

**AVON EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

CHIPPING SODBURY

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 The aims of the report

The Extensive Urban Areas Survey was commissioned by English Heritage in October 1995. Chipping Sodbury is one of six areas studied within South Gloucestershire.

This document is a desk-based study of the archaeological resource surviving in the town and its immediate environs. It includes an assessment of below ground archaeological remains, standing buildings and the historic plan form of the town. It considers the development of the town within a standard chronological framework and where possible, the site areas mentioned in the text are identified on a modern map base of the town. The maps are contained at the end of this report.

The archaeological assessment report provides the basis for new planning guidance for the historic environment of Chipping Sodbury, as set out in the strategy document for South Gloucestershire.

1.2 Major sources of evidence

No major archaeological work is known to have occurred within the town, apart from the most basic topographical survey by Leech (1975). This is largely because of the low level of development in the town core, which is protected by a Conservation Area and an extensive number of buildings on the List of Buildings of Special Architectural and Historical Importance. There have been several proposed developments in the town, but only two have proceeded to a watching brief: 24 Horse Street (SMR 9395) and 66 Horse Street (SMR 10375). There was also an evaluation at 24 Horse Street.

There is relatively good map coverage of Chipping Sodbury. It is first depicted in 1675 on a small-scale road map by Ogilby. In 1770 a detailed sketch was made as part of a volume of maps of the Codrington estate, and it clearly shows the essential structure of the town as it appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882. There is no Tithe map for the town, although the boundaries of its parish do appear on the 1839 Tithe map for Old Sodbury.

This report has relied on plan analysis of historic maps of the town and research by the local historians Couzens (1972; 1989) and Tily (1994); whilst their work on medieval and post-medieval documents is invaluable, in many instances it is not referenced properly and does not carry the credibility of an academic study. The town is not covered in the Victoria County History, and as a result the historical background is patchy and in many cases dependent on the archaeological understanding of the town.

1.3 A brief history of Chipping Sodbury

Chipping Sodbury lies on the south-west edge of the Cotswold scarp, about 92m above sea level (300 feet). It is situated on relatively flat land and is bounded on three sides by rivers: the River Frome flows along the eastern and northern boundaries of the town, and one of its tributaries demarcates the western boundary of the town. Although the town is close to the Cotswolds, it is built on an area of carboniferous limestone which has been extensively quarried to the north of the town (Aston & Iles 1988: 4).

At Domesday in 1086 the town of Chipping Sodbury had not yet been planted onto land in the parish of Old Sodbury. The manor of Old Sodbury was held in the Edderstone Hundred and the Domesday description indicates that the village was not very large and that the River Frome powered 2 mills; a park is also mentioned and it may have been the same area of land referred to in the early 14th century as a deer park:

'Brictric also held (Old) SODBURY. Before 1066 there were 10 hides. 4 ploughs in lordship; 12 villagers with 5 ploughs; 4 smallholders and 18 slaves. A park; a mill at 5s. Now the reeve has added 1 mill at 40d. Woodland at 1 league long and 1 wide. Humphrey pays £16 10s from this manor. 1 virgate in Droitwich belongs to this manor; it paid 25 sesters of salt. Urso the Sheriff so oppressed the men that now they cannot pay the salt.' (Morris 1982: 1,48)

Less than one hundred years later a town had been established called '*Sobburie*', now known as Chipping Sodbury. The Charter Rolls of Henry III record the grant of a market charter to William Crassus the elder in 1216/17 (Couzens 1989: 4). William Crassus I was Lord of the Old Sodbury manor and is known to have died in 1179, which suggests that he founded the town sometime before that year (*ibid.*: 1). The prefix 'Chipping' first appears in the documentary records as '*Chepying Sudbury*' in 1452, '*ceping*' being an Old English word for market (Smith 1964: 52; 1965: 110).

The foundation of Chipping Sodbury, like many other towns 'planted' after 1100, appears to have been motivated by commercial considerations. The site of the town was undefended, and it lay on a plain crossed by two major routes: the salt way from Droitwich to Old Sodbury, and the Bristol-Cirencester road (Couzens 1972: 35). The town was built on high, reasonably dry ground where there was a good supply of water from the river running along its northern boundary.

The town was carved out of the rural parish of Sodbury and had a tiny parish area, with virtually no field-land (Beresford & Joseph 1979: 215). Leech has suggested that the original town plan may have covered this entire area: a possible grid street plan can be discerned on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 and it may have been part of an over ambitious plan by its founder William Crassus (Leech 1975: 9). Aston has discounted this claim and has stated that the broad market street, which is so well preserved today, was the original plan form of the settlement. Further research is needed to consider whether additional parts of the tiny parish area were once part of the thriving medieval town or abandoned shortly after the town's foundation (*ibid.*).

Documentary research has so far only revealed a very fragmentary picture of the town's fortunes and further research is required to chart the changes in more detail. In 1307 there were 176 burgages (Beresford 1967: 67) and this figure seems to have remained more or less the same even after the Black Death of 1349; in 1360 there were still 190 burgages (Leech 1975: 9). Thornbury, by comparison, had only 119 burgages in 1314 and revenue collected from the towns by their seigneurs in 1295 shows that Chipping Sodbury was worth more than Thornbury (Beresford 1967: 67). However, Leech states that the Lay Subsidy, a tax assessed for the king in 1327, rated Chipping Sodbury at 56s 2d, whereas Thornbury was required to pay 70s 7d (Leech 1975: 9).

Other clues to the town's prosperity include the principal source of revenue for the seigneur which in Chipping Sodbury was derived chiefly from the burgage rents: the tolls collected from markets and fairs remained relatively low in both 1296 and 1363 (Beresford 1967: 66). A deed in 1315 records the subdivision of a burgage (Couzens 1972: 63), and a half burgage is recorded in court papers of 1536 (Gloucestershire

Record Office D2071/E). It is not clear whether this subdivision represents pressure on the High Street frontage or simply the result of inheritance.

Like other towns close to the Cotswold streams, Chipping Sodbury's wealth is usually attributed to the cloth industry, although the true extent of this trade is not known in any detail. In his study of the woollen industry of Gloucestershire, Perry concluded that although Chipping Sodbury had some importance as a manufacturing centre in the later middle ages, by 1608 it had declined relative the mid Gloucestershire area (Perry 1945: 97). A more detailed study of the town's morphology may reveal evidence for industrial areas associated with the cloth industry, such as tenter's yards - large open spaces used to stake out cloth so that they dried under tension (Schofield & Vince 1994: 117). Archaeological evidence for this activity may also survive: post-hole complexes for tenter-racks occurred at Racknay in Bristol during an excavation in 1974 (Ponsford, unpublished).

Some evidence of the cloth trade does survive in the documentary records of the town: the will of one its more prominent burgesses, Richard Colymoore who died in 1557, makes it clear that weaving was one of the more important industries. Chantry certificates for the County of Gloucester mention a Guild of Chipping Sodbury, established in the reign of Henry VI (i.e. the 15th century). It was founded by Thomas Hampton and a chantry was erected for two priests to 'celebrate at thalter of St. Mary within the Chapell or churche of the seid Chipping Sodbury' (Maclean 1884: 277). The chantry chapel in Chipping Sodbury parish church is dedicated to St. Katherine, the patron saint of weavers, which suggests that the guild was founded by weavers in the town (Pope 1888: 39).

In the 1540s Leland visited Chipping Sodbury and described it as 'a pretty little market town' (Couzens 1989: 17). John Smith's list of 'Men of Armour in Gloucestershire' published in 1608, also appears to suggest a small thriving community; a total of 104 men are listed and they included a small number of men whose professions were listed as labourers, husbandmen, servants, yeomen and gentlemen. The majority of men were associated with the cloth or leather trade: mercers, clothiers, fullers, weavers, tailors, tanners, curriers, a saddler, shoemakers and glovers. Other trades listed included bakers, butchers, carpenters, cooperers, masons, smiths, tilers, vidualers and a cook. (Smith 1608)

At the time of the Civil Wars only minor skirmishes between Royalists and the Parliamentary forces took place in the town (Robinson 1914: 55), and it appears to have escaped any destruction. The town retained its borough status into the Tudor and Stuart periods and in 1681 King Charles II made it into a corporation. The charter obtained for this change in status included the names of the Mayor and other officers. It described the town as having a great thoroughfare with large inns and a trade in lime and coal; the coal was presumably mined from outcrops to the west of the town. However, only 7 years later the charter was annulled at the request of the town itself and Chipping Sodbury ceased to enjoy borough status.

There is some dispute over the character and date of the town's decline. Leech states that by the late 17th century the town's fortunes were diminishing and that there may have been some shrinkage (Leech 1975: 9). Certainly the cloth industry in the town lost its commercial importance throughout the 17th and 18th centuries (Perry 1945: 97). However, many of the houses in the old streets date back to around this period, and Couzens described the late 17th century and 18th century as a time of considerable prosperity (Couzens 1989: 30).

Certainly by the late 18th century the role of the town as a market centre appears to have suffered. In 1779 Rudder described the town as:

'a small market town consisting of two streets lying something in the form of the letter L ... the market .. is little frequented being nothing more than a few neighbouring people assembled to the public houses' (Rudder 1779; 671).

Despite the reduction of the market the town still lay on an important trading route, as Rudder notes:

'there is a great deal of travelling through the town to Bristol, and waggons are continually passing through it to the coal pits... here also is an excellent sort of lime stone... considerable quantities of this lime are sent to various parts of the country' (Rudder 1779: 672).

In the post-medieval period two Welsh drove roads converged on Chipping Sodbury, one came from Aust and the other from Redwick (Bonser 1970: 186). The road then carried on to Chippenham and eventually to London (Hindle 1993: 81). The trade in cattle and sheep supplied the growing towns of England, reaching a zenith between the 17th century and mid 19th century (ibid.: 71). It ceased during the second half of the 19th century as the railways progressively reached out toward the north and west of Britain (ibid.: 84), and it is likely that this change significantly affected the town and its market.

The drovers route may have originally dated to the medieval period, although only more detailed field survey work is likely to provide clues. Some of the field names in Old Sodbury may indicate a medieval connection with Wales; they include 'Branchery' which is derived from an old Welsh personal name and a reference to a field in 1276 called 'Horcley', '*horc*' meaning shelter (Smith 1964: 55). The common on the Chipping Sodbury-Old Sodbury road may have survived because it was used for roadside accommodation for cattle.

The town's industrial archaeology has not been studied in any depth. Buildings of the 18th century or earlier which were clearly for industrial use survive in the Brook Street area and at various points behind the street frontages of Broad Street and High Street (Leech 1975: 9). Records of the Court Leet and Court Baron dating from 1669 have survived. They include reports on the quality of leather produced in the town which clearly indicate a considerable tanning industry in the town (Couzens 1989: 25). A tanner is mentioned in 1557 (Tily 1994: 281) and the lease of a tan yard is recorded in 1840 (Gloucestershire Record Office D4 365 E11). Further documentary and field survey work is urgently required.

The first official census was conducted in 1801, when the population stood at 1,090. Leech suggests that this may have been less than in 1300 (Leech 1975: 9). The population of the town remained fairly stable throughout the 19th century, and the economy of the town was based on a wide range of professions and trades. Kelly's Directory of 1842 states that the town's economy was based on the market and fairs, the carriage of lime and coal and the malt trade. It also mentions the importance of the inns providing accommodation for people passing through the town. The market was well noted for its wheat and cheese, and that cattle fairs were held twice a year (1842: 126). By the end of the century Kelly's directory states that the market was for cattle, sheep, pigs and cheese (1897: 106)

The population figures for the early 20th century suggest that the town did not start to grow substantially until at least the 1930s and 1940s. Robinson describes the town in

1914 as a 'clean, healthy, flourishing little town, with a good fortnightly market ... slowly advancing' (Robinson 1914: 58). However, by 1971 the population of the town stood at over 3,000 and it has rapidly increased in the remaining decades of the century, with a substantial area of housing to the east of the town. The attractive historic centre of the town and good location have made the town a popular place to live, and today many commuters have settled here (Couzens 1989: 64).

1.4 Population

1551	400 communicants	(Percival 1970: 117)
1563	91 households	(Percival 1970: 117)
1603	340 communicants	(Percival 1970: 117)
1650	160 families	(Percival 1970: 117)
1676	174 communicants	(Percival 1970: 117)
1779	800 inhabitants	(Rudder 1779)
1801	1,090 inhabitants	(Percival 1970: 117)
1831	1,306 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1842)
1841	1,269 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1842)
1861	1,112 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1870)
1871	1,157 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1879)
1881	1,067 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1885)
1891	1,028 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1897)
1901	1,177 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1906)
1911	977 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1914)
1921	952 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1927)
1931	973 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1931)
1971	3,100 inhabitants	(Northavon Draft plan 1975; census figures)

2.0 PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

2.1 Sources of evidence

- **Field survey work:** Surface finds recorded in Bristol City Museum
- **Aerial photographs:** Aerial photograph of Little Sodbury hillfort 1972 (Gloucestershire Record Office 56/62)

2.2 Local settlement pattern

Evidence for prehistoric settlement in the area of land where Chipping Sodbury was founded is limited to one find - a bronze socketed axe discovered in 1920 during blasting operations at a quarry to the north of the town. Davies states that the axe was a later Bronze Age type (Davies 1925: 172).

Despite the paucity of prehistoric material in the town area, evidence of Iron Age occupation on the plain survives in the form of two fine hillforts to the east and north-east of the town. The nearer site, Sodbury Camp hillfort (SMR 2103), was described as 'probably the best hillfort in Northavon, if not the whole of Avon' in its scheduled ancient monument description (DoE 1989: SAM 70). It has not been excavated and comprises two widely spaced ramparts enclosing an inner area of 11 acres. The second hillfort, Horton Camp, lies a short distance to the north of Sodbury Camp hillfort (SMR 2112; SAM 69). A single high bank and ditch has been observed on the north and east sides, with natural defences on the other two sides.

In addition to these two surviving hillforts, a third hillfort at Sodbury Camp was marked on Isaac's map of 1777, and described in the early years of this century as a univallate earthwork on the road over the ridge north of Chipping Sodbury (SMR 2101). However, by 1962 it could not be identified and the area was occupied by Barnhill Quarry.

No map has been produced for the Prehistoric period

3.0 ROMANO-BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

3.1 Sources of evidence

- **Field survey work:** Casual finds recorded in the Avon Sites and Monuments Record.

3.2 Local settlement pattern

No Romano-British finds have been discovered in the town area. A scatter of finds are identified in the Sites and Monuments Record across the plain, including Romano-British pottery in a disused quarry to the north of Chipping Sodbury (SMR 2100), Roman coins at the site of Sodbury Camp hillfort (SMR 2097) and a coin to the south of the town (SMR 1753).

3.3 Regional context

Comparatively few Roman settlements are known in this area. This is largely because there has been very little fieldwork and because much of the lower ground is pasture or woodland with little opportunity for fieldwalking. The intensive field survey of Marshfield parish revealed a network of Roman farms and hamlets, generally 1 kilometre apart, and this pattern is likely to extend further north along the Cotswold escarpment. (Iles 1985: 39)

No map has been produced for the Romano-British period

4.0 POST ROMAN AND SAXON ARCHAEOLOGY

4.1 Sources of evidence

No evidence has come to light regarding the post Roman and early Saxon period at Chipping Sodbury.

4.2 Local settlement pattern

It is probable that the Anglo-Saxon salt road to Old Sodbury crossed the plain where Chipping Sodbury was later built. Salt was vital for the preservation of food and at the time of Domesday Old Sodbury owned salt-rights in Droitwich (Darby 1971: 38; Heighway 1987: 70). There were five main roads or tracks along which the salt was carried by packhorse from Droitwich, one of which led from Tewkesbury to Sodbury (Darby 1971: 39). It is possible that the new town at Chipping Sodbury attained control over the passage of salt through the area, a feature of the new town at Evesham noted by Hooke (Hooke 1985: 215).

In addition to the salt route, the medieval road from Bristol to Cirencester almost certainly followed an earlier Anglo-Saxon route connecting the south-west and the Midlands.

There is no evidence to suggest an earlier urban centre on the site now occupied by Chipping Sodbury, although it is possible that there was a hamlet or farmsteads here since the main Bristol-Chippenham road probably ran across the plain in much the same spot. Couzens suggestion that the original Saxon settlement area 'old Sopeberie' was located on Bowling Hill (Couzens 1989: 3) is simply erroneous: old Sodbury was (as it is today) to the east of Chipping Sodbury. It is mentioned in Domesday and the parish church was built in the 1100s (Webb 1984: 4).

No map has been produced for the post Roman and early Saxon period

5.0 MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY

5.1 Sources of evidence

- **Field survey work:** Topographic survey of Chipping Sodbury (Leech 1975).
- **Standings buildings:** Research into Buildings in the Vale and the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire (Verey 1970); DoE list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest (1983).
- **Maps:** 1770 Land in west part of Dodington and centre of Chipping Sodbury 12 inch : 1 mile; 1792 Plan and schedule of north and south fields and Common Lot - mead in the parish of Old Sodbury and Little Sodbury; Old Sodbury Tithe Map of 1839; Ordnance Survey map of 1882.
- **Documentary evidence:** Domesday survey 1086; Market charter.
- **Archaeological/historical research:** Local historical research (Couzens 1989); the archaeology of Avon (Aston & Iles 1988).

5.2 Watercourses, roads and routeways

Watercourses [Map A]

The River Frome demarcated the tail of the burgages to the north side of the town, and was clearly straightened along this part of its course. It probably followed a very similar course to that shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882. It is known to have powered several mills in the later centuries (Leech 1975: 9) and in all probability did so in the medieval period.

A smaller stream is also shown on the 1882 map, running to the south along the back of the burgages to the east of the town. The course of this stream appears to have been straightened and is likely to date to the medieval period. The watercourses that appear on *Map A* are a copy of the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

Roads [Map A]

Beresford has suggested that before the town's street plan was laid out, the road from Bristol to Chippenham ran diagonally across the site, since the existing main road through the town appears to have been turned aside from a straight course in order to bring it to level ground chosen for the market place (Beresford 1967: 156). However, it is interesting to note that post-medieval sources suggest that the main route to Cirencester may have been along Hatter's Lane, cutting across Sodbury Common to Little Sodbury. Ogilby's road map of 1675 clearly shows the preferred route following this path, and it is also mentioned in a deed of 1585 (Couzens 1989: 21).

Couzens also states that, until the late 18th century the main road from Wickwar came into the town via Brook Street; the route along Church Lane only became the main road between the towns after a bridge was built in the 1770s (Couzens 1989: 31).

Leech has suggested that the original town form was based on a grid pattern, discernible on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 (Leech 1975: 9). He states that it represents what proved to be an over ambitious plan on the part of the town's founder, William Crassus (ibid). This regular grid form was superseded by an 'L' shaped road, now Rouncival Street, High Street, Broad Street and Horse Street (ibid). Other authors have refuted this assertion (Aston personal communication).

Some of the street names date to at least 1574, including 'Runseualestrete' (Rouncival Street) and 'Horsestrete' (Horse Street) (Smith 1964: 52). Other street names are mentioned in the medieval period but do not survive today - 'Mortstreyte' is mentioned in

1336 and 'Shouting Lane' in 1574 (ibid.) - which suggests that there was some desertion of the original town area.

5.3 Commercial core

The planned town area [Map A]

The town was carved out of the rural parish of Sodbury and it had a tiny parish area. Its boundaries are shown on the 1839 Tithe Map of Old Sodbury, and together with a description of the borough boundary in 1676 (Couzens 1989: 26) which coincides exactly with the later mapped area, it seems probable that the parish area has remained unchanged since the medieval period. The original town plan may have covered this entire area, and is shown on *Map A* by the highlighted areas.

Burgage plots [Map A: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12]

The burgage plots fronting the main thoroughfare through the town along Rouncival Street, the High Street, Broad Street and Horse Street can all be easily identified today by their distinctive long, narrow shape and similar size.

The potential for the preservation of archaeological deposits is best at the tail ends of those burgages to the north of the main street [Map A: 1, 2, 3] and at the east end of the town [Map A: 4, 5], though the likelihood of waterlogged preservation is low given the height of the plots above the stream today. Some indication of the depth of stratigraphy close to the stream was given when a watching brief at 66 Horse Street revealed 2.5m of alluvial material (SMR 10375). Burgage plots can also be identified on the south side of the main street [Map A: 6, 7].

The town plots to the south of the main street burgages cannot be firmly identified with a burgage layout; however, the field boundaries shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 suggest a similar strip-like division of the land. There are references to a burgage adjoining Gaunt's Field and in Flint close as late as 1572 (Tily 1994: 102); both these areas fall at the edges of the town. The properties would have fronted Horseshoe Lane, Hound's Lane and Woodman's Road [Map A: 8, 9, 10, 11, 12]. The area is now mainly under post Second World War suburban housing and playing fields. Any redevelopment here should be preceded by excavation to determine whether or not the plots have ever been occupied.

The burgage plot areas shown on *Map A* are based on the property boundaries depicted on the digitised Ordnance Survey map of 1995. They have remained largely unchanged since the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

Market place and cross [Map A: 13, 14]

It is likely that the entire stretch of the main street was used as a market area during the medieval period. Early 20th century photographs show cattle and sheep pens ranged along the edges of Broad Street and High Street (Dowding & Couzens 1977). The focus for the market area was at the east end of Broad Street: documentary sources dating to 1370 indicate that a market cross stood here in a similar position to today (Couzens 1989: 5). The remains of the 14th century cross shaft and base have survived and have been incorporated into a War Memorial dating to 1914-18. It is now a grade II listed building (DoE 1983: 5/28).

It is not clear whether the entire market area remained open throughout the medieval period or, as suggested by Couzens, a row of houses once stretched along the middle of the street (Couzens 1989: introduction). A couple of buildings are depicted on the 1770 map of the town to the south side of the street, but without excavation of the area it

is impossible to determine their date or confirm that they originally formed part of a larger group of buildings.

The survival of such a large open area is telling in itself since the greatest resistance to encroachments in market-places were in towns where the business of the market was centred principally on animals (Beresford & Joseph 1979: 180). If indeed the market place did remain open, it may indicate that the post-medieval droving route through the town originally dated to the medieval period.

The depiction of the market place on *Map A* is based on the modern plot boundaries shown on the digitised Ordnance Survey map of 1995, since they remained unchanged from the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

Medieval guild [Map A: 15, 16]

The current town hall was built on the site of the 15th century medieval guild hall [*Map A: 15*](DoE 1983: 5/18). The building that survives today is a perpendicular style remodelled in 1858. Detailed survey work is required to assess the extent of the 19th century changes and likely survival of medieval features. The depiction of the medieval guild on *Map A* is based on the curtilage of the surviving building as shown on the digitised Ordnance Survey map of 1995.

Couzens has also stated that a second building, at 26 High Street [*Map A: 16*], was connected with the weavers' guild. This building is one of an important group of listed grade II* gabled houses with late medieval origins (DoE 1983: 5/76) and it may have housed the priests who were paid to pray at the parish church of Chipping Sodbury (Couzens 1989: 12). Further documentary work is required to corroborate this assertion, in particular a detailed search of 'The lives of the Berkeley's' (Smyth 1567-1640) may yield more information.

The depiction of the medieval guild on *Map A* is based on the curtilage of the surviving building as shown on the digitised Ordnance Survey map of 1995.

Public Houses

Chipping Sodbury was an important stopping place for travellers on the Droitwich salt route and the Bristol-Cirencester road. There are likely to have been several alehouses, taverns and inns. Evidence for one of these survives in a deed of 1439, which mentions a tenement in the high street next to 'the Great hospice': Couzens has suggested that it refers to what is now 'The George' public house (Couzens 1972: 69). Further research is required to firmly identify its location.

5.4 Religious sites and cemeteries

Chipping Sodbury Chapel of Ease [Map A: 17]

The Chapel of Ease was dedicated by the Bishop of Worcester in 1284 to St. John the Baptist (SMR 7637; DoE 1983: 5/158). The original chapel was much smaller than present church. It did not have a tower, but probably had a small bellcote or turret and was built in early English style. Some original 13th century features do still survive including the chancel arch, the font and piscina. The church was substantially rebuilt in the later medieval period and is a good example of the magnificent perpendicular style churches associated with the wool trade and medieval prosperity (Aston & Bond 1976: 107). A beautifully-carved late-medieval pulpit survives in the church (Betty 1987: 13). (Webb 1984: 4)

The churchyard was in use until 1865 when a new cemetery was constructed to the north of the church. Given the planned nature of the town, it seems highly probable that

the bounds of the churchyard shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 were the same, if not smaller, than the original medieval churchyard. The depiction of the church on *Map A* is based on the plot boundary shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882. The 1770 map of the town shows a larger area for the churchyard but the map is diagrammatic and unlikely to show the area accurately.

The chapel at Chipping Sodbury was the daughter church of Old Sodbury until 1822 (Webb 1984: 4), and some agreement must have been made to allow for burial in the churchyard at Chipping Sodbury, although no such record survives. The earliest reference to burials in the churchyard is in the Bishops Transcripts of 1607 (Gloucester Record Office). The proximity of the church to the River Frome increases the potential for waterlogged preservation of burials in the churchyard.

5.5 Industrial areas and sites

Mills [*Map A: 18, 19, 20*]

At Domesday two mills are mentioned for the parish of Old Sodbury. Chipping Sodbury was carved out of the parish area of Old Sodbury, and it is therefore not unreasonable to assume that mills were located along the stretch of the River Frome that passed through the new town. The precise location of the mills is less certain, but all three sites shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 could have had earlier medieval predecessors; these areas are shown on *Map A*.

5.6 Private estates

King's Park [*Map A: 21*]

King's Park was a medieval deer park which lay adjacent to the town of Chipping Sodbury and to the south of Sodbury Common (SMR 3339). The earliest reference to a park is in the Domesday Book. Deer poaching is mentioned in 1310 and there are several references to the park over the next two hundred years, relating mainly to its parkers and keepers. In about 1540 Leland visited Chipping Sodbury and mentioned a 'Parke of the Kyngs by this Towne'. The area continued to be known as the King's Park in 17th century indentures; two of these give the size of the park, in 1665 it is estimated at 140 acres and in 1675 it is given as 160 acres. By the 17th century, however, it is clear that it was no longer being used as a deer park but was being farmed. (Iles & Lay 1979: 11)

Field names on the Tithe Award of 1839 include several with park elements. Parks Farm stands in the centre of the former park, and still contains a medieval wing which would have been the original lodge (Harding & Lambert 1994: 8). One field was known as Fisher's Ground, and in an indenture of 1605 as Great Fishweares. However, Iles and Lay did not find any evidence on the ground or on air photographs of any fishponds in this area. The name may have simply referred to fishing in the River Frome, although the land is fairly flat and suitable for the construction of fishponds. (ibid.: 11)

The projected boundary encloses an area of pasture roughly triangular in shape bounded on the north by common land, on the south-east by a stream and on the south-west probably by the River Frome. The area was surveyed by Iles and Lay in 1979 and they found evidence for a substantial bank about 1 metre high underneath a hedge along much of the north side. The stream to the south-east side also had a hedge on either side, each one growing over a low bank. An additional low bank and ditch was found running along the inside of this boundary and more or less parallel to it. They found little evidence of a park boundary on the south-west side, and state that the park may have extended beyond the River Frome towards Chipping Sodbury, possibly along

the present Gorlands road and across the common. This area is now built up and the potential for the survival of a bank is low. (ibid.: 11; Lay 1978)

The depiction of the park on *Map A* is based on the area identified by Lay (1978).

5.7 Standing buildings

The Department of the Environment's list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest include five houses which date to the 15th century (DoE 1983: 1/1, 5/47, 5/76, 5/77, 5/82). The town is likely to have several other examples of late medieval stone and half timbered buildings which have not yet been identified.

6.0 POST-MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY (16th-18th century)

6.1 Sources of evidence

- **Field survey work:** Topographic survey of Chipping Sodbury (Leech 1975).
- **Standings buildings:** Research into Buildings in the Vale and the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire (Verey 1970); DoE list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest (1983).
- **Maps:** 1770 Land in west part of Dodington and centre of Chipping Sodbury 12 inch : 1 mile; 1792 Plan and schedule of north and south fields and Common Lot - mead in the parish of Old Sodbury and Little Sodbury; 1839 Tithe map.
- **Documentary evidence:** Court papers (Gloucestershire Record Office D2071/E); 1681 charter (quoted in Atkyns 1712: 673).
- **Archaeological/historical research:** Local historical research into parish church (Webb 1984); Local historical research into Chipping Sodbury (Couzens 1989); Study of industrial archaeology in Avon (Buchanan & Cossons 1969; Buchanan & Buchanan 1980).

6.2 Watercourses, roads and routeways

Watercourses [Map B]

The watercourses shown on *Map B* are copied from the Ordnance Survey map of 1882. The River Frome is unlikely to have significantly altered its course along the north and east edges of the town since the medieval period, and in the absence of an earlier map this is the best approximation of the river before the 19th century. In addition to the main river course, the mill ponds, sluice, mill race and weir date to at least the 18th century since documents in 1772 and 1774 mention two watercourses to the north of the town, Broad Brook and Mill Stream. Broad Brook is probably what has become known as the River Frome, and Mill Stream is likely to have been the mill race marked on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1882.

Roads [Map B]

It is clear from both the 1681 charter (quoted by Atkyns) and Rudder's account that the main road through Chipping Sodbury formed the dominant feature of the road network in the town (Atkyns 1712: 673; Rudder 1779: 671). The charter also states that the borough consisted of several streets and lanes. Some of these have since disappeared and it may be that the alleyways shown the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 were once lanes.

'Shouting Lane' is mentioned in 1574 but has since disappeared from the present town map and its location is therefore unknown (Smith 1964: 52). Couzens states that Church Houses Lane once ran down the right hand side to the Town Hall to give access to six residences for the poor at the rear (Couzens 1989: 18).

The roads to Sodbury were turnpiked early on in the 18th century. There are documentary references to an act passed in 1726 for repairing the road to and near Sodbury (Gloucestershire Record Office AP50). Two 19th century tollhouses have been recorded on roads into the town: one on the B4060 from Wickwar (SMR 2088; Buchanan & Cossons 1969: 255) and other on the A432 to Old Sodbury (SMR 2099; Buchanan & Buchanan 1980: 50). Both tollhouses are certain to have had an 18th century predecessor, however, it seems likely that a tollhouse also lay on the road out from Hatter's Lane to Little Sodbury. This road is marked on Ogilby's 1675 map as the preferred route over the Cotswold scarp to Cirencester and is also mentioned in a 1585 deed (Couzens 1989: 21). It was still shown as a road on the Ordnance Survey map of 1908, but it survives today as a footpath across Sodbury Common. Field survey work is

required along this route to check for features associated with the road such as an additional tollhouse.

Bridges [*Map B: 1*]

Roads entering the town from the north were forced to cross the River Frome. The survival of a ford at the end of Hatter's Lane in the 20th century indicates that this was the likely means of crossing the river at this point and suggests that the other roads from the north were likely to have also avoided areas of the river where there were deep channels.

The earliest evidence for a bridge over the river was in 1772 and 1774 when documents relate to payment for a bridge over Broad Brook and Mill Stream (Couzens 1989: 31). This brought the main road from Wickwar into the town via Church Lane instead of over the Ridings and down into Brook Street (*ibid.*). The bridge is a good example of social change after the Reformation, when wealthy people put money into civic projects rather than the church (Aston & Bond 1976: 121). The bridge has not been surveyed and it is not known how much of the original structure survives. It is depicted on *Map B* on the basis of the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

6.3 Commercial core

Urban area [*Map B*]

The urban area shown on *Map B* is restricted to the burgages fronting the main thoroughfare through the town, as shown on the digital Ordnance Survey map of 1995 and largely unchanged from the Ordnance Survey map of 1882. Categorical evidence of its linear form does not occur until the 18th century, with Rudder's description of the town (Rudder 1779: 671) and the Dodington estate map of 1770.

Evidence exists in the post-medieval period for the use of smaller buildings at the back of the burgages as houses. These smaller tenements were reached by a side or central passage and often formed three sides of a square. They may have housed the more transitory members of the town, such as drovers and waggoners, or been used as small industrial units. (Couzens 1989: 37)

References to tenements appear in the documentary records for the town, including 'Shop voc le Shitesforge in le garret' in 1574 and 'Brown's Shambles' in 1688 (Smith 1964: 52). Although the plan form of these buildings is distinctive, later constructions have made it difficult to positively identify them without a detailed ground survey. Couzens has referred to tenements at the rear of 64 Broad Street and at the rear of the Swan Inn (Couzens 1989: 37), but further survey work is required.

Market place and cross [*Map B: 2, 3, 4*]

As in the medieval period, the market area extended along the main street [*Map B: 2*]. The eventual decline of the market in the post-medieval period may have led to a smaller area being used. In addition to the cattle and sheep pens used ranged along the edges of Broad Street and High Street, as depicted in an early 20th century photograph (Dowding & Couzens 1977), there would have also been stalls along the market street. Court papers record fees paid for stalls at a fair in 1653 (Gloucestershire Record Office D2071/E).

It is clear from the 1770 map of the town that there were also some permanent buildings along the middle of the street; two buildings are shown to the south side of Broad Street [*Map B: 3, 4*]. Couzens has suggested that they formed part of a row of houses, but without excavation of the area it is impossible confirm this assertion. The survival of

such a large open area is telling in itself since the greatest resistance to encroachments in market-places were in towns where the business of the market was centred principally on animals (Beresford & Joseph 1979: 180). The location of Chipping Sodbury on a major droving route through the west country increases the likelihood of an important trade in cattle and sheep.

Pressure on space in the High Street may have prompted the removal of the market cross in 1772; the cross was moved from the High Street to an orchard over the brook near Trotman's Mill (Pooley 1868: 14). More probably it was linked to a down turn in the sale of produce from small holdings. The cross was usually the part of market and fairs where small producers, often women, sold eggs and other goods produced on a small scale.

The guild hall [Map B: 5]

The current town hall is known to have been built on the site of the 15th century medieval guild hall, and the listing description gives the impression that no major rebuilding occurred until the late 19th century when it was made into the town hall (DoE 1983; 5/18). Court papers of 1610 record it as the Guild House or Church House (Gloucestershire Record Office D2071/E), but further research is required to elucidate the role of the hall in the 17th and 18th centuries. The depiction of the guild hall on *Map B* is based on the curtilage of the surviving building as shown on the digitised Ordnance Survey map of 1995.

Public houses [Map B: 6-11]

The alehouses, taverns and inns would have been important public places in the town, since it was frequented by many travellers on the Bristol-Cirencester road. The poor rate valuation of 1727 listed twelve inns (Couzens 1989: 30), which is double the existing number of pubs in the same part of the town today. Those which can still be identified in the town have been marked on *Map B*, on the basis of the plot boundaries shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

Those which could not be identified included the two pubs probably along Horse Street called 'The White Hart' and 'The Portcullis', 'The Hat and Feather' on Horseshoe Lane which is now a private House and two other pubs for which there is no address: 'The Rose and Crown' and 'The Star'. Further documentary research is required to identify the location of these public houses.

6.4 Religious sites and cemeteries

Chipping Sodbury Chapel of Ease [Map B: 12]

It is not known if there were many post-medieval alterations to the church, since work by G.E. Street in 1869 obliterated any traces: the surviving church is predominantly perpendicular in style (Verey 1970: 155). The burial ground was used throughout the post-medieval period and the proximity of the church to the River Frome increases the potential for waterlogged preservation of burials in the churchyard. The registers for the church date from 1661 (Robinson 1914: 57).

The depiction of the church on *Map B* is based on the plot boundary shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

Friends Meeting House [Map B: 13]

Documentary records in 1870 record the purchase of a meeting house and burial ground in 1692 'down a lane on the north side of Brook Street Hill' (Stock 1996). The Meeting House was purchased and converted to a Jehovah Witness Church in 1970,

but by 1988 had been sold for conversion to a private dwelling (Stanbrook & Powney 1989). The plot area which surrounds the Meeting House is first depicted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1882 and its boundaries survive intact today: this is assumed to be the area of the burial ground shown on *Map B* (Stock 1996).

A house was built on the southern end of the plot in 1976/7 and a note in the planning application file mentions the discovery of a number of fragments of bone and skull. A brick-lined grave with capping stones containing human bones was uncovered during foundation work in the south-east corner of the site (N1566/Ap: microfiche 53651). A pile of tombstones at the lower (north) end of the plot were also noted; the latest date observed was 1920. (Stock 1996)

Stock made an assessment of the burial ground in 1996 and states that it is now used as a garden. Some of the memorial stones still survive, though not in their original position. No further human remains have been disturbed and they are not under threat. (Stock 1996)

Chipping Sodbury Baptist Chapel [Map B: 14]

The Baptist Chapel on Hounds Lane was established in 1708 and re-built in 1821. In 1971 it was converted to a Church Centre and the gallery was removed and a first storey floor inserted. The burial ground, which has over 60 surviving memorials, was extended in 1860 and 1930. (Stanbrook & Powney 1989)

The chapel is a grade II listed building (DoE 1983: 5/114). The survival of the burial ground is not known and field survey work is urgently required. Documents for the church survive for the period 1708-1990 (Gloucestershire Record Office D6717). The chapel and burial ground have been depicted on *Map B* on the basis of the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

6.5 Industrial areas and sites

Old quarry works

It is clear from the accounts of both Atkyns and Rudder that there was a considerable quarrying industry in the town. It is not known which of the quarries shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 are likely to have been used before the 19th century, but the most likely candidate is 'Old Quarry' to the south of the town. Evidence for early quarrying activity is very unlikely to survive and therefore no areas have been depicted on *Map B*.

Mills [Map B: 15, 16, 17]

There are three mills shown on the Ordnance survey map of 1882 and they are all probably sites of earlier mills, as shown on *Map B* (SMR 2915, 5785, 10237). In 1975 Leech described one as being demolished, but not yet built over, and the other two as originally 17th century mills (Leech 1975: 9). A full ground survey is required to assess the survival of these structures.

Pounds [Map B: 18, 19]

A small square piece of land is labelled on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 as a pound, as shown on *Map B*. Today the house on this plot of land is called Chestnut Pound [Map B: 18]. Given the importance of cattle and sheep droving in the town, it seems highly probable that it dates to the post-medieval period. Webb described it as a high walled square piece of land on the east side of Boot Inn (Webb 1984: 26). Further field survey work is required corroborate this assertion.

A second pound probably lay opposite Colt's Green on the road to Old Sodbury [*Map B: 19*](SMR 3113). The house at this site is still known as Pound Cottage. A small square piece of rectangular ground is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1924 and the depiction of the pound on *Map B* is based on this area.

6.6 Private estates

King's Park [*Map B: 20*]

Although King's Park continues to be mentioned in records in the 16th and 17th centuries, it is clear that by the 17th century it was no longer being used as a deer park but was being farmed (SMR 3339). (Iles & Lay 1979: 11)

The depiction of the park on *Map B* is based on the area identified by Lay (1978).

6.7 Standing buildings

The Department of the Environment's list of buildings of historic or architectural interest include almost one hundred buildings dating to the 17th and 18th centuries. A detailed buildings survey of the town would undoubtedly reveal many more examples of buildings of local importance and where earlier cores have been incorporated into later houses.

7.0 EARLY MODERN (19th century)

7.1 Sources of evidence

- **Field survey work:** Topographic survey of Chipping Sodbury (Leech 1975).
- **Standings buildings:** Research into buildings in the Vale and the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire (Verey 1970); DoE list of buildings of historic or architectural interest (1983).
- **Maps:** Ordnance Survey map of 1882.
- **Documentary evidence:** Kelly's directory 1842.
- **Archaeological/historical research:** Research into railways in Avon (Oakley 1986); research by local historians (Webb 1984; Couzens 1989).

7.2 Watercourses, roads and railways

Watercourses [*Map C*]

The watercourses shown on *Map C* are copied from the Ordnance Survey map of 1882. Many of the water features shown on this map such as the mill pond, the sluice, weir and mill race do not survive in use today. They still appear on the 1924 map of the town, but were gradually filled in or diverted after this date. Despite this, the plan form of the town today still respects some of the older channels, as shown on *Map C*. No evidence remains of the stream to the east of the town above ground today, although it a watching brief at 66 Horse Street revealed two and half metres of alluvial material. A water management scheme must have been implemented sometime after 1924: the stream was still depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1924.

Roads

The road network remained largely unchanged in the 19th century; the main thoroughfare through the town formerly known as the High Street was renamed High Street and Broad Street around 1800 (Couzens 1989: introduction).

Railways

Yate Railway Station was opened in 1844 on the newly constructed Bristol to Gloucester railway. Transport between the station and Chipping Sodbury was provided by a horse-drawn bus. Chipping Sodbury did not have its own station until the 20th century.

Water supply

Most houses had their own wells in the 19th century and there were also public pumps in the High Street, Horse Street, The Parade and in Rounceval Street (Webb 1984: 22). No remains of the pumps are known to survive today, but an undated survey was made of a pump and well outside 58 Horse Street (South Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record: Sodbury parish file). A sketch indicated that the well was deep and had cast iron supports; a piece of a wooden well cover was also recovered.

7.3 Commercial core

Town plots [*Map C*]

The extent of the town shown on *Map C* is taken from the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

Market place and cross [*Map C: 1, 2*]

Two photographs taken in the early 20th century, one of a sheep market (1909) and the other of a cattle market (1925) show the pens in a distinctive position along the southern side of Broad Street (Dowding & Couzens 1977: 59, 66). It is likely that a similar pattern was observed in the 19th century; the width of the main street allowed both a market

and the passage of traffic through the town. No buildings are shown along the middle of the street on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

The market cross was moved to the garden belonging to the Catholic chapel in 1862 to allow more traffic to pass through the corner at the east end of the main street (Pooley 1868: 14). It appears to have remained in this position until it was restored in the 20th century.

The depiction of the market place on *Map C* is based on the modern plot boundaries shown on the digitised Ordnance Survey map of 1995, since they remained unchanged from the Ordnance Survey map of 1882. It is depicted on *Map C* on the basis of the existing building at 41 High Street.

Public Houses [*Map C: 3-9*]

Six public houses are marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882; they are marked on *Map C*. In addition to these 'The Bell Inn' was shown on an earlier map of 1820 on the north side of High Street, south of the churchyard [*Map C: 9*].

7.4 Civic buildings

The guild hall [*Map C: 10*]

The current town hall was remodelled in 1858, and survives intact today (DoE 1983; 5/18). The depiction of the guild hall on *Map C* is based on the curtilage of the surviving building as shown on the digitised Ordnance Survey map of 1995.

The clock tower [*Map C: 11*]

The town clock was erected as a memorial to Colonel George William Blathwayt who died in 1871, and it survives intact today. The area shown on *Map C* is based on the digitised Ordnance survey map of 1995.

Schools [*Map C: 12, 13*]

Two schools are shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882: a School for Boys and Girls on Hatter's Lane, and a School on the south side of the High Street. The original buildings for both schools, as shown in the 1882 map, appear to survive today. The depiction of the schools on *Map C* is based on the plot boundaries for the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

The school on Hatter's Lane was expanded in the early years of the 20th century, since the building shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1921 is larger than that shown on the 1882 map; today the building is no longer used as a school, and appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1995 as a hall.

The school on the south side of the High Street has been incorporated into the modern St. John's Church of England School. The original school building appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1995 as a Library, presumably attached to the modern school.

7.5 Religious sites and cemeteries

St. John the Baptist parish church [*Map C: 14, 15*]

The church at Chipping Sodbury became a separate ecclesiastical parish from its former mother church at Old Sodbury in 1822 (Webb 1984: 4). Pressure on space in the churchyard resulted in a new cemetery of one acre being created to the north of the church, and it was consecrated in 1865 (Kelly's Directory 1879). The church was substantially restored in 1869 by G.E. Street (DoE 1983: 5/158).

The depiction of the church on *Map C* is based on the plot boundary shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

Friends Meeting House [Map C: 16]

The meeting house continued in use throughout the 19th century and documentary records survive from 1870 (Stock 1996). An extension was added at right angles to the original 17th century building, but it remains undated. The Meeting House was purchased and converted to a Jehovah Witness Church in 1970, but by 1988 had been sold for conversion to a private dwelling. (Stanbrook & Powney 1989)

The plot area which surrounds the Meeting House is first depicted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1882 and its boundaries survive intact today: this is the area of the burial ground as shown on *Map C* (Stock 1996). A house was built on the southern end of the plot in 1976/7 and note in the planning application file mentions the discovery of a number of fragments of bone and skull, and a brick-lined grave with capping stones containing human bones, during foundation work in the south-east corner of the site (N1566/Ap: microfiche 53651). A pile of tombstones at the lower (north) end of the plot were also noted; the latest date observed was 1920. (Stock 1996)

Stock made an assessment of the burial ground in 1996 and states that it is now used as a garden. Some of the memorial stones still survive, though not in their original position. No further human remains have been disturbed and they are not under threat. (Stock 1996)

Chipping Sodbury Baptist Chapel [Map C: 17]

The original 18th century Baptist Chapel on Hounds Lane continued in use until 1821, when a new Baptist Chapel was built. In 1971 it was converted to a Church Centre and the gallery was removed and a first storey floor inserted. The burial ground, which has over 60 surviving memorials, was extended in 1860 and 1930. (Stanbrook & Powney 1989)

The survival of the burial ground is not known and field survey work is urgently required. The chapel has been depicted on *Map C* on the basis of the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

The Baptist Church Hall [Map C: 18]

A church hall was built for the Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church in 1886 on a town plot fronting the High Street. The plot ran back to abut the Baptist Chapel burial ground and is first shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1908; this map is the basis for the depiction of the church hall on *Map C*. In 1965 it was converted to a church. (Stanbrook & Powney 1989)

Presbytery Catholic Church [Map C: 19]

The Catholic Chapel of St. Lawrence was consecrated in 1838 (Couzens 1989: 40). It is depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882, although a burial ground is not identified and no open piece of ground is obviously associated to the building. It is not known if the building fronting the High Street is part of the chapel; this building is listed (DoE 1983: 5/23). The plot area of the Catholic Church marked on *Map C* is based on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

7.6 Extractive industrial areas and sites

Old quarry works [Map C]

A number of quarry areas are marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 along both the northern and southern edges of the town; these areas have been reproduced on *Map C*. The largest quarry was to the north of the town on the Wickwar road. The two largest quarries each had an associated lime kiln. No remains are known to survive.

7.7 Non-extractive industrial areas and sites

Mills [Map C: 20, 21, 22]

There are three mills shown on the Ordnance survey map of 1882 (SMR 2915, 5785, 10237). In 1975 Leech described one as being demolished, but not yet built over, and the other two as originally 17th century mills (Leech 1975: 9). The depiction of the mills on *Map C* is based on the plot boundaries associated with the buildings marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

Nicholl's Mill or Cow Mill is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 and 1921 (SMR 2915). The mill survived the Second World War and in 1946 was reopened using water-power and electricity. The wheel was still being used in 1950, but by 1964 hydraulic power had been abandoned and electric power only was used. Ward made a survey of the mill in 1978 and noted that although the mill pond was virtually dry its position was obvious. (Ward 1978: 32)

The Old Mill was located off Brook Street and it is described in the South Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record as Trotman's Mill (SMR 5785). Its name may suggest a connection with the family of Edward Trotman who lived at Spring Mill, just above Chalford on the River Stroud-Frome between 1830 and 1840. The mill may have been a fulling mill, processing local wool using the local supply of fullers' earth and water from the river, which was relatively clean at this point. The mill was still at work in 1950, but sometime after this the area was cleared to allow the construction of houses. The weir was demolished at about the same time and the leat made into a garden. (Ward 1978: 32)

The third mill identified by Leech is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 as a plot of land and building adjacent to the River Frome, however, it is not labelled as a mill (SMR 10237). The area continues to appear on subsequent Ordnance Survey maps as an industrial area associated with the river. However, on the Ordnance Survey map of 1995 the river channel had been filled in, and the buildings that survive today are some distance from the river. Further research is required to trace the history of the mill and to assess the surviving buildings. The potential for waterlogged preservation is high in the former river channel.

Town pounds [Map C: 23, 24]

A small square piece of land is labelled on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 as a pound, as shown on *Map C*. Today the house on this plot of land is called Chestnut Pound. Webb described it as a high walled square piece of land on the east side of Boot Inn (Webb 1984: 26). Further field survey work is required corroborate this assertion.

A second pound probably lay opposite Colt's Green on the road to Old Sodbury (SMR 3113). The house at this site is still known as Pound Cottage. A small square piece of rectangular ground is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1924 and the depiction of the pound on *Map C* is based on this area.

Withy Bed [*Map C: 25*]

Osiers were cut from an enclosed patch of swampy ground between Chipping Sodbury Common and the River Frome; they were used to make baskets. The area of ground is still known as 'The Withy Bed' (Webb 1984: 18) and is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1908 (reproduced on *Map C*). It is possible that waterlogged deposits in this area contain environmental evidence that points to cultivation spanning hundreds of years.

7.8 Standing buildings

There are just over 20 listings for 19th century buildings, although many older buildings were altered in the 19th century. This small number is partly a reflection of a listing bias in favour of older buildings, but it also indicates the decreased fortunes of the town.

8.0 20TH CENTURY MODERN DEVELOPMENT

8.1 Sources of evidence

- **Below ground intervention:** Evaluation at 24 Horse Street (SMR 9395)
- Watching brief at 66 Horse Street (SMR 10375).
- **Field survey work:** Topographic survey of Chipping Sodbury (Leech 1975).
- **Standings buildings:** Research into Buildings in the Vale and the Forest of Dean, Gloucestershire (Verey 1970); DoE list of buildings of historic or architectural interest (1983).
- **Maps:** Ordnance Survey maps (1921, 1951, 1964, 1971, 1995).
- **Aerial photographs:** Aerial photographs of town (1964, 1970); ADAS 1982 Film 83115, 83114; ADAS 1991 Film 56, 57, 58, 59, 243, 244, 245, 246, 247, 248.
- **Archaeological/historical research:** Local historical research (Webb 1984); Local historical research (Couzens 1989); Research into Railways in Avon (Oakley 1986).

8.2 Watercourses, roads and routeways

Watercourses

Comparison between 20th century Ordnance Survey maps shows that the River Frome to the north and east of Chipping Sodbury was straightened between 1964 and 1971. Other features associated with the old water routes also disappeared at this time: the mill pond is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1971 as an area of marshy ground, and the watercourse diverted to pass the mill to the north-east of the town no longer appears on the 1971 map. The small tributary that ran along the backs of the burgages on the east side of the town continues to appear on the Ordnance Survey map of 1921, but by 1964 it is no longer depicted on the map of the town.

Roads [Map D]

Until the early 20th century Back Lane (Gorlands Road), Molly Jones' Lane (Cotswold Road) and the present Culverhill Road were muddy cart tracks, frequently impassable in winter. It was after these tracks were upgraded in the 1920s that dwellings began to be built along them (Webb 1984: 26).

Although the original thoroughfare through the town was wide and therefore reasonably well suited to increasing traffic levels in the second half of the 20th century, traffic pressure eventually resulted in both new road construction and the demolition of some buildings to allow road widening. An end burgage was demolished on the east side of Wickwar Road to improve access for lorries travelling from the quarries to the north of the town.

A by-pass was built to the south of Chipping Sodbury in the late 1960s, by widening Cotswold Road and constructing a new road (Kennedy Way) to the south-east of the town. This road prompted large new housing developments to the south and east of the town, as Chipping Sodbury rapidly expanded to abut the neighbouring parish of Yate.

The road network grew substantially throughout the century, largely serving the new housing estates on the fringe of the original town area, and comprising cul-de-sac and access roads. They infringed the post-medieval urban area in two areas: Leaman Close off the present Culverhill Road (first depicted on an Ordnance Survey map of 1971) and Melbourne Drive on an area of burgages to the east of the town (first depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1971, with an extension which appears on an aerial photograph of 1991).

Railways [*Map D: 1*]

The railways did not reach Chipping Sodbury until the early years of the 20th century, when the Great Western Railway built a main line route from South Wales to London. The line was completed in 1903 and Chipping Sodbury Station was opened in the same year. It was the busiest station on the stretch called the Wootton Bassett-Patchway line or Badminton line, and was located half a mile from the town. A station master's house and 12 houses for other staff were built in 1904. (Oakley 1986: 26; Robertson & Abbot 1988: 121)

Stone traffic was largely responsible for the success of the station, and the yard facilities were extended during the 1920s. Goods facilities included a large brick goods shed with office, cattle pens, weighbridge and a six ton yard crane. A mileage siding could accommodate 18 wagons. Facilities needed because of amount of stone traffic using the station (Robertson & Abbot 1988: 117).

The station was closed to passengers in 1961 and freight in 1966. The station was still marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1995 as a disused station. The railway line is still in use.

8.3 Redevelopment within the town centre [*Map D: 2, 3, 4, 5*]

The historic centre of Chipping Sodbury has not been subject to any major redevelopment, although some damaging changes did occur in the 1960s and 1970s. One original burgage area is known to have been destroyed when Wickwar road was widened in the 1960s (as described above): an aerial photograph taken in 1964 shows a house on the corner of Wickwar Street, which does not appear on a later aerial photograph taken in 1970 [*Map D: 2*].

Comparison between these two photographs also shows that the burgages to the east of Horse Street were shortened by an access road. This resulted in the construction of a small estate of houses along Melbourne Drive for which no archaeological evaluation was carried out [*Map D: 3*]. The destruction of part of these burgage plots probably destroyed much of the archaeology in this area, some of which was likely to have been waterlogged due to their proximity to a stream.

Kynance House was built to the rear of 6 High Street some time between 1921 and 1964 (it is first depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1964); no archaeological evaluation was conducted before its construction [*Map D: 4*].

A large area of back burgage plots was destroyed when Cotswold Court was constructed; this building is not marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1971, but appears on an aerial photograph taken in 1991 [*Map D: 5*]. No archaeological evaluation was conducted before the construction of this building.

8.4 Settlement growth [*Map D: 6, 7*]

The Ordnance Survey maps of 1921, 1951, 1964, 1971 and 1995 give a reasonably good picture of the settlement growth in Chipping Sodbury. The phases of settlement growth are shown on *Map D*.

Major settlement growth did not occur in Chipping Sodbury until after 1921; the Ordnance Survey maps of 1951 and 1964 show large new housing estates built on the southern and eastern outskirts of the town. In his account of the town Couzens states that two of these estates, Blanchards and Gaunt's Field [*Map D: 6, 7*], were constructed after World War I by the local council (Couzens 1989: 58).

The construction of the by-pass road to the south of the town prompted further settlement growth along side it, and large new areas of semi-detached houses are depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1971. After this date the majority of new housing was built on the eastern edge of the town, along St. John's Way; these predominantly detached houses are depicted on the Ordnance Survey map of 1991.

8.5 Civic buildings

Boys and Girls School [Map D: 8]

The 19th century school on Hatter's Lane continued to be marked as a school on the Ordnance Survey maps of 1921 and 1964; however, by 1971 the building is marked as a church hall. The building survives today and is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1995 as a hall.

St. John's Church of England School [Map D: 9]

The school on the south side of the High Street was grown substantially in size during the 20th century. The school area shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1951 includes the backs of several burgages and an additional area to the south.

Chipping Sodbury School [Map D: 10]

A grammar school was built on the southern edge of the town in 1938, close to the site of the old rubbish tip for the town (Webb 1984: 22). There have been various additions to the original school building, but the plot occupied by the school has remained unchanged since its foundation. It is now known as Chipping Sodbury School.

Painters Mead Infants School [Map D: 11]

The Painters Mead Infants School was built immediately adjacent to St. John's Church of England School between 1971 and 1995 (it first appears on the Ordnance Survey map of 1995).

8.6 Religious sites and cemeteries

St. John the Baptist parish church [Map D: 12, 13, 14]

No major remodelling of the church occurred in the 20th century (DoE 1983: 5/158). In 1955 Chipping Sodbury and Old Sodbury were once again united under one vicar, now resident at Chipping Sodbury (Webb 1984: 4). The burial ground to the north of the church was extended southwards at some point between 1921 and 1964.

Friends Meeting House [Map D: 15]

The Meeting House was purchased and converted to a Jehovah Witness Church in 1970, but by 1988 had been sold for conversion to a private dwelling (Stanbrook & Powney 1989). The plot area which surrounds the Meeting House is first depicted on the Ordnance Survey Map of 1882 and its boundaries survive intact today: this is the area of the burial ground (Stock 1996).

A house was built on the southern end of the plot in 1976/7 and note in the planning application file mentions the discovery of a number of fragments of bone and skull, and a brick-lined grave with capping stones containing human bones, during foundation work in the south-east corner of the site (N1566/Ap: microfiche 53651). A pile of tombstones at the lower (north) end of the plot were also noted; the latest date observed was 1920. (Stock 1996)

Stock made an assessment of the burial ground in 1996 and states that it is now used as a garden. Some of the memorial stones still survive, though not in their original

position. No further human remains have been disturbed and they are not under threat. (Stock 1996)

Chipping Sodbury Baptist Church [Map D: 16, 17, 18]

The 19th century Baptist Chapel on Hounds Lane continued in use until 1971 when it was converted to a Church Centre and the gallery was removed and a first storey floor inserted. The burial ground, which has over 60 surviving memorials, was extended in 1860 and 1930, and still survives intact today. (Stanbrook & Powney 1989)

The 19th century Baptist Church, which was built on a plot fronting the High Street, continued in use throughout the 20th century. An extension at the back of the church must have constructed between 1971 and 1991, since it does not appear on the Ordnance Survey map of 1971 but can be observed on an aerial photograph of 1991. It is probable that the church extension overlaid part of the 20th century burial ground, and it is possible that some human remains were moved or destroyed during its construction. The site lies within an important medieval burgage plot area in the centre of the town. No archaeological evaluation was made prior to building work, and no record has been found in the Sites and Monuments Record regarding the site.

Presbytery Catholic Church [Map D: 19]

The Catholic Chapel of St. Lawrence continued to be used throughout the 20th century. A burial ground has not identified and no open piece of ground is obviously associated to the building. The chapel building is marked on *Map D*.

8.7 Defensive structures

Second World War features

A German prisoner of war camp was sited on the west side of the town at the bottom of the Bowling Hill, where part of the Elms Estate now stands (Webb 1984: 25; Couzens 1989: 56/7). The site could not be accurately located on the ground, and therefore it has not been shown on *Map D*.

8.8 Extractive industrial areas and sites

Quarry works

The quarry works to the north of Chipping Sodbury continued to grow throughout the 20th century. Aerial photographs of the town in the 1960s and 1970s show large areas of land to the north of the River Frome being quarried. On aerial photographs taken in 1991 the quarrying had shifted further north and some of the old quarries were converted into water areas. The quarried areas are shown on *Map D*, and include all sites marked on the Ordnance Survey maps of the 20th century; little archaeology is likely to survive in these areas.

8.9 Non-extractive industrial areas and sites

Mills [Map D: 20, 21, 22]

The three 19th century mills identified above survived into the 20th century (SMR 2915, 5785, 10237) one of which, Cow Mill, is still part of an industrial complex today (SMR 2915). Originally it was called Nicholl's Mill, but by 1921 it is marked on the Ordnance Survey map as Cow Mill [Map D: 20](SMR 2915). The mill survived the Second World War and in 1946 was reopened using water-power and electricity. The overshot wheel was still being used in 1950, but by 1964 hydraulic power had been abandoned and electric power only was used. Ward made a survey of the mill in 1978 and noted that although the mill pond was virtually dry its position was obvious (Ward 1978: 32). In

1987 the old mill had been incorporated into a modern industrialised complex producing cattle feed (Day 1987). CHECK CONDITION TODAY

The Old Mill was located off Brook Street and it is described in the Sites and Monuments Record as Trotman's Mill [*Map D: 21*](SMR 5785). The mill was still at work in 1950, but sometime after this the area was cleared to allow the construction of houses. The weir was demolished at about the same time and the leat made into a garden. (Ward 1978: 32)

The third mill was identified by Leech, and is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 as a plot of land and building adjacent to the River Frome, however, it is not labelled as mill [*Map D: 22*](SMR 10237). The area continues to appear on subsequent Ordnance Survey maps as an industrial area associated with the river. However, on the Ordnance Survey map of 1971 the river channel had been filled in, and the buildings that survive today are some distance from the river. Further research is required to trace the history of the mill and to assess the surviving buildings. The potential for waterlogged preservation is high in the former river channel

8.10 Leisure amenities

Cinemas [*Map D: 23, 24*]

The first cinema in Chipping Sodbury is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1921 to the rear of 58 Broad Street; it was called Penglaze's cinema and was built after the World War 1 along with a garage on the site (Webb 1984: 16). It was no longer marked as a cinema on the 1964 map, but appears to have been incorporated into a garage. The building appears to survive on the Ordnance Survey map of 1995, but further survey work is required to check for surviving features.

A second cinema was marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1951 further south on Hounds Road; unfortunately it is difficult to establish the building to which the label refers and therefore only the approximate plot of land can be identified on *Map D*. Further research is needed into the exact location of the cinema and its possible survival.

9.0 RESEARCH INTERESTS

9.1 Research interests

1. The following documentary sources need to be systematically trawled for relevant material: national surveys; national fiscal records e.g. taxation assessments; local fiscal records e.g. surveys, grants; local government records e.g. charters, court rolls etc.; ecclesiastical records especially diocesan and parish records; private records e.g. probate records, deeds etc. and contemporary biographies.
2. Documentary research should allow the number of burgesses to be charted more accurately for the medieval period.
3. Documentary research of church records might reveal the granting of burial rights to the church at Chipping Sodbury.
4. More research is required into the cloth industry in the town. In particular a survey of likely surviving features, including the mill leats, ponds and races would be very useful. Any former water channels have a higher potential for waterlogged preservation of archaeological deposits.
5. Ground survey work is required to check the location and survival of a Coach House on the Parade, Rounceval Street. A photograph of the building is held in the South Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record and it shows the house to the south-west of the church, behind a high wall separating it from Rounceval Street; the photograph is not referenced.
6. Many roads converged on Chipping Sodbury and a better understanding of the wider landscape pattern will undoubtedly shed a valuable light on the development of the town.
7. Further research is needed into the siting of public wells. They were important points of public congregation and it is possible that there is a correlation between their location and better buildings: the presence of people coming and going for water may have influenced traffic to nearby shops and therefore their value as properties (Schofield 1994: 53).

9.2 Recommendations for further research work

1. Compile a summary of all documentary sources for the town.
2. Conduct a detailed buildings survey. There are likely to be more examples of medieval features usually existing as a core to later buildings. There may also be elements of 17th and 18th century houses surviving as a core to later 19th century buildings; the work on post-medieval building structures may also reveal examples of back tenement plan forms.
3. Conduct a cellar survey.
4. Prepare a detailed contour survey of the town.
5. Build up a detailed deposit model for the town, to determine the depth and preservation potential in different areas of the town.
6. Complete a comprehensive trawl of Bristol City Museum archives to check for finds and sites which have not been published and are not included in the Sites and Monuments Record.

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10.3 Aerial photographs

c.1964	Oblique photograph of main high street, Chipping Sodbury ST 7282/1
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10.4 Archaeological evaluations

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