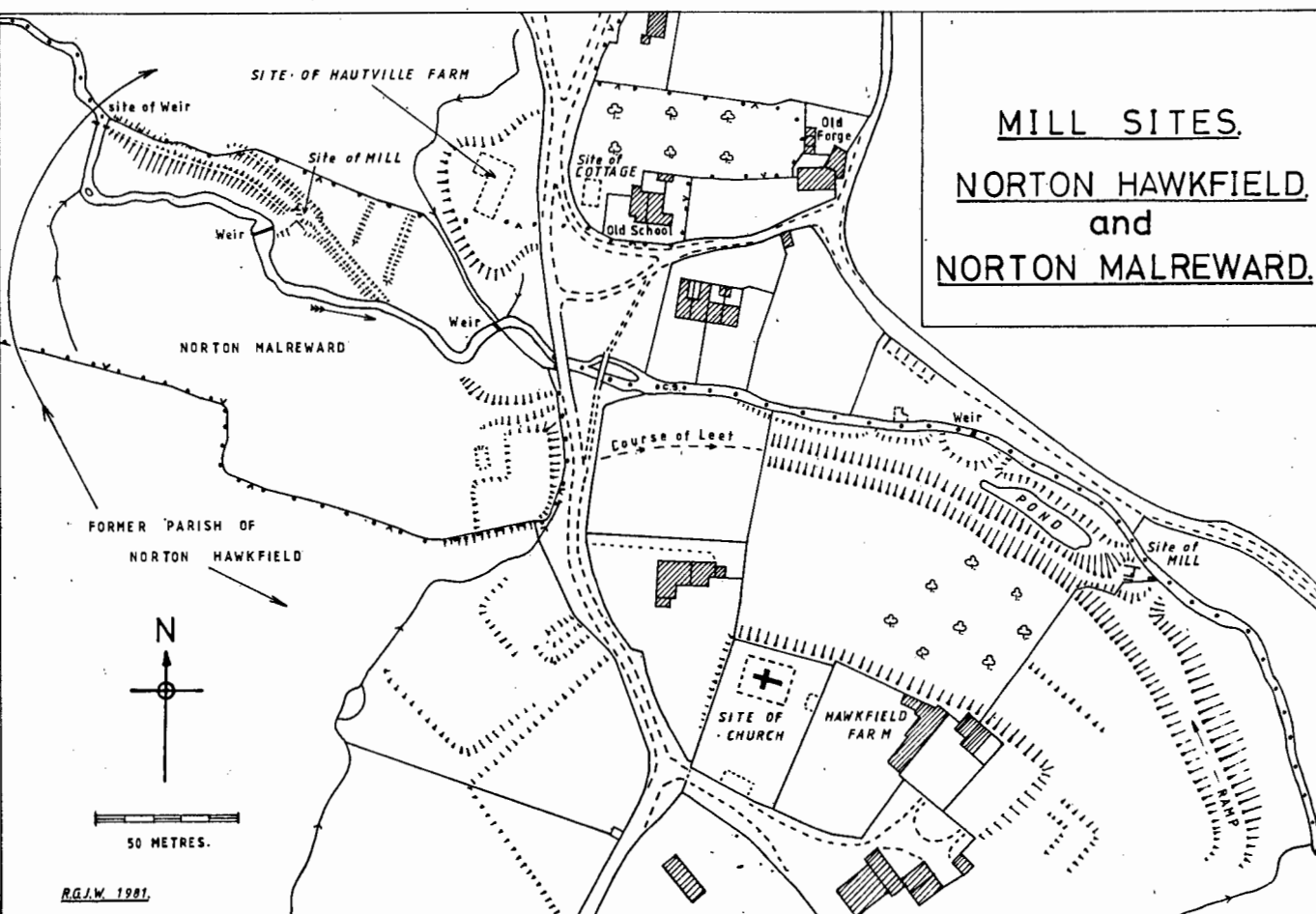


Fig 9 Mill sites, Norton Hawkfield



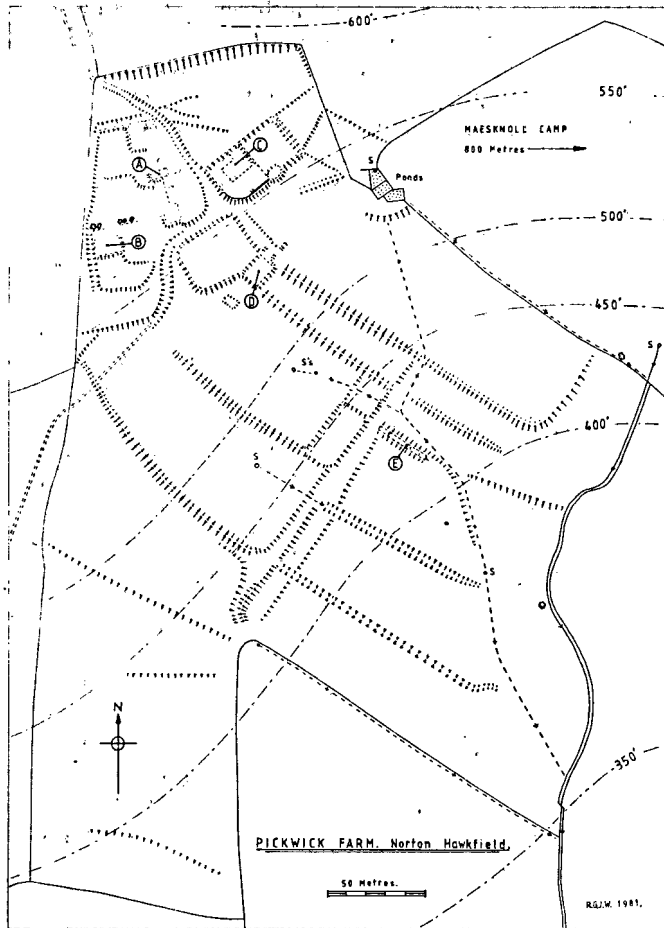


Fig 10 Deserted settlement remains, Pickwick Farm, Norton

**THORNBURY, 13 St Mary Street.**

Excavations close to the street frontage were undertaken prior to redevelopment of this area with the help of BAARG and Northavon Archaeology Society. A number of post-medieval and medieval features were found; the earliest were two industrial hearths probably dating from the 13th century (R Iles).

**WARMLEY, Warmley House. ST66887288.**

Warmley House was built around 1750 by William Champion, on a low knoll just north of his brassworks (Fig 12). To the west of the house the Siston Brook was dammed to create a lake over 300m long. It was mainly created to provide water power for the brassworks, but it also formed an important feature of an unusual garden layout, much of which survives. The most elaborate of the garden ornaments at Warmley is the grotto set into the slope between the house and the lake. The main axis of the grotto runs north-south; vaulted passages lead through two roofless chambers to a facade of three arches, beyond which lies a third, vaulted chamber with an opening in the roof which probably originally illuminated a statue in a terminal niche. Further entrance passages lead in from the north-west and north-east while to the south-west are two parallel barrel-vaulted halls. The grotto is constructed mainly of grey metallic waste from the brassworks, faced externally with pennant sandstone and copper slag blocks. This material has weathered very badly, and parts of the complex, notably the two barrel vaulted halls, are now extremely

unstable. Extending south-west from the grotto is a screen wall containing three blank arches, infilled with brick and decorated with copper slag blocks arranged in a chequer-board pattern. Further south is a small conical mount which would have originally commanded a fine view of the lake and brassworks. To the north is a semicircular pond notable as the site of a "very surprising echo" recorded by Sir Joseph Banks in June 1767 (1). At the north end of the lake, at the point where it is entered by the Siston Brook, is a two-storey castellated summerhouse faced on the south side with copper slag blocks. At the opposite end of the lake, adjoining the dam, is a very large brick-built icehouse. This has been dated by G Locke, on the basis of oral evidence, to around 1825, and does not therefore form part of the original garden layout; it remained in use commercially until at least 1905. Finally, on a mound in the centre of the drained lake, is a colossal statue of Neptune at least 8m high, constructed of copper slag blocks and other metallic waste from the brassworks (ST66877300). The upper part of the figure is at present shrouded in ivy; clearance in 1971 (2) showed that it remained complete though somewhat defaced. This extraordinary feature epitomises the romantic attitude to advanced technology which is evident throughout the Warmley garden, and which is entirely characteristic of the early phases of the Industrial Revolution (J Russell and M Ashley).

(1) *Proc Bristol Naturalists Society*, 9 (1), (1898) pp 22-23.

(2) *Bristol Evening Post* 8/4/71.

**STEEP HOLM, Augustinian Priory.**

Continued excavation and conservation work was directed by S D and J N Rendell. In addition to medieval finds some Roman pottery has been found, the first Roman finds on the island.

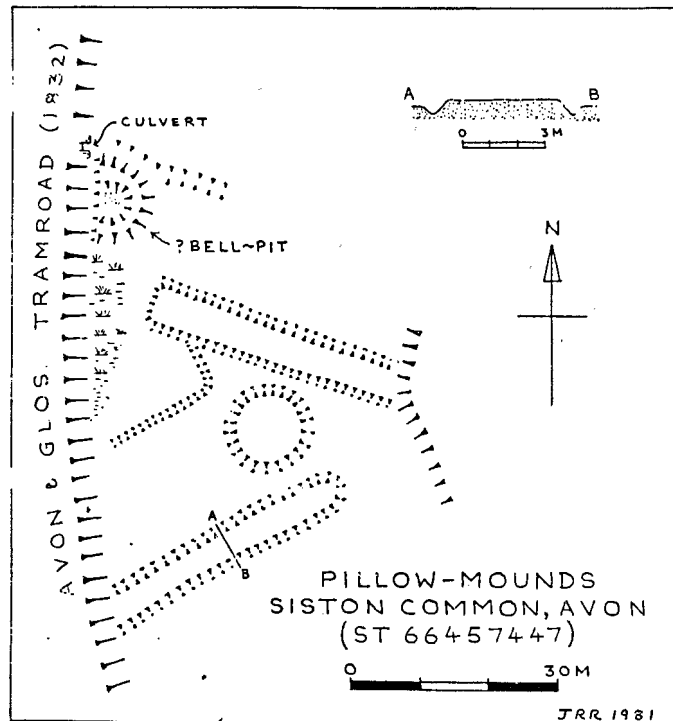


Fig 11 Pillowmounds, Siston Common, Siston

WICK ST. LAWRENCE, Ebdon ST367646.

To the south-east of Ebdon, a slight earthwork ring about 7m across, surrounded by a ditch, about 24m across overall. It is situated on a ridge, the highest land in the area (J Evans).

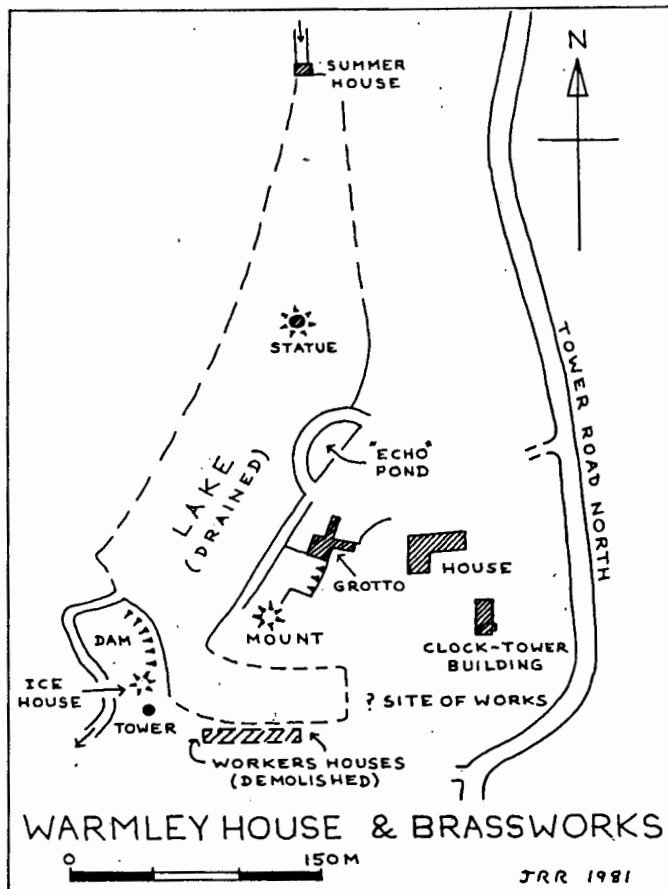


Fig 12 Warmley House and garden, Warmley

Undated

BANWELL ST391576

There is a cropmark of a rectangular enclosure on the north side of Lox Yeo river (J Evans).

BLEADON, Shiplate, ST357568.

Just to the north of Shiplate is a cropmark of a double ditched square enclosure. Two fields to the west is another three-sided enclosure at ST355569 (J Evans).

CONGRESBURY ST430623.

A cropmark of an enclosure has been found in the levels south of Congresbury (J Evans).

WESTON ST 319583

A square enclosure, about 30m across, has been located. In the north-west corner is the base of a circular structure or tower about 3m in diameter (J Evans).

Building Recording

A great deal of building recording has been done in Avon in 1981. At the beginning of the year the Conservation Section of the County Planning Department started to do the listed building resurvey on behalf of the Department of the Environment. A programme has now been drawn up to complete the resurvey by 1984-5. A photographic archive of buildings in Avon has been established in the Conservation Section of the County Planning Department.

Two general surveys of buildings have started: the first is of ecclesiastical buildings in Kingswood, Fishponds, Stapleton and St. George by C J Spittal and J Bartlett; secondly, an index of all surviving Victorian Buildings in Avon is being carried out by C J Spittal on behalf of the Victorian Society.

The following is a list of measured building surveys compiled by J S Edgar. The initials of the contributors are JSE J S Edgar; LH Linda Hall; RI R Iles; RHL R H Leach; JRR J R Russel; EHDW E H D Williams.

ALMONDSBURY, Hillside Cottage ST567820 17C LH

AUST, Lynch Farm, Littleton-upon-Severn JSE, LH

BLAGDON, Court Farm ST503592 16C EHDW, RGG

BLEADON, Hillside Farm ST304571 16C EHDW

Shiplate Farm ST357562 15C EHDW

BRISTOL. The following houses, all dated pre-1500,

recorded by RHL: Crown Inn, All Saints Lane; 24, 25, 35, 37-8; 41-2, 43, 44, 49-50, 51 Broad Street; 21-5, 44, 45 High Street; between 61-62 Old Market Street; 1, 10, 14, 15, 16, 17 Small Street.

31 Highworth Road, St. Annes ST619725 EHDW

BROCKLEY, Court Farm ST467670 EHDW

CHEW MAGNA, Church House ST577631 16C EHDW

Woodbine Farm ST571630 15C EHDW

COMPTON MARTIN, Earl's Farm ST544571 Late Med EHDW

Moat Farm ST549587 15C EHDW

Yew Tree Farm ST542572 16C EHDW

FALFIELD, Little Whitfield Farm ST672913 LH

Pool Farm ST672914 17C LH

HAWKESBURY, Bucklesbury Farm ST751877 15/16C LH

Church Farm ST767869 16C LH

The Old Vicarage ST768869 Med LH

Upper Chalkley Farm ST766858 16C LH

KENN, Latcham House ST419692 18C EHDW, RGG

MARSHFIELD, Long House, Castle Farm ST771743 EHDW

NEWTON ST LOE, Spencer Cottage ST703648 17C EHDW

OLVESTON, The White Hart ST601872 Late 17C LH

1, Church Hill ST601872 Late 16/17C LH

2, Church Hill ST601872 Early 17C LH

Whitehorse Cottage, 3 Church Hill ST601872 Late 16/17C LH

PILNING, Dyer's Farmhouse ST551834 16C LH

PUCKLECHURCH, Church Farm ST698765 1651 LH

SALTFORD, Brassmill Furnace (Fig 13) ST687670 RI, JSE

SISTON, Littlebrook Farm ST67547435 17C JRR  
Mill Farm ST67817457 17C JRR  
STANTON DREW, Church Farm ST598632 15C EHDW  
The Court ST597633 Mid 17C and 1753 EHDW  
Glasshouse Farm ST614620 16C EHDW  
Rectory Farm ST596633 15C EHDW  
Stanton Wick Farm ST613614 1666 EHDW  
STOKE GIFFORD, Wallscourt Farmbuildings ST617781  
1855 JSE  
THORNBURY, 15 and 17 Castle Street ST636903 15C  
LH  
8, High Street ST636901 LH  
YATTON, Court Farm ST431654 14C EHDW

WESTERLEIGH, Mayhill Farm (old house) ST6831819  
Late Med LH  
Mayhill Farm (new house) ST683819 Early 18C LH  
289 Badminton Road ST685820 17C JSE  
291 Badminton Road ST685820 Late Med/16C LH  
WESTON-SUPER-MARE, Bell House, Worle  
ST356630 Med EHDW  
The Cottage, Kewstoke Road, Worle ST355630 17C  
EHDW  
WICK AND ABSON, Wick Court ST701727 17C LH  
WICKWAR, Bagstone Court Farm ST690869 14C LH  
WINSCOMBE, Nut Tree Farm, Barton EHDW  
WRINGTON, Holly Lodge, Lye Hole EHDW

## BOOK REVIEWS

*Hambledon Hill: A Neolithic Landscape* by Roger Mercer, Edinburgh University Press, 1980. 71 pp, £2.50.

In recent years many major excavation programmes have wrestled with the problem of how best to publish their interim results while still uncovering new information that may well overturn that which was written the year before. An attractive solution to this has been found by Roger Mercer and the Edinburgh University Press in their new format of a short paperback book, half-way between an interim report and the definitive account. I think it is a successful one, since there is enough space for the author to discuss at some length the excavation programme and its results, and at the same time try out ideas with his public.

Hambledon Hill is one of a group of Neolithic causewayed camps in southern Britain, conventionally dated to the centuries around 2800BC and variously interpreted as cattle pounds, settlements, tribal meeting centres and so forth. Roger Mercer has shown that while there is an element of all these functions in the extensive and complicated earthworks, it is as a 'vast reeking open cemetery' that the main enclosure at Hambledon Hill was designed and used. This is an extraordinary conclusion, but one well supported by Mercer's meticulous excavation of the complicated stratigraphy of the fills of the ditches, many of which have been cut and re-cut so many times that even he cannot be sure how many events actually took place! With each cutting and re-cutting, offerings were made and human remains, originally left to rot until the loose bones could be gathered up, were incorporated into the deposits. Whole skulls were found placed upon the bottom of one ditch; pieces of semi-articulated corpses in another, and bunches of bones as well as scattered human remains are described in detail and discussed. With this grisly evidence go many pottery and flint artefacts, as well as surface finds which include at least two axes of material imported from the continent (one of nephrite and the other of jadeite).

In addition to the central causewayed camp enclosure, Mercer has excavated a badly damaged long barrow, a whole series of earthworks on adjoining spurs, and another enclosure, possibly the settlement, at Stepleton. He discusses his interpretations of the badly preserved postholes and banks, making a case for the use of timber palisades to strengthen the enclosure. On the Stepleton site, near the eastern entrance, lay the skeleton of a youth with a leaf-shaped flint arrowhead in his chest; a victim, perhaps, of a raid.

Cattle were the economic mainstay with lesser numbers of sheep and pig. The large number of old cows suggested that milk was an important element in the diet.

This booklet is jammed with interesting detail, and one is left asking for more; more illustrations of the finds, better plans, clearer sections, some quantification of the faunal remains, and so on, but these will have to await the final report. The haste with which the book has been written is evident in the clumsy, awkward style and lack of an index, but that should not detract from real and substantial achievements by Roger Mercer and his team of dedicated diggers and specialists. At £2.50 this book is good value, and an exciting step forward in understanding the oldest agricultural societies in our country.

R J Harrison

*Domesday Book: Gloucestershire*, edited and translated by J S Moore, Phillimore, 1982. £8 (£4.50 paperback).

No medieval survey has been so often used, quoted and misquoted as the Domesday Book. Medieval court cases used the survey to establish ownership; modern estate agents will say "mentioned in Domesday Book" in a vain attempt to suggest that the old mill buildings they are selling really are very old indeed and especially desirable. Any new translation of the Survey is therefore of more than average importance and interest because it will reach amateur as well as professional historians. The Phillimore series, of which this volume is the latest, fill an important requirement by providing a uniform text and translation county by county. In this, the series is succeeding admirably and this new volume falls neatly into place alongside those already published.

King William probably intended to provide himself with a survey which would reveal the military and financial potential of his major subjects. In seeking this information he needed to apply uniform criteria to a country that was not uniform in its organisation. It is a major tribute to the ability and application of William's clerks that the picture they present is so coherent. Some of our greatest problems in understanding the survey spring from this success in pushing the disorderly mass of material into a shape we can handle. Witness the description of Tewkesbury (1-24) where an immensely elaborate manor, complete with burgesses and a market, lands, villeins, woods, fisheries, dependencies many miles away and people in other boroughs owing service, is compressed into one entry. Here is a mountain of information, but making sense of it today is not an easy job.

Additional problems arise with the identification of property and the matching up of modern places with the Domesday survey. Archaeologists and historians use the Domesday Survey as a reference point which enables them to be certain of identifications and gives them the opportunity to measure their own findings against information collected in the eleventh century.

The nature of the Phillimore volumes is such that the work of archaeologists and historians is made easier. This is due in no small measure to the notes and the indexes provided in the volume which make reference to the survey possible and fruitful in a way which would have surprised King William. In particular it is pleasing to find that the notes to each entry set out to identify with great care the many small units which occur in 11th century Gloucestershire, while the place indexes and the maps which identify entries by their hundreds make it possible to find places on modern maps with greater ease than before.

Earlier volumes in this series have been criticised as confusing. The fact is that any survey of this size and complexity is bound to be confusing if the reader does not understand what the survey is about and how it is organised, and is not then prepared to spend some time reading through the explanatory material provided with the notes. Practice makes perfect and one does learn to find one's way about the text when it is being used as a support to work in hand. By using a uniform system of notes and indexes, reference and comparison between one county and another now becomes a practical possibility.

For the amateur historian the text provided is a complement to the understanding of its contents which can be gained from the study of modern secondary sources such as Wellton-Finn and Darby. Perhaps the availability of such a good uniform translation will make people stop and think about the nature of society in the eleventh century and realise that it cannot be reduced to something which is easily comprehensible today. Even to lift the corner of the curtain which veils the lives of men and women of so long ago is immensely difficult. However much we think we know of such times we ought to confess that we are almost totally ignorant. That is why the study of the texts they have left us is of such importance, if we approach that study with an open mind and a willingness to try to learn.

Some small criticisms of this volume remain. Sometimes the text tries too hard to be "modern". "Walter the Gunner" (58) jars a bit when one realises that the term "Gunner" was not used before the fourteenth century: why not call him "the crossbow man" or "Ballistarius" and explain what a Ballista was? The consistent translation of *bordarius* as smallholder, also raises the possibility of ready confusion in the minds of the un-initiated. Why not call them bordars and cottars as has been the practice elsewhere? In the end the novice will need to turn elsewhere for help and explanation in any case.

M Costen

*Monumenta Britannica*, John Aubrey, c 1665-93 (1982). Vol II (Part III and Index). Edited by John Fowles; annotations by Rodney Legg. Dorset Publishing Co, Knockna-cre, Milborne Port, Sherborne, Dorset. 540pp., large 4to. £95.

Volume I was noted in *BARG Review* No. 1 (1980), 59. Volume II (paged 605-1144 to follow on from Vol. I) opens with an appreciation of Aubrey and his *Monumenta Britannica* by John Fowles (605-16), followed by corrections to Volume I (619-21) and a reprint of John Britton's *Memoir of John Aubrey* (622-44), and keys to the traditional and present counties (646-9). Then follows Aubrey's Part III (651-1071), which includes round barrows, urns, 'sepulchres' (chambered tombs), ditches, highways, Roman pavements and ancient coins. As in the first volume, facsimiles of Aubrey's Mss are paralleled by typeset transcriptions: essential in view of Aubrey's indifferent handwriting. This reviewer regrets the modernisation of Aubrey's spelling in these transcriptions.

The charm of Aubrey rests partly on his disorder. So in the section on Barrows (661-725), he describes successively (omitting here his entirely irrelevant items) Roman tombstones, mausolea, Porsenna's tomb, sepulchres of the kings of Tartary, Silbury Hill, the castle mounds at Hamstead Marshall in Berkshire, barrows of the Saxons and Danes, the Bartlow Hills (Roman barrows) in Essex, burial rites in Homer's *Iliad*, the group of round barrows near Marshfield, and Gawen's Barrow at Broad Chalke (Wilts): 'I have oftentimes wisht that my corps might be interred by it; but the lawes ecclesiastique denie it'. The annotator's comments are occasionally unfortunate, as on p. 708 where he states that the *Seven Barrows* at Amesbury were 'mistakenly called *New King Barrows* in the *Victoria County History*! As this reviewer compiled that part of the *V.C.H.*, he can state that *New King Barrows* was first applied to the southern group at Amesbury by William Stukeley about 1723 to distinguish it from the northern group which he called *Old King Barrows*

from their slighter elevation; and this distinction has been followed by all later authorities including the Ordnance Survey and the R.C.H.M. as well as the *V.C.H.*, as a matter of convenience.

The emphasis in this review should however be on Aubrey's references to sites in and around Avon county. The section on chambered tombs includes descriptions of those at Luckington (the Giant's Cave), Lanhill and Leighterton on the S.W. Cotswolds, and also to the chambered tomb which formerly existed on Banner Down north-east of Bath. The section on Ditches includes Ponter's Ball near Glastonbury. That on Roman pavements includes those at Wellow and Woodchester and near Bath. The section on ancient coins describes finds of Roman coins near Bath and Bristol and also the Edington Moor Roman moulds for counterfeit coins.

The *Map of Bristow*, by Aubrey's 'ingenious and worthy friend Mr Wenceslaus Hollar' is reproduced, and Aubrey has much to say about St. Vincent's Rocks, the Giant's Hole, Clifton hill-fort, Hotwells, and the Bristol area generally. He describes numerous stones resembling sarsens on the downs on both sides of the Avon Gorge, stating that most of them had been removed during the decade or two before 1668 for making lime. He also describes the Cheddar cliffs and caves in considerable detail.

For ease of reference, Aubrey's descriptions of British sites are located first in their traditional counties, followed where necessary by the new counties in brackets, and they are accompanied by National Grid References. The volume concludes with site indexes arranged under English, Scottish and Welsh counties, and foreign countries, a short subject index; and a most valuable biographical index to persons mentioned in the text. It is sumptuously produced and bound. In view of the local emphasis, it is regrettable that the nearest county or public libraries to Bristol listed among the subscribers are at Trowbridge and Exeter. Leslie Grinsell

*The Somerset Landscape* by Michael Havinden, Hodder and Stoughton, 1981. 272 pp, £7.95.

After Professor Hoskins had written *The Making of the English Landscape* in 1955 it was logical that the publishers, Hodder and Stoughton, should embark on a county series to illustrate more locally the theme of the gradually developing English landscape. Several counties were published in the 1950's, but it was not until the 1970's that the project took off; since then nearly twenty counties have been covered from Northumberland to Dorset. One volume has been published for South Wales and another publisher has produced the *Making of the Scottish Landscape*.

Of the counties covered so far some have 'obvious' attractions while others might seem to have little interest. And yet despite the beauty of some areas the quality of these volumes to the reader depends more on their approach than it does on the county being discussed. Thus the Staffordshire volume by David Palliser is one of the best while West Yorkshire, surely with some of the most impressive landscapes in the country, is poor by comparison. In others in the series there is a happy blend of conventional history with attempts by the authors to introduce new ideas, techniques and concepts. Christopher Taylor's volumes on Dorset and Cambridgeshire, particularly the latter, will illustrate this point.

Somerset, particularly the pre-1974 county is a magnificent county with varied landscapes, from the levels in the centre to the highlands of the Mendips, Exmoor, Blackdowns and Quantocks on the edges. This variety of landscape, as well as the superabundance of man's activity within it, should itself have assured us of a milestone of a book on the Somerset landscape.

Michael Havinden's book is, however, a disappointment. The author opts for a chronological approach, as did others, but this is then followed by a series of regional studies based on the Wetlands, Exmoor, the Mendips-Avon county and an area called the Southern arc which has such diverse topography in it as the Selwood area, the Vale of Blackmoor, the Blackdowns and Taunton Deane. Somerset is a land of regions perhaps more starkly in contrast than most other counties but the separation here has not worked at all. The essence of the development of the English landscape and that of its counties is that despite differences in relief, vegetation, soils etc and the degree and intensity of use by man there are important interrelationships between areas; to divorce them like this introduces divisions which were never there. Surely the reclamation and enclosure of uplands, to take one example, is best done as a general development rather than repeated for different regions.

Much of the book relies very heavily on the recent work of Dr Roger Leech, the editors of the Victoria County History and other recently published works. This is in order; such books should be a compilation of other works and a synthesis of such material into a new account of how the county has developed. Two problems however arise. Firstly everything that has been written does not of course cover all that needs to be said about the evolution of Somerset's landscape. Each author so far has had to contribute considerable new research to his county; there is not much evidence of this for the Somerset volume. Secondly even the material that is available in print rarely stands the test of much time before it needs to be reassessed. Ideas about developing settlements, settlement patterns and field systems for example are undergoing much reassessment by geographers, archaeologists, historians, place name scholars and others at the moment. Much of the treatment of the Somerset volume is very old-fashioned in the use of such material. Even the headings indicate the earlier models for the book; how much 'expanding settlement 1086-1320' (p.106) was there in Somerset — this reviewer doubts if there was much and in

Somerset was there really much 'late medieval decline' 1320-1460 (p.115) — the buildings and churches seem to indicate not. Should a section really be headed 'The English Settlement — continuity or a new beginning?' In 1982 especially after the work of Fowler, Rahtz, Burcon and others and particularly as Somerset, of all counties, has nearly a 300 years *post Roman* history even before a Saxon sets foot in it; the author seems unaware of this or is he too conditioned by events further east?

More specifically the author has a number of annoying 'mannerisms' — too often we are told the present population of a place and what its main industries are and the over-use of the word 'throve' (with only one thrived spotted by this reviewer) became irritating after a time.

Other mistakes include:— Plate 5 does not belong to M Aston (it is probably one of John Hancocks pictures) (p.24); Bath does not have a Roman but a late Saxon plan (p.30); Neolithic settlement sites exist in a few places in Somerset and a house was excavated before the Chew Valley was flooded (p.49); the Priddy Circles are not 'quite difficult to spot on the ground' (p.50); the M5 motorway did reveal an average of two sites per mile (p.551) but they were not all prehistoric!; the reference to Taunton in 722 does not indicate fortifications at that date (p.82); there is no evidence for burgage tenure at East Lyng (p.95); Weston-Super-Mare is a 19th century town (p.104); Farleigh Hungerford is not a Norman castle (p.114); most of the hedges in the county have an abundance of species — they are not 'quickthorn hedges' (p.131).

The illustrations leave a great deal to be desired. Surely Ilchester should be a cantonal capital rather than a port on Fig 5; Fig 9 is incorrect — the defences of Lyng only ever existed on the west side as shown by Hill; Balt Moor Wall was a medieval earthwork — a bridge is described in Alfred's time; the river courses are wrong and there should be a pier between Lyng and Athelney. Fig 10 would have benefited from showing places listed in the Burghal Hidage of c919. Fig 11 — maps of some Domesday statistics — are unacceptable as a means of representing the complex data of Domesday Book. Fig 13 shows incomplete areas of earthworks around Mudford Sock, Up Mudford in Mudford parish. Many of the plates however are very good but surely there should have been a picture of a prehistoric trackway with all that these structures imply for man's early use of the landscape? In conclusion this is not a book to be recommended.

M Aston