

The Archaeology of Wiltshire's Towns
An Extensive Urban Survey

CRICKLADE

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The Archaeology and History of Cricklade

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Towns are an important component of the historic environment which have developed over many hundreds of years and are under constant development pressures. The archaeological resource within our historic towns is an invaluable and irreplaceable source of data about past societies and the evolution of our culture. Despite these factors the archaeology of many towns, especially the smaller market towns, is poorly understood.
- 1.2. In 1976 the DoE sponsored a study of the archaeology of Wiltshire's historic towns, aiming to assess the relative importance of the towns at different points in time as a basis for future archaeological research. This resulted in the publication of "*Wiltshire Towns: the archaeological potential*" (Haslam 1976). Since then, the book has been one of the key references for archaeologists monitoring urban development and its impact in the county.
- 1.3. A massive increase in the amount of archaeological and historical data available and changes in legislation such as the introduction of Planning Policy Guidance note No. 16 have meant that a reappraisal of the situation is now due. The Extensive Urban Survey of Wiltshire has been commissioned by English Heritage, as part of a National programme, to address the need for a new assessment of urban archaeology in the county. The current structure of the historic county of Wiltshire is two-tier, with the County Council working in conjunction with the four District Councils (Kennet, North Wiltshire, Salisbury and West Wiltshire) and the new unitary authority of Swindon - historically part of the county. The survey aims to map the development of all of Wiltshire's and Swindon's historic towns (Fig. 1) and to assess the extent of the surviving archaeology and built heritage. It is also proposed that the threat of development on the historic environment within the county's towns will be examined.
- 1.4. The origins of urban centres in England reach back to the Iron Age. During the Roman occupation new, planned, urban centres were linked by an efficient road system. In the Saxon period, defended towns and royal boroughs were developed and later medieval towns grew around markets as economic conditions improved or were 'planted' as planned new centres.
- 1.5. As far as is known the first towns in Wiltshire appeared during the Romano-British period but all the known examples are now greenfield sites, although some may have given rise to nearby settlements. Most modern towns in the county have their roots as Saxon villages or defended settlements such as Cricklade and Wilton. Many of the villages grew into small towns after the Norman invasion, often focussed around a castle or market and in the early thirteenth century 'planted boroughs', in which individual plots of land were sold by the major landowner.

- 1.6. The definition of a town for inclusion in the survey follows the criteria laid out in Heighway (1972), by which the settlement must possess certain facilities such as defences, a mint, a market, a street plan, or a judicial centre, and demonstrate such urban attributes as high population, a diversified economic base or a central or key location. For the purposes of the survey, however, the towns should meet these criteria historically, even if they no longer do so. This allows, for example, the inclusion of the five known Roman towns in the county, and settlements such as the village of Heytesbury, which was developed as a planned town in the 13th century, but which did not succeed as an urban centre. The full list of 34 towns included in the survey and the criteria for inclusion are included as Appendix 1. Cricklade satisfies at least three of the criteria: it had Urban defences (*criteria i*); it has evidence of a planned street layout (*criteria ii*); and it was a judicial centre (*criteria xii*).
- 1.7. The area of study in each town is defined by the size of the town as it stood in 1945, encompassing both the historic core of the town and the older industrial and suburban development. There is an emphasis on the earlier material, and the later Victorian and 20th century development are covered here only very briefly. Although more detailed than Haslam's report, in most cases each study remains no more than a brief summary of the data, and a guide to the location of more detail for other researchers. The extent of the study area for Cricklade is depicted in Fig. 2.
- 1.8. The research into each town will be encapsulated into two reports: a summary and assessment of the data gathered and an outline strategy for future management of specified sections of the urban area. This first report is intended to provide a clear and up-to-date synthesis of the available archaeological and historical data for Cricklade, with an assessment of the main areas of historic settlement in the town and of the potential and sensitivity of the archaeologically important areas. The assessment reports are compiled from four main data streams: geographical and geological sources for the location and topographical summary; secondary historical sources for the historical outline; recorded archaeological data for the sites and finds information; the archive of the Wiltshire Building Record (WBR) for architectural data. The architectural summary is not subject to the same level of research as the other three data streams, and the information presented in the reports is based upon evidence compiled from the existing WBR archive, updated in places by field visits to note non-listed buildings of historic interest, combined with the Department Of Culture, Media and Sport listed buildings data.
- 1.9. This assessment was prepared originally in 2003, with amendments from consultations added in 2004. Table1 (archaeological investigations) has been updated, but the results of these more recent events have not been assimilated.

2. LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1. Cricklade lies on a slight spur in the upper reaches of the Thames valley, where a finger of gravel extends to the river bank and provides a good fording place. Elsewhere the substrate is of Oxford clay, rising to the south-west from the river to a high point on the site of St Sampson's church.

- 2.2. The ford, known as Hatchett's Ford, is currently located at the north-east corner of the settlement but may not be the site of the river crossing in earlier times. The river by the town bridge on the road north has been partly canalised.

3. PAST WORK AND THE NATURE OF THE EVIDENCE

3.1. Historic Sources

- 3.1.1. This is a desk-based study, using material available within the County Council research facilities in Trowbridge: the Sites and Monuments Record; the Wiltshire Reference Library; the Wiltshire & Swindon Record Office; and the Wiltshire Buildings Record. Historical data are generally drawn from secondary sources, normally the Victoria County History and histories of the individual towns, based on recommendations or specific requirements. Data on archaeological events and their results are drawn directly from the original reports or publications wherever these are available. The use of primary sources in the Record Office is restricted to maps and sometimes other pictorial material, which are consulted to locate accurately individual entities and to trace the growth of the settlement.

- 3.1.2. Cricklade is quite well covered by several local histories, and for this work Thompson (1961) and Holmes (1993) were used extensively to supplement the V.C.H.

3.2. Archaeological Work In The Town

- 3.2.1. The following is a list of known archaeological events based on the County Sites and Monuments Record, Excavations Register, and the Fieldwork reports kept in the County Archaeology Section in Trowbridge. Others have been added as a result of incidental mention in one of the above sources, and where there is enough information to get at least a general idea of the location of the event. The numbers refer to the map included in this report (Fig. 3).

Event	Year	Site Name/Location	Event Type	Excavator	Reference
001	1948	Paul's Croft (south-east defences)	Excavation	F.R.Maddison and R. Atkinson	Raleigh Radford 1972
002	1952	Western defences	Excavation	G.M. Knocker	Raleigh Radford 1972
003	1953 1955	Defences	Excavations	F.T. Wainwright	Wainwright 1955
004	1963	Sout-west defences	Excavations	Raleigh Radford	Raleigh Radford 1972
005	1975	Town Defences (north-west and south-west corners)	Excavations	J. Haslam	Unpublished
006	1990	Western Defences	Evaluation	Wessex Archaeology	Harding & Newman 1990
007	1993	Green Gable Surgery	Evaluation	Cotswold Archaeological Trust	King 1993
008	1994	Prior Park School	Evaluation	Cotswold Archaeological Trust	Morton 1994
009	1993	Abingdon Court Farm	Evaluation	Fresden Archaeological	Phillips 1993
010	1997	Horse Fair Lane	Watching Brief	B Phillips	Phillips 1997a
011	1997	Horse Fair Lane	Watching Brief	B Phillips	Phillips 1997b
012	1997	High Street	Watching Brief	B Phillips	Phillips 1997c
013	1998	Thames Lane (east side)	Excavation	Foundations Archaeology	Foundations Archaeology 1998a
014	1998	Eastern Defences	Excavation	Foundations Archaeology	Foundations Archaeology 1998b
015	1975	The Priory	Excavation	M Stone	Unpublished
016	1976	North-west	Excavation	M Stone	Unpublished
017	1975	Manor Orchard	Watching Brief	M Stone	Unpublished
018	2000	Ockwell's, High St	Building Survey	D Faulkner	Unpublished
019	2001	Abingdon Court Farm	Building Survey	Bristol & Region Arch Services	Unpublished
020	2001	St Mary's	Watching Brief	Oxford Archaeological Unit	OAU 2001
*021	2003	9, Gas Lane	Watching Brief	Cotswold Archaeology	Cotswold Archaeology 2003
*022	2003	Prior Park School	Watching Brief	Bernard Phillips	Bernard Phillips 2003
*023	2003	Abingdon Court Farm	Excavation	Bristol & Region Arch Services	BARAS 2003

Table 1: Archaeological Investigations in Cricklade. Reports flagged thus * were received after the preparation of this Assessment, which was compiled in 2003.

4. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

4.1. This report is not intended to provide a major historical review of the history of Cricklade and the material included here relates mainly to events which might have had some impact on the archaeology of the town, or its survival.

- 4.2. Roman discoveries have been made over a substantial area within the town indicating a settlement in Roman times. It has been suggested it formed the river port for the town of Corinium (Cirencester) eight miles away (Thompson 1971).
- 4.3. Cricklade is first mentioned in 903, when the Danes crossed the Thames. There is some evidence, however, that the town once sat within a land-unit forming part of the royal forest of Braydon and may have become the property of Malmesbury Abbey. This has led to the suggestion that its church was in origin a minster church established c.700 by St Aldhelm (Haslam 1984, 106).
- 4.4. Subsequently c.900 Cricklade was fortified by King Alfred along with numerous other Wiltshire towns (Haslam 1976, 17) and this defended enclosure divided by streets undoubtedly attracted a considerable population in those troubled times.
- 4.5. The name has been the subject of some discussion, with suggestions which include a mixed British/Saxon derivation (Thompson 1961, Haslam 1976), but it seems most likely that the source is pure Saxon, from *crecca* (a creek or hythe) and *gelad* (passage), simply denoting a river crossing point. The town had a mint continuously from the time of Aethelred until the reign of William II (Haslam 176, 18).
- 4.6. The earliest reference to St Sampson's church dates from 973. It is mentioned again in Domesday, and the earliest extant stonework probably dates to a rebuild of c.1080. St Mary's dates from the 12th century but does not appear to have had its own parish until the 14th century. It may, however, be sited on a pre-conquest chapel associated with the north gate and relate to an early land-unit which formed part of the defensive arrangements for the town (Haslam 1981). Several other churches and chapels are recorded in the Middle Ages, but none appear to have survived beyond the reformation.
- 4.7. In the *Gesta Stephani* of 1144 it is reported that William of Dover built a castle at Cricklade, surrounded by water and marshes. This castle has never been identified (it is suggested that the description does not fit the town and the castle may have been outside the walls - Cricklade Historical Society), and the reference may simply be to a re-fortification of the burgh defences, for which there is archaeological evidence (Haslam 1975). The town sided with the Empress during the anarchy and war.
- 4.8. In the 13th century the Priory and hospital of St John the Baptist was established with a property just outside the north gate and later four messuages in the High Street as well (Haslam 1975). Tradesmen in the town in 1263 included a smith, a goldsmith, a candlemaker, a butcher, a fuller, a dyer, and a mercer. The town was clearly involved in the woollen and cloth trades common in Wiltshire at the time: it may also have had a tannery as gloves were made there in the later medieval period (Thompson 1961). In 1257 Baldwin de Reviers was granted the right to hold markets and fairs in the town (Holmes 1993). Market Hall was built in 1569,

opposite the 'White Harte'. The Hall was demolished in 1813, and the Town Cross, which had stood at the crossroads until then, was removed.

- 4.9. The 14th century was a boom time and the Tithe Barn next to St Sampson's (demolished in 1969) was probably built then. The churches were improved, and the earliest of the town crosses were erected.
- 4.10. In 1723 there was a serious fire in the town (Thompson 1961) although its extent is not made clear. Cricklade had a varied economy in the 18th and 19th centuries based around several small industries, including gloving, tanning (near the old town mill and what is now Brook House), an iron foundry near Brook House, and clockmaking. The site of the old town mill is unknown, but by the 18th century its function had been taken over by West Mill (mentioned in the 1300) and the windmill on Common Hill (Holmes 1993). The present Town Bridge over the Thames was built in 1854.
- 4.11. By this time it is clear that the river was no longer navigable near the town, so that when the Thames and Severn Canal was constructed in 1789 it continued on to Inglesham before joining the river. By 1819 the existence of the North Wiltshire Canal meant that there were two canals passing to Cricklade and a healthy trade developed between the town and Bristol.
- 4.12. The population grew slowly through the 18th century, from around 1100 to 1330 in 1801, affected no doubt by the severe smallpox epidemic in 1783. By the mid-19th century it had topped 2100 but dropped again by several hundred by 1891 and was still only around 1800 after the war in 1951. A congregational church was built in 1779, and Baptist and Methodist churches were completed in the 1850s.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

5.1. Introduction

- 5.1.1. The following is a resume of the archaeological record of the town, drawn from the county SMR and the various excavation reports. Data on surviving buildings come from the Wiltshire Buildings Record unless otherwise stated. The bold print numbers in this section refer to entries in the Urban Survey database, and appear on the SMR entry location maps in Figs. 4 - 7, which were created from the database and the SMR.

5.2. Prehistory

- 5.2.1. There are no prehistoric finds from the town itself, although an Iron Age spearhead was found near the route of the Roman road to the north and two unlocated Iron Age coins are recorded from the parish.

5.3. Roman (Fig. 4)

- 5.3.1. Numerous finds in excavations and other works have demonstrated a Roman presence on the low ridge on which the town stands (Fig.2), and Haslam (1975) reported discrete stony layers he interpreted as 'house

platforms' in the north-west corner of the settlement (**CR001**). He noted that these ran obliquely to the Saxon defences and no traces of Romano-British defences have emerged then or since. Black soil and mounds are reported from the fields north of the river(**CR014**). A large fragment of Romano-British tombstone was found re-used in the medieval town wall (Thompson 1961). An extensive occupation layer with 3rd-4th century sherds and animal bone came to light in St Sampson's School Playing Field (**CR003**, Anon 1980). At some distance from the river crossing, in the southern part of High Street, numerous 2nd-4th century sherds, wall plaster, tesserae and tile fragments were recovered (**CR004**) and down slope to the south there have been further discoveries of pottery and building debris off The Forty (**CR005**, Anon.1978). On the east side of the High Street Roman hypocaust tiles have been found under a floor (**CR051**, Slocombe 2001) The edges of the settlement implied by these data are still ill-defined, but it seems to have occupied much of the land which later formed the later Saxon Burgh.

5.3.2. The line of the Roman Ermin Street passes by to the north-east of Cricklade, a little beyond the Study Area. Its route across the marshy water meadows of the Thames was confirmed in 1954-55 (Wainwright 1960), when excavations also showed it had been used and maintained well into the 4th century but was then lost or abandoned. There is therefore some difficulty in establishing how the Roman settlement connected to Ermin Street. Unpublished work by Stone and Heath (M. Stone, pers. comm.) revealed in North Wall a double line of large postholes sealed by a spread of late Roman material (**CR066**, M. Stone, pers. comm.) extending towards the river which would seem to indicate the presence of a bridge 60-70m upstream from the present town bridge.

5.3.3. Ditches attributed to this period are recorded from three locations in the centre and east of the town (**CR018**, **CR023**) (Anon. 1982, King 1993) and agricultural soils with Romano-British pottery from the North-east corner near Hatchet's Ford (Phillips 1993). The westernmost of these ditches is somewhat larger and may represent a settlement boundary (King 1993); the others may be drainage features. They appear to represent a field system associated with the settlement and most of the casual finds of coins and pottery from this zone (**CR002**, **CR006**, **CR008**, **CR015**, **CR016**, **CR017**, **CR019**, **CR020**, **CR021**, **CR022**, **CR024**, **CR025**, **CR026**, **CR064**) may be assumed to derive from fields and middens around the settlement.

5.4. Saxon (Fig. 5)

5.4.1. Some of the few pieces of middle Saxon pottery found in Cricklade have come from the same soil horizon as the Romano-British sherds, which runs beneath the defences. They showed little abrasion and were probably not deposited much earlier than the establishment of the burgh (Ralegh Radford 1963). The survival of Ermin Street strongly implies its continued

use through the Saxon period and a settlement at this important river crossing is very probable. Indeed the existence of a Middle Saxon settlement at Cricklade is inherent in its choice for the siting of Alfred's defended town or burh in the late 9th century (Haslam 1984, 107)

5.4.2. The burgh itself is delineated by its defences, the nature of which has been revealed in a series of excavations. Haslam's summary (1984, 107-110) of his 1975 excavations and earlier work by others is the most useful account currently available. The original Alfredian defensive system consisted of a 6m wide clay bank surrounding by a triple ditch arrangement. The banks (**CR050**) formed a rough square with sides 510 – 550m long, and a narrow walkway of laid stones ran along their inner face. Extensive weathering and levelling have meant that it is not now possible to estimate the original height of the bank or what form of stockade stood upon it.

5.4.3. In the 10th or 11th century the defences were strengthened by the construction of a stone wall (**CR053**) set into the outer edge of the bank, with a second lesser revetment supporting the inner face of the rampart. Both were apparently levelled quite soon after they were built. Haslam (1984) attributes this phase to the strengthening of defences by Ethelred and their subsequent slighting by Cnut. He expresses the belief that it was policy to remove such defences from towns, and is not evidence that the town itself was under attack at this time.

5.4.4. The walls aside, there is little evidence of the settlement inside the burgh. Excavations have turned up pottery in small quantities (**CR042**, Phillips 1993), and several fragments of Saxon stonework are preserved in the walls of the St Sampson's church (**CR039**). These include a fragment of a biblical scene, once thought to be part of a late Roman altar (Thompson 1961). They may have come from the churchyard, where a small late Saxon silver mounting was also found (Goddard 1899, **CR052**). The south wall of St Sampson's contains a particular architectural feature which is of pre-conquest origin. Since the wall is over four feet thick, it indicates a Saxon church of substantial size (Taylor and Taylor 1963) A single Saxon spearhead, not located on the map, was found somewhere along the north walls in 1982. (**CRU03**).

5.4.5. There is certainly a case to support a Saxon origin for St Mary's (**CR040**). It has been observed that the north wall of the north chapel rests on a 'much earlier type of foundation'. The chapel and these foundations are askew to the main axis of the church and align to the Saxon defences (Thomson & Taylor 1966).

5.5. Medieval (Fig. 6)

5.5.1. There is a fourth phase to the town's defences, represented by the construction of a wooden palisade along the line of the demolished wall and an outer ditch some distance forward of the palisade. Pottery recovered from these features (**CR011**, Haslam 1975, 7) indicates that this phase may well

relate to the civil war of the 12th century. The contemporary reference to a 'castle' is likely to relate to this activity (para 4.7 above and Haslam 1975, 3).

- 5.5.2. A number of excavated and casual finds and several extant structures attest to the continuance of the town through the Medieval period. Most prominent are the two churches – St Sampson's (**CR039**) and St Mary's at the northern end of High Street (**CR040**). In addition a small number of houses with Medieval origins (para 5.9.4) are still visible, and two late medieval crosses survive, one each in St Sampson's (**CR010**) and St Mary's (**CR031**) churchyards. Excavations at the site of the Priory of St John, outside the north gate, found that there was considerable disturbance of the archaeology in the grounds, although traces of the medieval floors were still visible in places inside the building (M. Stone, pers. comm.) A doorway and other remnants of the original stonework are still visible in the present building (**CR030**).
- 5.5.3. The remains of a paved limestone floor, ditches and traces of a second building were revealed amid a Medieval occupation horizon during excavations in Horsefair Lane (**CR033**) (Phillips 1997a & b). Not far away on the High Street, another excavation exposed an earthen floor and hearth in association with 11th century pottery (**CR036**) (Phillips 1997c). A habitation area comprising floors, hearths, ditches and pits (**CR029**) was recorded by J. Heath on a site which would have been just outside the east wall of the town. Ditches were found in Thames Lane (**CR038**, Foundations Archaeology 1998), at Abingdon Court Farm (**CR027**, Phillips 1993) whilst pits were excavated on a site near the east gate of the town (**CR035**, Anon. 1988) and in the grounds of Prior Park School (**CR049**, Morton 1994). These contained various potsherds dating to the 13th and 14th centuries.
- 5.5.4. Pottery dating from the 11th to the 15th centuries has been found on most sites within the town (**CR028**, **CR032**, **CR034**, **CR041**, **CR046**), sometimes unstratified and sometimes from a grey or black soil horizon below topsoil. A medieval belt buckle was picked up near Hatchetts Ford (**CR037**). Despite numerous excavations in the north-west corner of the town, no medieval features have been found inside the defences, although a few potsherds occur in the topsoil (**CR009**, **CR045**). Haslam (1975) has suggested this area may have been open fields throughout the Medieval and post-Medieval periods.
- 5.5.5. Immediately to the west of St Sampson's church stood the tithe barn (**CR054**) a medieval structure demolished in the 1960s.
- 5.5.6. Calcutt Street (**CR056**) is recorded in 1086 as *Colecote* and similar variations throughout the Middle Ages (Gover *et al* 1939). High Street (**CR055**) and Spittals Lane (**CR058**) are also of similar antiquity (Thompson 1961). Horsefair, also called Back Lane, dates to at least the 17th century, as do Estret and Westret (probably Calcutt Street and Bath Rd). Bath Road, as Church Lane (**CR057**), almost certainly dates back to the medieval period, although no clear reference to it seems to have been published. Gas Lane may have been Ruthern's Lane in the 14th century, and Haslam (1976) notes that Thames Lane was once known as Far Back

Lane. Abingdon Court may derive its name from the *de Abendon* family, but note however that it is also a strong possibility that it was the parcel of land granted in 1008 to Abingdon Abbey (Haslam 1981).

5.6. Post Medieval (fig. 7)

- 5.6.1. Two pits, a well, and a cultivation layer in Horsefair Lane also contained post medieval finds, centred around the 18th century (**CR048**) (Phillips 1997b).
- 5.6.2. The Gasworks (**CR061**) was established to the west of the High Street at the end of what then became Gas Lane, and can be seen on the early OS maps.
- 5.6.3. The late 19th century railway line and station (**CR062**), is shown on OS maps from 1900 onwards, cutting across the south west corner of the town, just outside the line of the Saxon and medieval defences. This alignment is preserved in the modern street plan.

5.7. Built heritage.

- 5.7.1. This section of the report is intended to provide an introduction to the surviving built heritage of Cricklade, and is not designed to be a comprehensive account of the town's notable structures, but is a selection of the salient architectural features and buildings within the Study Area, including, if present, significant unlisted structures. This data has been compiled by Wiltshire Buildings Record.
- 5.7.2. Detailed lists of historic buildings and architectural detail are included as Appendices 3, 4 & 5. Although individual Grade II listed buildings may be (where relevant) discussed in this section, they are not included as a comprehensive list in the Appendices, due to the very large quantities of additional data this would involve. Researchers seeking information on Grade II structures are directed to the appropriate Governmental lists of protected buildings.
- 5.7.3. This Saxon walled town is situated at the highest navigable point of the Thames where it is crossed by Ermin Street. Its town crest bears the Latin words '*in loco delizioso*' meaning 'in a delightful place'. Despite the abundance of oolitic limestone, early buildings, as elsewhere had some timber framed structures. Much of the town is of limestone rubble, some concealed behind roughcast and flat rendering. From the 18th century until the advent of the bypass in the 1970's Cricklade was a busy town with stage coaches crowding Bath Road, bound for London or the West Country. It is estimated that during this period there were as many as 22 inns and beer houses.

5.7.4. Saxon

- 5.7.4.1. The earliest surviving work in Cricklade occurs at the parish church of St Sampson (CR039), in limestone rubble with fragments of work from the

10th century onwards, including an *in-situ* Saxon pilaster in the south wall of the nave (Taylor & Taylor 1963). Particularly impressive is the central tower dating from the mid 16th.

5.7.5. Twelfth Century

5.7.5.1. St Mary's church (CR040), of 12th century date, is also in limestone rubble and retains an original 3-bay nave with chevroned and cable-moulded chancel arch of c.1120-50. The tower is late 13th century. The church was largely rebuilt in the 19th century, when evidence that an early church on the site had been destroyed by fire was found.

5.7.6. Thirteenth Century

5.7.6.1. Other work from the 13th century and 14th century is still extant. Candletree, a 15th century rubblestone house north of St Sampson's has an irregular plan, probably due to its successive rebuilding from the 13th century onwards and incorporates a lancet window and a blind quatrefoil.

5.7.7. Fifteenth Century

5.7.7.1. South of this is 3 Church Lane, a rubblestone structure said to date from c.1490. Due to the wealth of stone, very few timber framed buildings remain. 46 High Street (CR044) was originally a 15th century or 16th century timber framed open hall house (Jones & Smith 1954).

5.7.8. Seventeenth Century

5.7.8.1. The 17th century buildings remaining are in coursed limestone rubble, sometimes with ashlar quoins (68 High Street). Also squared rubblestone (Abingdon Court Farmhouse) with stone slate roof. Jenner's school, founded in 1652, has ashlar dressings and ovolo mullioned windows with possible original leaded glazing. 23 High Street, grade II*, has an ashlar front and retains original fine panelling and staircase. Three Inns appear to pre-date the 18th century: The Crown is mentioned in 1551, the White Harte in 1628, and the Three Horseshoes in 1691 (Thompson 1961).

5.7.9. Eighteenth Century

5.7.9.1. Typically, 18th century buildings are of limestone rubble left plain or roughcast (18 Calcutt Street), sometimes with wooden lintels and gabled dormers (19a-22 and 33 & 34 Calcutt Street, 8, 31, High Street). There is some brickwork, as at 69 High Street. The High Street has a number of 18th century and 19th century good quality buildings including the Kings Head, nos.27, and 32 which have embellished main elevations with rubble limestone brought to a roughcast, stucco, or colourwashed finish. Less common is a pebbledash finish (61 & 62 High Street).

5.7.10. Nineteenth Century

5.7.10.1. The trend in the 19th century was still for coursed limestone rubble, and stone slate or Welsh slate roofs. Some original lattice casements survive, for example in the outbuildings at Abingdon Court Farm. 19 Calcutt St. and 94 High Street have rendered limestone main elevations ruled to resemble ashlar. Brickwork becomes more prevalent (14 Calcutt Street has rendered brick main elevation). Rat-trap brick bond has been noted nearby

at Bournelake Farmhouse, Ashton Keynes Road; a form not found before the 19th century.

5.7.10.2. Some brickwork dating from early 19th century at has been noted at Candletree – the entrance walls are in brick with blue headers. Other surrounding structures are in Flemish and diaper brick bonds, as outbuilding to rear of 23 High Street. The Manor House in Calcutt Street, now a preparatory school is a late 19th century house build in an early-mid 17th century style using limestone ashlar.

6. PLAN FORM ANALYSIS

6.1. *Introduction*

6.1.1. The town has been divided into components, each representing blocks of activity and sub-divided by period. Cricklade has no foundation in the prehistoric period, although unrelated archaeological remains belonging to this period are present within the study area. Evidence for Romano-British settlement is present a substantial degree and is therefore plotted here as a component.

COMPONENT	PERIOD	COMPONENT TYPE	FIGURE No.
COM1	Roman	Settlement	8
COM2	Middle Saxon	Settlement	9
COM3	Late Saxon	Town Defences	9
COM4	Late Saxon	The defended town	9
COM5	Late Saxon	Site of church	9
COM6	Late Saxon	Site of church	9
COM7	Late Saxon	Reserves	9
COM8	Late Saxon	Roads	9
COM9	Late Saxon	Land owned by Abingdon Abbey	9
COM10	Medieval	Town defences	10
COM11	Medieval	Settlement	10
COM12	Medieval	Market	10
COM13	Medieval	St Sampson's Church	10
COM14	Medieval	St Mary's Church	10
COM15	Medieval	Church land	10
COM16	Medieval	Manorial land	10
COM17	Medieval	Streets	10

Table 2: Plan form components. (The period column denotes the period within which that component had its origins.)

6.2. *Romano-British (Fig. 8)*

6.2.1 **COM1 – Roman.** The distribution of finds and deposits recorded covers a substantial portion of the historic core. Whilst some of the discoveries may simply relate to agricultural activity, a number are convincing as evidence of settlement, and represent an area of habitation up to 18ha in extent. The location of a substantial Roman settlement at Cricklade suggests that the Thames may have been navigable this far upstream as Cricklade. In addition, the combination of the nearby road, the low ridge on which the town is sited, and the floodplains with their rich alluvial soils would have encouraged Romano-British settlers. There are currently no hints as to the layout of this settlement, but observations of a possible river

crossing approach in Thames Lane (para 5.3.2) may indicate that the original river crossing was substantially upstream of the Medieval location.

6.3. Saxon (Fig. 9)

6.3.1. COM2 – Possible Middle Saxon Settlement. There are indications from a small number of potsherds of settlement prior to the erection of defences in mid-late 10th century. The reference to Cricklade early in that century, in relation to a Danish incursion into the area, also suggests occupation. The extent plotted here is extremely tentative, based partly on the likelihood of a focus near the Roman river crossing and also on the discovery in a number of excavations of Saxon pottery at Abingdon Court Farm (CR042). It is possible that St Mary's church sits on the site of a Saxon predecessor (para 5.4.5), which may have been the church of a small Thames-side Saxon village.

6.3.2. COM3 – Late Saxon Town Defences. A combination of surviving earthworks, excavation evidence and indications from property boundaries has resulted in a very clearly defined plan of the defences, the principal features of which are well established (paras 5.4.2 – 3). The location of all gates are also apparent, since the road grid has remained in use to the present day

6.3.3. COM4 – the Saxon Defended Town. Cricklade stands as an example of a typical Alfredian burh of a type with clear affinities to Roman forts - a rectangular enclosed settlement area protected by a bank and ditches, divided by a regular street grid. Haslam pointed out the significance of the side lanes which preserve the details of the Saxon layout (1984). The ancestry of the long property boundaries still visible in the town must lay at least in part in this phase of the town's development. Whether the depth of these plots, running back some 60-70m from the street frontage is Saxon in origin is unclear. In the Saxon planform map the area of settlement has been assumed to be much the same as the Medieval arrangement, and the road system is not likely to have changed greatly from the original design.

6.3.4. There are some unexplained aberrations from the standard Saxon burh layout. One of these is the location of the west gate, or rather the unusual alignment of the road leading through it. Whereas the other roads are relatively straight and perpendicular to one another, the Bath Road enters the town well to the south of the centre point of the western defences, then curves to the north to meet the High Street a little to the south of its junction with Calcutt Street, forming an offset crossroads. Haslam concluded that the Saxon west gate lay on the present road line, and not at the centre point of the wall. There is no topographic reason for the southward displacement of the Bath Road and it is probably the result of pre-existing property boundaries. It is possible that it once ran straight to the High Street along the route now taken by Church Lane, and that the apparent detour is a late medieval realignment to create a stronger focus for the market place. This suggested early alignment heads for St Sampson's church, alluding perhaps to its probable early origin and high status.

- 6.3.5. **COM5 – Possible Saxon church** It is usual for Saxon burhs to contain several churches within their walls, yet Cricklade contains only two, and only St. Sampson's displays any architectural evidence for its antiquity. Several authors have however pointed out that the position of St Mary's next to the north gate strongly suggests it is a Saxon foundation. (Thomson 1961, Haslam 1981). The evidence is firmer for St Sampson's, however (para 5.4.4) and the comments on the possible size of the structure may indicate that it was built at the time of the new defensive system in the late 9th century, on a scale in keeping with the new town then emerging. If there were indeed early connections with Malmesbury and it is in origin a Minster as suggested by Haslam (1984,106), the land holding may have been substantial, and a speculative area has therefore been adopted here.
- 6.3.6. **COM6 –Possible Saxon church.** Evidence for a Saxon origin for St Mary's has been put forward (para 5.4.5), with the added interest that the parish to which it later belonged may have played a formative role in the town's early development (para 4.6). The revelation that its Saxon foundation run parallel to the town defences suggests it formed part of the provision made for the town by Alfred. Why a new church should have been provided is far from clear, and perhaps the more likely theory is that the observed foundation is a rebuild of an even earlier church possibly destroyed in a Danish raid. This circumstance would help to explain the close proximity of the defences to the north side of the nave, implying that part of the original burial ground may lay beneath the town rampart.
- 6.3.7. **COM7 – Reserves.** Open areas within the defensive circuit were presumably intended to act in time of attack as reserves for the population and stock of the adjacent countryside. The settlement never expanded to fill these areas, preserving green spaces within the walls to the present day. Defining the extent of these areas is bound up with the problem of the depth of the Saxon properties flanking the town streets. Three such reserves are shown.
- 6.3.8. **COM8 – Land owned by Abingdon Abbey** It is unlikely that a fourth reserve occupied the NE quadrant of the town, since this was the land which later became Abingdon Court Manor (Haslam 1981, 79). It was the subject of a grant by Ethelred in 1008 and Haslam argues for an even earlier origin for this Saxon land unit and associates it with the formation of the parish of St Mary. Its extent as plotted here within and without the defences acknowledges that possibility.
- 6.3.9. **COM9 – Roads.** The road grid was clearly an essential component of the Alfredian defensive works, and its value as a backbone for urban development and prosperity must have been perceived at the time. The possible original alignment of Bath Road is shown, heading for the Saxon predecessor of St Sampson's church (see below). High Street itself may have earlier origins, in part almost certainly Roman, serving to link the Romano-British settlement to Ermin Street.

6.4. Medieval (Fig. 10)

- 6.4.1. **COM10 – Town Defences.** Evidence of a re-vamping of the defensive system has been assigned to the Anarchy period (para 5.5.1) and the reference to a castle discounted. The wall was presumably a source of building material throughout the Middle Ages. The defensive corridor has remained a feature in the town ever since, the line of the defences serving to define and perhaps constrain the pattern of growth. The location of Criclade's castle remains an enigma.
- 6.4.2. **COM11 – Medieval Settlement area.** Within the burgh defences, the residential and commercial area of the later medieval settlement was concentrated on the High Street, Calcutt Street and Back Lane, the reserved open areas remaining undeveloped. The long and narrow properties flanking both sides of High Street through the entire length of the town are a dramatic survival, presumably dating from a period of Medieval town plan reorganisation. Such developments were common in England and Wales in the 12th and 13th centuries, part of a widespread speculative urge to generate increased trade, and to create revenues through market and burgage tolls (Butler 1976).
- 6.4.3. **COM12 - The Market.** The evidence for the market's location and extent is not clear. It is suggested on topographical grounds that it was held in the High Street either side of the crossroads presumably extending a short way up the two side roads. There is no clear evidence that there was ever a larger market square in the town, although the cluster of very small plots on the south east corner of the High Street and Calcutt Street may be the result of market infill. The existence of a square here would explain the slight offset in the road junction at this point.
- 6.4.4. **COM13 – St Sampson's Church.** Much of the land in the south-west corner of the town may have belonged to St Sampson's, but the extent of church property is not clear. Only a small area, including the farmyard where the tithe barn stood, has been allocated in this analysis.
- 6.4.5. **COM14 –St Mary's Church.** The church and churchyard as seen now seem much reduced from an original extent that probably extended northwards beyond the town defences and were truncated by the construction of the Saxon rampart. Possibly St Sampson's dominated the religious life of the town, in spite of the fact that St Mary's represented a separate parish. The slight forward position of its west front, deflecting the otherwise straight-ruled edge of the High Street, is another indication of its relationship to the Saxon layout and a subsequent Medieval re-planning of the town.
- 6.4.6. **COM15 – Church Land.** The Priory of St. John appears to have controlled much of the flood plain to the north-west of the town, and also held property within the town (para 4.6). It is evident that the Priory and also the Manor (COM16) had an interest in management of the Thames alluvial terrace, hardly land that lent itself to cultivation in view of the marshy deposits flanking the Thames. Fishing and fowling, however, may have been the prime interest.

6.4.7. **COM16 - Manorial Land.** The Manor of Abingdon Court comprised land both within and without the defences, and in origin appears to be the land or property granted to Abingdon Abbey in 1008 (Haslam 1981). The name survives in Abingdon Court Farm in the north-east corner of the defences and presumably the site of the Manor Court.

6.4.8. **COM17 – The Streets.** The pattern established at the time of Alfred continued unchanged, with the exception of possible alterations to the alignment of Bath Road at its junction with Calcutt Street. Both major and minor streets may have been derived from the Late Saxon layout.

7. ASSESSMENT

7.1. Summary of Research

7.1.1. Archaeological research in Cricklade can readily be divided into two phases: prior to 1990 work was concentrated almost exclusively on the defences, whereas the last decade has seen an end to that exploration and a concentration on observations associated with developments within the town. There are exceptions to this rule, such as the watching brief carried out by Stone and Heath (Stone 1979) to the east of Thames Lane, which located the sites of several medieval houses. The early excavations were brought together and summarised by Raleigh Radford in 1972 as a result of which there is a reasonable record of the town defences. It is unfortunate that much of the work done in the 1970s by Haslam and others has not been published, and the archives are unavailable for research. The more recent evaluations and watching briefs carried out in the 1990s have resulted in greater definition of the medieval settlement and the discovery of several more medieval floors and hearths, although as yet little structural information has been forthcoming. In contrast very little evidence of the nature of the Saxon settlement has come to light.

7.1.2. The nature of the Roman settlement at Cricklade is difficult to comprehend, but the evidence of its extent as demonstrated by discoveries recorded in the SMR (Fig.4) is impressive.

7.1.3. Most of the archaeological research in the town has inevitably concentrated on the defences, confirming their Late Saxon origin and Norman reinforcement. No evidence has emerged of defences dating from the Roman period. Numerous excavations and watching briefs have been carried out within the town, but these have always been of small scale since town centre re-development has been minor and piecemeal.

7.1.4. Few of these excavations have brought to light evidence of the Saxon occupation of the burgh, which might be expected at minimum beneath the houses along the main streets of the town.

7.2. Growth of the Town (Fig.11)

7.2.1. Roman

7.2.1.1. This is the sole Wiltshire town where the process of urbanisation may have started in Roman times. Much research is needed to clarify the

interpretation of the evidence brought together by excavation and by chance finds.

7.2.2. Saxon

7.2.2.1. There are faint indications of a settlement in the Middle Saxon period, perhaps supported by an assumption that King Alfred's defended site would not have been 'greenfield' development, but an attempt to reinforce an existing community in a strategic location (para 6.3.1). It was however this colossal investment of effort in the late 10th century that put Cricklade on the map. Haslam (1984) attempts to assess the importance of the place, pointing to the distribution of its 33 contributory burgesses over a wide area of North Wiltshire.

7.2.3. Medieval

7.2.3.1. Cricklade until recently has changed little since its inception in the Late Saxon period (Fig.9). The Medieval settlement was largely restricted to the boundaries set by the burgh defences, with a small extra-mural expansion north to the river's edge linking up with the Priory of St. John on the north side of the Thames. The open areas enclosed within the defensive circuit by King Alfred remained a feature of the town until the late 20th century, apparently without any specific purpose in times of greater security.

7.2.3.2. The pattern of property boundaries in the town, whilst indicating the extent of the Medieval settlement, may in origin not be the result of Medieval town planning and re-organisation, but actually represent the Alfredian inheritance evolving as need arose. Real prosperity seems however to have eluded Cricklade. There is nothing to suggest that, after an initial period of growth up to perhaps the 13th century, any significant expansion of the built area took place until the 19th century.

7.2.4. Post Medieval

7.2.4.1. Cricklade, in common with most Wiltshire towns, saw little growth or physical change in the Post-medieval/pre-Industrial period. Development of Spittal's Lane and the Forty had occurred by the 18th century and might have begun in the medieval period, as the naming evidence suggests.

7.2.5. Recent

7.2.5.1. With only small scale industrial activity inside the town, 19th century expansion was minimal, and limited mainly to the north end of town, where a number of small fields within the defences were built over for the first time. There was also a tongue of suburban development stretching southward as far as the railway, linking the town proper to the suburban growth in the Forty.

7.3. The Archaeological Potential

- 7.3.1. One of the principal aims of this phase of the Extensive Urban Survey is to examine the archaeological potential of the town to assist with the development of a management strategy in the later phase of the project. Whilst all of the core town may be considered important archaeologically, it is necessary to try to highlight those areas of greater interest, either because of the importance of the remains or because better than average preservation is expected there.
- 7.3.2. The minimal degree of industrial development within the Medieval town has meant that disturbance has largely been limited to post-Medieval and recent residential construction, usually involving light foundations and few cellars. The potential for the survival of archaeological deposits under existing structures is therefore good. Similarly the potential for recovering data from gardens and yards of the old town centre remains very good.
- 7.3.3. The nature of the Romano-British settlement, its relationship with the river crossing and Ermin Street form a cluster of research requirements, with special interest in establishing whether the beginnings of urbanisation can be detected at this early date.
- 7.3.4. Excavation activity designed to answer the above queries would undoubtedly assist in defining the nature of the Saxon settlement which pre-dated the defended town (para 6.3.1). Was this an urban community, was there a market? Key-hole excavations of the type so far conducted are not helpful in supplying answers to these queries.
- 7.3.5. The Late Saxon Defences have been extensively examined by excavation and a valuable constructional sequence established (para 5.4.2-3). An attempt has been made by Haslam (1984) to plot the extent of all elements of the defensive arrangements. It is likely, however, that this could be enhanced, partly by surface inspection and measured survey, partly by the application of geophysical investigation to bring out hidden detail.
- 7.3.6. There are a number of unresolved issues relating to the street grid. Does the High Street have a Roman origin? What is the cause of the siting of the west gate, offset from the centre of the western defences? The possibility of an early infilling of the market place (para 6.4.3) requires investigation.
- 7.3.7. Speculation on the origins of the two parish churches dominates historical treatises on Cricklade. There is some confidence among those who have examined the fabric of the two buildings that Saxon precursors existed (paras 5.4.4-5). Were these new structures supplied by Alfred or were both of earlier date? Even the small scale trenching that might occur near these churches could offer up some insights.

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10. APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Towns included in the Extensive Urban Survey of Wiltshire, with reference to urban criteria defined by Heighway (1972).

	Town	Criteria
1	Amesbury	ii, iii, xi, xi
2	Bradford-on-Avon	iii,vi viii, xi
3	Calne	ii, iii, ix
4	Chippenham	i, iii, iv, viii, ix, x, xii i, ii, v, xii
5	Cricklade	i, ii, vi
6	CUNETIO	i, ii, iii, v
7	Devizes	ii, iii, v, ix, xi
8	Downton	i, ii vi
9	DUROCORNOVIUM	i, vi
10	EASTON GREY	iii, iv, v, ix
11	Great Bedwyn	ii, iii, ix
12	Heytesbury	ii, iv
13	Highworth	ii, vi, ix
14	Hindon	ii, iii, xi
15	Lacock	v
16	Ludgershall	i, iii, iv, xi
17	Malmesbury	iii, ix
18	Market Lavington	ii, iii, iv, xi
19	Marlborough	ii, iii, viii
20	Melksham	ii, iii, xii
21	Mere	iii, viii, xi
22	Ramsbury	i, ii, iii, v, vi, vii, viii,
23	Salisbury	ix, x, xi, ii, iii, ix
24	Sherston	i, vi
25	SORVIODUNUM	iii, viii
26	Swindon	iii, v
27	Tilshead	i, vi, xi
28	Tisbury	ii, iii, viii
29	Trowbridge	ii, iii, iv, vii
30	Warminster	iii, viii
31	Westbury	i, ii, iii, iv, v, vi, vii,
32	Wilton	vii, ix, xi ii, iii, v, ix, xi
33	Wootton Bassett	ii, vi
34	VERLUCIO	

Appendix 2: Urban Criteria set out in Heighway (1972)

- i) *Urban Defences*: A town, at some time in its history, might have a wall, or bank and ditch with wooden defences.
- ii) *Internal Street plan*: A town may be planned at any moment in its history; part of its street pattern may display evidence of deliberate planning, such as a grid lay-out. A street plan with provision for a market place will also distinguish a town.
- iii) *Market*: Perhaps the only indispensable criterion, although a market alone does not distinguish a town. The date of a market charter is usually taken in this study as indicating the date by which the place had become a town.
- iv) *Mint*: The existence of a mint often denotes a town.
- v) *Legal existence*: This aspect of the town was one of the first to be studied and formed the basis of most of the early studies of towns. It has long been evident that legal history, once a favoured method of study does not provide the only clue to urban origins, in which economic causes play an important part. However, the date of a borough charter or the dates of taxation at borough rates or of the town's parliamentary franchise may provide a date from which the place may be called a town.
- vi) *Position*: A town may have a central position in a network of communications and this can be a clue to its importance. This can be a difficult criterion to assess as it involves knowledge of the age of the road system in relation to the town itself, the past navigability of rivers, and other related problems.
- vii) *Population*: A town will often have or have had a high density and size of population compared with surrounding places.
- viii) *Diversified economic base*: Archaeological or documentary evidence might suggest a diversified economic base, particularly a concentration of various crafts in one area, and evidence of long distance trade. For earlier periods, only archaeological evidence can determine this; it is a reflection on the state of urban archaeology that so little is known of this aspect.
- ix) *House plot and house type*: The town-plan may show long, narrow 'burgage-type' plots; surviving houses will be urban rather than rural in form.
- x) *Social differentiation*: A town should contain a wide range of social classes and especially possess a middle class. House types, demonstrated in the earlier periods by archaeology, again form part of the evidence.
- xi) The presence of a *complex religious organisation* may also denote a town; i.e. the possession of more than one parish church or the existence of other institutions, especially monastic.
- xii) *Judicial centre*: A town may be a centre for courts of national or local status.

Appendix 3: Listed Buildings by Schedule Category

Grade I

Church of St Sampson, Bath Road (from C10)

Grade II*

Church of St Mary, High Street (from C12)
Town cross, St Sampson's churchyard (C14)
Jenner's School, Bath Road (1652)
23 High Street (late C17)

Appendix 4: Buildings Survival by Century

10th Century

St Sampson's Church, Bath Road (from C10 onwards)

12th Century

Church of St Mary, High Street

14th Century

Churchyard cross, St Mary's Churchyard, High Street

15th Century

Candletree, Bath Road
3 Church Lane
46 High Street (C15 or C16)

17th Century

Abingdon Court Farmhouse, Abingdon Court Lane
Outbuilding at Abingdon Court Farmhouse, Abingdon Court Lane
Jenner's School, Bath Road (1652)
25, 26, 38, White Lion 50, 2 & 3 The Priory, 92, High Street
23, 41, High Street (late)
51 (and orthostatic wall), 52, 64, 65, 66, 67, 68 (with orthostatic wall), 71,
?Brook House 72, 81, 83 & 84, 85 & 86, 87 & 88, High Street (late C17/early
C18)

18th Century

19a, 20, 21 and 22 Calcutt Street (1730's)
58 & 59, Danvers House 109, High Street (early)
Master's House at Jenner's School, Bath Road
18, 33 & 34 Calcutt Street
Greystones, 16 The Forty
93 High Street (mid)
Kings Head 28, 31, 35, 36, 37, 45, 53, 54 & 55, ?57, 69, The Old Manor House
73, Red Lion 74, ?75 & 76, ?78 & 79, 95, Lloyds Bank 112, Alkerton House
114, High Street
5 Abingdon Court Lane (late)
90, 107, ?108, High Street (late)

Outbuilding to 23, 27, 33, 44, 61 & 62, 63, 89, High Street (late C18/early C19)
1 & 2 Rectory Lane (?late C18/early C19) 40

19th Century

Bournelake Farmhouse, Ashton Keynes Road (1800 – 1830)
18 The Forty (early)
1, 32, outbuilding to rear of 44, 4 The Priory, Gatepiers and wall to Brook House 72, 110, High Street (early)
The Stalls (outbuilding to Dance House), The Forty (after 1814)
cheesehouse, Abingdon Court Farm (1821)
North Meadow Boundary Stones (1824)
17 The Forty (c1830)
Malt House, 8 The Forty (1837)
94 High Street (c1840)
14 Bryn Cottage (Plum Trees on map), 23, Calcutt Street (early – mid)
Orthostatic wall to The Chimneys, and no.18, The Forty (early-mid)
Orthostatic wall to 9 High Street
19 Calcutt Street (mid) 20
Town Bridge, High Street (1854)
Wesley Hall, Calcutt Street (1855)
Ockwells Glove Factory, 113 High Street (1861)
Stables to Alkerton House, High Street (1862)
The Manor House, Calcutt Street (late)
Entrance quadrants, wall and stable, Candletree, Bath Road.
Gatepiers and street wall, St Mary's Church, High Street
Old School, High Street (1870-80)
Jubilee Clock, High Street (1897)

20th Century

K6 Telephone Kiosk, High Street (1935)

Appendix 5: Architectural Detail by Feature Type

The earliest work in Cricklade occurs at the parish church of St Sampson. This is in limestone rubble with fragments of work from the C10 onwards. Particularly impressive is the central tower dating from the mid C16 and built by the Duke of Northumberland and the Hungerfords of Down Ampney. St Mary's church, of C12 century date, is also in limestone rubble and retains an original 3-bay nave with chevroned and cable-moulded chancel arch. Other work from the C13 and C14 is still extant. Candletree, a C15 rubblestone house north of St Sampson's has an irregular plan, probably due to its successive rebuilding from the C13 onwards and incorporates a lancet window and a blind quatrefoil. South of this is 3 Church Lane, a rubblestone structure said to date from C1490. Due to the wealth of stone, very few timber framed remain. 46 High Street was originally a C15 or C16 timber framed open hall house (Cricklade Historical Society) The 17th century buildings remaining are in coursed limestone rubble, sometimes with ashlar quoins (68 High Street). Also squared

rubblestone (Abingdon Court Farmhouse) with stone slate roof. Jenner's school, founded in 1652, has ashlar dressings and ovolo mullioned windows with (?original) leaded glazing. 23 High Street, grade II*, has an ashlar front and retains original fine panelling and staircase.

18th century – limestone rubble left plain or roughcast (18 Calcutt Street). Wooden lintels, brick stacks (5, Abingdon Court Lane). Gabled dormers (19a-22 and 33 & 34 Calcutt Street, 8, 31, High Street). Some brickwork (69 High Street), sometimes painted. The High Street has a number of C18 and C19 good quality buildings including the Kings Head, nos.27, and 32 which have embellished main elevations with rubble limestone brought to a roughcast, stucco, or colourwashed finish. Less common is a pebbledash finish (61 & 62 High Street).

19th century –the trend is still for coursed limestone rubble, and stone slate or Welsh slate roof. Some original lattice casements survive (outbuildings at Abingdon Court Farm). 19 Calcutt St. and 94 High Street have rendered limestone main elevations ruled to resemble ashlar. Brickwork becomes more prevalent (14 Calcutt Street has rendered brick main elevation). Rat-trap brick bond has been noted at Bournelake Farmhouse, Ashton Keynes Road; a form not found before the C19.

Some brickwork dating from early C19 at has been noted at Candletree – the entrance walls are in brick with blue headers. Other surrounding structures are in Flemish and diaper brick bonds, as outbuilding to rear of 23 High Street. The Manor House in Calcutt Street, now a preparatory school is a late C19 house build in an early-mid C17 style using limestone ashlar.