

The Archaeology of Wiltshire's Towns
An Extensive Urban Survey

MERE

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The Archaeology and History of Mere

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1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1. Towns are an important component of the historic environment which have developed over many hundreds of years and are under constant development pressures. The archaeological resource within our historic towns is an invaluable and irreplaceable source of data about past societies and the evolution of our culture. Despite these factors the archaeology of many towns, especially the smaller market towns, is poorly understood.
- 1.2. In 1976 the D.O.E. sponsored a study of the archaeology of Wiltshire's historic towns, aiming to assess the relative importance of the towns at different points in time as a basis for future archaeological research. This resulted in the publication of "*Wiltshire Towns: the archaeological potential*" (Haslam 1976). Since then, the book has been one of the key references for archaeologists monitoring urban development and its impact in the county.
- 1.3. An increase in the amount of archaeological and historical data available and changes in legislation such as the introduction of Planning Policy Guidance note No.16, have meant that a reappraisal of the situation is now due. The Extensive Urban Survey of Wiltshire has been commissioned by English Heritage, as part of a National programme, to address the need for a new assessment of urban archaeology in the county. The current structure of the historic county of Wiltshire is two-tier, with the County Council working in conjunction with the four District Councils (Kennet, North Wiltshire, Salisbury and West Wiltshire) and the new unitary authority of Swindon – historically part of the county. The survey aims to map the development of all of Wiltshire's and Swindon's historic towns (Fig. 1) and to assess the extent of the surviving archaeology and built heritage. It is also proposed that the threat of development on the historic environment within the county's towns will be examined.
- 1.4. As far as is known the first towns in Wiltshire appeared during the Romano-British period but all the known examples are now greenfield sites, although some may have given rise to nearby settlements. Most modern towns in the county have their roots as Saxon villages or defended settlements such as Cricklade and Wilton. Many of the villages grew into small towns after the Norman invasion, often focussed around a castle or market and in the early thirteenth century 'planted boroughs', in which individual plots of land were sold by the major landowner.
- 1.5. The definition of a town for inclusion in the survey follows the criteria laid out in Heighway (1972), by which the settlement must possess certain characteristics such as defences, a mint, a market, a street plan, or a judicial centre, and demonstrate such urban attributes as high population, a diversified economic base or a central or key location. For the purposes of the survey, however, the towns should meet these criteria historically, even if they no longer do so. This allows, for example, the inclusion of the five Roman towns in the county, and settlements such as the village of Heytesbury, which was developed as a

planned town in the 13th century, but which did not succeed as an urban centre. The full list of 34 towns included in the survey and the criteria for inclusion are included as Appendix 1. Mere satisfies three criteria: it has evidence of a planned internal street layout (*criteria ii*); a Medieval market charter (*criteria iii*); it was historically a local judicial centre (*criteria xii*).

- 1.6. The area of study in each town is defined by the size of the town as it stood in 1945, encompassing both the historic core of the town and the older industrial and suburban development. There is an emphasis on the earlier material, and the later Victorian and 20th century development are covered here only very briefly. Although more detailed than Haslam's report, in most cases each study remains no more than a brief summary of the data, and a guide to the location of more detail for other researchers. The extent of the study area for Mere is depicted in Fig. 2.
- 1.7. The research into each town will be encapsulated into two reports: a summary and assessment of the data gathered and an outline strategy for future management of specified sections of the urban area. This first report is intended to provide a clear and up-to-date synthesis of the available archaeological and historical data for Mere, with an assessment of the main areas of historic settlement in the town and of the potential and sensitivity of the archaeologically important areas. The assessment reports are compiled from four main data streams: geographical and geological sources for the location and topographical summary; secondary historical sources for the historical outline; recorded archaeological data for the sites and finds information; the archive of the Wiltshire Buildings Record (WBR) for architectural data. The architectural summary is not subject to the same level of research as the other three data streams, and the information presented in the reports is based upon evidence compiled from the existing WBR archive, updated in places by field visits to note non-listed buildings of historic interest, combined with the Department Of The Environment schedule of listed buildings.

2. LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1. The parish and town of Mere is situated in the extreme south-west corner of the county of Wiltshire, c.20 miles west of Salisbury and c.12 miles south of Warminster. The counties of Dorset and Somerset lie to the south and west, respectively.
- 2.2. The town lies upon an extensive east-west aligned fault which brings the relatively flat and low-lying Kimmeridge Clay lands to the south up against the upland Chalk and Greensand landscape to the north (Ordnance Survey 1972). These uplands comprise part of the West Wiltshire Downs, and rise to an elevation of c.220m AOD, compared to an average elevation of 105m AOD within the town centre. The downs are deeply indented by substantial coombes, the three largest of which – Great Bottom, Chetcombe Bottom and Aucombe Bottom – lie closest to the northern edge of Mere (Mere Editing

Committee 1958). The line of the fault with its frequent springs has largely dictated the course of the former main London to Exeter route through the town, which keeps to a parallel course along the drier chalk to the north. This road had become heavily congested by the 1970s, and has now been by-passed by the modern A303 trunk road.

- 2.3. Of the springs that rise within the town the two largest, at Wellhead and Ashwell, produce streams which combine just to the east of Mere to form the Shreen Water (Barron 1976). This drains to the south, meeting the River Stour at Gillingham. A third spring feeds the former mill pond to the south of the parish church, and also drains to the south.

3. PAST WORK AND THE NATURE OF THE EVIDENCE

3.1. Historic Sources

- 3.1.1. This is a desk-based study, using material available within the County Council Heritage Services facilities in Trowbridge: the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR); The Wiltshire Reference Library; the Wiltshire & Swindon Record Office; and the Wiltshire Buildings Record. Historical data are generally drawn from secondary sources, normally the Victoria County History and histories of the individual towns, based on recommendations or specific requirements. Data on archaeological investigations and their results are drawn directly from the original reports or publications wherever these are available, but for some poorly recorded finds we have had to rely on passing references or the existing entries in the county SMR.
- 3.1.2. The use of primary sources in the Record Office is restricted to maps and sometimes other pictorial material, which are consulted to accurately locate individual sites or buildings and to trace the growth of the settlement.

3.2. Archaeological Work In The Town

- 3.2.1. This section outlines the known archaeological investigations that have taken place in Mere. The list is compiled from information in the County Sites and Monuments Record (SMR), Excavations Register, and the fieldwork reports kept in the County Archaeology Section in Trowbridge. Others have been added as a result of incidental mention in one of the above sources, and where there is enough information to get at least a general idea of the location of the site. The numbers refer to the map included in this report (Fig. 3).

Event	Year	Site Name/Location	Event Type	Excavator	Reference
001	1887	Mere Castle	Unknown	T.H. Baker & Rev. Wyld	Unpublished, archive lost
002	1899	Castle Street	Building Recording	T.H. Baker	Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine 1899
003	1983	Water Street	Chance Find	R. Canham	Wiltshire SMR
004	1995	Barnes Close	Chance Find	Wessex Archaeology	Wessex Archaeology 1995
005	1996	North Street	Evaluation	AC Archaeology	AC Archaeology 1996
006*	2003	Glendon, Castle Street	Watching brief	AC Archaeology	AC Archaeology 2003
007*	2003	5-8 Angel Lane	Evaluation	Pathfinders Arch.	Pathfinders Arch. Recon. 2003
008*	2004	Dewes House Garden, Salisbury Street	Evaluation	Heaton, ASI	ASI Heritage Consultants 2004

Table 1: Archaeological Investigations in Mere. Reports flagged thus * have not been used in this Assessment.

4. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

- 4.1. This report is not intended to provide a major historical review of the history of Mere and the material included here relates mainly to events which might have had some impact on the archaeology of the town, or its survival.
- 4.2. The first documentary reference to Mere is from the Domesday Book of 1086, when the name is recorded as 'Mera', probably derived from the Saxon word *Maere*, meaning 'boundary' and thus reflecting the settlement's position on the edge of the shire territory (Haslam 1976).
- 4.3. There are few details of the nature of the settlement in the Domesday listing and Baker (1897, 228) suggests that this was because Mere was a royal manor, and subsequently 'never paid geld nor was assessed in hides'. The first reference to a church is from 1091, when Bishop Osmund granted an endowment to Salisbury Cathedral. It is next mentioned in 1190 and then in 1220, when Dean Wanda recorded that there was no roof on the chancel.
- 4.4. In 1243 Richard, Earl of Cornwall was granted the manor of Mere, and in 1253 he obtained a licence to build a castle on the prominent hill to the north of the parish church. The castle appears to have fallen out of use long before the 17th century, when Aubrey described it as 'in a state of collapse'. Richard also appears to have initiated an unofficial market, as an inquiry of 1275 investigated claims that by this action he had deprived the official market at nearby Shaftesbury of revenues (Haslam 1976). The first record of market rights is from 1408 and probably served to confirm the pre-existing situation.

4.5. From the 14th century onwards Mere developed as a centre for the woollen industry, with trade links to the continent and throughout England (Tighe 1997), although by 1700 wool had given way to linen manufacture. Linen production, until the 19th century wholly cottage based, experienced a small amount of industrialisation towards the end of the trade's prominence in the early 19th century, but by 1850 the trade was dead, partially replaced by the silk throwing industry which itself did not survive the turn of the 20th century (*ibid.*). Other industries that were extinct by 1900 include edge tool manufacture, brewing and bacon curing.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

5.1. Introduction

5.1.1. The following is a resume of the archaeological record of the town, drawn from the county SMR and the various excavation reports. Data on surviving buildings come from the Wiltshire Buildings Record unless otherwise stated. The bold print numbers in this section refer to entries in the Urban Survey database, and appear on the sites and findspots location maps in Figs. 4 - 6, which were created from the database and the SMR.

5.2. Prehistory (Fig. 4)

5.2.1. A small number of Prehistoric sites and finds are known, of which the most important is the group of four bowl barrows located upon Castle Hill (**ME018, ME019, ME020 & ME021**). Two of these – (**ME020, ME021**) – are unusually sited at the base of the hill. The find of a shield-patterned bronze palstave (**ME003**) from the area of the adjacent Medieval castle earthworks may have originated within a further, disturbed barrow.

5.2.2. Two chance finds of flint axes are recorded, from Manor Road Allotments (**ME001**) and Lords Mead (**ME002**).

5.3. Roman (Fig. 4)

5.3.1. Very little material of this period is recorded within the Study Area. All are coin finds, of which the most significant is the 1st to 2nd century hoard of c.270 coins from the New Cemetery site (**ME004**). Single coin finds are known from Wellhead (**ME005**) and Edge Bridge (**ME006**).

5.4. Saxon (Fig. 5)

5.4.1. Evidence of Saxon activity consists of a single burial discovered during council house improvements at Barnes Close (**ME007**), and vestigial architectural evidence for Saxon work within St. Michael's church (**ME022**). The burial is unusual, as it was interred in an east-west alignment – indicating a Christian rite – but contained high status grave goods more usually associated with

Pagan ritual. This evidence of mixed rites indicates that the burial dates to the transitional phase of conversion to Christianity within the kingdom of Wessex in the 7th century. The grave is located at a remote location from the parish church, and may indicate an earlier focus of settlement away from the known historic core of the town.

5.5. Medieval (Fig. 5)

5.5.1. The most significant site of this period is that of Mere Castle (**ME011**), built by Richard, Earl of Cornwall in 1253. This is recorded as a rectangular stone-built structure with six towers, incorporating a hall, an inner and outer gate, a deep well and a chapel. Records exist for extensive repairs to the structure in 1300, indicating the original build to have been sub-standard, although the motive for this renovation may have been a potential rebellion by a faction of the Barons. After this date little is known of the castle's history, although it was evidently abandoned by 1398, when Richard II ordered lead to be stripped from its roofs for his castle at Portchester, Hampshire (Colvin 1963). When Aubrey visited the town in 1660 he was shown Castle Hill and told 'here anciently stood a castle' (Mere Editing Committee 1958), indicating there to be no above-ground masonry surviving at that time. An 18th century visitor was shown the castle ruins and remarked upon the partially exposed plastered wall visible where rubblestone had been robbed by the townsfolk (much of Mere's built heritage is constructed of stone robbed from the castle) (Cassell 1994).

5.5.2. Although St. Michael's church (**ME025**) has been established since the Saxon period (par. 5.4.1), the earliest post-Conquest phase is of c.1190. The chancel dates from the 13th century, the north and south aisles from the 14th century, and the remainder in the decorated style of the 15th century (Ponting 1897). The Chantry House (**ME024**) was built in the mid 15th century to house the priests ministering to the chantry chapels attached to the parish church. It was originally an open hall of three bays, but has seen many phases of alterations in the successive centuries (Pantin 1959). A site in Castle Street may be the former location of the Deanery (**ME023**), known to have been a separate entity to the Chantry House. This building had by the 19th century been converted into a barn, but retained elaborately decorated fireplaces and a fine oak roof of 15th century date. The building was recorded prior to its demolition in c.1890 by local antiquarian T.H. Baker, who considered it to be contemporary with the grand restoration of St. Michael's church in 1460. The site is now occupied by a car park, although the cellar of the building is said to survive on its east side (M.F. Tighe, pers. comm.).

5.5.3. Mere's Market Place (**ME027**) can be traced to the later 13th century and the founding of the Medieval town by Richard of Cornwall shortly after the construction of the castle. Although a market grant is not recorded until 1408, there are documentary references to Mere market as early as 1275 (Haslam 1976). Within the Market Place originally stood a Market Cross (**ME012**), probably of late 13th or early 14th century date. In the 15th century this was removed and the Market House (**ME028**) built. This was a two-storey structure

with arched, open sides on the ground floor for the erection of stalls, and an upper 'cross loft' or 'cross house' which was the Court House of the Duchy of Cornwall. The building was demolished in 1863 and replaced with the present Clock Tower (Baker 1897).

- 5.5.4. Two mills can be identified. Mere Mill (**ME013**), also known as Town Mill, has existed since at least c.1300 (Baker 1897). Extensive earthworks survive to the north and south of the present Town Mill Farm, although these have not been investigated. The second site is to the south of St. Michael's Church (**ME026**), where a weir and mill ponds indicate the position of a corn mill of at least 13th century date. This site is first mentioned in 1280, when it formed part of a gift to Salisbury Cathedral (Mere Editing Committee 1958).
- 5.5.5. There may be evidence for the presence of some form of settlement on the fringe of the Medieval town at Wellhead (**ME014**), where Gover (1939, 180) connects the place-name to Christina atte Well in c.1300.
- 5.5.6. Three artefact findspots are recorded. A 15th century German stoneware figure is known from Castle Hill (**ME008**), a c.12th century pottery flask was found on the site of the former North Street Nurseries (**ME009**), and a c.15th century buckle was recovered during the cleaning of the mill pond to the south of the church (**ME015**).

5.6. Industrial/Recent (Fig. 6)

- 5.6.1. The flour mill known as Town Mill (**ME010**) continued in production from Medieval times, although the present mill buildings date from the later centuries. Milling ceased in the late 19th century and the building is now a dwelling.
- 5.6.2. The town was prominent in the pre-Industrial woollen industry, although production was cottage-based. In the early 19th century a water-powered linen factory was opened in the former Lords Mead flour mill (**ME030**), but it was a short-lived venture which closed with the rapid extinction of the Wiltshire industry in the 1840s (Mere Editing Committee 1958). The woollen trade was soon replaced by silk throwing, and a site remains in Water Street (**ME029**), where a factory operated from c.1840 to 1906. The site was later used for Wilton carpet production, but closed in the 1940s. The buildings have been converted into houses (Tighe 1994). To the south of Water Street, at Edge Bridge, is the probable site of Down's Edge Tool factory (**ME032**), apparently a substantial enterprise before the mid 19th century, but which ceased manufacturing by 1861. Tighe (1997) conjectures that the northern stream of the Shreen Water was modified to form a mill leat for the factory. At the north end of Water Street, at Hazzards Hill, is the site of a former brewery (**ME034**), founded in the later 19th century, but which was later converted into meat and dairy processing. The buildings are today occupied by Yapps wine merchants.

5.6.3. Mere had a substantial workhouse in Castle Street (**ME031**), which served several parishes. It was built in 1836 and replaced a smaller institution. The workhouse closed in 1930 and most of the buildings were later demolished, although a lodge still stands on the street frontage and the former laundry is now Union House (Sidwell & Sidwell 1995). Mere had its own Gas Company, formed in 1837, and a gas works (**ME033**) was sited at the junction of Mill Lane and The Island. Although this was shown as extant on the 1957 O.S. Map, the site has been completely cleared, with little to suggest its former presence, although some elements of an earlier undertaking may survive in North Street (M.F. Tighe, pers. comm.).

5.7. Undated (Fig. 6)

5.7.1. A single undated burial was recorded in Water Street (**ME016**). Although there was no dating evidence it is suspected that this may be a Saxon interment, given the relative proximity to the 7th century grave recorded to the west in Barnes Close (**ME007**). If this were to be Saxon, then it may throw some light on the location of early settlement within the study area.

5.7.2. A small undated pit was recorded during an evaluation at the former nurseries in North Street (**ME017**) (AC Archaeology 1996).

5.8. Built Heritage

5.8.1. This section of the report is intended to provide an introduction to the surviving built heritage of Mere, and is not designed to be a comprehensive account of the town's notable structures, but is a selection of the salient architectural features and buildings within the Study Area, including, if present, significant unlisted structures. This data has been compiled by Wiltshire Buildings Record.

5.8.2. Detailed lists of historic buildings and architectural detail are included as Appendices 3, 4 & 5. Although individual Grade II listed buildings may be (where relevant) discussed in this section, they are not included as a comprehensive list in the Appendices, due to the very large quantities of additional data this would involve. Researchers seeking information on Grade II structures are directed to the appropriate Department of Environment or Department of National Heritage schedule lists.

5.8.3. This small stone town stands isolated in the south-west corner of Wiltshire. It was dominated by a castle built in 1253 of which nothing but a hill remains today. Surviving Medieval buildings are in stone, rather than timber, due to the abundance of local limestone, particularly greensand. This tradition of building in stone has continued into the 19th century but is particularly evident in the inns and principal buildings of the 18th century, a time when Mere was busy as a coaching stop.

- 5.8.4. **Fifteenth Century.** The Chantry, Church Street (grade II*) originally housed chantry priests. It is a good squared limestone building with an open hall, possibly with priests' rooms on the first floor of the service range. In the mid 16th century it was modified with the insertion of floors but these were removed in a mid 20th century restoration. During the 16th century it was owned by Sir John Thynne after the suppression of charities, then Thomas Chafyn after 1563. William Barnes, the Dorset poet, ran a school here from 1827. The Chantry is one of three buildings identified as 15th century or earlier. The Charnel House in St Michael's churchyard, may possibly be a Victorian rebuilding of a Medieval structure. Its name is misleading, as it never performed a charnel house function (Tighe, pers. comm.). The Churchyard Cross north of the north porch of St Michael's, Church Street is Medieval in origin.
- 5.8.5. **Sixteenth Century.** Very little remains that can be identified as 16th century. The Talbot Hotel, The Square (grade II) is a rubblestone building listed as having 16th or 17th century origins, and probably with a through passage plan. Chantry Cottage, Church Street (grade II) and 1 & 2 The Grange, Water Street (grade II) have similar origins with later modifications.
- 5.8.6. **Seventeenth Century.** One of the oldest buildings to survive in Castle Street is 20/22 Homestead & Barbican Cottage, a much modified 17th century or earlier structure in limestone rubble, perhaps with a typical three-room and cross passage plan. Downlease, Salisbury Street is another building which has evidence of an earlier core; there are some signs of a stone-mullioned window over the central doorway.
- 5.8.7. Dewes House, Salisbury Street (grade II*) is a large symmetrical ashlar house with mullioned windows dating from the mid-late 17th century with additions of the 18th & 19th centuries. The interior retains much of interest including a good moulded dog-leg stair and extensive cellars.
- 5.8.8. **Eighteenth Century.** The greatest number of listed buildings in Mere are 18th century (forty-two structures; seven of which are milestones). This must reflect the town's historic main occupation as a coaching stop.
- 5.8.9. The Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (grade II*) replaces an earlier house of the 17th century. It was built in 1711 by Henry Andrews. It is an exceptional example of its kind, with a good wide frontage and central carriageway into a yard. The interior contains a good contemporary fireplace with an overmantel painting of Charles II. The external wrought iron sign is probably by Kingston Avery and dates from the mid-18th century. The Old Ship was formerly on the main London to West Country route, which is now bypassed. Another street front of above average quality belongs to the nearby Latimer House (grade II), which has a near symmetrical formal front attached to a probably earlier building.

- 5.8.10. **Nineteenth Century.** The importance of Mere dwindled in the 19th century and this may be reflected in the correspondingly fewer buildings listed in this period – twenty-five.
- 5.8.11. The Lodge at Castle Hill Service Station, Castle Street (grade II) is a picturesque building, formerly one of a pair belonging to the old Union workhouse, the latter two demolished in 1968/9.
- 5.8.12. Tower View, St Michael's Cottage, Stower Cottage & Unnamed cottage, Church Street (grade II), a group of modest stone cottages with casement windows, have been identified as important to the maintenance of the character of the surround to the church. Likewise, Jean's TV & Electrical Shop & house adjoining Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (grade II) represents what much of the street must have looked like before multiple 20th century changes were made in many other properties. A few other buildings, such as Habberly, Water Street, are also relatively unmodified. The house adjoining east of Potter's Croft, Salisbury Street is a late 19th century house listed for its careful urban design and its position in the street.

6. PLAN FORM ANALYSIS

6.1. Introduction

- 6.1.1. Mere, in common with all existing Wiltshire towns, has no foundation in the prehistoric or Romano-British periods, although archaeological remains belonging to both periods are present within and nearby to the study area. Historical and documentary archives have clearly identified the presence of a settlement from at least the 11th century, although the very sparse archaeological evidence and complete lack of documentary or historical records prevents a meaningful reconstruction of the Saxon topography. As a fairly insignificant market town, Mere saw little expansion beyond the Medieval core until the 19th century – a pattern common amongst the smaller Wiltshire towns. The advent of the Industrial Revolution had only a limited impact, with but a handful of small industrial enterprises and no railway to feed growth. Although Mere had become important as a coaching stop, it remained essentially a small agricultural town until the late 19th century.
- 6.1.2. Owing to the lack of Saxon evidence, the very limited Post-medieval growth and the absence of industrialisation, only the Medieval phase of Mere's plan form is explored within this report.

6.2. Medieval (Fig. 7)

6.2.1. Table 2: Plan form components

COMPONENT	COMPONENT TYPE	FIGURE No.
COM1	Castle	7
COM2	Parish Church & Chantry	7
COM3	Probable Deanery	7
COM4	Market Place	7
COM5	Probable Extent of Planned Settlement	7
COM6	Mill Site, South of Parish Church	7
COM7	Mill Site, East End of Mill Lane	7
COM8	Roads	7

6.2.2. **COM1 – Castle.** This is by far the most significant component of Medieval Mere, for without the castle there would arguably not have been the planned town (**COM5**). Mere at the time of the Domesday Survey appears to have comprised nothing more than a village, with none of the attributes commonly found in Saxon urban or proto-urban communities, although it has been conjectured that the lack of detail in the Domesday listing was due to the land being Crown Property (par. 4.3), and therefore exempt from taxation. Whatever the situation in the later 11th century, it is clear that by the earlier 13th century Mere was an insignificant minor settlement with a semi-derelict church (par. 4.3).

6.2.3. The manor of Mere was granted to Richard, Earl of Cornwall in 1243, and in 1253 the castle was constructed. Contemporary documentation survives for a substantial scheme of repairs in the year 1300 (Baker 1897), and from this we know the general form of the structure (par. 5.5.1). The defences were of the type known as an enclosure castle, in which a strong masonry curtain wall, additionally fortified by projecting towers and flanked by ditches and/or banks, encircled an area within which the lord or constable of the castle – and his dependants – resided within a variety of buildings (Fry 1996). The castle is strategically located upon an isolated hill from which its commanding position over the town below is immediately obvious to the visitor. The hill top has been radically re-formed and flattened, and a ditch over 5m deep dug along the west side to sever the castle site from the rest of Long Hill.

6.2.4. Mere castle appears to have been abandoned by the later 14th century, according to contemporary documentary evidence (Par. 5.5.1). Accounts from the 17th and 18th centuries are specific in describing the site as ruinous (par. 4.4). The robbing of the fallen masonry is similarly described, and the site became a ‘quarry’ for the town below (Cassell 1994). A good extant example of a southern English enclosure castle exists at Framlingham in Suffolk (Platt 1982, 20; Kenyon 1990; Fry 1996), which although larger in scale and with greater external earthwork defences, provides an insight into the type of structure which must have stood at Mere.

6.2.5. **COM2 – Parish Church & Chantry.** There is archaeological evidence to suggest a Late Saxon date of origin for St. Michael’s Church (Par. 5.4.1), although it is first referred to after the Conquest (Par. 4.3). The Medieval

architectural sequence is well recorded (Par. 5.5.1, Ponting 1897), and documentary sources indicate a period of neglect in the earlier 13th century (Par. 4.3). The grand restoration of the church took place in the 15th century, at which time the Chantry was constructed just to the south of the church to accommodate the chantry priests. This building, now in secular hands, is also well recorded (Par. 5.8.1.1, Pantin 1959).

- 6.2.6. **COM3 – Possible Deanery.** Contemporary with the main phase of the parish church and the Chantry is a now demolished 15th century building called 'The Deanery' on early OS maps, but which local research suggests was never occupied by such senior clergy (Tighe, pers.comm.). This building was recorded shortly before its demolition in the mid 19th century (Par. 5.5.2), from which it is apparent that it was a higher status late Medieval building. The site is now occupied by a late Victorian terrace, although the cellar of the earlier structure survives beneath.
- 6.2.7. **COM4 – Market Place.** This, as the subject of a judicial enquiry in 1275 (Par. 4.4), is the first known element of the Medieval town. The present form of the Market Place probably indicates a degree of encroachment by the buildings lining the north and south sides. Although there is no archaeological or historical evidence to support this claim, the irregular form of the Market Place is unusual. A possible indication of the original size of this component may be found at the eastern and western ends of the area, where the Market Place is widest. The corners of both ends are marked by the entrance of roads, and if the corner points are joined together they form a near rectangle. It is tempting to envisage the original market area as forming a regular shape in plan, with the Market Cross, and later the Market House (Par. 5.5.3), dominating the western end of the trading area. The current topography of the Market Place has completely hidden its former function. The Market House has gone, replaced by the Clock Tower, and tarmac predominates, with a widened main road, a bus stop and car parking in the former open space.
- 6.2.8. **COM5 – Planned Settlement Area.** The historic core of the town is believed to have been laid out as speculative development soon after the building of the castle in 1253. There is little documentary evidence for this activity, and no historical evidence for burgage plots or borough status. There is, however, topographic and circumstantial evidence which points to the planned expansion of the small village which was Mere before the middle of the 13th century.
- 6.2.9. The main route through the town via Castle Street (past the site of the Deanery (**COM3**)) and Salisbury Street passes through the Market Place along an east-west axis. The western extent of the historic built-up area may be conjectured to begin at a point below the western end of the castle and to extend east across to the Shreen Water and Water Street. This main road is paralleled to the north by a 'back lane' formed by Castle Lane and North Street. The area thus bounded by these two thoroughfares may represent the site of a block of Medieval land plots, although it is far from certain whether all

would have been built upon within the period. The Andrews & Dury map of 1773 shows this as the core of the built-up area, which had probably not grown substantially over the preceding three centuries. On the south side of the Market Place it may be considered reasonable that the area between the Market Place, deanery and parish church was included within the planned area. To the south-east, in the absence of solid evidence an area of possible planned settlement has been conjectured as a continuation of the well-defined property boundaries to the rear of Church Street across to the north end of Water Street, where the line of property boundaries to the rear of Salisbury Street emerges just above the geological fault line, thereby keeping to the better drained Cretaceous deposits.

- 6.2.10. Although the precise genesis and extent of the planned town is open to question, it is apparent that a degree of success was achieved, for by the 14th century historical sources show that Mere had become a successful staple for wool, and at the turn of the 15th century Mere citizens were being granted the privilege of exemption from tolls (Haslam 1976).
- 6.2.11. The current topography of the Medieval town is dominated by two large coaching inns – The Ship and The Talbot, and a predominance of 18th and early 19th century building, mostly in stone, with some late 19th and early 20th century intrusion, but with little modern clutter, giving an ‘unspoilt’ feel to the streetscapes.
- 6.2.12. **COM6 – Mill Site, South of Parish Church.** A mill pond and weir still exist at this site, first mentioned in the later 13th century (Par. 5.5.4). Access to this site must have been along the road formed by a southerly extension of Church Street.
- 6.2.13. **COM7 – Mill Site, East End of Mill Lane.** In production until modern times, this is thought to have been the site of the Medieval Town Mill, based upon the association in 1300 with one Arnulphus atte Mulle (Gover 1939). Extensive earthworks and stream modifications exist at this location, and, although they have not been dated are strong circumstantial evidence in favour of this conjecture.
- 6.2.14. **COM8 – Roads.** The roads depicted within Fig.7 are chiefly based upon the historic topography of the town, there being a dearth of the historical or documentary evidence for historic street names common in most towns. In past centuries, traffic from the east did not enter the town via White Road, as it does now, but via a more circuitous route via Old Hollow, Steep Street and Upper Water Street (Mere Editing Committee 1975). Research by Michael Tighe suggests that prior to the opening of the Wincanton Turnpike Trust in 1756 little or no wheeled traffic passed through Mere, the packhorse being the predominant form of transport, thus accounting for the narrowness of many of these roads. The main entrance to the castle is thought to have been on the west side, and a road has been conjectured following the wide, shallow sloping terrace cut into the south side of Castle Hill, which funnels into a deep

holloway adjoining Manor Road. It has been assumed that the roads away from the town to the Deverill Valley to the north-east, to Shaftesbury to the south, and to Wincanton to the west were in existence by this time.

7. ASSESSMENT

7.1. Summary of Research

7.1.1. The documented history of Mere begins with Domesday, although it is not until the 13th century and the construction of the castle that any real insight can be made into the nature of the settlement. Records of the day-to-day activities of the town do not emerge until the later Middle Ages, and thereafter a steadily growing body of historical and documentary evidence can be found, although aspects of the town remain unclear, such as the position of burgage or 'official' settlement plots and the boundaries of the Medieval town. The Post-medieval and Industrial/recent history of Mere is more fully documented, and the town is fortunate in having both a museum and individual historians actively engaged in publishing a series of articles on aspects of past life. The three general histories of the town, published in 1897 (Baker), 1958 and 1975 (Mere Editing Committee) succinctly present the currently available historical data.

7.1.2. The town has been subject to little archaeological work, which reflects the small amount of redevelopment which has taken place within the historic core. The castle site was subject to an antiquarian excavation in the later 19th century, of which, lamentably, no records are known to survive. The two significant discoveries of burials away from the parish church were both chance finds, and the single piece of PPG16-generated work – at North Street Nurseries – produced insignificant results.

7.2. The Growth of the Town (Fig. 8)

7.2.1. Saxon

7.2.1.1. The historical evidence suggests that a settlement has existed at Mere since at least the later Saxon period, although it is probable that this was but a minor village or hamlet. Certainly by the time of Domesday there appears to be no evidence for any of the urban status indicators normally associated with a town. Judging by the entry in Domesday it is likely that settlement at Mere in the period between the Saxon colonisation of the area and the construction of the castle in the mid 13th century was based wholly within the rural economy and essentially agricultural in nature.

7.2.2. Late Medieval

7.2.2.1. The development of a Baronial castle at Mere was followed by the planned stimulation of the settlement, with a formal Market Place and evidence for the laying-out of an area of settlement or burgage plots. By the end of the Medieval period the castle appears to have fallen out of use or at least to have diminished in significance, while in contrast the town had become established and was burgeoning as a centre for the woollen trade.

7.2.3. Post Medieval

7.2.3.1. Mere, in common with many of the minor Wiltshire towns, experienced a period of relative stasis during the Post-medieval era. Although a prosperous coaching trade had developed by the time of the later 18th century, it seems that settlement activity was still confined within the area of the Medieval town. This may suggest that new building or population growth was absorbed through the development of hitherto vacant plots, or that occupation became more densely concentrated within the historic core. Whatever the reason for this trend, it is apparent that the topography of the town changed little between the end of the Medieval period and the beginning of the 19th century.

7.2.4. Recent

7.2.4.1. The area of the town has grown exponentially within the past two centuries, as it experienced growing success with industries such as the linen trade, and as a major coaching stop within a relatively isolated area. The Wiltshire linen industry was extinct by the mid 19th century, and much passing trade lost with the growth of the railways. Additionally, the agricultural depression of the late 19th century led to the abandonment of cottages in the town by the Duchy of Cornwall. However, the arrival of new industries created a modest net growth and the first half of the 20th century saw the development of social housing projects and large-scale horticultural enterprises within the study area. More recently, industries such as industrial chimney construction and brush manufacture have flourished on the southern periphery of the town.

7.3. The Archaeological Potential

7.3.1. One of the principal aims of this phase of the Extensive Urban Survey is to examine the archaeological potential of the town to assist with the development of a management strategy in the later phase of the project. Whilst all of the core town may be considered important archaeologically, it is necessary to try to highlight those areas of greater interest, either because of the importance of the remains or because better than average preservation is expected there.

7.3.2. The discovery over past decades of burials remote from the established parish church site is significant. In particular, the 7th century transitional burial from Barnes Place is of interest. The discovery of such a high status early Christian burial indicates the presence of a cemetery within its vicinity, as it would be unusual for such an inhumation to exist in isolation. Although the location of this find is within an established area of the town, there may be scope for further discoveries within any 'small works' such as the cutting of service trenches or

the foundations of building extensions. Additionally, such an early find away from the known later Saxon church may indicate a separate or earlier focus of settlement in the Mid Saxon period. Unfortunately, with no evidence for the location of such a site it is impossible to suggest an area of potential, although the undated burial discovered at The Lynch (and conjectured to be Saxon) may indicate a settlement trend along the east-west aligned geological fault line, where access to fresh spring water is plentiful. If such a site were to be located it would be of local significance.

- 7.3.3. The recording in the 19th century of Saxon evidence within the parish church is of interest, and may warrant further research to attempt to determine the earliest ecclesiastical use of the site. Although it is recognised that a significant development-generated archaeological project here is unlikely, churches and churchyards are occasionally subject to minor interventions such as underpinning, damp-proofing, and the cutting of drainage and service trenches, all of which offer the opportunity for archaeological observation on this site of local importance. The opportunity to observe any excavation within the church itself would be of particular interest, given the common Medieval practice of rebuilding a church directly upon the site of its predecessor (Rodwell 1989).
- 7.3.4. Mere Castle was the subject of antiquarian research in the 1880s, the records of which have disappeared, barring a rough plan sketch of the foundations. The extent of this work is unknown, although it is highly unlikely that a complete excavation of the site was attempted. Given the rudimentary nature of the one known plan, it would be healthy to treat with scepticism the idea that the castle was a regular rectangle in plan form, as an examination of the body of recorded hilltop enclosure castles in England & Wales (cf. Platt 1982; Kenyon 1990; Fry 1996 et al) suggests that such a form would be extremely rare. The castle site, therefore, presents a prime opportunity for research. Several goals may be identified: to determine the true plan form of the defences; to determine the degree of preservation of the remains; to define the extent of the 19th century work; to locate the position of the entrance, gatehouses, towers and internal structures; to define a chronology for the use and disuse of the site. In the first instance, non-invasive investigative techniques such as geophysical survey may be most appropriate, given the site's status as a Scheduled Monument.
- 7.3.5. Archaeological work within the postulated area of the Medieval town could help to define the chronology, nature and extent of settlement from the inception of the town in the 13th century until the Post-medieval period. Specific issues include the original extent of the Market Place; whether in situ archaeological remains survive on the site of the former Deanery; a precise date of origin for the two known Medieval mill sites. It is recognised, however, that given the established nature of settlement within the historic core of the town, the potential for large-scale investigations is limited, with current development pressures focussed towards greenfield sites on the periphery of the study area. It is likely, though that smaller-scale infill developments may occur, particularly to the rear of properties east of the Market Place, and on the handful of small 'brownfield' sites that exist within the town.

7.3.6. Mere's limited Industrial heritage is to a certain extent secure, as the majority of historic industrial buildings have now been converted into dwellings or have alternate uses, the only significant losses being the workhouse and gasworks. The former is well-recorded and the latter is currently the subject of historical research.

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9. MAPS

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- 1839.** Tithe Map
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- 1972.** Ordnance Survey, Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales), Sheet 297, 1:50000 Series.

10. APPENDICES

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

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

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

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

Appendix 3: Listed Buildings by Schedule Category (Refer to Dept. of Environment schedule for Grade II buildings)

Grade I

Church of St Michael the Archangel, Church Street (c1190, 13C, 14C, 15C)

Grade II*

The Chantry, Church Street (mid 15th C, 16C)

Dewes House, Salisbury Street (mid-late, 18C & 19C)

Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711)

Appendix 4: Buildings Survival by Century

12th Century

Church of St Michael the Archangel, Church Street (c1190, 13C, 14C, 15C)

15th Century

Churchyard Cross north of n porch of St Michael's, Church Street (mediaeval)

Charnel House, St Michael's churchyard, Church Street (late mediaeval)

The Chantry, Church Street (mid, 16C)

16th Century

Chantry Cottage, Church Street (&17C)

Talbot Hotel, The Square (16th or 17th C)

1 & 2 The Grange, Water Street

17th Century

20/22 Homestead & Barbican Cottage, Castle Street

Dewes Lodge, Salisbury Street

St Ann's, Church Street (poss 17C)

Timothy J Thick & Vogue, Salisbury Street (prob 17C)

Dewes House, Salisbury Street (mid-late, 18C & 19C)

18th Century

Manderley, Castle Street

Tithings, Castle Street

Milestone, Castle Street

Milestone Cottage, Castle Street

The Close, Church Lane

Westway, Church Lane

The Little House, Church Street

Gate piers, gates, & boundary wall to churchyard of St Michael, Church Street

Entrance doorway & wall to left of Lecture Hall, Salisbury Street

Entrance way to Dewes House, Salisbury Street

Cross House, Salisbury Street (& 19C)

Crossways, Salisbury Street (& 19C)

Blue Rider, Salisbury Street (may be earlier)

Georgian House, Salisbury Street

Downlease, Salisbury Street (& 19C)
 R & M Cockram and House adjoining to right, The Square
 The Church Cottage, Wet Lane
 Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756)
 Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711)
 1, 2 & 3 The Square (early-mid)
 The Old Rectory, Church Street (1774, 19C)
 Latimer House, Castle Street (late)
 The Butt of Sherry, Castle Street (late)
 Ridge House, Castle Street (late)
 Lordsmead Mill (late 18th/early 19th)
 The Manse, Boar Street (late 18th/early 19th)
 Glebe House, Church Street (late 18th/early 19th)
 Boundary wall adjoining stable block to The Chantry, Church Street (18th or 19th C)
 Gateway & walls to Courtyard Cottage, Salisbury Street (18th or 19th C)
 Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C)
 The House in Salisbury Street, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C)
 Boundary wall & gate attached to 1 The Grange, Water Street (18C or 19C)

19th Century

Fives Court Wall, Angel Lane
 Tower View, St Michael's Cottage, Stower Cottage & Unnamed cottage, Church Street (early)
 1 Pettridge Lane (early)
 Jean's TV & Electrical Shop & house adjoining Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (early)
 Pickwicks, Salisbury Street (early)
 Potters Croft, Salisbury Street (early)
 Balcony Cottage, The Square (early)
 Habberley, Water Street (early)
 Hatherleigh, Pettridge Lane (early-mid)
 Lodge at Castle Hill Service Station, Castle Street (1835)
 Library & Museum, Church Street (1839)
 Methodist Church, North Street (1846)
 Yew Glen, Castle Street (c1850)
 Clock Tower, The Square (1868)
 House adjoining east of Potter's Croft, Salisbury Street (late)
 Spa Shop & Waltons of Mere, The Square (late)
 6 & 7 The Square (late)
 Church of St Matthew, Shaftesbury Road (1882)
 School: The Grove Building, Church Street (1899)

Appendix 5: Individual Architectural Detail by Century and Building

15th Century

Squared limestone: Charnel House, St Michael's churchyard, Church Street (late Medieval); The Chantry, Church Street (mid, 16C)

Cusped light: Charnel House, St Michael's churchyard, Church Street (late Medieval); The Chantry, Church Street (mid, 16C)

Casements: The Chantry, Church Street (mid, 16C)

Hollow drip mould: Charnel House, St Michael's churchyard, Church Street (late Medieval)

Chamfered mullions: The Chantry, Church Street (mid, 16C)

Doorways:

Basket-arched: The Chantry, Church Street (mid, 16C)

4-centred arch: The Chantry, Church Street (mid, 16C)

Open Hall: The Chantry, Church Street (mid, 16C)

Arch braced roof: The Chantry, Church Street (mid, 16C)

Cusped windbraces: The Chantry, Church Street (mid, 16C)

King-post and curved braces: The Chantry, Church Street (mid, 16C)

Stone fireplace: The Chantry, Church Street (mid, 16C)

16th Century

Coursed rubble: Chantry Cottage, Church Street (&17C); Talbot Hotel, The Square (16th or 17th C); 1 & 2 The Grange, Water Street

Greensand: 1 & 2 The Grange, Water Street

Coped verges: Chantry Cottage, Church Street (&17C)

Probably stone slate: 1 & 2 The Grange, Water Street

Moulded doorway: Chantry Cottage, Church Street (&17C)

Basket-arched doorway: Chantry Cottage, Church Street (&17C)

Moulded beams: 1 & 2 The Grange, Water Street

Windbraced roof: 1 & 2 The Grange, Water Street

17th Century

Ashlar: Dewes House, Salisbury Street (mid-late, 18C & 19C)

Coursed squared limestone: 20/22 Homestead & Barbican Cottage, Castle Street; Dewes Lodge, Salisbury Street; Timothy J Thick & Vogue, Salisbury Street

Plinth: Dewes House, Salisbury Street (mid-late, 18C & 19C)

Stair turret: Dewes House, Salisbury Street (mid-late, 18C & 19C)

Roof:

Originally thatch: Timothy J Thick & Vogue, Salisbury Street

Windows:

Transomed & mullioned: Dewes House, Salisbury Street (mid-late, 18C & 19C)

With moulded architraves: Dewes House, Salisbury Street (mid-late, 18C & 19C)

Casements: Dewes Lodge, Salisbury Street

Doorways:

Bolection-moulded: Dewes House, Salisbury Street (mid-late, 18C & 19C)

Dog-leg: Dewes House, Salisbury Street (mid-late, 18C & 19C)

18th Century

Limestone ashlar: Latimer House, Castle Street (late)

Coursed squared limestone: Lordsmead Mill; Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711); The Butt of Sherry, Castle Street (late); Ridge House, Castle Street (late); Milestone, Castle Street; Milestone Cottage, Castle Street; Glebe House, Church Street (late 18th/early 19th); The Old Rectory, Church Street (1774, 19C); Georgian House, Salisbury Street; The House in Salisbury Street, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C); Downlease, Salisbury Street (& 19C); 1, 2 & 3 The Square (early-mid); R & M Cockram and House adjoining to right, The Square

Rendered: The Manse, Boar Street (late 18th/early 19th)

Greensand: The Butt of Sherry, Castle Street (late)

Chilmark stone: Milestone, Castle Street; Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756)

Doulling stone: Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756)

Sandstone: Boundary wall & gate attached to 1 The Grange, Water Street

Rat trap bond brickwork: Downlease, Salisbury Street (& 19C)

Timber framed:

Weatherboarding: Lordsmead Mill

Parapet: Latimer House, Castle Street (late)

Cornice: Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711); Latimer House, Castle Street (late)

Strings: Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711); 1, 2 & 3 The Square (early-mid)

Plat band: Latimer House, Castle Street (late); The Butt of Sherry, Castle Street (late)

Plinth: Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711); Latimer House, Castle Street (late); Milestone, Castle Street

Roof:

With coped gables: The Manse, Boar Street (late 18th/early 19th); Latimer

With hipped dormers: The Butt of Sherry, Castle Street (late)

Slate roof: Lordsmead Mill, The Manse, Boar Street (late 18th/early 19th); Milestone Cottage, Castle Street

Stone slate: Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711)

Tile: Lordsmead Mill; Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711); The Butt of Sherry, Castle Street (late); Ridge House, Castle Street (late); Milestone, Castle Street; Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756); 1, 2 & 3 The Square (early-mid); R & M Cochran and House adjoining to right, The Square

Pantile: Glebe House, Church Street (late 18th/early 19th)

Once probably thatched: Milestone Cottage, Castle Street

Brick stacks: Latimer House, Castle Street (late); Ridge House, Castle Street (late); Milestone, Castle Street; Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756); The House in Salisbury Street, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C); 1, 2 & 3 The Square (early-mid); R & M Cochran and House adjoining to right, The Square

Windows:

With timber lintels: Glebe House, Church Street (late 18th/early 19th)

With keyed lintels: Lordsmead Mill; Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756)

With flat cambered voussiors: The Butt of Sherry, Castle Street (late); Ridge House, Castle Street (late); Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756); The House in Salisbury Street, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C)

With moulded architraves: The Manse, Boar Street (late 18th/early 19th)

Sash windows: Lordsmead Mill, The Manse, Boar Street (late 18th/early 19th); Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711); Latimer House, Castle Street (late); Ridge House, Castle Street (late); Glebe House, Church Street (late 18th/early 19th); Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756); Georgian House, Salisbury Street; The House in Salisbury Street, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C); 1, 2 & 3 The Square (early-mid); R & M Cochran and House adjoining to right, The Square

Tripartite: The Butt of Sherry, Castle Street (late); The Old Rectory, Church Street (1774, 19C)

Yorkshire sliding sash: Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711)

Canted bay: Milestone Cottage, Castle Street; 1, 2 & 3 The Square (early-mid)

Casements: Lordsmead Mill; The Manse, Boar Street (late 18th/early 19th); Milestone, Castle Street; Milestone Cottage, Castle Street; Glebe House, Church Street (late 18th/early 19th); The Old Rectory, Church Street (1774, 19C); Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756); R & M Cochran and House adjoining to right, The Square

Leaded: Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711); Milestone, Castle Street

Mullions:

Timber: Milestone, Castle Street

Cyma (ogee): Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711)

Flush: 1, 2 & 3 The Square (early-mid)

Doors:

Carriageway: 1, 2 & 3 The Square (early-mid); R & M Cochran and House adjoining to right, The Square

With segmental heads: Lordsmead Mill

With pediment: Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711); Latimer House, Castle Street (late)

With moulded architraves: Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711); Latimer House, Castle Street (late); R & M Cochran and House adjoining to right, The Square

Palladian: 1, 2 & 3 The Square (early-mid)

With arch & keystone: 1, 2 & 3 The Square (early-mid)

Bracketed hood: The Manse, Boar Street (late 18th/early 19th); Milestone, Castle Street; R & M Cochran and House adjoining to right, The Square

Panelled doors: Lordsmead Mill; The Manse, Boar Street (late 18th/early 19th); Latimer House, Castle Street (late); The Butt of Sherry, Castle Street (late); The House in Salisbury Street, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C)

Plank doors: Lordsmead Mill

Window shutters: Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756)

Dog-leg stair: Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711)

Fireplace:

Bolection moulded: Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711)

Plasterwork: Old Ship Hotel, Castle Street (1711); Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756)

Beams:

Chamfered: Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756)

Double collar: Dean's Orchard, Church Street (1708, 1756)

19th Century

Limestone rubble and ashlar: Fives Court Wall, Angel Lane; House adjoining east of Potter's Croft, Salisbury Street (late)

Coursed & squared limestone rubble: Yew Glen, Castle Street (c1850); Lodge at Castle Hill Service Station, Castle Street (1835); Tower View, St Michael's Cottage, Stower Cottage & Unnamed cottage, Church Street (early); Library & Museum, Church Street (1839); 1 Pettridge Lane (early); Hatherleigh, Pettridge Lane (early-mid); Jean's TV & Electrical Shop & house adjoining Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (early); Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C); Pickwicks, Salisbury Street (early); Potters Croft, Salisbury Street (early); Balcony Cottage, The Square (early); Habberley, Water Street (early)

Greensand: Balcony Cottage, The Square (early); Habberley, Water Street (early)

Rendered: Spa Shop & Waltons of Mere, The Square (late)

With brick dressings: School: The Grove Building, Church Street (1899)

Slate hanging: House adjoining east of Potter's Croft, Salisbury Street (late)

Parapet: The Little House, Church Street

Cornice: House adjoining east of Potter's Croft, Salisbury Street (late)

Plinth: Tower View, St Michael's Cottage, Stower Cottage & Unnamed cottage, Church Street (early)

Roof:

Slate: Yew Glen, Castle Street (c1850); Lodge at Castle Hill Service Station, Castle Street (1835); Tower View, St Michael's Cottage, Stower Cottage & Unnamed cottage, Church Street (early); Library & Museum, Church Street (1839); 1 Pettridge Lane (early); Hatherleigh, Pettridge Lane (early-mid); Georgian House, Salisbury Street; Potters Croft, Salisbury Street (early); Spa Shop & Waltons of Mere, The Square (late); Balcony Cottage, The Square (early); Habberley, Water Street (early)

Tile: School: The Grove Building, Church Street (1899); Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C); House adjoining east of Potter's Croft, Salisbury Street (late)

Fishscale tile: The Old Rectory, Church Street (1774, 19C)

Double Roman tile: Jean's TV & Electrical Shop & house adjoining Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (early)

Pantile: Pickwicks, Salisbury Street (early)

With coped verges: Yew Glen, Castle Street (c1850); Lodge at Castle Hill Service Station, Castle Street (1835)

Bargeboards: Hatherleigh, Pettridge Lane (early-mid)

Dormers:

Hipped: 1 Pettridge Lane (early); House adjoining east of Potter's Croft, Salisbury Street (late)

Brick stack: Yew Glen, Castle Street (c1850); Tower View, St Michael's Cottage, Stower Cottage & Unnamed cottage, Church Street (early); 1 Pettridge Lane (early); Jean's TV & Electrical Shop & house adjoining Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (early); Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C); Pickwicks, Salisbury Street (early); Potters Croft, Salisbury Street (early); House adjoining east of Potter's Croft, Salisbury Street (late); Balcony Cottage, The Square (early); Habberley, Water Street (early)

Picturesque style: Lodge at Castle Hill Service Station, Castle Street (1835)

Porch:

Gabled: Lodge at Castle Hill Service Station, Castle Street (1835)

Windows:

With timber lintels: Pickwicks, Salisbury Street (early)

With flush voussoirs: Tower View, St Michael's Cottage, Stower Cottage & Unnamed cottage, Church Street (early); Hatherleigh, Pettridge Lane (early-mid); Jean's TV & Electrical Shop & house adjoining Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (early); Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C); Potters Croft, Salisbury Street (early)

Sash: Yew Glen, Castle Street (c1850); Tower View, St Michael's Cottage, Stower Cottage & Unnamed cottage, Church Street (early); Hatherleigh, Pettridge Lane (early-mid); Jean's TV & Electrical Shop & house adjoining Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (early); Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C); Pickwicks, Salisbury Street (early); Potters Croft, Salisbury Street (early); House adjoining east of Potter's Croft, Salisbury Street (late); Balcony Cottage, The Square (early); Habberley, Water Street (early)

Casement: Yew Glen, Castle Street (c1850); Tower View, St Michael's Cottage, Stower Cottage & Unnamed cottage, Church Street (early); 1 Pettridge Lane (early); Hatherleigh, Pettridge Lane (early-mid); Jean's TV & Electrical Shop & house adjoining Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (early); House adjoining east of Potter's Croft, Salisbury Street (late); Habberley, Water Street (early)

Metal: Lodge at Castle Hill Service Station, Castle Street (1835)

Bow: Pickwicks, Salisbury Street (early)

Oriel: Yew Glen, Castle Street (c1850); House adjoining east of Potter's Croft, Salisbury Street (late)

Transomed: Lodge at Castle Hill Service Station, Castle Street (1835)

Doors:

With flat canopy on brackets: Yew Glen, Castle Street (c1850); Hatherleigh, Pettridge Lane (early-mid); Potters Croft, Salisbury Street (early); Habberley, Water Street (early)

Panelled: Hatherleigh, Pettridge Lane (early-mid); Jean's TV & Electrical Shop & house adjoining Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (early); Potters Croft, Salisbury Street (early); House adjoining east of Potter's Croft, Salisbury Street (late); Habberley, Water Street (early)

Planked: Tower View, St Michael's Cottage, Stower Cottage & Unnamed cottage, Church Street (early); Mere Cottage, Salisbury Street (late 18th or early 19th C)

Panelled shutters: Habberley, Water Street (early)

Additional Notes

Churchyard monuments not included.