



Gloucestershire

COUNTY COUNCIL

Sites & Monuments Record

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY

FOREST OF DEAN DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS

LYDNEY

ANTONIA DOUTHWAITE AND VINCE DEVINE
GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL ARCHAEOLOGY SERVICE
ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
SHIRE HALL
GLOUCESTER
GL1 2TH
1998

TEXT & MAPS UPDATED MATTHEW TILLEY 2007



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A note about the maps

The SMR maps in the original Historic Towns Survey (i.e Maps 16-19) are now out of date and have not been included within this revision although references to SMR numbers remain in the text. For up to date SMR information readers can contact the SMR on 01452 425705 or via email at archaeology.smr@gloucestershire.gov.uk. The other maps have been refreshed using current software and retain their original numbering as referred to in the text.

Original description of SMR maps

SMR maps: these maps show a selection of sites relevant to the discussion of the development of each town. The maps are not intended to provide a comprehensive gazetteer of all recorded archaeological sites in the settlements, and should therefore be only be used in the context for which they were produced. For further information about the archaeology of any area, the Sites and Monument Record should be consulted directly.

Plan component maps: these maps are intended to indicate the most likely areas of settlement in each town during the Medieval and Post-medieval periods, on the basis of present archaeological knowledge. They should not, however, be regarded as definitive, and the interpretations made will require revision as new evidence emerges from future work.



ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS USED IN THE TEXT

Anon	Anonymous
c.	circa
C	Century [e.g. C12]
EH	English Heritage
GSIA	Gloucestershire Society for Industrial Archaeology
km	kilometres
m	metres
n.d.	Undated
O.D.	Ordnance Datum
O.S.	Ordnance Survey
PCNFC	Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalists Field Club
RCHME	Royal Commission on Historical Monuments (England)
SMR	Sites and Monuments Record
SMR 12345	An SMR site which is shown on the accompanying maps
SMR 12345	An SMR site which is not shown on the accompanying maps
TBGAS	Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society
TRE	Tempus Rex Edwardus (i.e. during the reign of king Edward the Confessor)

PERIODS REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT

Palaeolithic	500,000 B.C. – 10,000 B.C.
Mesolithic	10,000 B.C. – 4,000 B.C.
Neolithic	4,000 B.C. – 2,200 B.C.
Bronze Age	2,200 B.C. – 700 B.C.
Iron Age	700 B.C. – A.D. 43
Roman	A.D. 43 – 410
Early Medieval	410-1066
Medieval	1066 – 1540
Post Medieval	1540 – 1901
Modern	1901 – present

POPULATION FIGURES

The text for each town considered in the GHTS includes a section about the historic population of the parish in which the settlement lies. This information has been drawn from a variety of sources, mainly taxation returns, ecclesiastical returns and what can generally be referred to as censuses. The nature of these sources often makes it unclear what area was included within the survey, and in many cases suburban developments were excluded from the figures. It is also important to note that the accuracy of the information available is variable, and relates to a society which was not accustomed to the same degree of numerical accuracy demanded today. Some enumerations were the result of antiquarian interest in the growth of settlements and were included within descriptions of the nature of the town, as is the case with the figures given by Atkyns (1712) and Rudder (1779). Other population surveys were required by the ecclesiastical authorities, and in the case of Gloucestershire, there were a number of such surveys in 1563, 1603, 1650 and 1676. The 1563, 1603 and 1676 surveys were intended to indicate the number of communicants, papists and nonconformists in the parish. As the surveys were undertaken by the local clergy, there may well have been a temptation to play down levels of nonconformity. The 1650 survey was intended to give an indication of levels of pluralism, as well as to indicate the general size of the communities served.

The figures recorded in these surveys could be for communicants (i.e. anyone over the age of 16), men and women over 16, men, women and children, men over sixteen only, householders, households or families. In the case of Gloucestershire the figures generally relate to households, families and communicants. In order to gain a better indication of the true size of the population of a parish, calculations need to be made to convert communicants and households into men, women and children of all ages. It has generally been accepted that to convert households into individuals the given figure should be



multiplied by 4.25, while to add children under 16 to the number of communicants the figure should be multiplied by 1.5, based on the assumption that children made up approximately 33% of the general population.

It is possible to view the figures arrived at by these means as simplistic but it has been shown that they generally fit quite well with data from other seventeenth century sources (see Whiteman A (ed.) 1986, *The Compton Census of 1676*, for a full discussion of the issues). It is not intended that the figures given in the following text should be seen as correct values, but it is hoped that the information will provide an approximate indication of the order of size of the parish at a time when there were few other sources of information available.



THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY

town *n.* **1.** a densely populated urban area, typically smaller than a city and larger than a village. **2.** a city, borough or other urban area.

urban *adj.* **1.** of, relating to, or constituting a city or town. **2.** living in a city or town. ~ Cf. **rural.**

1 Introduction

The Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey was undertaken between 1995 and 1998 by Antonia Douthwaite and Vince Devine of the Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service and was funded by English Heritage as part of a national programme of county-based extensive urban surveys of small towns in England. All of the 37 settlements included in the survey once had, or have now, some urban characteristics, and range in date and type from the Roman towns of the Cotswolds through to the Post-medieval industrial settlements of the Forest of Dean and Stroud valleys (Table 1). Not all the settlements are urban at the end of the twentieth century: some are now greenfield sites and others are small villages, although a few have survived as urban foci for modern communities. Both Gloucester and Cirencester were omitted from the project since they were identified by English Heritage as major historic towns, with a considerable history of archaeological investigation meriting individual and detailed study (English Heritage 1992).

The extensive urban surveys were designed as tripartite projects to include: the *enhancement of the county Sites and Monuments Record (SMR)*, in order to provide a comprehensive database for each settlement, the preparation of *assessment reports* which would summarise the state of archaeological knowledge for each settlement and the design of a *strategy* for the management of the archaeology of each town to be implemented mainly through the planning system. The database is now held as part of the Gloucestershire SMR, while the assessment and strategy reports each take the form of separate volumes covering the administrative districts of Cheltenham, Cotswold, Forest of Dean, Stroud and Tewkesbury. All three phases of the projects were based on the use of secondary, published sources, involved no fieldwork and were tightly constrained by the available resources.

Previous work on towns highlighting their archaeological potential and their vulnerability to development was undertaken in various parts of England, including Gloucestershire (Leech 1981), in the early 1980s. Changes in approaches to the management of the urban archaeological resource since then, particularly the greatly enhanced opportunities for its protection from the adverse effects of development through the planning system, prompted the new urban surveys of the 1990s.



2 The concept of urbanism

A town is a permanent human settlement with two chief and essential attributes. The first is that a significant proportion (but not necessarily a majority) of its population lives off trade, industry, administration and other non-agricultural occupations. The second...is that it forms a social unit more or less distinct from the surrounding countryside (Reynolds 1977, ix).

Although most people understand the term “town” in the modern context, the definition of urban areas in the past is far more varied, and modern concepts of urbanism tend to confuse more than they elucidate. For every period contemporary documents reveal a plethora of terms to describe settlements, depending upon their social, economic and legal status. Under the Roman empire there were seven distinct terms which could be used to place a settlement and its inhabitants in its context: *civitas*, *colonia*, *municipium*, *oppidum*, *urbs*, *vicus* and *πολις* (*polis*). Any attempt to equate these words with modern terminology creates considerable confusion as there are just as many English terms to describe the status of any urban settlement: town, city, urban district, municipality, county borough, borough, any or all of which may or may not be a direct equivalent to the Roman terminology. Similarly, there are numerous Early Medieval and Medieval terms relating to settlements, including *vill*, *burghus*, *burh*, *wic* and *urbs*, some of which had very specific meanings while others are more difficult to define with precision.

This varied terminology has led archaeologists and historians to attempt to define urban status in terms of the roles towns played and their physical attributes which have survived in the archaeological record. This approach has been most successful in relation to settlements of the Early Medieval and Medieval periods, based on the work of Beresford (1967) and Biddle (1976), who have defined a town as a settlement possessing a combination of the following:

- 1) defences
- 2) a planned street system
- 3) market(s)
- 4) a mint
- 5) legal autonomy
- 6) a role as a central place
- 7) a relatively large and dense population
- 8) a diverse economic base
- 9) plots and houses of urban type (burgages and burgage tenure)
- 10) social differentiation
- 11) complex religious organisation
- 12) a judicial centre
- 13) the possession of a borough charter
- 14) a reference to the settlement as a *burgus* or representation by its own jury at the *eyre*
- 15) that it was taxed as a borough
- 16) that it sent members to any Medieval parliament

Table 1 illustrates where there is documentary evidence for some of the main urban characteristics of towns included in the Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey:



Town	Defences	Market	Mint	Borough charter	Burgages/ burgess tenure	Legal autonomy
Berkeley		1086	✓		✓	
Bishop's Cleeve						
Bisley		1687				
Blockley						
Bourton-on-the-Water						
Chalford						
Cheltenham		1226			✓	
Chipping Campden		c1180		1154-89	✓	
Cinderford		1869				
Coleford		eC14				
Dursley		1471/2		C12	✓	
Dymock		1225/6		C13	✓	
Fairford		c.1100-35		1221	✓	✓
Frampton-on-Severn		1245				
King's Stanley		1253		C13/14	✓	
Lechlade		1210		c.1235	✓	
Leonard Stanley		1307-27				
Lydney		1268				
Minchinhampton		1269			✓	
Mitcheldean		1328				
Moreton-in-Marsh		1228		C13/14	✓	
Nailsworth		C18				
Newent	?	1253		C13	✓	
Newnham	?	C12		1187	✓	✓
Northleach		1219/20		c.1227	✓	
Painswick		1253			✓	
Prestbury		1249		C13	✓	
St. Briavels		1208		C14	✓	
Stow-on-the-Wold		1107		C12	✓	✓
Stroud		1570-1607				
Tetbury		1211-1287		c.1211	✓	
Tewkesbury		1086		1086	✓	
Winchcombe	✓	1086	✓	1086	✓	
Wotton-under-Edge		1252		1253	✓	

Table 1 Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey: indicators of urban status in the Medieval period



3 Urbanism in Gloucestershire

3.1 The Roman period

The concept of urbanism is often considered to have been a continental imposition brought to Britain by the invading Roman army during the first century A.D. The geographer Strabo, writing during the late first century B.C. and the early first century A.D. implied that the backwardness of western Europeans outside Italy was due to their hunting and raiding way of life and that once they were converted to a settled agricultural existence, urbanisation would develop of its own accord (Wacher 1995, 33). However, there is evidence that some Iron Age hillforts and enclosures had begun to take on urban functions before the Roman conquest of A.D.43. The Iron Age settlements of Bagendon and Salmonsbury Camp in east Gloucestershire appear to have been densely populated, with streets, arrangements of dwellings and ancillary buildings, along with defences, and to have acted as centres of political, commercial and administrative activity (Friar 1991, 386). Compared with Roman towns they may still have been extremely primitive, and the imperial government would have been keen to establish towns on the Mediterranean scale which were an essential part of the Roman way of life, and also facilitated the tasks of administration, the collection of taxes, education and policing. Towns may also have been seen as a means of furthering the acceptance of the Roman government among the native population.

The earliest Roman towns to develop would have been those on which the administration of the province was based - the *civitates* and the *coloniae* - some of which were based on early forts, while others derived from settlements of veterans who were given land at the end of their period of military service (e.g. Gloucester). Smaller towns developed around the other early forts where merchants and other civilians gathered to service the army, or at other significant locations on the network of Roman roads, such as the Foss Way or Watling Street, to serve the imperial messenger service along with other travellers who would need somewhere to stop overnight, to eat and change horses, and possibly to trade. Unlike the *civitates* and *coloniae*, there is little evidence of planning in many such settlements, which are more likely to have developed organically.

The Roman small towns at Bourton-on-the-Water, Dorn, Dymock, Kingscote and Wycomb (Andoversford) were included in the historic towns survey. At Bourton there are suggestions of continuity of occupation from the Iron Age into the Roman period; the Iron Age enclosure of Salmonsbury Camp lies just over 1km to the east of the Roman small town. The Roman settlement was initially focused around a posting station (*mansio* or *mutatio*) on the Foss Way near its crossing of the River Windrush, but then spread eastwards towards Salmonsbury Camp. Dorn is also thought to have served an administrative function during the later part of the Roman period (the late third to fourth centuries), possibly as a site where the official taxes (the *annona*) were collected; the defences around the eastern part of the site may have been constructed at this time. The Roman settlements at Kingscote and Dymock may also have had military origins – there is a suggestion that there may have been an early fort at Dymock from which a small agricultural and metal-working settlement developed, while considerable material of first century date has been found at Kingscote which then developed into a market centre, covering about 200 hectares by the later fourth century. Unlike the other Roman settlements in Gloucestershire, Wycomb is not associated with any major road and it is thought to have grown up around a site of ritual or religious significance pre-dating the Roman conquest. A settlement would have developed there either to serve the pilgrims and visitors to the site, or as a market centre for surrounding communities which were often associated with ritual sites.

Some Medieval settlements in Gloucestershire may also have developed on sites of Roman activity, including Bisley where there is evidence for Roman ritual activity, possibly associated with the wells; King's Stanley, where there is evidence for a large Roman villa in the area of the later church; and Lydney which lies close to the Roman cult centre at Lydney Park. The nature of the relationship between the Roman and later settlements is not understood, and it is not clear to what extent the existence of Roman activity influenced the siting of later settlements.

The end of the Roman period in Britain is often thought to have been marked by a hiatus in urban life. There is little evidence for continuity of occupation in urban areas into the fifth century in the county, and it appears that the function of the towns died with the culture that they had been founded to sustain (Wacher 1995, 417). The fact that many sites were reoccupied in the later Anglo-Saxon and Medieval periods may be due more to the fact that, by accident of geography, the sites were suitable for the economic and administrative functions of the period, just as they had been during the Roman period.



3.2 The Early Medieval period

The popular perception of the Dark Ages as one of deserted Roman towns, dilapidated villas and a reversion to barbarism still persists to a certain extent, and until 50 years ago academics were still debating the question of whether Anglo-Saxon towns existed at all. Roman towns fell out of use for a time, perhaps because they were too superficial an imposition on a society to which the idea of formal towns was alien. It is likely that the renaissance of internal and external trading networks prompted the increased centralisation of the production and sale of goods. From the eighth century specialist trading centres, such as Southampton and Ipswich, developed. Elsewhere the main impetus for urban development may have been a desire to control and promote economic activity, including the striking of coinage. A second important factor in the development of urban communities were the Scandinavian raids of the eighth and ninth centuries, which prompted Alfred and his successors to create the fortified settlements known as *burhs*. Some were established on the sites of Roman towns, while others were newly founded, but all were provided with defences of earth, timber or stone. The interest of the ruling elite in the promotion of towns gathered force throughout the later part of the Anglo-Saxon period, with increasing controls and prescriptions on the activities permitted within and outside urban areas: legislation of Edward the Elder and Aethelstan attempted to restrict trade to the towns, while the reform of the coinage by Eadgar in A.D.973 meant that the coins could only be struck in a burh.

The early church also played a significant role in the development of towns. From the seventh century onwards minsters were founded to serve as centres for the conversion and administration of large areas of England. A minster usually consisted of a church and outbuildings within an enclosure, served by a priest and a number of monastic or secular assistants. Such concentrations of priests would have required goods and services, which would in turn have attracted secular settlement to the area to serve those needs, and it is possible that these complexes may have provided the closest equivalent to towns in England until the creation of the burhs in the ninth century.

The tenth and eleventh centuries therefore saw the steady establishment of towns as centres of trade, finance, administration and ecclesiastical affairs, functions which continued into the post-Conquest period and have come to be viewed as indicators of urban status.

In Gloucestershire there is evidence that early minsters were founded at Tetbury, Berkeley, Cheltenham, Bishop's Cleeve, Blockley, Bisley, Tewkesbury and Winchcombe and it is possible that their existence played a significant role in the development of urban functions at those sites. Winchcombe is also the only example of a burh in Gloucestershire, founded in the seventh or eighth century at the site of an early minster which developed into a monastic house, with a Mercian royal palace and a mint, surrounded by a defensive enclosure. For a while during the early eleventh century, the settlement was important enough to stand at the centre of its own shire - *Winchcombeshire* - until it was incorporated into Gloucestershire c.A.D.1017.

3.3 The Medieval period

From the tenth to fourteenth centuries the process of urbanisation acquired momentum as first royal and then secular and ecclesiastical landlords began to promote existing villages to urban status, or to found completely new towns on virgin sites. Towns were important as a source of income from markets, taxes and tolls. Existing settlements had the added advantage of containing the remains of the Anglo-Saxon administrative structure, with military and fiscal obligations, and many were also episcopal sees. They housed large clusters of the population and many stood at important road junctions or river crossings. Artisans and merchants also found that the towns presented opportunities for the creation of wealth and the advancement of social status.

Medieval landowners were quick to promote the development of urban communities on their land, obtaining income from property rents and tolls levied on trade and commerce. This revenue could be controlled through the establishment of a market in a specific area within the settlement and in the period 1199-1350 around 2500 market grants were issued.

In addition to the foundation of a market, many landlords attempted to promote existing villages to borough status. The grant of a borough charter conferred a number of privileges of administrative, teneurial and legal character, the most important of which was the right to burgage or freehold tenure, for a rent and without labour services. In the period from 1199-1350 c.370 new boroughs were created by the king, lords and bishops. One of the most characteristic features of towns of this period is the burgage plot - long, thin strips of land extending back from the main street which allowed as many burgesses as possible access to the street frontage and the trade which it



afforded. In Gloucestershire at least 22 small towns acquired borough status during the Medieval period, with most charters being granted during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (see Table 2).

	TOWN	DATE
1	Tewkesbury	by 1086
	Winchcombe	by 1086
2	Chipping Campden	1154-1189
3	Newnham	1187
4	Berkeley	1190
5	Dursley	C12
	Stow-on-the-Wold	C12
6	Tetbury	c.1211
7	Fairford	c.1221
8	Northleach	c.1227
9	Lechlade	c.1235
10	Wotton-under-Edge	1253
11	Dymock	C13
	Newent	C13
	Prestbury	C13
12	King's Stanley	C13/14
	Moreton-in-Marsh	C13/14
13	Minchinhampton	1300
14	Cheltenham	1313
15	Painswick	1324
16	St. Briavels	C14

Table 2 Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey: earliest documentary references to borough status.

The units of settlement described as towns during this period were plentiful but remained very small, about 95% of the population of England was still rural, and the main difference between the new towns and the rural villages was that the former contained a *substantial proportion of traders and craftsmen whose services would be drawn on by the villagers of the surrounding area* (Palliser 1987, 55). This pattern of new foundations and promotions continued until the outbreak of the Black Death (1348-1369) which effectively curtailed the creation of new towns. Up to this time, town growth had been achieved mainly through the attraction of immigrants from surrounding rural populations, who were accommodated through the infilling of open areas and the sub-division of existing burgage or tenement plots.

The Norman and later Medieval town was thus an important instrument of political, administrative and economic control, flexible enough both to exert control over an area and to allow it to be exploited commercially. Through this process English towns were adapted to become a major economic force.

The Medieval small towns of Gloucestershire fit into this general pattern. A number of settlements in the central and eastern part of the county, such as Berkeley, Cheltenham, Tetbury, Tewkesbury and Winchcombe had begun to develop during the Early Medieval period, but the vast majority of the towns in the county owe their existence to the Medieval fashion for founding new markets and boroughs during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. Table 3 shows the market towns in the county and the dates at which they received their market charters: 15% of all Medieval market grants were made during the twelfth century, and 55% during the thirteenth century.



	TOWN	DATE
1	Tewkesbury	by 1086
	Winchcombe	by 1086
	Berkeley	by 1086
2	Fairford	c1100-1135
3	Stow-on-the-Wold	1107
4	Chipping Campden	c1180
5	Newnham	C12
6	St. Briavels	1208
7	Lechlade	1210
8	Tetbury	1211-1287
9	Northleach	1219/20
10	Dymock	1225/6
11	Cheltenham	1226
12	Moreton-in-Marsh	1228
13	Frampton-on-Severn	1245
14	Prestbury	1249
15	Wotton-under-Edge	1252
16	Painswick	1253
	Newent	1253
	King's Stanley	1253
17	Lydney	1268
18	Minchinhampton	1269
19	Leonard Stanley	1307-27
20	Mitcheldean	1328
21	Coleford	C14
22	Dursley	1471/2
23	Stroud	1570-1607
24	Bisley	1687
25	Nailsworth	C18
26	Cinderford	1869

Table 3 Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey: market charters by date

Amongst the boroughs founded after 1086, some appear to have been added on to existing non-urban settlements, while others could have been new creations. Towns in the first category include Stow-on-the-Wold, Northleach, Moreton-in-Marsh, Chipping Campden, Wotton-under-Edge and possibly Dursley. Such settlements generally comprise a large market area which is sometimes triangular or square, and sometimes formed by widening the main street to allow stalls to be set up along its length, with burgage plots fronting onto all available sides. The earlier settlement, to which the borough was attached, can often be seen in a less regular pattern of property boundaries, usually clustered around the church. Towns of the second category include Fairford, Lechlade and Painswick. These settlements also have a well defined market area, but a more complex street pattern, incorporating more than one main street, with burgages also laid out along the subsidiary streets.

The history of the development of towns in the Forest of Dean, is rather more diverse. Some followed a pattern similar to those outlined above, of foundation and development around a market during the Medieval period and thus have a similar layout, such as Newent and Newnham; St. Briavels was connected closely with the development and administration of the Royal Forest of Dean. Other settlements – Coleford, Lydney and Mitcheldean - were the product of the industrial development of the Forest, based on the exploitation of its natural resources, particularly iron and coal.

The Stroud valleys, which would become such an important area of settlement during the Post-medieval period, show little evidence for urban development during the Medieval period, apart from areas at the edge of the Cotswold Scarp such as Dursley, Bisley and Painswick, where the settlement pattern is similar to that found elsewhere on the Cotswolds. The main reason for this is likely to have been the nature of the terrain, which was



mostly unsuitable for Medieval industries and agricultural exploitation, but which was ideally suited to Post-medieval advances in manufacturing techniques.

3.4 The Post-medieval period

The mid-sixteenth century marked a further important phase in the development of English towns. The dissolution of the Monasteries and the suppression of religious houses, especially friaries, chantries and pilgrimages had an enormous impact on urban life. Large areas of land and buildings were put up for sale, and were converted into houses or redeveloped by their new, secular owners. The economic impact on towns dependent upon church landlords or pilgrimage cults was therefore severe. Other factors also affected the success of the small towns founded during the twelfth to fourteenth centuries. Some failed because they had been poorly located, others because of direct competition from near neighbours, and yet others due to the economic changes of the period. Many of the towns which continued to flourish did so by specialising in a certain product at market, such as cheese, wool, grain or leather goods, while others specialised in a particular industry or manufacturing process.

During the later Medieval period changes to the industrial and commercial geography of England also had a significant effect upon the development of towns in the country. One of the main English exports up to the fourteenth century had been raw wool, which was shipped to the continent where it was made into finished cloth to be sold back to England. The wars with France in the early fourteenth century forced an end to this trade, providing the opportunity for the production of cloth to spread rapidly through the rural areas of England. Within a few years finished cloth had replaced raw wool as one of the country's main exports. Numerous small settlements began to develop in rural areas to service this trade, away from the constraints of the town guilds, which enabled cloth to be produced more cheaply, thereby competing with the Flemish weavers who had dominated the trade up to this time. These settlements were strikingly different from those of earlier towns; they were not confined within town walls and were often not connected to earlier settlements, but took the form of straggling developments along the sides of valleys. The new cloth industry thus allowed small rural settlements in favourable locations to develop into prosperous towns.

The effect of these economic changes was felt very strongly in Gloucestershire where the towns of the Cotswolds had specialised in the marketing of locally produced wool. Many of these towns, such as Northleach and Winchcombe, fell into decline during this time as they were not located in areas suitable for the manufacturing of woollen cloth. Prosperity spread instead to the valleys around Stroud where easy access to high quality Cotswold wool, to abundant supplies of fuller's earth, to water of a quantity sufficient to drive a number of mills and to Bristol as an outlet for the finished product allowed numerous small valley hamlets to develop into towns serving the cloth industry. Three kinds of English cloth were produced, the finest of which was broadcloth; kerseys were a lighter, cheaper and often coarser cloth and worsteds were the cheapest and did not require fulling. Gloucestershire held foremost place in the production of broadcloth, mainly due to the steep-sided valleys in the Stroud area which were well suited to the creation of reservoirs for the large fulling mills, and later for the dyehouses for the coloured cloth which supplanted the finished broadcloth. This is how settlements such as Chalford, Nailsworth and Stroud developed from the later fourteenth century, spread out along the sides of the river valleys and clustered around the mills. Within these towns evidence for the cloth trade is well preserved, not only in the form of large mill buildings, but in the architecture of the houses of the weavers, who produced the cloth, and the large, commodious dwellings of the clothiers who owned the mills, and distributed the wool to be woven.

In the Forest of Dean the settlements which developed during the Medieval period - Lydney, Newnham, Newent, Coleford and Mitcheldean - did not expand or develop greatly between the later Medieval period and the eighteenth or nineteenth centuries, when new industrial techniques were developed and large scale mining operations began as the free miners were persuaded to sell their rights to speculators and entrepreneurs. This industrial activity was so concentrated in the area of Cinderford Bridge that a new town developed purely to service the requirements of the mine owners and their workers.

From the mid-seventeenth century the conglomeration of buildings and social classes which had characterised so many Medieval towns was superseded by the introduction of new urban styles from the continent, which reflected the growing prosperity of the period. The concept of large open circuses, squares and terraces of elegant town houses dominated the urban scene for the next two centuries, exemplified in the Gloucestershire context by the development of Regency Cheltenham, with its pump rooms, promenades, elegant terraces and town houses. Elsewhere the picture was not quite so pleasant, the industrial towns also had terraces, but these were usually 'blind-backed' or 'tunnel-backed' with inadequate sanitation for the large families who occupied them. This form of dwelling can still be seen at Lydney and in the Oldbury development at Tewkesbury (although the houses have



been modernised for modern use). Innovations in methods of transport also played an important role in the development of settlements, encouraging the separation of commercial, residential and industrial areas, as people no longer had to live in the same area that they worked. Most of the Gloucestershire small towns show some evidence of nineteenth century redevelopment, and most also have examples of Victorian civic pride in the form of public buildings such as libraries (Stroud) and town halls (Bisley, Stow-on-the-Wold, Nailsworth and Painswick).



4 Conclusions

Perhaps the most striking conclusion of this survey of the historic small towns of Gloucestershire is its demonstration that, despite documentary evidence of the Medieval or earlier origins of the majority of settlements, there is as yet very little archaeological evidence for most of them.

The town centre redevelopments of the 1960s, 1970s and early 1980s were not generally preceded by archaeological investigation and during this period many sites of high potential in the historic cores of small towns were destroyed without record. It was not until the later 1980s, and the advent of Planning Policy Guidance 16 (DoE 1990), that a more systematic approach to the archaeological evaluation and recording of sites in small towns became possible. Most recent large scale development has, however, tended to be away from the street frontages in the historic cores of towns, and the archaeological investigation in the latter areas has therefore been on a very small scale.

The summary of archaeological evidence provided by the Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey assessment reports and the policies contained in the strategies will, however, provide a good basis for ensuring that, in the future, sites of archaeological potential in small towns are managed appropriately and not developed without an assessment of the archaeological implications and implementation of suitable mitigation strategies.

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HISTORIC TOWNS IN THE FOREST OF DEAN (Map 1)

	Definition	Market	Borough charter	Burgages/ burgess tenure	Legal autonomy
Cinderford	Industrial town	1869			
Coleford	Small market town	C14			
Dymock	Roman small town; Small market town	1225/6	C13	✓	
Lydney	Small market town; Industrial town	1268			
Mitcheldean	Small market town	1328			
Newent	Medium-sized market town	1253	C13	✓	
Newnham	Medium-sized market town	C12	1187	✓	✓
St. Briavels	Small market town	1208	C14	✓	

About one third of the county of Gloucestershire lies west of the River Severn and the greater part of this area forms the administrative district of the Forest of Dean. The area is geologically and topographically complex and comprises a number of distinct zones: the steep-sided Wye valley which forms its western boundary; the central high ground, much of which is above 200m, consisting of mineral-bearing limestones and sandstones, and now extensively forested; the Leadon valley to the north bordering Herefordshire; and the low-lying land alongside the Severn estuary. The natural resources of the area – sandstone, limestone, iron, coal and timber – have formed the basis of an industrial economy from the Roman period onwards.

The early archaeology of the Forest of Dean is as yet little studied, in particular information about prehistoric settlement is sparse. In the Roman period local iron deposits became the basis of an important industry although the location and nature of the industrial sites and their contemporary settlements remains to be investigated. From the eleventh century the central area was designated as a royal forest, the purpose of which was *the protection of the beasts of the forest* (red, roe and fallow deer, along with wild boar) for hunting, along with the trees and undergrowth which protected them, and which was known as the *vert*. This area was owned by the Crown, and governed by Forest law. The mineral wealth of the area was exploited by the Free Miners, who had the exclusive right to extract coal, iron ore and stone from the Forest, subject to the payment of royalties, which were codified during the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries.

Between 1611 and 1613, the Crown allowed the first charcoal blast furnaces to be built in the Forest, and within a generation 12 blast furnaces and 13 substantial forges were operating on a considerably larger scale than ever before. However, due to the government's concern to protect its timber stocks during the later seventeenth century, the industry foundered and had almost reached the point of extinction by the early eighteenth century. It began to revive during the 1820s when smelting works were opened, or re-opened, at Parkend and Cinderford. New iron mines were opened throughout Dean, and by the mid-nineteenth century the Forest was producing over 100,000 tons per annum. However, by the end of the century iron mining and smelting had almost ceased.

Officially, settlement was not allowed within the area of the Royal demesne, but the Forest always attracted large numbers of squatters, poor men attracted by the chances of sporadic employment in the mines as well as by the opportunities for poaching, and who were regularly expelled by the officers of the Crown. In 1735, despite a large-scale eviction only 50 years before, a large number of cottages were recorded to have been erected at the borders of the Forest, the inhabitants of which were said to live by *rapine and theft* (Finberg 1955, 88). In 1788 the number of cottages and encroachments had almost doubled, and upwards of 200 cottagers were said to be resident in the Forest, occupying 589 cottages and 1385 acres of land. It is likely that these people had been attracted by the increasing industrialisation of the area, along with the increased accessibility of some settlements following the construction of new roads from 1761 onwards.

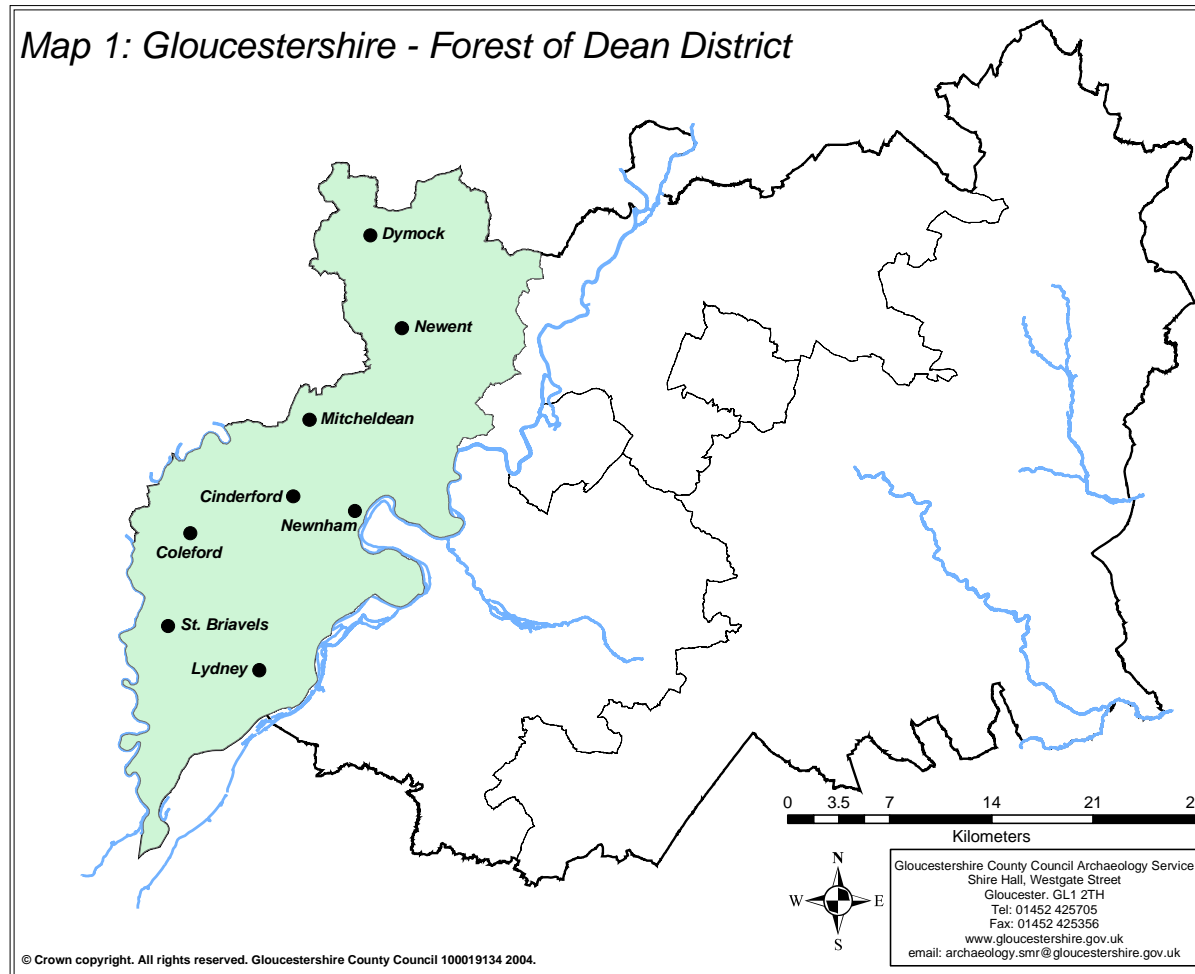
By the later nineteenth century the central Forest of Dean had been developed into a complex industrial zone incorporating coal and iron mines, iron and tinplate works, foundries, quarries, wood distillation works producing an array of chemicals, along with a network of railways and tramroads. The population of the area increased rapidly as the industries grew and many of the Forest towns show evidence for considerable expansion with the construction of new houses and public buildings during this period.



The towns which developed in the district are as diverse as the area. All lie outside the central afforested zone. Dymock has origins in the Roman period and may first have developed as a military site at the junction of two routes. Most of the rest of this group of towns first developed as market centres during the Medieval period, St. Briavels having in addition a specialised function as the administrative centre of the Royal Forest. Cinderford, a much later industrial settlement, gained a distinctive plan based on its origins in assarts on the edge of the Forest in which small industrial sites and associated houses were established.



Map 1: Gloucestershire - Forest of Dean District





LYDNEY

1 Introduction

Lydney (SO 635035) lies on the southern edge of the Forest of Dean, about 24kms to the south-west of Gloucester. The modern town is about 2km to the north-west of the River Severn, and close to the River Lyd which flows into the Severn estuary, where a harbour was built during the early nineteenth century. The settlement stands on the well-drained second terrace river gravels at c.15m O.D., around which are low-lying deposits of alluvium laid down by the River Severn. Much of the level ground to the south-east of the line of the nineteenth century railway, south of Lydney, has been reclaimed from the River Severn since the Roman period (Herbert 1996, 47-48). Some land appears to have been drained during the fourteenth century, while during the seventeenth century the area known as New Grounds was reclaimed. Silting against the bank there had begun by 1664 and by 1682 approximately 300 acres of land had emerged. The newly formed ground was washed away shortly after being deposited, but in 1730 it began to re-form in the same area, and covered c.207 acres during the earlier nineteenth century. Some of the reclaimed land was lost during the middle part of the nineteenth century when a sea wall and breakwaters were constructed, which were reinforced during the twentieth century by stone piling (Herbert 1996, 48).

Lydney first developed during the later Roman period. There was an important cult centre and temple at Lydney Park, with evidence of further Roman activity on the site of the later town. There is also evidence for a Norman motte and bailey castle at Lydney Park. The Medieval settlement at Lydney acted as a market centre and port, specialising in the export of ores and coal mined locally within the Forest. Its role as a port continued through the Post-medieval period until the later nineteenth and twentieth centuries when the importance of the local industries declined.

2 The Prehistoric period

2.1 Neolithic and Bronze Age

Evidence for prehistoric activity in the area of Lydney is limited and consists of chance finds of flint arrowheads and related objects (SMR 5142, 5148 and 19413). Evidence for Bronze Age activity in the area comes in the form of fragments of a funerary urn found at SO 630034 (SMR 5140), and a bronze looped palstave (SMR 6498) which was found at SO 63280318.

2.2 The Iron Age

There is evidence for Iron Age settlement at Lydney Park Camp (SMR 25), about 2km to the west of the modern town. The Camp is a promontory fort of about 5 acres, situated on a south facing spur of land with deeply incised valleys to the west and east, overlooking the estuary. Elsewhere observations during development on land to the north of Lydney Cross (SMR 5138) produced sherds of late Iron Age or early Roman pottery.



3 The Roman period

Lydney lies on or close to the line of a Roman road between Gloucester and Caerleon, which ran between the high ground of the central Forest of Dean and the low lying land along the Severn estuary. Two foci of Roman activity have been identified in the area. The first is at Lydney Park, where the hillfort was reused during the Roman period (SMR 26), although there is no evidence for continuity of occupation between the two periods. Within the boundaries of the hillfort a temple complex was constructed consisting of the temple itself, a courtyard house, a suite of baths and an *abaton* or healing centre, dedicated to the god Nodens. Initially dated to the later fourth century, more recent excavations have suggested that the structures may date from the third century onwards. From the northern rampart of the hillfort northwards through Old Park Wood, there are extensive shallow pits, or *scowles*, where iron ore has been extracted from various points close to the surface. These are undated, but could be at least in part associated with Roman iron working.

Finds of Roman material have also been made over the area of the modern town, especially at the western side, close to the line of the Gloucester to Caerwent road (SMR 6212). To the north of the road is a possible settlement site and metalworking area from where late Iron Age and Roman pottery of second to third century date was excavated during the mid-1930s (SMR 5138), while Roman coins and pottery were recorded from the Lydney Institute site between 1908 and 1912 (SMR 13279). Elsewhere in the town, finds include pottery of first to fourth century date (SMR 5139) and coins of the third and fourth centuries (SMR 6371 and 6499), as well as pottery and iron slag from the site of Whitecross manor (SMR 5656). Archaeological investigation in advance of the construction of the Lydney bypass has also produced scattered evidence for Roman activity, mainly in the form of sherds of abraded pottery and a few oyster shells (SMR 12798 and 12799).

The relationship between the two areas – the temple complex and the activity on the site of the modern town – is unclear. Lydney is of particular interest at this period in view of its location between the iron mining and production sites to the north and the estuary which may have been used to transport iron away from the Forest. The location of any estuary ports in use at this period is also, as yet, unknown.

4 The Early Medieval period

Lydney is first recorded in a charter of A.D. 852, which states that Burgred, king of Mercia, gave *Lideneg* to his brother-in-law, Ethelred of Wessex (Finberg 1961, 47), possibly for assistance during Burgred's campaign against the Welsh (Powell 1975, 13). It is thought to have been Ethelred or his heirs who subsequently bequeathed the property to Glastonbury abbey, thus providing the abbey with valuable access to fishing on the Severn and to the iron ore sources in the Forest of Dean.

A charter of A.D.972 indicates that some land at Lydney had also been granted to Pershore abbey (Finberg 1961, 59).

5 The Medieval period

5.1 Domesday Book

The Domesday survey records that Lindenee was held by Earl William, and that it had been created from four separate landholdings. Three hides had come from the lands of the Bishop of Hereford, 6 hides from Pershore abbey, and a further 6 hides from the monks themselves. Two thanes also supplied three and a half hides of land. The new manor contained 6 villagers and 8 smallholders, a mill, valued at 40d, and woodland which covered an area of 1 league by half a league. The lands were valued at £7 (Moore 1982).

5.2 The placename

Lydney is first recorded as *Lideneg* in A.D.852. This had become *Lidanega* by 972, and *Lindenee* by the time of the Domesday survey in 1086. Other Medieval documents refer to *Lydenai* (1167), *Libenheia* (1200), *Ludenie* (1221), with the first modern spelling of the name occurring in 1473. The name is believed to derive either from 'Sailor Island' or 'Water Meadow', thought to be a reference to the flooding of the Severn (Smith 1964, 257-8).

5.3 The status of the settlement

There was an attempt to create a borough at Lydney during the thirteenth century, probably at about the same time that the settlement was granted a market charter. In 1322 25 burgages were recorded in the manor of Lydney Shrewsbury (see section 5.4, below), although it is not known whether all these tenements would have been in Lydney, or whether some lay in the neighbouring small settlement of Newerne. The attempt to establish a borough was ultimately unsuccessful and both Lydney and Newerne remained small settlements until the nineteenth century (Herbert 1996, 52).



5.4 The manor

Shortly after the Norman conquest a number of separate landholdings in Lydney were combined by William FitzOsbern into one large manor, described in section 5.1 above. FitzOsbern's estates passed to his son on his death, but following his rebellion, fell into Crown hands and were granted to William, earl of Warwick. At some point before 1205, the land was divided into two manors, Lydney Shrewsbury and Lydney Warwick. Lydney Warwick remained in the hands of the Warwick family until the sixteenth century, while Lydney Shrewsbury was held by tenants, such as the Talbot family, from the earls of Warwick also until the sixteenth century (Herbert 1996, 60-61).

In Lydney Park, close to the site of the Iron Age hillfort and the Roman temple complex, a motte and bailey castle (SMR 44) was constructed on a prominent spur overlooking the valley. Excavations in 1930 identified an inner and outer bailey and a small rectangular keep. Probably of early Norman date, there is no documentary evidence of its foundation or subsequent history.

A manor house was recorded on Lydney Warwick manor in 1315, but there was no house recorded in 1369. The Talbot family also had a capital messuage on their estate of Lydney Shrewsbury, which had become known as Abbot's Court by 1558 (Herbert 1996, 62).

5.5 The church

There appears to have been a church at Lydney from the immediate post-Conquest period, as William FitzOsbern granted the church of Lydney to Lire Abbey before his death c.1071. The present church was recorded from the mid-twelfth century, and is dedicated to St. Mary (SMR 5620). None of the fabric pre-dates the thirteenth century, when the chancel, aisled nave and west tower were built from rubble with ashlar dressings (Herbert 1996, 80). The upper stage of the tower and the spire were added in the later fourteenth century, and the north chapel may also have been added towards the end of that century. During the fifteenth century the nave was raised and given a clerestory, and some new windows were inserted in the aisles (Herbert 1996, 80).

In 1219 the abbey of Lire granted the church of Lydney to the dean and chapter of Hereford, although reserving a sufficient portion to the vicar, and glebe land to itself. The advowson remained with the dean and chapter of Hereford until the early twentieth century, although various alterations have been made to the vicar's portion over time (Herbert 1996, 78-79). In the *Taxatio* of 1291 the church and its chapels were valued at £53 6s 8d, while in 1535 the vicarage was valued at £23 18s 8d (Herbert 1996, 79).

Lydney church appears to have been founded to serve a wide area on the southern side of the Forest of Dean, and the churches at St. Briavels and Hewelsfield were chapels of ease to it until the mid-nineteenth century (Herbert 1996, 78).

5.6 Markets and fairs

In 1268 the earl of Warwick was granted the right to hold a market on his manor at Lydney on Mondays. It is thought likely that this market was centred on the cross (SMR 27) at the junction of the High Street with Church Road, and a building called *the Shambles*, which stood near the church in 1558 may also have been used on market days (Herbert 1996, 77).

5.7 Trade and industry

5.7.1 Mills

Domesday Book records a mill on the lands of William, earl of Warwick, and the earl is known to have built a second mill on his land in 1282. In 1443 a mill, called Newerne mill, is recorded, and in 1558 two corn mills belonging to Lydney Warwick manor were recorded. These mills are thought to have stood on the Newerne stream, near the town, and some of the site may have later been used for iron forges (Herbert 1996, 72).

5.7.2 Iron

Exploitation of the Forest's mineral resources in the Lydney area is thought to have begun by the Roman period and to have continued throughout the Medieval period, leaving large piles of cinders which were re-used during the eighteenth century. In 1221 Henry, earl of Warwick, received confirmation of a grant to work a forge within the Forest of Dean and later in the thirteenth century several Lydney men were recorded as working moveable forges within the Forest, possibly within Lydney itself (Herbert 1996, 72).



5.7.3 Lydney Pill

From the Medieval period onwards (and probably before), Lydney Pill acted as a centre of trade along the Severn. In 1270 one man from Lydney was presented at the Forest eyre for trading regularly to Bristol in wood and venison stolen from the Forest, and in 1282 six boats based at Lydney Pill were reported to trade in stolen timber (Herbert 1996, 74). In 1343 a Lydney vessel was arrested for an act of piracy committed near Falmouth in Cornwall, while in 1347 Lydney was named among places on the Severn where tolls were collected (Herbert 1996, 74).

6 The Post-medieval period

6.1 The status of the settlement

After the failure of the borough during the late thirteenth century, Lydney remained a small rural settlement until the nineteenth century when it began to develop as an industrial and commercial centre.

6.2 The manor

By 1562 the two manors of Lydney Shrewsbury and Lydney Warwick had been combined into one landholding under the Winter family. Shortly after buying the estates Sir William Winter built a new house, called White Cross (**SMR 5656**), which stood to the south of the main road, at the western end of the town. In 1645, during the Civil War, the house was burnt to the ground by parliamentary troops, and it is thought that the Winter family moved into the building known as the Old Manor House, further to the north (**SMR 17803**). A new manor house, known as Lydney Park (**SMR 12670**), was built by Sir Charles Winter close to Aylburton village during the later part of the seventeenth century, and completed in 1692 (Herbert 1996, 61-62).

In 1723 due to the insolvency of the Winter family, the manor was sold to Benjamin Bathurst, who made various alterations to the house, including the diversion of the main road further to the south-east, allowing him to extent the park surrounding the house. In 1877 a new house in Tudor-style was built further up the hillside to the north of the Winter house, which was demolished in 1883 (Herbert 1996, 62).



6.3 Ecclesiastical history

6.3.1 The church of St. Mary (SMR 5620)

The church was severely damaged by fire during fighting of the Civil War, and remained roofless until the later 1660s when plans for its restoration were finally made. The present nave and aisles retain the wagon roof which was added at that time. A small vestry was added in 1841, and between 1849 and 1853 the church was restored and refitted (Herbert 1996, 80). The top of the spire had been rebuilt in 1784, and was again rebuilt in 1896 (Herbert 1996, 80).

In 1650 the vicarage of Lydney was valued at £60, in 1750 it was worth £260 and in 1856 £799. The advowson of the church remained with the dean and chapter of Hereford cathedral into the twentieth century (Herbert 1996, 79).

6.3.2 Nonconformity

The earliest record on nonconformist activity in Lydney dates from 1796 when a group of Independents registered a house in the town for meetings. Baptists attached to the meeting in Coleford were established at a house in Lydney by 1819, and in 1836, when the group had 30 members a chapel was built on land on the north-west side of the main street (**SMR 12678**). By 1851 the chapel had a congregation of between 140 and 180 (Herbert 1996, 81).

Wesleyan ministers of the Cardiff circuit preached at Lydney from 1803, but abandoned the mission a few years later. The cause was revived under the ministers of the Monmouth circuit and houses in Lydney were registered for worship in 1816 and 1819. In 1850 the Wesleyans built a chapel in Swan Road at Newerne (**SMR 17799**; Herbert 1996, 81).

A Congregational church, using a corrugated iron structure in Tutnalls Street was formed in 1906, and a new chapel was built in 1928 (**SMR 20482**). Meetings of the Salvation Army are recorded from 1884 to c.1895, and a meeting of the Latter-day Saints took place from 1902 until the 1920s (Herbert 1996, 82).

The Winter family were recusants from the early seventeenth century, and their presence encouraged the survival of a group of Catholics in Lydney. Twenty were recorded there in 1676 and thirty-five in the 1720s. In 1977 a small church was built at the north-eastern end of Newerne (**SMR 8379**), as a chapel of ease to the church at Cinderford, which had a congregation of around 77 in 1990 (Herbert 1996, 81).

6.4 Markets and fairs

By the early eighteenth century, two markets were being held at Lydney in April and October, although there is no record of a grant to this effect. By 1725 both the market and fairs had been allowed to lapse, and measures had to be taken to revive them. Toll-free trading was offered and the lord of the manor promised free access to Lydney Pill to any traders arriving by water. In 1726 a new market house was built (**SMR 20537**), which is thought to have been the building which stood next to the north-west side of the town cross until its demolition in the 1870s (Herbert 1996, 77). The market had again lapsed by the 1790s and may not have been held again for almost 100 years, when there was a fortnightly cattle market at the Feathers Inn in the 1880s (Herbert 1996, 77).

6.5 Trade and industry

6.5.1 Iron extraction and working

The Iron Foundries at Lydney are of very ancient establishment and some of the most considerable in the Forest of Dean (Bigland 1791, 807).

By c.1604, Sir Edward Winter, lord of the manor, had built an iron furnace and forge (**SMR 5656**) close to his manor house at White Cross, which became known as Lydney Furnace. The Winter family ran the ironworks on an extensive scale, charcoaling wood from their estate and from the demesne woodlands of the Forest which they leased from the Crown, and extracting iron ore from the surrounding area. In 1723 the Lydney Ironworks were leased out, with the right to buy an annual allowance of wood from the estate, and any cinders or ore found on it. The lessees were also given the right to use Lydney Pill and a warehouse there. In 1813 the works comprised the furnace at White Cross, Upper Forge (**SMR 5660**; SO 604155), Middle Forge (**SMR 5657**; SO 597162), and Lower Forge (**SMR 5659**; SO 596169), which had an iron rolling mill attached to it. A narrow canal was built in the later eighteenth century from Upper Forge down to Lydney Pill (**SMR 5821**). By 1844 Lower Forge was being used as a tinplating mill, and in 1864 the plant was producing about 1000 boxes of



tinplate each week as well as some sheet iron. The Lydney Works closed in 1941, but reopened, under a new name, in 1946 and continued to operate until 1957 (Herbert 1996, 72-73; Wilson 1973).

In 1859 an iron foundry was established in Lydney town which specialised in making points, crossings and other equipment for the railways (Herbert 1996, 76).

6.5.2 Lydney Pill

The pill remained in use for trade throughout the sixteenth century, although in 1608 only two boatmen were recorded by Smith as earning a living from the river (Herbert 1996, 74). During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Lydney Pill was used to ship out the coal, iron, bark and timber produced on the Lydney estate, and during the Commonwealth, it was the main shipping place for timber for the navy. Documents show that occasionally a Lydney vessel was used in the trade to Ireland from the Severn, and trading with Bristol continued throughout the Post-medieval period. It was said that vessels of 150 tons could reach the head of the pill in the early eighteenth century, but the formation of New Grounds (see section 1, above) made access difficult and from the early nineteenth century the pill could only be used at the highest spring tides. The owners of the Lydney estate had a warehouse at the pill from the late sixteenth century, until the new harbour was built in 1813 (Herbert 1996, 74).

Ships were built in Lydney parish in 1608 when two shipwrights and a ship carpenter were listed amongst the inhabitants, and in 1656 Lydney Pill was chosen as the site for the construction of a frigate for the navy (Herbert 1996, 74).

The new harbour at Lydney (SMR 5822) was completed in 1813, and in 1816 Lydney was given the status of a creek of the port of Gloucester, with customs officers stationed there. Coal was the main cargo handled, and many of the wharves were leased to mining companies of the part of the Forest coalfield served by the Severn and Wye tramroad. By 1856 700 tons of coal were being shipped out of the harbour daily, most of it being carried to the ports of the Bristol Channel. Other Forest products shipped out of Lydney included pig iron, bark, timber, paving stones and tinplate. Goods brought in included salt, and from 1821 the Lydney Trading Society was established to run a freight and passenger service along the tramroad from Lydbrook and a weekly vessel to Bristol. Boat building was started at the harbour in 1834 and a second yard had opened by 1856 (Herbert 1996, 75). During the later nineteenth century the harbour continued to be dominated by the coal trade, with nine coal tips and three cranes in use in 1897 when the harbour handled 265,000 tons of goods (Herbert 1996, 76).

Trade at the harbour declined from the 1920s as the collieries in the Forest began to be closed. The trade in coal finally ended during the 1960s, and the harbour's last significant activity was the carriage of imported timber from Avonmouth for the Pine End plywood works on the north side of the harbour. Although the harbour was sold and powers to fill in its entrance were issued, it was not carried out (Herbert 1996, 76).

6.5.3 Coal and stone extraction

In 1733 a lease drawn up for the Lydney Ironworks assumed that the owner of the Lydney estate could supply the lessees with 1000 tons of coal a year from his pits, and the right to raise coal from the estate was included in another lease of 1778. In 1810 the colliery comprised two pits and a level (Herbert 1996, 75).

Stone was quarried throughout the upland areas of the parish, and the Lydney estate had a stone and tile quarry near the head of Park Brook in 1723. In 1778 the lessees of the ironworks were given the right to work quarries at Pailwell, Aylburton common and Kidnalls (Herbert 1996, 75).

6.5.4 Documentary evidence

In Smith's *Men and Armour for Gloucestershire in 1608*, 3 tanners, 14 servants, 6 labourers, 2 carpenters, 3 shoemakers, 2 glovers, a mercer, 2 butchers, an innkeeper a smith and a mason are all recorded in the parish. A trade directory of c.1790 lists only a handful of tradesmen in the town, together with a surgeon and one shopkeeper (Herbert 1996, 75). By 1851 the fortunes of the town appear to have changed for the better, with the census recording 150 tradesmen, craftsmen and shopkeepers following 38 different trades (Herbert 1996, 76).

6.6 Communications

Pidcock's canal (SMR 5821) was cut c.1800 by two Forest ironmasters, John and Thomas Pidcock. It ran alongside the Newerne stream and carried ore and coal from the Upper Harbour to their works at Pill Forge and Middle Forge



(Awdry 1983, 10). The Severn and Wye tramroad from Lydney to Bishopwood (SMR 5701) opened in 1810 and had branches linking it to collieries and ironworks along its route. It was partly absorbed into the Severn and Wye and Severn Bridge railway from 1868 onwards (Cross 1982, 86).

7 The modern settlement

During the twentieth century, Lydney has been considerably enlarged. Speculative development began before the First World War with the construction of two long terraces called Mount Pleasant. To the north of the town, Grove Road was laid out between 1908 and 1909. After the Second World War the Tutnalls estates were developed, and by 1972 there were 666 council houses in Lydney, in addition to a large amount of private development. There was piecemeal redevelopment of the main street of the town during the later twentieth century, and the emphasis of the town’s commercial area has shifted to the Newerne end of the settlement. Large housing estates have been built on the eastern side of the settlement and an outer bypass was constructed during the 1990s.

The earliest surviving structure in Lydney is the town cross, which dates from the fourteenth century. Unfortunately, no buildings pre-dating the later eighteenth century have survived within the town, and few are older than the mid-nineteenth century. A number of prominent buildings in the Post-medieval/early modern town close to the cross, such as the Lydney Institute and the Feathers Hotel, have recently been demolished

8 Population figures

Date	Communicants	Households	Families	Nonconformists	Inhabitants	Source
1551	460				c.690	Percival
1563		105			c.446	Percival
1603	509			7	c.771	Percival
1650			104		c.442	Survey of Church Livings
1676	495				c.743	Compton Census
1712		153			c.638	Atkyns
1779					661	Rudder
1801					783	
1851					1989	
1901					3559	
1997					7858	

For a full explanation of this table, please see page 5 above.

9 Plan analysis (Maps 20-22)

9.1 Discussion

Three foci of early settlement can be identified at Lydney. The earliest appears to have been the hill to the west of the town, overlooking the estuary, where an Iron Age hillfort, and subsequently a Roman temple were sited. This area was used again in the Medieval period when a small motte and bailey castle was constructed.

By the twelfth century (and possibly before) a second focus of settlement was the church (Area 1), founded on the southern edge of the slightly higher ground adjacent to the River Lyd which leads to the harbour and the estuary. Church Road linked the church with the main road to the north (a cross had been built at the junction of these two roads by the fourteenth century) and presumably continued south to Lydney Pill. Surviving documents indicate that there was settlement along Church Road in the Medieval period, where there are fifteenth and sixteenth century references to shops, stalls and a buildings known as the Shambles. The triangular area at the northern end of Church Road is the most likely site for the Medieval market (Area 2) and settlement probably spread south from here towards the church (Areas 5, 6 and 7).

The third area of settlement appears to have developed around the main through route from Gloucester towards Wales (now the High Street), which is Roman in origin, and Roman finds indicate activity in this area. It is not clear whether the Medieval settlement spread along this road in addition to Church Street, or where the borough founded during the thirteenth century was situated. It is likely that burgage plots would have been laid out in the area around the market place (Areas 3, 4, 5 and 6), although no clear evidence for the plots has survived within the modern plan of the settlement. This is probably due to the relatively short life of the borough and subsequent



Medieval and Post-medieval development. Medieval settlement is also known to have taken place in Newerne, to the north-east of Lydney (**Areas 8-12**).

By the Post-medieval period the High Street had become the clear focus of Lydney; the tithe map of 1840 and the first edition Ordnance Survey 25" 1 mile plan of 1883 both show the Medieval church now isolated on Church Street, with settlement concentrated between the Church Street junction and the Bream Road (**Areas 18-22**). A second area of settlement to the east, formerly the separate hamlet of Newerne (**Areas 25-28, 29 and 30**), had virtually coalesced with Lydney to form a single settlement. During the nineteenth century areas away from the main street frontage began to be developed, with Albert Street and Queen Street (**Areas 32 and 33**) being laid out during the 1850s, while during the 1880s a number of short streets of workers' housing were constructed on the south-eastern side of the High Street. The High Street end of the settlement remained important into the earlier twentieth century, first as the site of Whitecross manor and furnace (**Area 14**), and then as the site where the Town Hall and adjacent Lydney Institute were constructed, close to the Church Street junction (**Area 15**). In the second half of the twentieth century the focus of the settlement has again shifted to the Newerne area, where most of the town's commercial activities now take place.

9.2 Plan components

9.2.1 Medieval (Map 20)

1. The church of St. Mary and surrounding churchyard
2. The market place and site of the Medieval cross
3. Area of Medieval settlement to the north of the High Street, possibly forming part of the borough
4. Area of Medieval settlement to the south of the High Street and east of Church Road, possibly forming part of the borough
5. Area of Medieval settlement to the south-west of the market place, possibly forming part of the borough
6. Area of Medieval settlement to the north-east of Church Road
7. Area of Medieval settlement to the south-west of Church Road
8. Area of Medieval settlement in Newerne, to the north of Newerne street
9. Area of Medieval settlement in Newerne, to the east of Albert Street
10. Area of Medieval settlement in Newerne, to the south of Newerne Street
11. Area of Medieval settlement in Newerne, to the east of Tutnalls Street
12. Area of Medieval settlement in Newerne, to the south of Newerne Street

9.2.2 Post-medieval (Map 21)

13. The church of St. Mary and surrounding churchyard
14. Site of Whitecross manor house and furnace
15. Site of the Town Hall and Lydney Institute
16. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the north-west of the church
17. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the north of the church
18. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the south-west of Church Road
19. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the north-east of Church Road



20. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the south of the High Street
21. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the north of the High Street
22. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the north of the High Street
23. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the north of Hill Street
24. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the south of Hill Street
25. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the north of Newerne Street
26. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the east of Albert Street
27. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the south of Newerne Street
28. Area of Post-medieval settlement to the west of Tutnalls Street
29. Area of pre-1840 expansion to the north of Newerne Street
30. Area of pre-1840 expansion to the south of Newerne Street
31. Area of pre-1880 expansion to the north of the High Street
32. Area of pre-1880 expansion to the west of Albert Street
33. Area of pre-1880 expansion to the north and south of Queen Street

10 Future research

Priorities for future work include:

1. The extent of Iron Age settlement in Lydney: settlement contemporary with the hillfort in Lydney Park may be located on the lower lying ground nearby.
2. The relationship between the Iron Age settlement and Roman temple complex in Lydney Park: there is at present no indication of any continuity between the two phases of occupation at the site.
3. The date of the foundation of the Roman temple complex at Lydney Park and the factors which influenced the choice of this site for such a significant religious focus.
4. The nature of the Roman settlement on the site of the modern settlement of Lydney, and its relationship with the temple complex at Lydney Park.
5. Early industrial (Iron Age, Roman and Medieval) development in the Lydney area, and the development of Lydney Pill in connection with this.
6. Post-Roman settlement at Lydney, as suggested by surviving eighth century charters.
7. The location, extent and economy of the Medieval settlement(s), including the borough.
8. The industries (especially iron) of the Post-medieval period and their relationship with the Forest and the port.



11 Sources

11.1 Primary historical sources

There are a few original documents which relate to Lydney and the surrounding area, including an Anglo-Saxon charter and some Medieval records. These have not been consulted directly, but where they are referred to in the text, they have been drawn from secondary, published sources.

11.2 Secondary historical sources

Lydney has been covered in the most recently published volume of the Victoria County History for Gloucestershire, and Hart has also published a number of general histories about the Forest of Dean, which have provided a context for the study of the town. There are also a number of published articles in the local journals which have been useful in the production of this assessment.

11.3 Archaeological sources

Archaeological investigations have been undertaken at Lydney Park to the west of Lydney, and within the town itself. The excavations at the hillfort and temple complex revealed evidence for significant and long-lived activity of the Iron Age and Roman periods, while work within the area of the modern settlement has been far less conclusive. Within the town, archaeological evaluations undertaken at a number of sites have produced evidence for activity during the Roman, Medieval and Post-medieval periods, including the metal-working site to the north of the main Roman road and the site of Whitecross manor and furnace. Investigations in advance of the construction of the Lydney Bypass also produced finds of the Roman and later periods, although their relationship with sites within the modern town is unclear.

11.4 Maps

The earliest maps available for Lydney are the tithe map of 1840 and the enclosure map of 1864, both of which illustrate the plan of the town during the mid-nineteenth century. The first edition Ordnance Survey map of 1883 shows that there had been little alteration to the plan by that date.

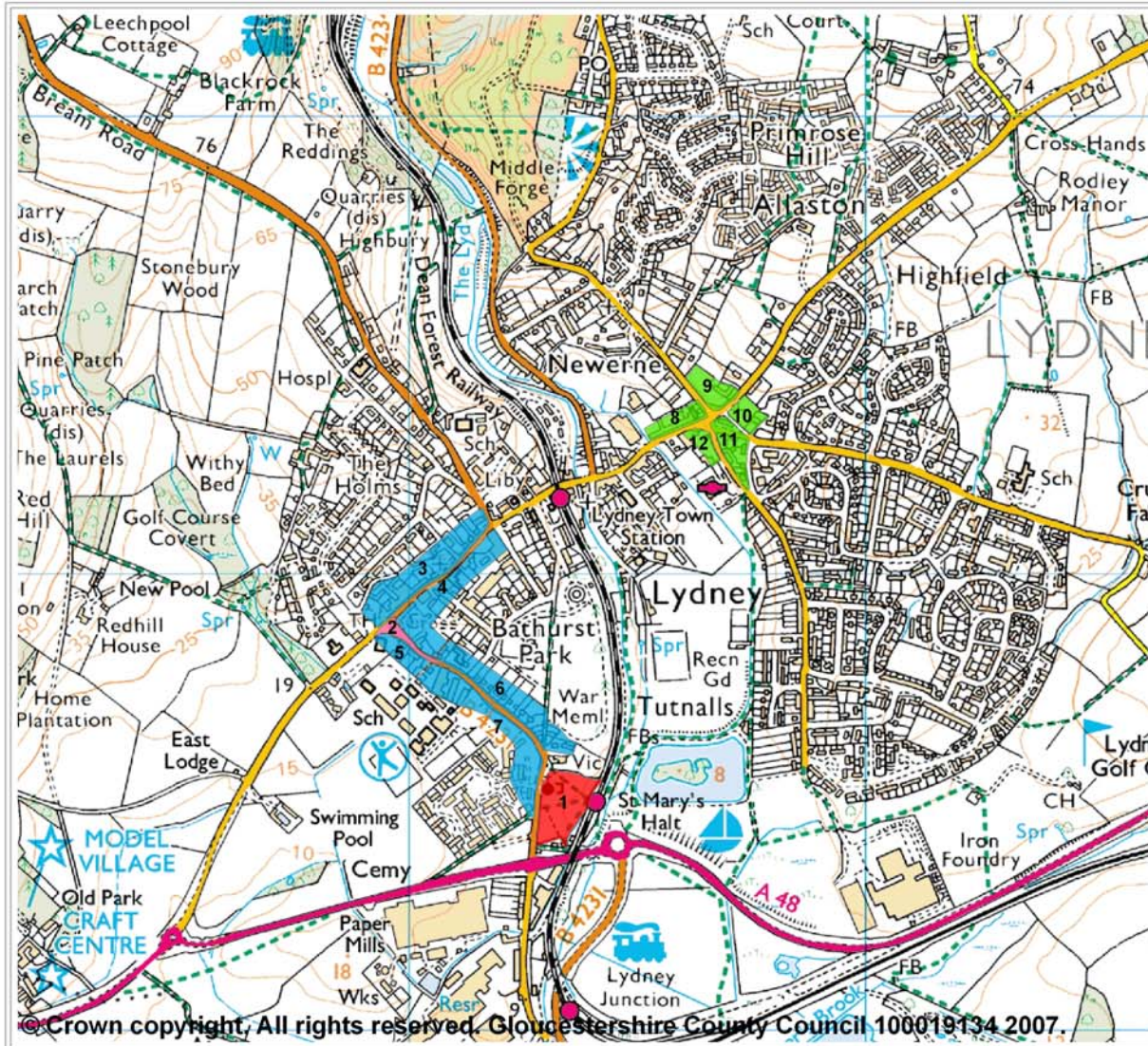
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12.2 Maps

- Tithe map, 1840
Enclosure map, 1863
Ordnance Survey first edition 25": 1 mile, 1883
Ordnance Survey second edition 25": 1 mile, 1923



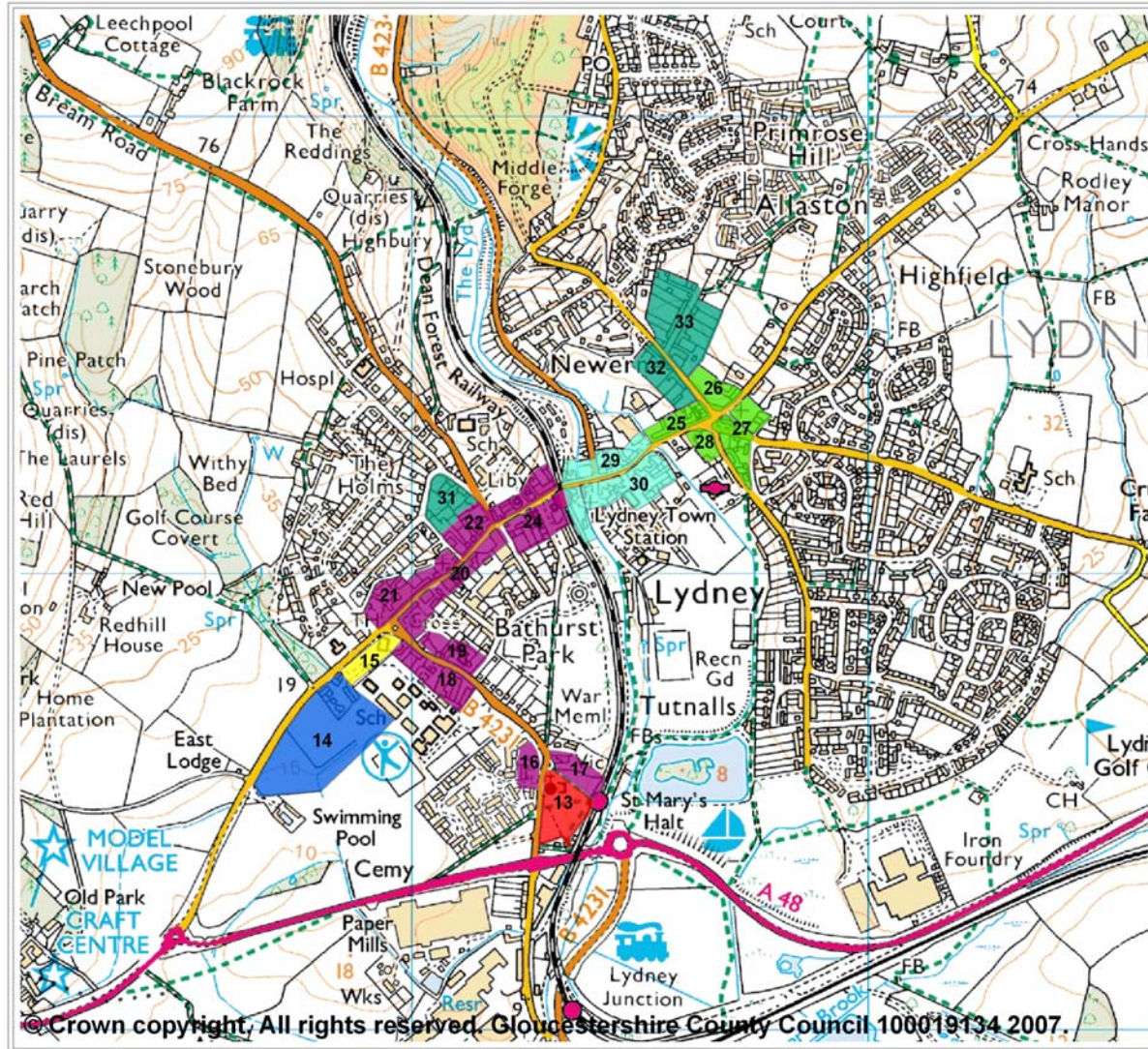
MAP 20
Lydney
Medieval Plan
Components

Legend

- Church & churchyard
- Market place
- Medieval settlement in Lydney
- Medieval settlement in Newerne

Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service
 Shire Hall, Westgate Street
 Gloucester, GL1 2TH
 Tel: 01452 425705
 Fax: 01452 425356
 www.gloucestershire.gov.uk
 email: archaeology.smr@gloucestershire.gov.uk

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MAP 21
Lydney
Post-Medieval Plan
Components

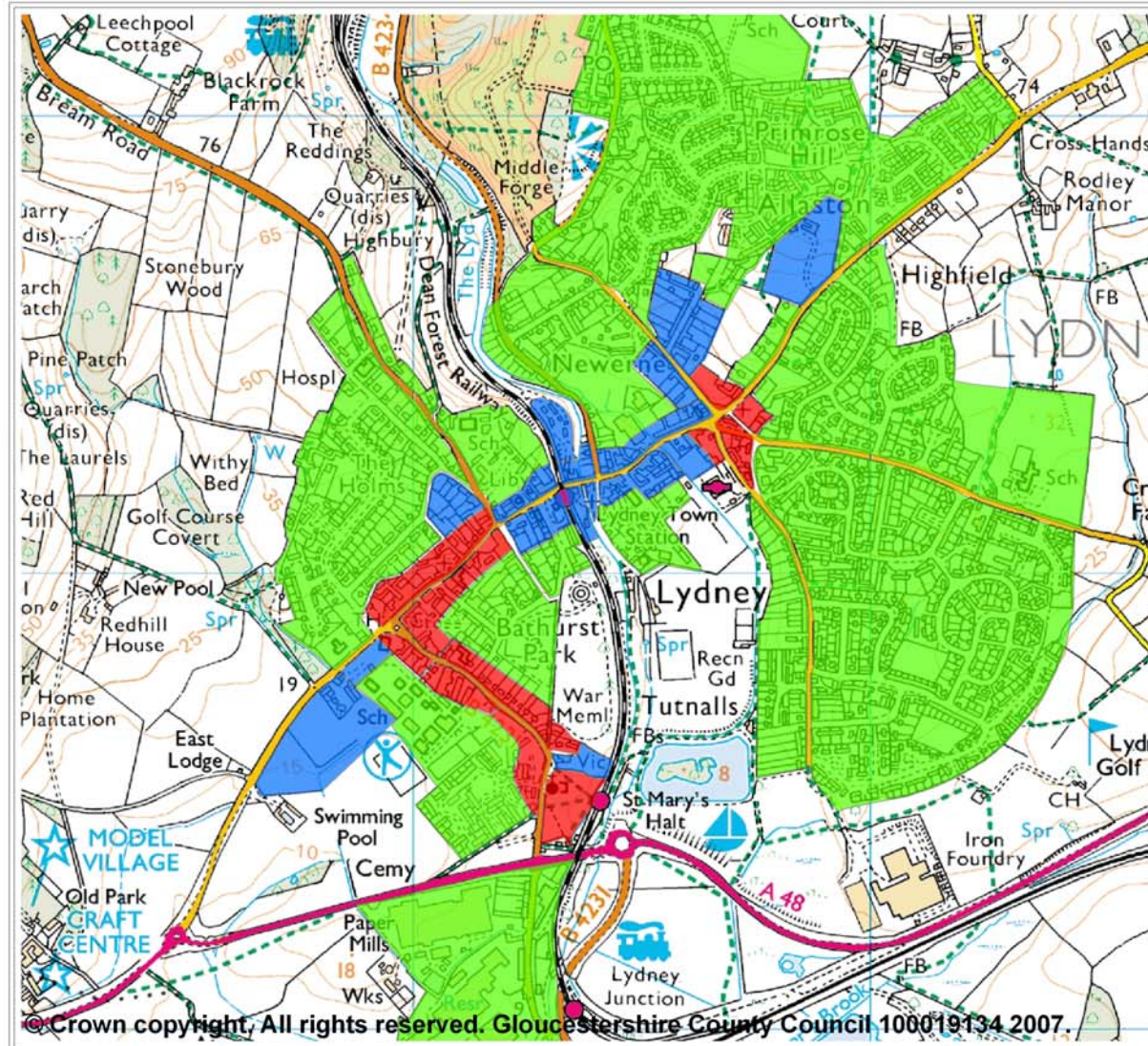
Legend

- Church & churchyard
- Development by 1840
- Development by 1880
- Post-medieval settlement
- Settlement in Newerne
- Town Hall & institute
- Whitecross Manor

Gloucestershire County Council Archaeology Service
 Shire Hall, Westgate Street
 Gloucester, GL1 2TH
 Tel: 01452 425705
 Fax: 01452 425356
 www.gloucestershire.gov.uk
 email: archaeology.smr@gloucestershire.gov.uk

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MAP 22
Lydney
Development by Period

Legend

- Medieval
- Modern
- Post Medieval

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 Shire Hall, Westgate Street
 Gloucester, GL1 2TH
 Tel: 01452 425705
 Fax: 01452 425356
 www.gloucestershire.gov.uk
 email: archaeology.smr@gloucestershire.gov.uk

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