

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

English Heritage Project: NHPP 4A1 6942



On a culturally significant site, overlooking the church of St Mary Redcliffe, the Merchant Venturer (now Colosseum) of 1969 is one of Bristol's few surviving city centre public houses of the postwar period © Bristol Central Library

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Our particular thanks go to Emily Cole for her careful reading of and comments on our drafts.

A NOTE ON APOSTROPHES AND USE OF THE DEFINITE ARTICLE IN PUBLIC HOUSE NAMES:

As the punctuation in many pub names was often inconsistent over the period of study, in signs and as they were reported in the press and company records – e.g. the **King’s Arms** became the **Kings’ Arms** or the **Kings Arms** – all apostrophes have been removed unless we are reasonably certain that the punctuation has remained the same.

The same inconsistency can be found in the use of the definite article. For pubs such as **The Charlton**, which was originally named **The Charlton**, we have capitalised “The” as part of the name. In all other cases, or where referencing has been inconsistent over time, we have used lower case. Breweries were often inconsistent in their usage. An archival photograph of the **White Lion** at Frenchay, for example, shows a painted wall sign in the name of the **White Lion Hotel** and a hanging sign for **The White Lion**. In cases where referencing has varied over time, we have used lower case. Any punctuation and definite articles within quotations appear as in the original source.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. This study forms part of a set of connected research initiatives on the pub conducted by English Heritage in 2013–15.
2. The study was commissioned to help increase knowledge and appreciation of the urban and suburban public house in Bristol and to highlight the current threat to the city's pubs.
3. The research was carried out by Dr Fiona Fisher and Dr Rebecca Preston in 2014 in consultation with English Heritage.
4. The study employed a mixed methodology, comprising archival research, fieldwork visits and informal interviews.
5. The research indicated that Bristol's most significant nineteenth-century pubs are afforded a measure of protection through statutory and local listing, although one important listed example, the **George Railway Hotel**, is currently at risk. Two of the four public houses included on the List of Assets of Community Value published by Bristol City Council in December 2014, the **Air Balloon Tavern** and **Chequers**, are no longer trading as public houses.
6. It identified a number of less well protected and vulnerable categories of public house: suburban public houses of c.1900, which lend themselves to reuse as residential sites, or demolition for residential development; large suburban public houses of the interwar period, which are similarly attractive to developers for retail as well as residential development; and public houses on postwar estates, which are disappearing more rapidly than any other type.
7. It also identified a number of buildings of interest for more detailed study that are presented in the Appendix.

INTRODUCTION

This study of the nineteenth- and twentieth-century public house in Bristol forms part of a set of connected research initiatives on the pub conducted by English Heritage between 2013 and 2015 and is one of two area studies, the other of which investigates the public house in Leeds.

Objectives

The study was commissioned to help increase knowledge and appreciation of the urban and suburban public house in Bristol and highlight the current threat to the city's pubs.

The public house has been identified as a nationally significant building typology that has played a significant role in shaping English national identity. Although three out of every five UK adults visited a pub in 2013 (Intel, *Pub Visiting*, 2013) the public house is a threatened building type, particularly within urban and suburban areas, where numbers in England and Wales have fallen rapidly in recent years in response to policy and legislative changes (smoking ban, 2007), tax increases (particularly on beer), changing social practices (discounted supermarket sales of alcohol and increased domestic consumption) and recent structural and economic factors (land values; ownership structures within the licensed trade).

As English Heritage has identified, the effect of these changes is reflected in the loss of buildings and historic interiors as pubs have been converted for housing and for other uses that do not require planning permission (restaurants, convenience stores, supermarkets), large suburban public houses being particularly vulnerable as they are attractive to a range of developers.

The current measures of protection for public houses include the statutory listing of buildings, the inclusion of buildings within conservation areas or areas of special local character and the addition of buildings to lists of assets of community value or to other local heritage lists. Wandsworth Council in London is the first in England to begin the process of introducing additional planning protection and its draft Supplementary Planning Document to protect local pubs from redevelopment is currently (from 17 October 2014) in public consultation.

Scope

The research examined a cross-section of nineteenth- and twentieth-century public houses in urban and suburban locations within the 35 wards presently encompassed within the Unitary Authority boundary created in 1996. It investigated licensed houses dating from 1800–1985 and focused on those dating from 1918–1970, which are most under threat. It incorporated city centre pubs, pubs in Bristol’s inner and outer suburbs, backstreet pubs and pubs on major thoroughfares, businesses in residential and commercial districts and those built to serve the new private and corporation estates erected around the city after the Second World War. Buildings that still trade as pubs were considered alongside those which were originally designed as pubs but have since been converted to alternative uses.

Terms

For the purposes of this project the public house was defined using terms established by Maurice Gorham and H. McG. Dunnett in their 1949 study, as a place in which you could ‘buy a drink and drink it without the obligation to do anything else, such as buying a meal or dancing or booking a room’.¹

The study includes public houses (beerhouses and alehouses) licensed to sell alcohol for consumption on the premises, regardless of the category of their licence, a number of which operated principally as public houses but styled themselves as hotels.

Archival Sources

A variety of archival sources were consulted in preparing this report: petitions, plans, applications for alterations and drainage notices at the Bristol Record Office; the local press (in particular the reports of the licensing justices, street improvements committee and police courts, but also advertisements and editorial matter); the national press; the Hartley Collection of photographs and topographical views at Bristol Museum; records of Courage, Barclay and Simonds Limited at the City of London, London Metropolitan Archives (LMA); local topographical views, oral histories, press cuttings and brewery trade journals at

¹ M. Gorham and H. McG. Dunnett, ‘Inside the Pub’, *Architectural Review*, vol. 106, no. 634, October 1949, 209.

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Bristol Central Library; nineteenth-century antiquarian and other histories and surveys of Bristol; brewery estate records, photographs and trade journals at the Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK); architectural journals and architects' papers at The Royal Institute of British Architects, London; the catalogues of the Institute of Brewing and Distilling at Oxford Brookes University; the census; licensing legislation (<http://www.legislation.gov.uk>); local and trade directories; Ordnance Survey maps and other historical maps of Bristol from Bristol – Know Your Place (<http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/knowyourplace>) and other online sources; Goad fire insurance plans; *Pints West*, the quarterly publication by Bristol and District's branch of CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale); the planning portals for Bristol, South Gloucestershire, Bath and North East Somerset and North Somerset; The National Heritage List for England (<http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/protection/process/national-heritage-list-for-england>); the online catalogues of Gloucestershire Archives (<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/archives/catalogue>) and Somerset Record Office (<http://www1.somerset.gov.uk/archives/>); grey literature, including heritage and conservation area reports and character appraisals, historic environment policy documents, local archaeology reports, existing English Heritage studies; commercial data and property particulars from breweries, pubcos and sales and lettings agents; secondary sources, including local histories and social, architectural, economic and brewing histories of Bristol.

Bristol is fortunate in having many local people and organisations engaged in researching the city's licensed houses and also its wider history and geography, in many cases making this available freely online. We have made extensive use of this research, which includes data and visual materials, and are grateful to all those responsible and also to the many anonymous individuals who contribute local knowledge to their websites. These include Bristol – Know Your Place (<http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/knowyourplace>); Bristol's Lost Pubs (<http://bristolstlostpubs.eu>); Paul Townsend's Brizzle Born and Bred Flickr stream (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/20654194@N07>) and the So Sad About Us Flickr stream (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/46122021@N03/>); Stephen Harris and the others behind UK Pub History and Historical Street Directory (<http://pubshistory.com>); CAMRA's What Pub guide (<http://whatpub.com>); and contemporary community generated material from blogs, websites, pamphlets and campaigns to save pubs (e.g. www.savethelamplighterspub.bristolpetitions.com) or as reported in the *Bristol Post* (www.bristolpost.co.uk).

We are also grateful to the collections and individuals who have generously allowed us to reproduce their images. In particular, we have made extensive use of the hundreds of glass slides of property owned by The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd. in Bristol and the wider area that were made in the early twentieth century, and which are available digitally via the Bristol Museum online catalogue (<http://museums.bristol.gov.uk/>); those held by the Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK); and the photographs and other materials in the collection of Ry George. We would also like to thank Bristol Record Office and Bristol Central Library for allowing us to reproduce photographs of their plans, photographs and other holdings. **In each case, the copyright belongs to the holding archive or individual and may not be further reproduced without their permission.**

Methodology

The study combined archival and desk-based research with interview and fieldwork survey; it was conducted between March and October 2014. The initial research comprised a scoping of the number of pubs in Bristol in the study period and their approximate date of construction. Four principal sources were used. The Bristol's Lost Pubs website (<http://bristolstlostopubs.eu>) was used in conjunction with other primary sources (e.g. trade directories, local press and The Bristol Brewery Georges and Company Limited publication of 1938, *One Hundred and Fifty Years of Brewing, 1788–1938*) to build up a picture of the city's nineteenth- and twentieth-century pubs – their number, density, and location within the city. To this data were added the dates of alterations and rebuilding listed on the Bristol Record Office online catalogue (<http://archives.bristol.gov.uk/dserve/>); the inventory of the principal brewery's property taken in 1961 (Courage, Barclay and Simonds Limited archive, LMA); and the relevant estate records from the Courage Archive. Visual materials were sourced concurrently from libraries, archives, private individuals and online sources such as the Brizzle Born and Bred Flickr stream (<https://www.flickr.com/photos/20654194@N07>). The CAMRA What Pub (<http://whatpub.com>) website, which is regularly updated by its Bristol members, distinguishes pubs from other types of licensed business and was used to develop a comparative overview of the city's public houses today. As its members are active in capturing information about the current status of Bristol's pubs, including recent closures, demolitions and conversions, the site was a valuable resource for mapping sites and identifying the building types that are most at risk.

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This two-part assessment revealed some 2,700 licensed houses to have traded in the greater Bristol area between about 1600 and the present day, many of which appear to have existed for only relatively short periods. The assessment formed the starting point for a closer analysis of local patterns of public house development as the city expanded outward, focussing on the period from the later nineteenth century, when records begin to survive in larger numbers, and especially the years between 1920 and 1985. Public houses with existing statutory or local designation were identified at this stage, along with a set of case-study pubs for further investigation. These case studies are presented as an appendix to the study. The CAMRA What Pub website currently lists 633 public houses as trading in Bristol, with a further 114 that are recently closed.

The initial scoping was followed by a period of archival research, conducted principally at Bristol Record Office. This focused on an analysis of surviving architectural plans and drawings to build a picture of the design of Bristol's pubs across the period of study, to identify important buildings and architects, to consider changes to the buildings and adjacent public areas over time, and to examine patterns of public house ownership. Materials at Bristol Central Library and the British Library (planning records, primary books on public house architecture, secondary urban histories, licensing records, local newspaper reports) were consulted concurrently to establish the nineteenth- and twentieth-century licensing and planning context in Bristol. First person accounts of how pubs were understood and used were collected throughout the project, from published sources held at Bristol Central Library, from a small number of memoirs and autobiographies, and from court proceedings recorded in the local press. This historical material is relatively sparse (largely because people rarely described a pub's surroundings in any detail). It has been augmented with information and recollections gleaned from conversations with customers and staff during fieldwork visits, and from local pub experts, which have been incorporated within the report to indicate how pubs were used and by whom.

The initial scoping and historical analysis was used to identify a long list of buildings of potential interest and to establish the parameters for the fieldwork. As statutorily listed public houses are already documented and afforded a measure of protection they were not a major focus for this study. In any case, Bristol has relatively few: eighteen dating from the nineteenth century and only one from the twentieth.

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The fieldwork was designed to ensure that the city's most significant public house types were reflected and that areas selected for closer study were representative of significant moments in design development and areas/types at risk, with wider reference to the changing social and architectural context of the city.

The fieldwork was conducted in several stages, each focused on a particular area of the city and on the main roads through and out of the city. The majority of the fieldwork was conducted on foot or by public transport to allow a more detailed assessment of the surrounding social and architectural context for each building. Wherever possible, visits were made during trading hours. Most were completed during the daytime, to allow for photography. A visual assessment was made of the exterior of each building and of selected interiors and gardens.

The fieldwork was used to refine the long list with reference to the criteria outlined in the *Good Practice Guide for Local Heritage Listing* (English Heritage, May 2012): age, rarity, aesthetic value, group value, evidential value, historical association, archaeological interest, designed landscapes, landmark status and also social and communal value. The level of risk was then assessed.

Contents of the Report

The research findings are presented in three parts: Part One covers the period 1800 to 1914; Part Two examines 1914–1939 and Part Three, 1939–1985. Each part contains a brief overview of the city's development in that period, summarises the national licensing legislation and the local licensing context in Bristol and then surveys the relationship of public house provision to urban development and planning, followed by analysis of the pubs' architecture and design in those periods.

The Bristol Brewery Georges and Company Limited became the dominant force in shaping Bristol's pubs in the period of inquiry. The weight given to Georges in this report (and, from 1961, to Courage, which acquired it) is both a reflection of surviving records and of the prominence of the two breweries in the city. Georges was founded by Philip George in 1788 and was incorporated in 1888, trading as The Bristol Brewery Georges and Company Limited. The firm pursued a strategy of acquisition from the late nineteenth century and acquired several smaller concerns: Bedminster Brewery in 1889; Stokes Croft Brewery in 1911; Lodway Brewery in 1912; John Arnold and Sons in 1919; Welton Brewery in 1919; and

Ashton Gate Brewery in 1932).² By 1938 the company owned and controlled nearly 1,000 licensed houses in Bristol and the West of England.³ In 1961, when Georges was acquired by the London firm of Courage Barclay and Simonds, it had 540 public houses in Bristol.

The ways in which breweries commissioned architects and builders to design pubs for them are examined within each section. However, it is worth briefly mentioning here a number of the principal architects and designers identified. Most, such as the practice W. S. Paul and James, which designed, among others, The **Shakespeare**, Redland (1903) and the **Prince-of-Wales**, Westbury-on-Trym (1906), were locally based. Richard Croft James was born in Weston-Super-Mare in 1872 and after an education at Clifton College was articled to William Larkins Bernard of Bristol (1889–92). He went on to be assistant to the City Surveyor within the Corporation of Bristol in the early 1890s. He was admitted ARIBA on 30 November 1896. He went into practice in partnership with Walter Stuckey Paul (1848/9–1925) and became FRIBA in 1906. Born in Bristol in 1848/9, W. S. Paul set up in private practice in the city and was surveyor to the Merchant Venturers and other influential bodies by the late Victorian period.⁴ In 1892–5, his nephew, William Edgar Paul (1874–1917), was articled after education at Clifton College to W. S. Paul’s practice; W. E. Paul later joined the staff of the Engineers Department within the Corporation and from 1899 was architect to the Bristol Brewery Georges and Company Ltd.⁵ In 1911 he was ‘architect to a brewery company’ and was, presumably, still employed by Georges at that time, around when he is also recorded as having a private practice on Baldwin Street.⁶

W. S. Paul and James and W. E. Paul sometimes collaborated, for instance on Georges’ offices in Bath Street and Tucker Street in 1907–8.⁷ W. E. Paul died at

² Bristol Brewery Georges and Company Limited, *One Hundred and Fifty Years of Brewing, 1788–1938*, Bristol: The Firm, 1938, 6 (hereafter cited as *One Hundred and Fifty Years*).

³ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 7; *Western Daily Press* (hereafter cited as *WDP*), 31 May 1938, 4.

⁴ Obituary in *The Builder*, Vol. 129, 4 December 1925, 800.

⁵ A. Brodie (Ed.), *Directory of British Architects, 1834–1914*, Vol. 2, London: RIBA and Mansell, 1993, 330; ‘An Old Cliftonian’s Death’, *Bristol Evening News*, 9 August 1917.

⁶ TNA RG14/15154 7; ‘An Old Cliftonian’s Death’, *Bristol Evening News*, 9 August 1917.

⁷ Bristol Record Office (hereafter BRO) BRO Building Plan/Volumes 54/5b and 54/5f.

Ypres in 1917.⁸ Among his last designs must have been the **Cross Hands** at Alveston, to the north of Bristol, which he rebuilt for Georges in 1913.⁹

W. S. Paul and R. C. James dissolved their partnership in December 1917. Richard C. James continued independently, working from the Eagle Insurance Buildings at Nicholas Street in Bristol, until he formed a partnership with Vincent Steadman in 1919.¹⁰ Steadman died in 1931. In 1934 James began a new partnership with Harold Edwards Meredith, which lasted until 1940. James and Meredith designed a number of Bristol pubs, among them the **Horse and Jockey** in Frogmore Street (1932), the **Spread Eagle** at Narrow Plain, St Philips (1937), **The Black Lion** at Whitchurch (1935) and the **Progress** at Sea Mills (1936). James retired in 1945 and died in 1949.¹¹ Other prominent local public house architects identified include Thomas Scammell and Henry Williams. Scammell was the architect of the **Rising Sun**, Temple Back (c.1900) and the **Cat and Wheel**, Castle Green (1900), and worked for some time as architect and surveyor to Bristol United Breweries Limited of Lewins Mead Brewery. Henry Williams was architect of **the Plough and Windmill** (1898) and **The Old Globe** on East Street (c.1890), both in the suburb of Bedminster.¹² Among exceptions to the local picture are the London-based architect, Edward Gabriel, of Edmeston and Gabriel, architect of **The Cambridge Arms** at Redland (1900) and Reginald E. Southall of Reading who designed **The Giant Goram** at Lawrence Weston (1959) for H. and G. Simonds, which was based in Reading.

Another important figure in the history of Bristol's twentieth-century public houses is W. T. Cockram, architect and surveyor to Georges. Cockram is on record as being the architect of a number of the brewery's pubs of the later inter-war period, including **The Venture Inn** at Knowle (1935), the **Severn Beach Hotel** at Severn Beach (1937) and, between 1938 and 1939, the **Enterprise**,

⁸ 'An Old Cliftonian's Death', *Bristol Evening News*, 9 August 1917. W. S. Paul also lost his two sons in the First World War, in 1916 and 1917: 'Bristol and the War', *WDP*, 6 August 1917.

⁹ Gloucestershire Archives, DA38/710/13: Reconstruction of Cross-Hands Inn. Owned by Georges & Co., designed by W. E. Paul, built by W. Tanner (No. 609); see also No. 611 Alveston, 1913.

¹⁰ A practice called James and Steadman was designing buildings, including pubs, in Bristol from at least the 1880s; further research would reveal whether this was the same practice or one formed by their relatives.

¹¹ On James and Steadman see, *The Dictionary of Scottish Architects, 1840–1980*, http://www.scottisharchitects.org.uk/architect_full.php?id=201663, accessed 7 January 2015.

¹² On Scammell see, *Directory of British Architects, 1834–1900* (1993) cited in L. Pearson *British Breweries: An Architectural History*, London: Hambledon Press, 2000, 190.

Bedminster, the **Bristol Bulldog**, Filton, the **Happy Landings**, Hengrove and the **Good Intent**, Brislington. William Thomas Cockram was born in Clifton in 1875, the son of Bristol engine driver, and spent his childhood and early adulthood at the small family home in Hardinge Street, Lawrence Hill.¹³ He attended Colston's School and was, by 1901, a 'brewers' clerk', progressing to 'surveyor for a brewery' by 1911.¹⁴ In June 1939 W. T. Cockram was rewarded by Georges for forty years' service with the company, including twenty-five as Chief Surveyor. The Chairman proposed the inscription on the plaque to Sir Christopher Wren in St Paul's Cathedral, 'si monumentum vis circumspice' – if you seek a monument look around you – as a suitable motto, suggesting that Cockram was in fact responsible for the design of many more of Bristol's pubs than is presently known.¹⁵ N. G. Brice would replace him as the company surveyor by the 1950s.

Courage's architects had the greatest influence on Bristol's pub architecture from the 1960s. G. N. Coveney was appointed Group Architect of Courage in February 1964, on the retirement of his predecessor, N. E. Morley. The son of a brewery architect, Coveney trained at Liverpool School of Architecture; he began his career at the Birkenhead Brewery Company before the war, and subsequently went into private practice designing pubs and hotels for a variety of breweries. After war service and a period working on the staff of Cheshire County Council, he joined Courage and Barclay in 1956, soon after the merger with the Bristol Brewery Georges and Company Limited, and in 1961 was appointed Chief Architect, Courage and Barclay Ltd. The following year he became Deputy Group Architect of Courage Barclay and Simonds Limited. Courage described Coveney as having 'been responsible for all the original thinking and planning of many major development schemes, including The Greyhound, Croydon, The Crown, Morden, and the Hotel Victoria, Southend'.¹⁶

Where it is also known, the name of the building firm responsible is included in the text. In a few instances, such as the **Punch House** at Redcliffe Back (1898) and **The Rising Sun** at Windmill Hill (c.1900), pubs were designed by a

¹³ TNA RG11/2497 21, RG13/2381 10325 and RG14/15042 245. In 1911 he was married and living at 27 Thingwall Park, Fishponds, where he was still resident in 1933 (*Incoming Passenger Lists, 1878–1960*, Ancestry.ac.uk).

¹⁴ 'Old Colstonians Meet at Annual Dinner', *WDP*, 18 November 1935, 11; TNA RG13/2381 10325 and RG14/15042 245.

¹⁵ *WDP*, 15 June 1939, 7.

¹⁶ *Golden Cockerel*, Spring 1964 no. 7, 23.

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building company, in this case the prominent local firm, William Cowlin and Sons, rather than an architect or surveyor.

Each part then focuses more closely on building type and style, plan form (including skittles alleys), interiors, and exteriors including forecourts, yards, gardens and landscape setting. Lost and converted pubs are considered alongside those that survive and the status of each is indicated in the text. The report concludes with an overview of the current status and risk to Bristol's public houses. The Appendix includes additional information on the most significant surviving buildings of interest identified in the course of the research.

PART ONE: 1800–1914

In his history *Drink and the Victorians*, Brian Harrison identified five categories of nineteenth-century business that sold alcohol for consumption on the premises: the inn, a respectable site that accommodated travellers; the tavern, which catered for wine drinkers and was often located in urban commercial districts; the alehouse, which sold no spirits and could be found in both town and country; the gin shop, which sold spirits and was an urban phenomenon; and, following the introduction of the Beer Act of 1830, the beerhouse, which was regulated through the Excise and allowed any ratepayer to sell beer on purchase of a licence.¹⁷ Inns were architecturally and spatially distinctive and evolved in two principal forms: the ‘block’ or ‘gatehouse’ inn (with a main street-facing building giving access, via gateway, to a yard and stabling behind) and the ‘courtyard’ inn (with an open yard and galleried upper levels).¹⁸ Although many survived long after the rise of the railway in the 1840s, the inn became obsolete as a building typology. Examples of ‘block’ and ‘courtyard’ types can be found in Bristol and no significant un-protected example from the early nineteenth century has been found.¹⁹ Although the emergence of the tavern as a distinct form of urban drinking space pre-dates the nineteenth century, the term remained in use as a more general descriptor for licensed sites that were perceived to be ‘traditional’ in their design. Another important form of urban drinking space, the gin shop, was, according to local newspapers, hardly to be found in Bristol. Even so, temperance reformers were active in Bristol from early in the nineteenth century, had an influence on local licensing policy and were involved in the development of ‘temperance taverns’ and other buildings designed as ‘pubs without the drink’.

The survey aims to outline broad trends in public house design in Bristol and to show how the architecture of the city’s pubs was distinctive, looking at ‘ordinary’, unremarkable pubs as well as more architecturally significant examples.

¹⁷ B. Harrison, *Drink and the Victorians: the temperance question in England 1815–1872*, London: Faber and Faber, 1971, 45.

¹⁸ G. Brandwood, A. Davison and M. Slaughter, *Licensed to Sell: the history and heritage of the public house*, London: English Heritage in Association with CAMRA, 2004, 11–12.

¹⁹ C. W. F. Denning, *Old Inns of Bristol*, third edition, Bristol: John Wright and Sons Ltd, 1944; H. Eason, *Bristol’s Historic Inns*, Bristol: Redcliffe Press, 1982.

Bristol 1800–1914: Industry and Expansion

A populous cathedral city and port, situated on the rivers Avon and Frome, Bristol was the commercial capital of the West of England from the medieval period and was the country's second city for most of the eighteenth century.²⁰ At this time its main trade was sugar from the West Indies, part of the slave trade triangle begun in the 1600s, which had contributed greatly to the city's wealth. Local power was concentrated in the Corporation, 'a self-perpetuating body consisting of a mayor and 12 aldermen', whose backbone was formed of wealthy merchants and manufacturers. Trading interests were represented by the Society of Merchant Venturers and the West India Association.²¹ Many Quakers were influential in both organisations. By 1820 both the sea port and sugar refining were in relative decline as were glass making and banking. Nevertheless Bristol prospered. From the early nineteenth century mining became increasingly important, cotton replaced woollen cloth as a main output and the city became renowned for engineering and shipbuilding. The pottery industry and brewing, distilling, tanning, extractive and chemical works and other noxious trades continued to employ many. Shoe- and stay-making flourished. By the end of the 1800s, the long-established metal and glass industries had declined while tobacco, chocolate and soap continued to prosper. Thus, unlike in many other industrial towns, no one industry or enterprise dominated and the city never boomed in the same way as Liverpool, Manchester or Birmingham; nor did it ever regain its brief period as Britain's second city. Instead, it was said, Bristol had 'moved through the first half of the century at a slower more dignified pace'.²²

In 1851 Bristol was in terms of population Britain's sixth city – 'behind London, Liverpool, Newcastle, Hull and, distressingly, Southampton' in terms of trade.²³ As C. E. Harvey and J. Press show in their survey of industrial change and economic development in Bristol from 1800, 'the process of economic growth was elsewhere more vigorous, with the result that Bristol moved progressively downward in the

²⁰ <http://www.historyofparliamentonline.org/volume/1820-1832/constituencies/bristol>, accessed 7 January 2015.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² G. W. A. Bush, *Bristol and its Municipal Government: 1820–1851*, Bristol: Bristol Record Society, 1976, 205.

²³ *Ibid.*

league table of British cities, to stand in tenth place at the dawn of the twentieth century'.²⁴ Nevertheless, they argue, the city

has long been much more than a maritime centre in decline. On the contrary, Bristol has for a long time enjoyed a diversified economy which has proved adaptable, resilient, and responsive to national trends. It has been able to weather, without too much suffering, catastrophic changes in the fortunes of individual industries. Bristol may never have been the centre of an industrial revolution – first, second or third – but it has grown and prospered, steadily and in robust fashion.²⁵

In 1800 the population was 64,000, triple that of 1700, and by 1901 it was 329,086.²⁶ The latter figure was in large part a consequence of massive boundary extension in 1897, which added 100,000 to the population – a 'belated recognition of the expansion of the city'.²⁷ A dramatic drop in 1911 was probably the result of previous overestimations of the city's population that were corrected in that census.²⁸ Even so, new housing was required for the factors and merchants, and the workers and middle men in the growing city. This ranged from the exclusive villas of Clifton and Redland to the tenements and lodging houses of St George's: in 1850 Bristol was said to be the third most unhealthy city in England, with a death-rate of one in twenty-eight.²⁹ Over the course of the nineteenth century and particularly after 1850, new licensed houses sprang up to supply beer, wine and spirits to these growing communities, serving homes, workplaces and leisure areas.

There were already a great number of licensed drinking establishments in the ancient city and its port by 1800, mainly clustered around the port and commercial areas but also along the main routes in and out of town. Calculating total numbers is difficult for a range of reasons, principally because of changing

²⁴ C. E. Harvey and J. Press, 'Industrial Change and the Economic Life of Bristol Since 1800', in C.E. Harvey and J. Press, eds, *Studies in the Business History of Bristol*, 1988, 1–32, http://humanities.uwe.ac.uk/bhr/Main/industry/15_industry.htm, accessed 7 January 2015.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ D. Large, *The Municipal Government of Bristol, 1855–1901*, Bristol: Bristol Record Society, 1999, 167.

²⁷ Abstract of Bristol Historical Statistics Part 4: Health Statistics 1838–1995: http://humanities.uwe.ac.uk/bhr/Main/abstract_health/Health_4.htm, accessed 7 January 2015.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁹ H. Meller, *Leisure and the Changing City, 1870–1914*, London: Routledge, 2013, 25

boundaries but also because it was common for licensed houses to change their names and because of the range of different licences. For example between 1600 and 1750 and probably later, it was common for pubs to have several aliases, to change their names, to have entrances into two or more streets (which also changed their names), with the result that the same public house is often counted more than once.³⁰ Meanwhile, alehouses, beerhouses, inns, taverns (and hotwater houses) tended to be counted separately before 1800 and also changed their licences over time; in the nineteenth century directories still often counted beerhouses and public houses separately from hotels, although some businesses that were principally public houses were defining themselves as hotels by that time.

Other contemporary accounts also need to be treated with some care. Before the 1850s the numbers of such establishments could be given in city guides as an indication of Bristol's wealth and extent, while after that date they were more likely to point to the need for urban improvements and moral reform. Nevertheless, historians have arrived at some figures for the city which paint a picture of the number and range of public houses at the opening of the nineteenth century.

Like other ports, Bristol contained what today seems a massive number of inns, taverns and alehouses relative to its population. Early eighteenth-century Bristol probably had between six and seven hundred licensed premises, estimated by Jonathan Barry to equate to one alehouse, tavern or inn for every fifty-six inhabitants. By the 1770s directories and militia ballot lists, numbers of licensed premises had fallen somewhat, partly because of tighter regulation, and were maybe more specialised. But even though the latter sources probably omit unlicensed and very small alehouses, they were still very widely distributed.³¹ Paul Jennings suggest that numbers peaked in 1760, before falling back to an annual average of 481 in the early 1770s and under 400 at the beginning of the nineteenth century.³² In 1775 the first Bristol directory was published by James Sketchley. This lists 358 hostelries, inns and victuallers in Bristol, many named for local trades.³³ Clusters could be found near the centre in Temple Street, Redcliff

³⁰ J. F. Nicholls and J. Taylor, *Bristol Past and Present*, vol. III, Civil and Modern History, Bristol, J. W. Arrowsmith, 1882, 239–42.

³¹ Cited in P. Glennie and N. Thrift, *Shaping the Day: A History of Timekeeping in England and Wales 1300–1800*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009: Google Ebook: Chapter 4.3.4: Public Clocks and Time Cues.

³² P. Jennings, *The Local: A History of the English Pub*, Stroud: Tempus Publishing, 2007, 51.

³³ H. Eason, *Bristol's Historic Inns*, Bristol: Redcliffe Press, 1982, 13.

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Street and St Thomas Street, close to housing and workplaces.³⁴ However, as Paul Glennie and Nigel Thrift have indicated, the pattern of public house development in Bristol over the course of the eighteenth century responded to changing patterns of urban leisure:

As venues for both formal and informal recreations became more peripheral to the city, the market this offered was exploited by a ring of major public houses around the city and in nearby beauty spots. Entrepreneur-publicans took an active role in re-establishing sports leaving the city centre as part of the facilities of public houses. They sought, and attracted, great crowds for sporting spectacles and the various sideshows that broadened their appeal. Similarly, public houses close to riverside, meadow, and downland walks offered refreshments and additional entertainments ... And just as the rural public house came to dominate and formalize outdoor sports, so public houses within the city did the same for indoor sports and activities.³⁵

In 1834 the city was reported to have had one drink shop to every 22 families, which was around the national average and compared to one for every forty in London.³⁶ The following year Clifton was formally incorporated into the city, expanding both its boundaries and population and also its total number of public houses. A decade later, *Chilcott's Descriptive History of Bristol* measured the city and its vicinity as 'nearly ten miles in circumference' and calculated that there were 500 'licensed public houses, beer shops &c'.³⁷

Although increasingly new licensed houses would be built for the growing suburbs, the majority of the city's public houses were still close to the old city at this point. Between 1821 and 1851 the old or ancient city's permanent resident population remained stable at around 60,000 but later began to drop.³⁸ By 1881 the census showed a 'further decrease in the population of the "ancient city," whose numbers were returned at 56,964'. Reflecting a longer trend, 'the extended city, on the other hand, had largely increased, the aggregate for the borough being

³⁴ C. F. W. Denning, *Old Inns of Bristol*, Bristol: John Wright and Sons (third edition), 1944, 10.

³⁵ Glennie and Thrift, *Shaping the Day*: Chapter 4.3.4: Public Clocks and Time Cues.

³⁶ *Sheffield Daily Telegraph*, 6 December 1895, 6.

³⁷ *Chilcott's Description of Bristol, Ancient and Modern: Or a Guide To Bristol, Clifton and the Hotwells*, Bristol, 1846 edn, 79.

³⁸ G. W. A Bush, *Bristol and its Municipal Government: 1820–1851*, Bristol: Bristol Record Society, 1976, 205.

206,874'.³⁹ Even by this date, when the trend for new public houses to follow the population outwards was firmly established, the city-centre inns remained important. Although there was some Victorian rebuilding in the centre, the older inns, particularly the seventeenth-century buildings in the heart of the ancient city in and near Mary-le-Port, Wine and Castle Streets, appear to have been revered for their age and associations. At the very least there seems to have been little attempt to remove them in a systematic way during nineteenth-century street and sanitary improvements. Compared to London, Bristol appears to have been slow to clear its overcrowded areas and those streets and buildings that contemporaries considered unhealthy. There had been some clearances in the central area, as courts and tenements were removed in Lewins Mead and nearby from the 1860s. Nevertheless, when George Godwin, the sanitary reformer and editor of *The Builder*, visited in the 1870s, he was unimpressed at the general picture. He considered the city authorities to be 'dilatatory or divided in their councils in regard to applying the machinery of reform', adding in his article 'blots on Bristol' of 1878, that 'the very circumstances which combine to give Bristol its picturesque character also conduce to make it a place much in need of modern improvements'. So the 'old neglected houses which hang together higgledy-piggledy ... and ... narrow crooked lanes, and dark obscure corners', persisted.⁴⁰ In these Medieval streets many of the city's inns and taverns continued to trade (or were converted or returned to private houses and shops), until the 1940s when whole streets were flattened in the Bristol Blitz or subsequently as part of the postwar plan.

Partly because of the retention of established public houses in and near the city and its out parishes, most new public house building was outwards into Bristol's growing residential and industrial suburbs and on the city's main roads. While this was a result of public houses following the population outwards, it was also dictated by local licensing policy. A summary of national and local licensing legislation between 1800 and 1914 explains this and other trends. It is followed by three area studies within the city, which illustrate the nature, range and location of public house building across Bristol in the period 1800 to 1914 and how the policy worked in practice.

³⁹ J. Latimer, *The Annals of Bristol in the Nineteenth Century*, Bristol: W. S. Morgan, 1887, 514. According to Latimer, the population of the suburban parishes was: Clifton, 28,695; the District, 19,114; St Philip's out, 50,108; St George's, 26,423; Bedminster, 44,759; Mangotsfield, 5,707; Stapleton, 10,833; Stoke Bishop tything, 13,347; and Horfield, 5,739.

⁴⁰ 'Blots on Bristol', *WDP*, 4 February 1878, 6.

Licensing Legislation and the Licensed Trade, 1800–1914

Licensing 1800–1840

Five main Acts of licensing legislation were passed in the 1820s. Significant among them were those of 1825 and 1830. The 1825 Act introduced lower duties on spirits to reduce smuggling, but had the effect of doubling the amount of spirits produced, raising concerns over the possibility of a new gin craze. It assisted those who wished to liberalise the trade in beer, paving the way for The Beer Act of 1830, which attempted to curb spirit drinking by allowing householders to sell beer from their homes upon purchase of an Excise licence and without reference to local magistrates. More than 24,000 new beer shops opened within a year and by 1835 the country had 45,000.⁴¹

In response to this commercial threat, Bristol's publican's began to organise themselves, forming the Bristol and Clifton Licensed Victuallers' Association in 1838 to 'protect the interests of the trade' in the face of increased competition, particularly from beersellers, who were charged with the illicit sale of spirits, which was damaging to the fully licensed trade.⁴² The first meeting was attended by only fifteen of the city's licensees, but in the following year its inaugural annual dinner was attended by 'nearly 200 of the most respectable licensed victuallers of Bristol'.⁴³

The expansion of Bristol's beerhouses after 1830 has a significant bearing on the development and geography of the city's fully licensed sites in the second half of the nineteenth century, when political pressure to reduce the number of licences in the city grew. One result of this was that centrally located beerhouse licences were often surrendered to licensing magistrates in return for permission to build fully licensed houses in areas of expanding population. Some owners made speculative improvements to their businesses before applying for a licence to sell wine or spirits, in some cases rebuilding on the same site. Others submitted petitions to extend their licences in advance of proposed improvements, often accompanying them with supporting statements as to the nature of the

⁴¹ The rapid growth of beer-selling premises led the owners of alehouses, who were licensed to sell wine and spirits, to push spirit sales to maintain their market position. On licensing legislation in the 1830s see, J. Nicholls, *The Politics of Alcohol: A History of the Drink Question in England*, MUP, 2009, 80–95.

⁴² *Bristol Mercury*, 2 February 1839, 2.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

modernisation and the sum of money to be spent. Where a brewery had an existing interest in a business, petitions of this type were often made by the licence holder with the support of the brewery and, from the 1890s, the brewery architect or surveyor.

Licensing 1840–1870

The period from 1840 to 1870 was one in which temperance organisations consolidated their base. In 1853 the United Kingdom Alliance for the Suppression of the Trade in Alcohol was founded in Manchester and began campaigning for prohibition. In the following year the Sale of Beer Act introduced stricter regulations on Sunday trading, forcing pubs to close from 2pm until 6pm and shortening evening hours by bringing closing time forward to 9pm. It proved deeply unpopular and was quickly amended to require a closure of only two hours on a Sunday afternoon. The Refreshment Houses Act of 1860 allowed eating places to buy Excise licences to sell foreign wines on site and shopkeepers to sell small quantities of wine for consumption off the premises; it aimed to offer alternatives to the pub and to encourage the moderate consumption of alcohol with meals. The Wine and Beerhouse Act of 1869 increased control over beerhouses and refreshment houses by making them apply to magistrates for a licence before they were able to purchase an Excise licence. Further measures introduced in the 1860s allowed wholesale spirit dealers and beer sellers to sell small amounts of spirits on a retail basis.⁴⁴

Bristol's licensed victuallers continued to face increased competition in this period and by 1843 the city was reported to have had 400 beerhouses licensed by Excise Licence.⁴⁵ Ten years later, a memorial by the Bristol Temperance Society assessed the number of licensed premises in the city at: 384 inns, taverns and public houses and 780 beerhouses, making a total of 1164 licensed sites.⁴⁶ Increased competition was not the only grievance of Bristol's licensed victuallers in this period. The billeting of troops, which the holders of full licences were required to accept, was a further hardship. In 1855 there were 4,000 men of the Land-Transport Corps stationed in the city, 3,400 of which were billeted at the houses

⁴⁴ These changes are covered in greater detail in H. A. Monckton, *A History of the English Public House*, London: The Bodley Head, 1969, 77–86.

⁴⁵ *Bristol Mercury*, 16 September 1843, 8.

⁴⁶ *Bristol Mercury*, 10 September 1853, 7.

of licensed-victuallers and only 600 in barracks.⁴⁷ Their presence was unwelcome and associated with trouble and disorder by the city's publicans.

Licensing 1870–1900

The Licensing Act of 1872 consolidated existing licensing law and set the public house on a new footing, regulating the design of premises and formalising the relationship between the publican and the customer and the goods on sale. The Act prohibited the sale of liquors without a licence, introduced a register of licences for each district, and made clear distinction between businesses licensed for 'on' and 'off' sales. Procedures for renewals and changes to licences were amended; in the case of new applications properties had to have a rateable value of £50 for a full licence and £30 for a licence that did not permit the sale of spirits.⁴⁸ The Act also legislated on the interior. Fully licensed premises had to have a minimum of two rooms for public use and those without a spirit licence to have one; these were to be additional to any accommodation used by the residents of the building. Under the Act internal communication between licensed and unlicensed sites of entertainment was made illegal, preventing free transfer of drinks between, for example, public houses and adjoining music halls. From 1874 publicans and breweries were permitted to make provisional licence applications in advance of building or adaptation.⁴⁹ This allowed applicants to demonstrate that their proposed developments conformed to national legislation and to any local licensing policies in force at the time.

Following the introduction of The Licensing Act of 1872 political discussions about the drink trade centred on the question of licence reductions. Temperance and the Trade became more closely allied with party politics, the Liberals siding with the United Kingdom Alliance to promote local option, a scheme for local prohibition, and the licensed trade allying with the Conservatives, who broadly accepted the need to reduce licences but demanded fair recompense for those affected.⁵⁰

Alongside debate about licence reductions was an ongoing dialogue over how best to reform existing licensed premises, much of which was conducted within the

⁴⁷ *Bristol Mercury*, 22 December 1855, 4.

⁴⁸ This applied to properties within four miles of Charing Cross, within a Metropolitan Board of Works area, and in the City of London or any town with a population of over 100,000.

⁴⁹ Select Committee of the House of Lords on Intemperance, 1877–1879. CMD 10252.

⁵⁰ On the political debate surrounding plans for Local Veto see D. Fahey, 'Temperance and the Liberal Party – Lord Peel's Report, 1899', *Journal of British Studies* 10/2 (May 1971): 132–59.

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context of two parliamentary enquiries, the House of Lords Select Committee on Intemperance (1877–1879) and the Royal Commission on Liquor Licensing Laws (1896–1899).⁵¹ Both enquiries considered the relationship between public house design and changing patterns of alcohol consumption.

By 1900 around 4,500 licensed victuallers and beersellers were brewing their own supplies. The picture was one of decline as the control of licensed sites moved into the hands of brewery companies. Many of these breweries were relatively small, locally-based concerns and the pattern of development in the early twentieth century was one of falling numbers through mergers and acquisitions.⁵² Bristol conformed to this national picture. In 1877 the city had 21 independent brewers, although several of these were quite small operations.⁵³

Bristol appears to have been a well regulated city throughout this period. A newspaper report of 1874, comparing crime in towns with above 100,000 residents, noted that Bristol had fewest serious crimes.⁵⁴ There were some prosecutions for drunkenness and allowing drunkenness on licensed premises, in Bristol as elsewhere. For example in 1879 opposition was made to the renewal of a beerhouse licence for the Zoological Gardens at Clifton, on the grounds that the holder was allowing drunkenness. But this kind of incident aside, there is surprisingly little indication of the problems of public drunkenness that provoked widespread anxiety in other cities in conjunction with the expansion of working-class leisure opportunities in that decade.⁵⁵

Even in the poorest areas, claimed *The Homes of the Bristol Poor*, a book of campaigning articles published in the *Bristol Post* in 1884, there had been a decrease in problem drinking associated with public houses. Visitors coming into such districts of the city from northern towns might still be astonished, the article stated, at the extent to which female customers frequented 'the lower class of beer house', but even here there had been 'an improvement':

⁵¹ The Select Committee of the House of Lords on Intemperance. Parliamentary Papers. 1877 (XI); 1878 (XIV); 1879–9 (X). The Royal Commission on Liquor Licensing Laws. Parliamentary Papers. 1897 (XXXIV, XXVI, XXXV); 1898 (XXXVI, XXXVII, XXXVIII); 1899 (XXXIV, XXXV).

⁵² Peter Haydon gives figures of 6,390 breweries in 1900 and 4,482 in 1910. P. Haydon, *The English Pub: A History*, London: Robert Hale, 1994, 292.

⁵³ Brewery Society for English Heritage, *The Brewing Industry: Strategy for the Historic Industrial Environment*, February 2010, 14.

⁵⁴ *Huddersfield Daily Chronicle*, 30 April 1874, 4.

⁵⁵ *WDP*, 4 September 1879, 3.

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A good number of the worst conducted beerhouses in poor neighbourhoods have been suppressed by the magistrates, and on the principle of the “survival of the fittest,” landlords now holding licenses feel more responsibility and are of a better class and much more careful as to the condition of those to whom they supply “refreshments.” We were shown in a thickly populated district one house, now closed, which was formerly notoriously frequented by mothers of families living in the adjoining courts and alleys. ... The license, however, has been forfeited, and the place knows these tipping women no more.⁵⁶

Nevertheless, temperance reformers argued that Bristol had a significant over supply of licensed houses. In 1881, the promoters of ‘mission week’ (a temperance drive similar to those that had been held in other cities) claimed that, ‘in proportion to population there are here more than double the number of public houses to be found in the metropolitan boroughs, nearly twice as many as in Liverpool, Leeds, and Hull, and more than Manchester, Birmingham, Sheffield, Bradford, Newcastle, or Salford’.⁵⁷ Prostitution, often associated with licensed sites, particularly those in maritime cities, was a regular target of temperance organisations, whose statistics were aimed to alarm; one publication of the late 1880s claimed that in Bristol the number of prostitutes to ‘virtuous’ women was one in thirteen.⁵⁸

In 1882 there were 532 businesses licensed for the sale of beer and cider on the premises and at the time that evidence was given to the Royal Commission on Liquor Licensing (1897) there had been a slight reduction to 471.⁵⁹ In 1882 there were 76 businesses licensed for sale of beer and wine on the premises and at the time that evidence was given to the Royal Commission there had been a slight decrease to 69.⁶⁰ There were 457 licensed victuallers in Bristol in 1882 and 424 in 1895.⁶¹

⁵⁶ Special Commissioner of the *Bristol Mercury*, *Homes of the Bristol Poor*, Bristol: William Lewis & Sons, 1884, 96–7.

⁵⁷ *WDP*, 2 May 1881, 5.

⁵⁸ R. Eddy, *Alcohol in History: An Account of Intemperance In all Ages*, NY: National Temperance Society, 1887, 231.

⁵⁹ First Report of the Royal Commission on Liquor Licensing Laws, 1897. Evidence of Mr T. H. Gore, Magistrates’ Clerk of Bristol. CMD 9206.

⁶⁰ *Ibid.*

⁶¹ First Report of the Royal Commission on Liquor Licensing Laws, 1897. Evidence of Mr T. H. Gore, Magistrates’ Clerk of Bristol . CMD 9201–2.

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In the 1880s Bristol's magistrates insisted that licensees in the city were to hold a genuine tenancy rather than a managerial position on behalf of a brewery. The *Brewers' Journal* reported that in Bristol, 'They do not admire the system of a capitalist – of course, to the outside world all brewers are capitalists – owning a number of houses and placing people in them – for his own exclusive profit'.⁶² This attitude toward the management of public houses continued into the twentieth century.

Although the city was expanding, Bristol's public house density remained high. Figures from the 1890s show that the city had one licensed house to every four acres, the highest density of a selection of English boroughs recorded in the evidence of the Royal Commission on Liquor Licensing Laws (shared with other cities: Plymouth, Portsmouth, Manchester, Northampton, Newcastle-under-Lyme and Brighton).⁶³

The general trend in the late nineteenth century was one of gradual licence reductions. At the annual licensing session of 1885, for example, the renewal of 6 alehouse licences, 11 'on' beerhouse licences, 20 'off' beerhouse licences and 4 grocers' licences were refused and 5 further licence holders allowed their licences to lapse. New licences were granted for 1 alehouse (through the removal of an existing licence), 1 beerhouse and 1 grocer and 2 retail licences were refused.⁶⁴ Bristol's Chief Constable noted, in 1899, that 'those quiet influences which tend to reduce the number of licensed properties have been at work and that there are to-day eight fewer of such establishments than there were in 1898'.⁶⁵ The established position of the Bristol Bench was to permit no new licences in old, established areas of the city where there was already adequate provision and to weigh carefully the benefits of establishing new licences in areas of growing population outside the city centre.⁶⁶ In cases where a need for new provision was established, the Bench sometimes accepted the surrender of one or more city centre licences in return for a licence to establish a new public house in an expanding suburban location.

⁶² From the *Brewers' Journal* of 1882, cited in A. Mutch, 'Shaping the Public House, 1850–1950: Business Strategies, State Regulation and Social History', *Cultural and Social History* 1/2 (2004): 194.

⁶³ Royal Commission on Liquor Licensing Laws. Statistics relating to the number of licensed premises, &c., in Great Britain and Ireland, together with a comparative statement of the licensing laws in the three Kingdoms, vol. 32, 1898.

⁶⁴ *WDP*, 4 September 1885, 7.

⁶⁵ *WDP*, 31 August 1899, 5.

⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

From the late 1880s the Bristol Corporation was also buying public houses with the intention, in most cases, of allowing the licence to expire, thereby reducing the overall number of licences in the city. A report on the purchase of public houses by local authorities in England and Wales over the ten years to 31st March 1890 revealed 21 purchases by Bristol Corporation.⁶⁷ A small number, however, were acquired and sold on, including **The Old Globe**, East Street, Bedminster, which was bought by the Corporation for £650 and sold for £1250. A few were rebuilt and continued to trade. In about 1889, the Corporation acquired the **Kings Arms**, Whiteladies Road, a busy route on the Redland / Clifton borders. As explained in the Redland area study that follows, the **Kings Arms** and other public houses were 'purchased under statutory powers for public purposes' during street improvements together with their existing licences. The Corporation contracted with the **Kings Arms** licensee to 'take down the front of the house for the purpose of a street improvement [and] rebuild it with a magnificent frontage', which was, like the others, set back from the building line.⁶⁸ Controversially, the Corporation held on to the new public house until late 1897, when it was sold for £10,600'.⁶⁹ It had bought the old public house for £4,600.

Bristol magistrates received 42 applications to create new licences in the period 1886 to 1896 but none was granted.⁷⁰ According to returns for Bristol for 1896 the city had 424 fully licensed premises and another 542 held 'on' licences of another type, making a total of 966 businesses licensed for the consumption of alcohol on the premises.⁷¹

Licensing 1900–1914

Although the submission of plans had become standard practice by 1900, magistrates had no right to insist upon it unless alterations were structural.⁷² It was

⁶⁷ WDP, 28 July 1890, 8.

⁶⁸ *Bristol Mercury*, 11 April 1892, 3.

⁶⁹ J. Latimer, *The Annals of Bristol in the Nineteenth Century (concluded) 1887–1900*, Bristol: William George, 1902, 66.

⁷⁰ Royal Commission on Liquor Licensing Laws. Statistics relating to the number of licensed premises, &c., in Great Britain and Ireland, together with a comparative statement of the licensing laws in the three Kingdoms, 1898, vol. V.

⁷¹ *Ibid.*

⁷² The licensed trade complained about intervention throughout the 1890s and magisterial rights were tested in a case brought to court in Ripon in 1901. *Licensed Victuallers' Gazette and Hotel Courier*, 12 July 1901, 453.

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not until The Licensing Act of 1902 that the submission of plans became a legal requirement for new licence applications.⁷³

The Licensing Act of 1902 also tightened the rules relating to the adaptation of licensed premises. The main changes affecting the design of public houses were that publicans were required to give notification if drinking areas were to be increased, if the communication between the public house and other spaces, including the street, was to be altered in any way, or if any part of the drinking area was to be concealed from observation. The Licensing Act of 1904 gave further power to justices in their granting of new licences and also introduced compensation for licences that refused renewal on the grounds that they were surplus to local requirements. Following the General Election of 1906, the Liberal Government introduced a further Licensing Bill in 1908, which collapsed, partly due to public opposition to its proposal to ban women from working in pubs. The Children's Act of 1908 banned those aged under fourteen from licensed premises and brought to a conclusion the long debate about children and public house use.

The pattern of licence reduction continued in Bristol after 1900. At the beginning of the twentieth century the city had 471 alehouses, 567 'on' beerhouses and 240 'off' beerhouses. Two refreshment houses held wine licences and 87 grocers were licensed, a total net decrease of 18 licences on the previous year.⁷⁴ In 1911, the city had 421 alehouses, 443 'on' beerhouses, 231 'off' beerhouses and one refreshment house with a wine licence. Seventy-four grocers were licensed and 26 chemists. There was a net decrease of 21 licences in that year.⁷⁵ In the ten years from 1904 to 1914 there was a total reduction of 184 licences of all types across the city.⁷⁶

Certain problem areas can be identified from contemporary licensing reports and these were generally in the centre of the city, where there were clusters of businesses. A report on the licensing sessions of 1900 records objections to the renewal of the licences of the **Rose and Crown** and the **City Arms**, both in Narrow Wine Street, where there were '14 other ale and beer houses within 204 yards'. Both were frequented by young men and women, the **Rose and Crown** by girls of the 'factory class' and the boys 'of a rough class from Bedminster

⁷³ *The Licensing Act of 1902* required plans to be submitted twenty-one days before the annual licensing meeting. See: *The Licensing Act of 1902* (11.1).

⁷⁴ *WDP*, 29 August 1900, 7.

⁷⁵ *WDP*, 6 February 1912, 9.

⁷⁶ *WDP*, 7 April 1914, 9.

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Down' and those who visited the **City Arms** behaving in a free and alarming ways, the girls wearing 'short dresses' and allowing their hair to hang loose and 'sitting on boys' knees'.⁷⁷

Temple was another area of the city where licence renewals were opposed on the basis that they were not required. Following the introduction of new licensing legislation in 1904, Bristol's licensing magistrates took a measured approach to the removal of licensing under the new compensation scheme:

It was the idea of the committee that nothing should be done in regard to heroic measures this year, but that something tentative should be done. The committee knew that there were a number of houses in Bristol that were not wanted. They communicated with the Chief Constable, and directed that he should bring before the justices a few of them, it being left to him to make the selection of two or three in each division. The result was a list of 18.⁷⁸

At the 1905 licensing sessions, one of those opposed was the transfer of the licence of the **Cherry Tree** at Rose Street, Temple, owned by The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd, which was objected to on the grounds that it was 'not required' as there were 'three licensed houses within 100 yards, 16 within 200 yards, 23 within 300 yards, and 34 within 400 yards'.⁷⁹

Over the course of the nineteenth century licensing policy was then to close public houses in the older, inner areas, which were more likely to be 'over supplied' with licensed houses, in exchange for the building of a smaller number of new public houses outside the centre.

Notwithstanding the general suburban trend, Bristol continued to be defined in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by its port and docks, waterside areas in which many older quayside public houses survived, were updated or rebuilt over the period of study. Concern over drunkenness and the numbers of licensed houses also tended to focus on these areas. The following section is an overview of Bristol's nineteenth- and early twentieth-century public houses serving three waterside areas, Hotwells, around the Quay Head, and the new Docks at

⁷⁷ WDP, 29 August 1900, 7.

⁷⁸ WDP, 7 February 1905, 9.

⁷⁹ *Ibid.*

Avonmouth; it also contains a brief history of the city's 'temperance taverns' from 1830 onwards, which were in general located in the centre and near the docks and were designed to counter the over-provision of licensed drinking houses in those areas.

AREA STUDIES

Licensed Houses at the Docks: The Hotwell Road 'Golden Mile'

Bristol was a commercial port with many licensed houses clustered around the docks and quays. In the eighteenth century, the Quay area was the heart of the dock. Measuring more than a mile, it comprised the Quay, Broad Quay, the Grove, and the Welsh Back and there were dockyards for building and repairing vessels on the banks of the Frome and Avon, especially around Cumberland Basin, from which at full tide it was possible to navigate to the Severn.⁸⁰ Thus by 1800 there were inns and taverns dating back to the 1600s that continued to trade while newer public houses were built nearby.

Close to the dock area, the Hotwells was a popular spring originating in the seventeenth century. While well-to-do tourists and invalids stayed at the high ground at St Vincent Rocks Hotel, or at lodging houses in the smarter residential areas lower down to take the waters, close to the waterside were numerous inns and taverns. By the early nineteenth century the spa at the base of the cliff was no longer in favour with the fashionable crowd. Within a few decades the area was becoming popular with new kinds of trippers who embarked nearby. Thus, as *Chilcott's Descriptive History of Bristol* of 1846 observed, the Hotwells area was now 'doubly' attractive 'since the establishment of steam packets' while 'property in the vicinity in the Docks' had 'greatly improved in value'.⁸¹ On Hotwell Road, along which were many existing inns and taverns close to the ferries and wharves, new beer and public houses opened to serve a growing residential district close to the river as well as the quays. By 1845 the District Visitor complained that 'Between Trinity Church and the Wesleyan Chapel (the two extremities of the Hotwell Road) distance about three furlongs, there are 20 shops for beer, at six or seven of which spirits are sold'.⁸² This was cited in the *Second Report of the*

⁸⁰ *Chilcott's Descriptive History of Bristol, Ancient and Modern, or a Guide to Bristol, Clifton and Hotwells*, 1846 edn., 91–2.

⁸¹ *Chilcott's Descriptive History of Bristol*, 1846 edn., 295.

⁸² *Ibid.*

Commissioners for Inquiring into the State of Large Towns and Populous Districts as evidence that the mechanic's path was beset 'at almost every step in the Hotwell Road, combined probably with the receipt, in many instances, of high wages'.⁸³ Nearby 'on one side of Cumberland-buildings, Cumberland Basin, in a frontage of eight houses, there are five beer shops' and 'the large number of beer-houses in Clifton tend very much to the demoralisation of the mechanics and labourers'.⁸⁴

The worst buildings, however, were in the low streets and courts of Green-street, Hotwell Road, and Jacob's Wells, at the bottom of the hill from Clifton, where in the housing, which was mostly let in lodgings at high rents, there was overcrowding, 'dirt' and disease.⁸⁵ Privies were shared and water was from a common pump. The report noted that 'the extremely filthy condition of the habitations of the poor at Bristol is attributed by the medical men ... to the great deficiency and the difficulty of obtaining [clean, affordable] water'.⁸⁶ In addition to fears over cholera – there were three cholera epidemics in the city in the nineteenth century, 1832, 1848–9 and 1866⁸⁷ – poor housing conditions prompted concerns that it drove men to drink. A contemporary account of urban poverty in Birmingham published in the same report concluded that faced with such sanitary 'nuisances' working men left their homes for 'the spirit shop or public house'.⁸⁸ For the same reasons, philanthropic and temperance organisations became active at the dock area, opening a cocoa house and several coffee houses.

The strong presence of Quakers and other non-conformist and temperance groups promoting alternatives to drink in Bristol meant that temperance establishments made an early appearance in the city. The first temperance society was established in Bristol in 1830 and the **Temperance Hotel and Commercial House**, soon known as the **Temperance Coffee House**, opened at 17 Narrow Wine Street in late 1835. **The Bristol Temperance Hotel**, on the

⁸³ *Second Report of the Commissioners for Inquiring into the Commission on the State of Large Towns and Populous Districts*, HMSO 1845, 83–5.

⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

⁸⁶ *Second Report of the Commissioners for Inquiring into the Commission on the State of Large Towns and Populous Districts*, HMSO 1845, 49.

⁸⁷ G. Munro Smith, 'Cholera Epidemics in Bristol in the Nineteenth Century', *British Medical Journal*, 10 July 1915, 60.

⁸⁸ *Second Report of the Commissioners for Inquiring into the Commission on the State of Large Towns and Populous Districts*, HMSO 1845, 9, 13.

corner of Bath and Thomas Streets, began trading in December the following year.⁸⁹ J. Snow's **Temperance Coffee House** was at Temple Street by 1841 and all three sold tickets to the Total Abstinence Festival that year.⁹⁰ Numbers grew from mid-century, at which date some temperance coffee houses appear to have been associated with working men's organisations and with radical and reform politics. For example, from around 1860 the Bristol Operatives' Liberal Association as well as the Sons of Temperance held their meetings at the **Star Coffee House**, Old Market, while the Radical Reform Association met at the **Castle Coffee Palace** in Castle Street from 1879.⁹¹

In 1862 the **West of England Tavern** on Broad Quay – 'one of the most disreputable houses in Bristol' – was turned into a 'temperance hotel' for dock workers 'by merchants and others connected with shipping in the port'.⁹² This seems to have been organised on the lines of a sailors' home or model lodging house, with reading and other rooms on the ground floor and sleeping accommodation upstairs; this was an arrangement that later Bristol temperance drinking houses tended to follow.⁹³ The United Bristol Mission Society also set up coffee rooms for Bristol's working men in the early 1860s.⁹⁴ In January 1870 the city's first British Workman Public House was opened at 30 College Street;⁹⁵ others followed at 3 Lewin's Mead in 1872 and at Durdham Down by 1877.⁹⁶ Like the original founded in Leeds in 1867,⁹⁷ the object of the Bristol British Workman Public Houses was 'to provide a public house without the drink'.⁹⁸ By 1879 five other British Workman establishments were named in Bristol directories.⁹⁹ Press reports show that trades union meetings were held at the city's British Workman Coffee Taverns in New Street and St George's Road. It is not clear if these and the others mentioned were purpose built or conversions. Overall they were small in number compared to the fourteen British Workman public houses operating in Leeds by 1871 and the twenty-three run by the Liverpool

⁸⁹ A. Davison, 'Try the Alternative: the Built Heritage of the Temperance Movement', *Journal of the Brewery History Society*, 123 (Summer 2006): 92, 101.

⁹⁰ *Bristol Mercury*, 25 December 1841, 5.

⁹¹ *WDP*, 12 April 1861, 2 and 7 January 1868, 2; *Arrowsmith's Dictionary of Bristol*, 1884, 204, 278.

⁹² *WDP*, 16 August 1862, 2 and 27 August 1862, 3.

⁹³ *Ibid.*

⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

⁹⁵ *WDP*, 29 January 1870, 8.

⁹⁶ *WDP*, 23 April 1872, 3 and 14 May 1877, 4.

⁹⁷ Davison, 'Try the Alternative', 102.

⁹⁸ *WDP*, 23 April 1872, 3.

⁹⁹ *Post Office Directory of Bristol*, 1879, 137.

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British Workman Public House Company by 1877.¹⁰⁰ The manager of this company was Mr Simon Short of Bristol, who also advised on those in other cities. In his youth Short had been a 'poor workman who had inherited from his father a craving for drink [and] was converted and became a sailor missionary'; thus he began a cocoa-room campaign in the late 1860s.¹⁰¹

The relatively small number of British Workman public houses was presumably because the impetus for such drink-free establishments had begun in Bristol three decades earlier and because there were already several dozen temperance coffee and cocoa houses in existence by 1879.¹⁰² This number did not include the older coffee houses, which like those in London were in the commercial and banking areas; neither kind required a licence. The new, specifically temperance, houses and hotels were designed as attractive and comfortable premises for working men and women. These had the same intent as those opening in London and elsewhere at this time, but appear to have been more modestly decorated. Even those Bristol coffee houses styled 'coffee palaces' seem to have been of less extravagant design to the better known East End coffee palaces, such as those opened by Thomas Barnardo in London in the early 1870s. The **Castle Coffee Palace**, opened in a former warehouse in 1879 in Castle Street, comprised a 'ground floor bar ... entered by two lobbies which have swinging doors filled with plate glass. The serving counter is of horse-shoe shape, the front being formed of paneled pitch pine. Round the room is a pitch-pine dado; and to the right on entering there is a small smoking room'. Upstairs was another bar and a ladies' room. Although the decoration and 'all appointments' were 'in good taste' and included wallpaper, enameled glass and a medallion, there was a notable absence of mahogany and other luxury materials.¹⁰³

Founded in 1877, the Bristol Tavern and Club Company opened temperance taverns in converted buildings around the city. Some of these appear to have opened and closed very quickly, as addresses in directories and press reports for 1878 and 1879 differ. However taverns were run in the former offices of the Liverpool, London and Globe Insurance Company in Nelson Street (thereafter '**the Nelson**'), at the **Market Tavern** on Nicholas Street adjoining the Fish Market,

¹⁰⁰ *Sheffield Independent*, 17 June 1871, 6; *Night & Day*, 1 August 1877, 94.

¹⁰¹ R. Calkin, *Substitutes for the Saloon*, Boston and New York, Houghton Mifflin and Co, 1901, 245–6.

¹⁰² *Post Office Directory of Bristol*, 1879, 212.

¹⁰³ *WDP*, 20 April 1879, 2.

and the **Giant's Castle**, St Philip's Bridge / Philip Street.¹⁰⁴ Despite the comparisons with gin palaces that appeared in press reports, these taverns appear to have been decorated in a relatively simple and presumably economical manner. Thus although the newly renovated **Giant's Castle** (an 1840s' rebuilding on the site of a sixteenth-century tavern) was said to have 'the appearance of one of the gayest of gin palaces, and in the bar on the ground floor the resemblance is continued', this was not quite corroborated by the ensuing description. The ground floor comprised a large bar and a room for smokers, while upstairs were 'a very spacious clubroom with marble-top table', a smaller bar, and a 'moderate sized apartment specially set aside for women ... for female factory hands to have their meals in'; there were bedrooms on the floor above.¹⁰⁵

The Tavern and Club Company opened further taverns by the temperance hall at Tailor's Court, Broad Street, at 68 Bedminster Parade and at the High Street, near Highland Square, Redland / Clifton.¹⁰⁶ When the '**High Street Tavern**' opened in 1879 it was described as 'the largest in the West of England, one in Plymouth perhaps excepted'.¹⁰⁷ It was 'reconstructed and decorated and fitted up with much taste under the superintendence of Mr. Simon Short, formerly of Bristol, who has considerable experience in the management of similar houses in Liverpool, Bradford, Birmingham, Newcastle and Plymouth'.¹⁰⁸ The bar on the ground floor was 'fitted with round marble-top tables and comfortable chairs; the fountains are of copper; behind is a handsome sideboard, with looking-glass at the back, and the walls of the room are paneled out in pink and blue, with gilt mouldings'.¹⁰⁹ 'Handsome' rather than like 'gin palaces', would seem to have been the more accurate description of Bristol's temperance taverns, and might perhaps be extended to cover the majority of the city's licensed houses. The **Redland Tavern** was run as a British Workman Public House; the others were managed on 'a uniform system throughout' by the Bristol Tavern and Club Company.¹¹⁰ The founder of this company was Francis Gilmore Barnett (brother of Canon Samuel Barnett, the Anglican cleric and social reformer), assisted by the Reverend H. D. Rawnsley (Anglican cleric and first chaplain to the Clifton College Mission), and

¹⁰⁴ WDP, 18 July 1877, 5.

¹⁰⁵ WDP, 16 Nov 1877, 5.

¹⁰⁶ *Post Office Directory of Bristol*, 1879, 212.

¹⁰⁷ WDP, 30 May 1879, 3.

¹⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

¹⁰⁹ WDP, 30 May 1879, 3.

¹¹⁰ WDP, 3 May 1878, 5; 7 Dec 1877, 7; 29 June 1878, 6.

by 1881 Simon Short was the general manager. It was wound up in 1890.¹¹¹

In 1884 *Arrowsmith's Dictionary of Bristol* stated that there were over 100 independent temperance coffee and cocoa taverns in the city – double the number listed in directories at that date – not including the fifteen or so run by public companies like the Tavern and Club Company.¹¹² The eleven temperance hotels for travellers listed in directories of 1886 rose to sixteen by 1901.¹¹³ In addition to these permanent facilities, a 'Cocoa Boat' was set up off the Grove in 1872. The boat was still serving men working on the quays in 1900, run by the same committee as had founded the working-men's **Cocoa Rooms**, which had branches on the Grove and at Hotwells. Like the Seamen's Mission floating chapel in the same area, such premises were designed to curb drinking in the docks, where beer 'was handy, always comeatable'.¹¹⁴

Nevertheless, despite all this activity, the number of licensed houses trading between Trinity and St Peter's Churches on the Hotwell Road had risen to thirty by 1871.¹¹⁵ The street was still known as the 'golden mile' at the end of the Second World War, with fifteen pubs still serving the port.¹¹⁶ As the architectural historian Nikolaus Pevsner found in the 1950s, Hotwell Road remained 'a long humble street along wharves, the one street in which one feels intensely that Bristol is a seaport'.¹¹⁷

The Hotwell Road (now the A4) is very busy and many of the nineteenth-century and earlier buildings closest to the river have also gone or are being replaced by apartments, built into the cliff on the north side and facing the river on the other. Even so, there are still several pubs trading there and at what was once Cumberland Basin, a number of which are listed buildings. Those outlined below illustrate patterns of building across the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries,

¹¹¹ *Bristol Mercury*, 11 April 1893, 8.

¹¹² *Arrowsmith's Dictionary of Bristol*, 1884, 78; *Wright's Directory of Bristol & Clifton*, 1886, 397, 361.

¹¹³ *Wright's Directory of Bristol & Clifton*, 1886, 397 and *Wright's Directory of Bristol & Clifton* 1901, 675.

¹¹⁴ WDP, 25 October 1872, 3; C. E. Bolton, *A Model Village of Homes and Other Papers*, Boston: L. C. Page & Co, 1901, 63.

¹¹⁵ WDP, 28 November 1930, 7.

¹¹⁶ <https://www.francisfrith.com/locations/bristol/memories/leaving-school-42034163>, accessed 7 January 2015.

¹¹⁷ N. Pevsner, *The Buildings of England, North Somerset and Bristol*, New Haven: Yale University Press, (1958) 2002, 436–7.

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with conversion from older licensed houses in the mid-century and later new, purpose-built pubs.

The **Rose of Denmark** on Dowry Place, was converted from an early nineteenth-century terrace around the 1860s, which is listed Grade II.¹¹⁸



The Rose of Denmark, Dowry Place, Hotwells, in 2012 © Copyright David Hallam-Jones and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence:

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3098619>

Nearby at Cumberland Basin, the **Nova Scotia** in Nova Scotia Place (Grade II listed), is another example of a conversion from a late Georgian terrace. Like the **Rose of Denmark** the **Nova Scotia** was trading as a public house from at least the early 1860s. In 1862, a 'variety of flags' hung from the latter's upper windows when regiments paused there for refreshments before climbing the hill to Clifton Vale, on the way to Durdham Down for Bristol's Volunteer review.¹¹⁹

¹¹⁸ <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1282197>, accessed 7 January 2015.

¹¹⁹ WDP, 18 June 1862, 2, 3, 4.

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The Nova Scotia, Nova Scotia Place, Hotwells, in 2012 © Copyright Thomas Nugent and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2885449>

Just to the south of Hotwell Road, the **Merchants Arms** was trading as a beerhouse by the early 1860s but, to judge from maps, was built between 1840 and 1855.



The Merchants Arms, Merchants Road, Hotwells, c.1912: BRO 43207/9/29/13: © Bristol Record Office. The Merchants Arms today, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

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A small, two-room corner pub on Merchant Road, both were probably named for the nearby Merchant Dock. The pub is still trading.

As elsewhere, some pubs had external updates in the later nineteenth century, such as the **Plume of Feathers**, Hotwell Road, which backed onto the wharves. Part of a terrace of Georgian or earlier date, the **Plume of Feathers** had been trading from the 1770s. The building has recently been converted (or returned) to residential accommodation. The **Plume of Feathers** originally had green tiling to the ground floor front, which is typical of the style of update favoured for many of Bristol's licensed houses in the late nineteenth century; another example of which can be seen at the **Punch Bowl**, Old Market below:



*The Punch Bowl, Old Market, 2013 © Stephen Harris:
<http://pubshistory.com/Gloucestershire/BristolP/PunchBowl.shtml>*

Some public houses were rebuilt at the turn of the twentieth century. The **General Draper**, Hotwell Road, trading from at least the early 1800s, was rebuilt for its owners, the Anglo Bavarian Brewery Company, by Bristol architects Walter S. Paul and James, ARIBA, in 1899. Of red-facing bricks with Bath stone dressings and Bridgewater Broseley tiles, the design was in many ways typical of Bristol's

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public houses of this date. Meanwhile, although mahogany was used in some interiors, at the **General Draper**, 'the whole of the fittings of the bar' were of 'pitch pine', a cheaper, hard-wearing alternative.¹²⁰ This relatively sober and 'unshowy' use of materials is explored in more detail throughout the report. The **General Draper** was demolished for road widening in the 1960s.



The Clifton Suspension Bridge, the River Avon and Clifton, Bristol, from the south, 1930, showing The General Draper on the Hotwell Road:

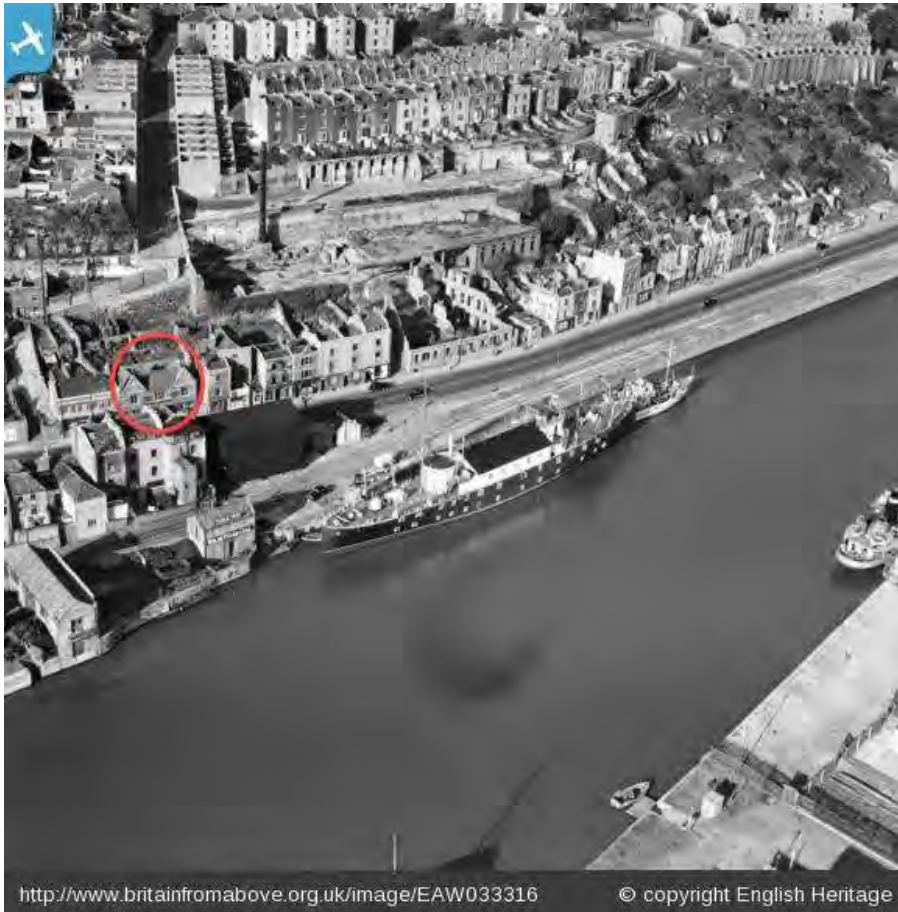
<http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/download/EPW032527>

Building plans indicate that the **Mardyke**, a double fronted 'hotel' close to the Mardyke Ferry that was almost opposite the **Plume of Feathers**, was rebuilt in 1906, for the Stoke's Croft brewery and ginger-beer manufacturer, R. W. Miller and Company.¹²¹ This was well-placed for the pleasure and other steamers which docked there; the **Mardyke** is still trading.

¹²⁰ *Building News*, 18 August 1899: http://archiseek.com/2014/general-draper-bristol/#.VFNxZOdOR_k, accessed 7 January 2015.

¹²¹ Bristol Record Office (hereafter BRO) Building Plan/Volume 51/39c.

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The Flying Fox (Royal Naval Reserve) moored off Hotwell Road, Bristol, 1950 showing the Mardyke Inn, <http://www.britainfromabove.org.uk/download/EAW033316>

The Floating Harbour

There was some Victorian rebuilding around the Floating Harbour. For example alterations were made by G. Humphreys and James and Steadman in 1887/8 to the **White Lion Hotel** at the Quay Head, Colston Avenue, which probably represent the present building;¹²² a popular city-centre pub, this is now part of the Wickwar Brewing Co.

¹²² BRO Building plan/Volume 22/16b.

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The White Lion, Colston Avenue, in 2008 © Copyright Simon Palmer and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/748899>



The White Lion, Colston Avenue, in 2010 © Copyright Derek Harper and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/1756880>

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Just to the North, at the junction of Rupert Street and St John's Bridge, The Bristol Brewery Georges' and Company Limited rebuilt the **Inkerman Tavern** on a site adjoining its earlier public house of the same name in 1892/3.¹²³



The Inkerman Tavern, Rupert Street, in the 1930s © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The licence for the new building was agreed at the same time as 'much-needed street improvements' to correct 'an angular thoroughfare'.¹²⁴ As will be seen, street improvements commonly drove the rebuilding of licensed premises, especially from after 1880. Georges – an important brewery and pub builder discussed in greater depth below – rebuilt several city-centre public houses in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Many of these, including the **Inkerman**, were bombed or cleared during postwar redevelopments along with their older neighbours. However in addition to the (relatively) small number of

¹²³ BRO Building plan/Volume 28/50a.

¹²⁴ WDP, 6 April 1892, 5.

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Victorian pubs built in the central area, building records show that very many of the city's old licensed houses were altered in the second half of the nineteenth century, especially between 1890 and 1910.¹²⁵ These alterations or improvements were typically at ground-floor level, through which the breweries created attractive, more open frontages and a recognisable 'brand'.

The Harbour remained Bristol's port until 1975, when it was formally closed; this marked the beginning of its regeneration and it is now the site of many of the city's new bars and restaurants.

Avonmouth

Because of the changing tides, which at some seasons struggled to support tall and heavy ships to the Floating Harbour near the city centre, and the ongoing decline of the central docks, the Bristol Port and Channel Docks were commenced at what would become Avonmouth, at the mouth of the Avon in the Severn Estuary, in the 1860s. In 1865 the Bristol Port Railway and Pier Company opened a railway line that ran from near the suspension bridge at Hotwells to Avonmouth to serve the new docks. The company also hoped it would be used by trippers and Avonmouth serves as an example of the impressive destination hotels that were built in and around the city as well as more everyday public houses.

Hoping to benefit from the new trade facilitated by the railway, the **Marine Hotel** was enlarged and updated, with a new 'great balcony' facing the sea. Meanwhile the railway line was redirected away from the Marine Hotel in favour of the new **Avonmouth Hotel** – a 'much larger and better house a quarter of a mile away'.¹²⁶ The **Avonmouth Hotel** and the Bristol Port Railway and Port Company, whose station was in the hotel grounds, had come to a 'mutually advantageous' agreement in 1865. This included the use of the hotel as the practising grounds for the First Gloucestershire Rifle Volunteer Corps. 'It would be difficult to decide exactly to what style of architecture it belongs', wrote the *Western Daily Press*, and still more difficult to describe it':

¹²⁵ Ascertained from searches for all the permutations of 'public house', 'inn', 'tavern', 'licensed premises' etc., and also individual pub names on the Bristol Record Office online catalogue: <http://archives.bristol.gov.uk/dserve/> and from many plans viewed while researching case studies.

¹²⁶ *WDP*, 15 August 1866, 3.

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but whatever a tasteful combination of materials can do has of a verity been effected here. The house is built with common stone, ornamented with red quoins, window-sills and dressings. To match this, red and black tiles, arranged in large diamond-pattern devices, have been used to cover the roof. Balconies commanding extensive views surround the house; and a large and handsome entrance, approached by a flight of steps gives it almost a palatial appearance.¹²⁷

Adjectives used were 'rustic', 'Italian' and 'French'. The architect of the hotel and Company Surveyor, was a Mr T. P. Wilcox. Elsewhere he is described as a mason or builder of Park Street, Bristol. Fifteen acres of pleasure gardens were laid out with parterres, meandering streams, rustic bridges and a concert room;¹²⁸ the company, 'knowing how fond the city population was of a little trip to the country', marketed these extensively.¹²⁹ In 1871 the proprietor was an East India Merchant. The **Avonmouth Hotel** was renamed the **Continental** in the early twentieth century and demolished in the 1920s.

Thus although the Avonmouth Docks were not opened until 1877, the Bristol Port and Pier Company and those they entered into agreement with, anticipated increased trade from trippers and those connected with the seaport through the building of the railway. When the docks opened several further hotels and licensed houses were built for the port and the growing urban area that accompanied it. These illustrate provision for different kinds and classes of customer in a circumscribed area but also show that this was not always easy to predict. The influence of landowners on an area's licensed house provision is also indicated, as all were connected with the Miles family.

¹²⁷ *WDP*, 27 February 1865, 3.

¹²⁸ *Bristol Mercury*, 11 March 1865, 3.

¹²⁹ *WDP*, 27 February 1865, 3.

The Royal Hotel, Avonmouth, was built close to the dock gates and the town that was emerging nearby. Designed in the late 1870s and opened in 1880/1, the hotel was elaborate by Bristol standards. It is built of limestone ashlar and brick, with brick ridge stacks and a pantile roof and the flank facing the dock sports the Miles arms:¹³⁰



The Royal Hotel, Gloucester Road, Avonmouth, in 2012 © Copyright Jaggery and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3305399>

The Miles family, which owned the Avonmouth land and large estates nearby, was influential in the city and held positions on the Docks Committee. Their money had been made in shipping, banking and importing sugar from the West Indies. It is likely that the Miles family was involved with the finance of the **Royal Hotel**.¹³¹ By September 1878, when Henry E. Penny applied for a provisional licence, the plans had been deposited with the Clerk of the Peace but no work had yet begun on the site.¹³² Penny was recorded as licensee in 1881. The hotel was used for inquests in the 1880s and in 1888 a local government inquiry was conducted there. Despite its impressive appearance and use for formal meetings, a fair bit of trouble occurred at the hotel at this time.

¹³⁰ <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1202234>, accessed 7 January 2015.

¹³¹ The present Mr Miles was the director of the Bristol Port and Rail Company who had also been a large shareholder of the Marine Hotel. Conservative party political meetings were held at the Royal Hotel, the chair being taken by Mr Henry Cruger William Miles, a banker who was active in the Society of Merchant Venturers, becoming Master in 1871. J. Latimer *The History of the Society of Merchant Venturers in the City of Bristol*, Bristol: Arrowsmith, 1903.

¹³² *Bristol Mercury*, 27 September 1878, 3.

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By 1938 the **Royal Hotel** belonged to Georges, which hoped for a more respectable trade:



The Royal Hotel, Gloucester Road, Avonmouth, from One Hundred and Fifty Years, 40

Known the world over through the numerous ships that trade with Avonmouth Docks, this public house is a welcome sight to the many travellers returning to their native land. Setting foot ashore after many years abroad The Royal Hotel offers hospitality where one can enjoy good beer and food a typical fare of Old England. Many spend the night at this house before going aboard ship for foreign lands. It is well laid out and equipped for residents with separate accommodation and hotel entrance.¹³³

The **Royal Hotel** was listed Grade II in 1977, together with its adjoining parade of shops.

The **Avonmouth Hotel** (later **Avonmouth Tavern**) was opened at Portview Road in the first years of the twentieth century. This was presumably built by the same company as the earlier **Avonmouth Hotel**, which was under threat of demolition from around 1900 with the extension of the dock; the old

¹³³ *One Hundred and Fifty Years, 40.*

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Avonmouth Hotel had become the **Continental** around the same time as the new one appeared. But far from being a rustic retreat with picturesque gardens and ocean views, the new 'hotel' was a corner pub opposite the dock gate. It was opened between 1901 and 1905 and faced a masonic hall of about the same date. According to David Martyn, the **Avonmouth Hotel** was built to serve the growing community that Philip Napier Miles began to develop at Avonmouth in the early part of the twentieth century, in conjunction with the architect Frederick Bligh Bond, probable architect of the **Avonmouth Hotel**.¹³⁴ Close by, on the Avonmouth Road, the more ornamental **Miles Tavern** was built to serve a higher class of resident and traveller.¹³⁵

Both public houses were doubtless planned to capitalise on the new Albert Dock at Avonmouth from 1902, which was also the year that Avonmouth became formally part of the city and county of Bristol.



The Avonmouth Hotel (now Tavern), Portview Road, Avonmouth © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

¹³⁴ Submitted to Bristol – Know Your Place by David Martyn, <http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/knowyourplace/>, accessed 7 January 2015.

¹³⁵ *Ibid.*



The Avonmouth Hotel (now Tavern), Portview Road, Avonmouth, in 2012 © Copyright Jaggery and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence:
<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3299163>

The **Miles Arms**, a larger hotel, was built by the Gloucestershire Public-House Trust Company at around the same time, nearby on Avonmouth Road. It was possibly another of the measures taken by the Miles family to encourage temperance in the area, and was, as temperance reformers Joseph Rowntree and Arthur Sherwell noted, only 435 yards from the old docks.¹³⁶ The Trust (1903–1951) was set up to ‘improve the conditions of hotels, public houses and inns in Gloucestershire’.¹³⁷ The secretary and manager was a Mr Henry Nowell Harvey of St Paul’s Road, Clifton but the connection – if any – with the Miles family is not known.¹³⁸ The *Western Daily Press* reported in 1904 that the new hotel ‘was specially arranged for business on the principles’ of the Trust, ‘with coffee and temperance rooms where intoxicants would not be sold’.¹³⁹ Part of the premises was licensed, however, as Trust policy was to encourage temperance rather than teetotalism. The licence was refused, on the basis that there were already ‘130 houses under trust management, and many promises from landowners had been

¹³⁶ J. Rowntree and A. Sherwell, *A The Taxation of the Liquor Trade*, vol I. London: Macmillan, 1908, 101.

¹³⁷ Gloucestershire Archives, D740.

¹³⁸ *WDP*, 22 April 1904, 7. In 1907 Nowell was listed as ‘late Royal Navy and Barrister-at-Law’, of 79 Woodland Road, Tyndall’s Park: *WDP*, 3 October 1907, 4; he was declared bankrupt in 1910, at which time he was registered as a ‘company promoter’: *Edinburgh Gazette*, 14 June 1910, 625.

¹³⁹ *WDP*, 22 April 1904, 7.

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received to hand over licensed properties on their estates at the expiration of current leases'.¹⁴⁰

As was often the case in Bristol and its neighbouring counties, the **Miles Arms** was granted its licence at a subsequent session. Its facilities included 'good dining and reading rooms and notices in the bar to the effect that tea and Bovril were always obtainable at 1d a cup and that anyone using bad language would be at once removed from the premises'.¹⁴¹ A music licence was granted in 1905.¹⁴² Owing to the 'difficulties' with which the Trust had to contend (including 'the aversion of the public to any new innovation') the directors proposed handing over the management of their licensed houses to the People's Refreshment House Association at that time.¹⁴³ The latter organisation, formed around 1898, had fifteen public houses in 1903.¹⁴⁴ The **Miles Arms** however remained in the management of the Trust until at least 1912, when it was refused an alehouse licence, after pressure from the Temperance Party. The docks were heavily bombed in the Second World War and the building took a direct hit in 1940.¹⁴⁵ It is still trading, part of the Sizzling Pubs chain, and must therefore have been considerably rebuilt.



The Miles Arms, Avonmouth Road, Avonmouth, in 2012 © Copyright Jaggery and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence, <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3299163>

¹⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

¹⁴¹ *Ibid.*

¹⁴² WDP, 19 December 1905, 9.

¹⁴³ WDP, 23 December 1905, 9.

¹⁴⁴ WDP, 9 October 1903, 9.

¹⁴⁵ WDP, 14 June 1946, 2; <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/yourpaintings/paintings/the-miles-arms-hotel-avonmouth-bristol-29842>, accessed 7 January 2015.

Licensed Houses in Industrial and Residential Suburbs: Bedminster

Bedminster is one of Bristol's oldest suburbs and by 1800 was a small market town in a largely rural area. In the early 1800s, the New Cut created a non-tidal course for the River Avon, which forms the boundary between Bedminster and the city centre, now known as the Floating Harbour. This enabled shipbuilding, which began in the 1840s. From the 1830s the town began to be developed as an industrial and residential suburb, a huddle of narrow streets and courts beside the river. Ironworking, brickmaking, candlemaking, smelting and tanning took place there and along another of the area's rivers, the Malago, creating one of Bristol's most unhealthy districts. During the first three decades of the nineteenth century, Bedminster's population grew by 400%, absorbing immigrants from rural Gloucestershire and Somerset.¹⁴⁶ In 1840 the Bristol and Exeter Railway cut through the area, 'contributing to the squalor in the environs of York Road, Whitehouse Street and Philip Street',¹⁴⁷ near the river Avon and behind the smarter thoroughfare leading south from Bedminster Bridge, known as Bedminster Parade. Overcrowding and cholera followed, the second of two outbreaks in the area before 1850. Reacting to the social as well as the physical consequences of overcrowding, social reformers became active in the area, setting up mission halls and chapels. The White Ribbon Temperance Army was founded in Bedminster in 1878, and is an indication of concerns over pubs and drinking in the area.¹⁴⁸ Nevertheless, the wider area remained socially mixed, as suggested in the subtitle, 'Shadow and Sunshine in Bedminster', one of a series of reports on the 'Homes of the Bristol Poor' that were published in the *Bristol Mercury* during 1884.¹⁴⁹

In the wider area of Bedminster, small developments of terraced houses were built by brewers and pit companies near to their work sites; from the 1860s, and as coalmining expanded, builders began building speculatively rather than to contract and tied public houses 'fell into the ownership of small investors from Bristol'.¹⁵⁰ The Bristol coalfield was one of the earliest to be mined, with records dating back to the medieval period. As *Matthews' New History of Bristol* put it in 1793, Bristol 'stands in the midst of a Coal Country, the veins of which run under its Streets. It is surrounded with Collieries, not only in Kingswood on the

¹⁴⁶ A. Franklin, 'Working-Class Privatism: an Historical Case Study of Bedminster, Bristol', *Environment & Planning D: Society and Space* 7, 1989, 93–113, 101.

¹⁴⁷ City Design Group, *Bedminster Conservation Area Character Appraisal*, 2013, 19.

¹⁴⁸ Meller, *Leisure and the Changing City*, 165.

¹⁴⁹ 'Homes of the Bristol Poor XIII', *Bristol Mercury*, 4 February 1994, 5.

¹⁵⁰ Franklin, *Working-Class Privatism*, 101–2, 103.

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Gloucestershire side of the River, but also on the Somerset side'.¹⁵¹ At Bedminster, on the Somerset side, there were around twenty operating by 1800. The mines, which are still shown as working on maps of 1900, attracted workers from depressed agricultural areas; this contributed to the growth of the once small town of Bedminster from 20,000 inhabitants in 1860 to a large suburb of over 70,000 inhabitants by 1884.¹⁵²

From the 1880s manufacturers bought greenfield sites on the edge of the docklands, most notably the chocolate and tobacco companies. W. D. and H. O. Wills established its tobacco factory in Bedminster in 1884 and others soon followed.¹⁵³ Robinsons, the paper bag manufacturers, also opened a new factory in the 1880s. A shopping centre grew up on and around North, East and West Streets in new buildings close to the Robinson and Wills factories. This area already contained a high concentration of public houses built before 1800, and from the 1890s many former coaching inns were flattened and rebuilt. A railway station had opened by 1860 (where there was also a Railway Gospel Temperance Hall by 1900) and in the late 1890s trams were introduced along West/North/East Street and Cannon Street, with a tram station at the corner of St John Street.¹⁵⁴ Partly to compensate for factory and industrial work, municipal parks and football pitches were created – destinations which, like transport routes and depots, were favourite spots for licensed houses.

The Philip Street Area: Bedminster

By the 1880s, Bedminster and the adjoining settlements contained acres of terraced streets whose occupants worked in the local industries. Poor quality and overcrowded accommodation dating from the 1850s or earlier was still to be found in the urban neighbourhood of Stillhouse Lane and Philip Street, near the tan yards, glue-shops and breweries by the river, and much of it survived until the twentieth century. Although only a very few are marked on contemporary Ordnance Survey maps, directories and local historians' research show that there were many beer retailers trading in this area.¹⁵⁵

¹⁵¹ *Matthews' New History of Bristol or Complete Guide and Bristol Directory*, 1793, 3.

¹⁵² Meller, *Leisure and the Changing City*, 85.

¹⁵³ Franklin, *Working-class Privatism*, 101.

¹⁵⁴ City Design Group, *Bedminster Conservation Area Appraisal*, 2013, 20.

¹⁵⁵ Many of these smaller concerns appear as houses on Ordnance Survey maps and can only be identified as public drinking places with reference to additional sources, such as rate books and the census.

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The Apple Tree (formerly Maltsters Arms), Philip Street, Bedminster, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

For example at Philip Street, which ran between East Street and Whitehouse Lane and contained about eighty subdivided houses (not including the corner plots), licensed premises included the **Swan** (corner of Doveton and Philip Streets), the **Spring Tavern** (corner of Whitehouse Lane), the **Maltsters Arms** (corner with Doveton Street), the **Tanners Arms**, the **Barley Mow** and at least two beer shops. Some courts were condemned in the late nineteenth century; the area suffered bomb damage in the Second World War and was cleared in the 1960s. The **Spring Tavern** traded until at least 1961 and appeared on Georges' evaluation of that year. Dating from around 1860, the **Maltsters Arms** was at the corner of Philip and Stillhouse Streets. In 1881 the **Maltsters Arms** was run by Mary Besley, widow, of Devon; next door at no 1A lived a public house keeper, so this may also have been a pub.¹⁵⁶ The **Maltsters** is now the **Apple Tree**, a cider pub, and is the only surviving licensed house in the area behind Bedminster Parade; this pub, and the Philip Street Baptist chapel which stands opposite, are some of the only surviving reminders of the area's past.

Stillhouse Lane, which ran at right angles to Philip Street and parallel to Bedminster Parade to the west, also contained a high proportion of licensed houses to residential buildings. Those known to have traded were the **Old Pilgrim Inn**; **New Pilgrim Inn**; **Prince of Wales** and the **Rummer Tap**. None survives. As elsewhere, licensing policy and competition with larger public houses on main roads tended to mean that the smaller back-street pubs were more

¹⁵⁶ The National Archives (hereafter TNA), TNA RG11/2454 28.

likely to close and that those on the main roads were more likely to survive longer term. Thus several are still trading on the remaining sections of Bedminster Parade and on its other through streets.

Bedminster's High Street Pubs

There were many licensed houses serving Bedminster's main shopping centres, which were clustered along the main roads. Some were rebuilt during the later nineteenth century, on the site of earlier inns; others were new. Bedminster's commercial centre was along the main route south from Bristol, part of which includes Bedminster Parade and then extends south west into East Street; the road, which partly follows the A38, then continues through West Street, ending at the western edge of Bedminster, a distance of about a mile. Along these roads were many beer and public houses, which must have been used by a variety of customers – locals who lived in the surrounding housing, workers in the factories and collieries which lined the route, shoppers visiting the area and those travelling out of town into Somerset.

Bedminster Parade, just to the south of Bedminster Bridge, leading from Recliffe, passed by the industrial area around Philip Street. The parade (parts of which were also known as Bright Bow or Brightbow and Bedminster Causeway) contained a long run of shops including many public houses, wine merchants and beershops. In the nineteenth century (excluding off licences) these included: **Foresters Return; Apple Tree; Black Horse; Hope Inn; Horse and Groom; Masons' Arms, Nelson Porter Stores** (rebuilt or extended 1906/7 for Georges), **Old Somerset House, Old Steadfast Inn**, the **Rummer**, the **Squirrel, Victoria Tavern**, the **Wheatsheaf** (rebuilt or substantially altered in 1893 by Eastabrook and Sons) and the **White Hart**.

This short stretch of roadway is useful for outlining the difficulties in identifying the kinds of licensed premises that were trading, which of course often changed over time as licences were upgraded, downgraded or refused. The census and directories of 1881 and 1886 for this stretch of road indicate that there were far more licensed drinking establishments than were shown on Ordnance Survey maps, which typically included only the larger public houses. The census and directories corroborate each other – even small beershops were listed in directories; this has also been found to be the case in other areas of Bristol, including backstreets. Although its coverage of Bedminster Parade was

incomplete, the Goad insurance plan of 1896 captured all the licensed houses that were listed in the 1886 directory but did not register temperance coffee houses that required no licence, although many of these were shortlived. The Goad plan also confirms the licensed houses indicated in the 1881 census (not all were named as licensed premises but were strongly suggested as such through occupations of residents and other details), and that between 1881 and 1896 there was little change.¹⁵⁷ The census also gives an idea of the overlap between other kinds of retail space and shows that there was some crossover in terms. Thus a 'beer & grocer retailer' was enumerated at no. 10 Bedminster Causeway, the premises named as the **Apple Tree** beershop in the Directory and a PH on the Goad plan. No. 22 (the **Rummer Hotel**) was home to a publican who was listed as a victualler in the Directory, while his 'hotel' was marked with a PH on the Goad plan. At no. 36 (the **Wheatsheaf**) lived a 'licensed victualler' and 'barmaid' in a building, which, like the establishments above, was not named as a pub in the census return. Meanwhile although they were not inns, some licensed houses had boarders, such as the **Horse & Groom** (no. 74), the head of which was a 'beerhouse keeper & tanner'. Not surprisingly, the enumerator appears to have struggled with differentiating between inn, tavern, beerhouse and public house, especially in relation to the heads of households who managed them. For instance the head of the **Masons Arms** (no. 88), was named as a 'Public House manager', which the enumerator then crossed through and replaced with 'inn (servant)'; and the head of the 'Old Steadfast Public House', no. 96, was described as a 'beerhouse keeper'.¹⁵⁸

Many of the pubs on Bedminster Parade and its continuation into East Street were built or rebuilt in the nineteenth century but some remained little changed. The **White Hart Inn**, no. 84 Bedminster Parade, is recorded as trading from the late eighteenth century and was possibly a freehouse until around 1887, when alterations are recorded.¹⁵⁹ Coroner's inquests were held there from the 1840s and in 1868 it was specified that the jury met there in 'in order to be near the police station'.¹⁶⁰ On the opposite side of the road to the **White Hart**, the police station, together with a free library, school, chapel and temperance hall and mechanics' institute, formed part of a series of 1850s measures that were designed to alleviate and control the area's perceived social problems. In the

¹⁵⁷ Goad Insurance Plan of Bristol, Vol. II 1896: sheets 57-1 and 56-1.

¹⁵⁸ TNA/RG11/2454 2-30.

¹⁵⁹ BRO Building plan/Volume 23/4a.

¹⁶⁰ WDP, 20 October 1868, 3.

1850s the Ancient Order of Foresters met at the **White Hart**, auctions were held there in the 1860s and '70s and in 1873 the innkeeper, Edwin Price, hosted a presentation and dinner for thirty people to honour the ex-Inspector of Police for the Bedminster Division.¹⁶¹ Thus, although it backed onto the crowded courts in the tangle of residential streets, glue factories and tanneries in the Philip Street area, the **White Hart** was used for reputable business, demonstrating a common urban social division between main streets and backstreets.

Price, a Bedminster man who was the innkeeper between 1861 and 1886, took a leading role in local charitable and other business, including the Rational Sick and Burial Association and the local Licensed Victuallers' Association, which both met at his inn. He also advertised tickets for Liberal events and held political meetings in support of the Liberal cause on his premises. On polling day in November 1868, the **White Hart** was 'wrecked' by Tory supporters, causing an estimated £7 worth of damage.¹⁶² This was part of 'an onslaught on every Liberal pub known to them in that locality'.¹⁶³ A smaller number (so the *Bristol Mercury*, a Reform paper, reported¹⁶⁴) of 'Blue' public houses was attacked by Liberals.¹⁶⁵ It is not known whether or to what extent the politics of a pub had an influence on its custom or indeed what the breweries made of their pubs being associated with one or other cause, not least because of the potential for damage to property. But it is clear from newspaper reports that bill sticking and posters in red or blue would have made a pub's affiliations very clear, at least at election time. Thus customers would have had to choose between the **White Hart** and the **New Inn**, which were opposite each other in the street and politically.

The **White Hart** was also known for its games – as were many of Bristol's public houses in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. A 'bowling saloon' was 're-opened' in April 1859 – 'playing to commence at 5 o'clock, when a handsome

¹⁶¹ *WDP*, 25 April 1873, 3.

¹⁶² 'The Damage done on Polling Day', *WDP*, 21 November 1868, 3.

¹⁶³ Other Liberal public houses to be attacked in and near Bedminster, which had a Liberal mayor, included the Star Inn, the Queen's Head, Redcliff Street, Brewers' Arms, Hope and Anchor, Red Cow, West Street, and the White Lion, North Street: *Bristol Mercury*, 27 November 1868, 3.

¹⁶⁴ P. Brett, 'Early nineteenth-century reform newspapers in the provinces: the *Newcastle Chronicle* and *Bristol Mercury*', *Studies in Newspaper and Periodical History*, 3(1–2), 1995, 49–67.

¹⁶⁵ These included the Pilgrim, Tucker Street, Ship Inn, Redcliff Hill, Terminus Hotel, Mr Bush's beerhouse, Temple Street, Swan Inn, Giant's Castle, St Philip's Bridge, Horse and Groom, Bedminster Parade, New Inn, Bedminster, Tanners Arms, Bright Bow, General Elliott, Bedminster, and the Mason's Arms, Whitehouse-street.

prize will be played for'.¹⁶⁶ Alterations were made in 1887/8, by or for Gough (possibly Mr Gough, a local architect, rather than a brewery), the year after the licence was transferred from Edwin Price. As they were apparently not to the front elevation, the alterations may represent the new skittles alley. This appeared on maps in the 1880s and matches were reported in the 1890s.¹⁶⁷ The pub was acquired by Georges in the twentieth century. The **White Hart** is still trading and its skittles alley also survives. Skittles alleys were – and are – an important and distinctive regional feature of Bristol's licensed houses. Numerous references to skittle grounds and skittles alleys can be found in local newspapers from the 1820s onwards. Some pubs, with a strong recreational focus, such as the **Old Fox Inn**, at Baptist Mills / Easton, also had bowling greens.¹⁶⁸ Regular references to covered skittles alleys can also be found in Bristol's newspapers from the 1830s, suggesting that it was from around that time that skittles began to move inside, into purpose-built alleys, rather than being played only in the open air.

On the junction with Philip Street, in the part of Bedminster Parade known as Bright Bow, the **Barley Mow** was trading from the 1850s, built around a small courtyard; it was used for coroner's inquests from the 1860s. A Mrs Slocombe ran the pub in 1857 and in 1875; she also let private houses and shops in the area. Maps indicate the **Barley Mow** was rebuilt by the early 1870s, at which time it faced a saw mills and Bedminster Tannery. The tannery was replaced with the huge new Wills Tobacco factory in the 1880s, which was opposite the **Barley Mow** (just seen in the photograph below). Unlike Ordnance Survey maps, the 1896 Goad Insurance Plan for this area identifies the building with a PH, although it appears to have been a beerhouse, and indicates that the drinking areas comprised one large and two smaller rooms.¹⁶⁹

¹⁶⁶ WDP, 16 April 1859, 1.

¹⁶⁷ For example in 1896 'the Horfield team again met the celebrated Bedminster team at a match which took place at the White Hart, Bedminster parade, on Wednesday. The game ended disastrously for Horfield, Bedminster winning by 54 pins', *Bristol Mercury*, 22 February 1896, 6.

¹⁶⁸ The Old Fox building dates from the late eighteenth century but there had been a pub of the same name on this site from earlier in the 1700s. See <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1282267>, accessed 7 January 2015.

¹⁶⁹ Goad Insurance Plan of Bristol, vol. II 1896: sheet 56-1.

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The Barley Mow, East Street, Bedminster, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

As shown in the recent photograph (above), the ground floor was tiled, which the Goad evaluator noted in 1896, and is another example of surviving turn-of-the-century improvements made to the commercial façade by breweries noted above (i.e. **Plume of Feathers** and **Punch Bowl**).

Finding out basic information about landlords and licensees is relatively straightforward, using resources such as directories, newspapers and the census. Ascertaining customer types is much trickier in this period. As examples such as the **White Hart**, opposite the Wills Tobacco Factory, suggest, proximity to workplaces was not necessarily an indication of catchment area or customer. Moreover employers may have objected to their staff drinking. The Wills company encouraged temperance among its workers – many of whom were women – and the families they came from. As A. Franklin found, in his study of early twentieth-century Bedminster, ‘Only those children with an impeccable church or chapel “character” were later eligible for recruitment into the well-paid tobacco factories, whereas the others were recruited into other low-paid factory work’.¹⁷⁰

Franklin’s study also found that ‘although these neighbourhoods were close to specific workplaces’, including the Wills tobacco factory, ‘they did not contain large concentrations of workers from any one; and, although they were close to the specific work sites in Bedminster, they were also within walking distance to

¹⁷⁰ A. Franklin, ‘Working-Class Privatism: an Historical Case Study of Bedminster, Bristol’, *Environment & Planning D: Society and Space* 7 (1989): 93–113, 104.

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dockland worksites'.¹⁷¹ Nor, according to Franklin, did working men live among those with whom they worked, while 'neighbourhoods were divided into those households where husbands were beer drinkers, and those who were temperate'.¹⁷² He says that 'the community life for many men was either centred in the public houses or centred around the chapel', while the women, both Methodist and non-Methodist, were 'infrequent pub-goers'.¹⁷³ He writes that after the First World War the leisure time of tobacco workers was less tied to the chapel, which now had to compete with music halls, theatre, dance halls and cinemas; organised sports were another new attraction, many laid on by the factories.¹⁷⁴

The northern end of the Bedminster Parade was removed for the construction of the Bedminster Bridge Roundabout in 1962, but several nineteenth-century and earlier pubs still trade on the remaining parts of the road. The **London Inn** stands at the junction of Cannon Street, East Street and British Road and was well placed for local and passing trade.



The London Inn, Cannon Street, Bedminster © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

A pub of that name had stood close to the site from at least the eighteenth century. Although some secondary sources give 1895 as a date for its rebuilding, the present inn appears to date from 1890. In October that year, local newspapers

¹⁷¹ Franklin, 'Working-class Privatism', 103.

¹⁷² *Ibid.*

¹⁷³ *WDP*, 30 May 1879, 3.

¹⁷⁴ Franklin, 'Working-class Privatism', 105.

complained that despite the East Street improvements, the new **London Inn** had been allowed to project past the building line. The *Western Daily Press* observed that 'the old inn is being pulled down' and 'the new London Inn, which has risen to the first floor, sticks out in a fashion which would be tolerated in very few towns'.¹⁷⁵ The *Bristol Mercury* 'called attention to the delay in competing the improvements in East Street, Bedminster [and] also asked who was responsible for the London Inn having been rebuilt so as to project 7ft or 8 ft beyond the line of the houses in Canon Street'.¹⁷⁶ Nevertheless, the new inn, in red brick with local stone dressings, stood far less proud of the building line than its predecessor.

As shown in the case of the **Inkerman** in the central area, it was standard practice to set pubs back during street widening and other improvements, which were undertaken as a sanitary as well as a traffic improving measure. As was also common, the public house continued to trade during its rebuilding, and the landlord of the **London Inn** was tried for permitting drunkenness on the premises only days before reports of the pub's rebuilding.¹⁷⁷ The new pub was perfectly timed for the tram extension, and it was announced in 1892 'that the street improvements at Bedminster are sufficiently near completion to admit of our at once constructing the authorised [tramway] extension to the **London Inn** at the end of East Street'.¹⁷⁸ This may have been the reason it was the only pub in the city known to have been provided with an exterior clock in the nineteenth century. There was a 'large, convenient clubroom' to let by 1904, except on Saturdays when, presumably, it was used by regular customers.¹⁷⁹ Political meetings for the Bedminster West Ward were held there in 1907, in support of the Socialist candidate for the City Council.¹⁸⁰ The pub reopened recently after a period closed; during the refurbishments, the stone dressings were painted a flat, undercoat grey.

¹⁷⁵ *WDP*, 27 October 1890, 5.

¹⁷⁶ *Bristol Mercury*, 26 November 1890, 3.

¹⁷⁷ *Bristol Mercury*, 23 October 1890, 2.

¹⁷⁸ *WDP*, 11 August 1892, 3.

¹⁷⁹ *WDP*, 17 December 1904, 3.

¹⁸⁰ *WDP*, 14 October 1907, 6.



The London Inn, Cannon Street, Bedminster, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

The **Plough and Windmill**, West Street, Bedminster was opened in 1898. Designed by Henry Williams, a Bristol architect who was also responsible for **The Old Globe** on East Street, it is another example of a rebuilding as part of a road improvement scheme. A pub had stood on the site from at least the early 1800s and maps indicate that the building, arranged around a courtyard, was of earlier date. Little is known about the old inn other than that it appeared in *Kelly's Directory* in 1863, that political meetings were held there in 1866 and 1874, and that there was a skittles alley.

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The Plough and Windmill, West Street, Bedminster © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)



The Plough and Windmill, West Street, Bedminster © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The *Bristol Mercury* complained in 1898, during Bedminster's ongoing street improvements, that the Horfield Road improvements had 'hung fire so long' but that 'another step in advance had been the purchase of several properties' on and near West Street. In this case, the Corporation made arrangements with the Ashton Gate Brewery, which owned the business, 'for the improvement of that

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thoroughfare', rather than acquiring it through compulsory purchase.¹⁸¹ Moved a few yards to the west so that it would be at the junction with the newly created Hengaston Street, the **Plough and Windmill** is another example of the red-brick pubs with stone dressings that were to be found all over Bristol at this date. The new **Plough and Windmill** was provided with a new skittles alley at the western boundary of the rear walled area that could be reached through the gate, just seen to the left, below. Known initially as a hotel, it was used for coroner's inquests very soon after opening. It is still trading and the skittles alley also survives.



The Plough and Windmill, West Street, Bedminster, June 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston

Brewers were compensated for the loss of their land when pubs were set back during street improvements. For example Georges bought a piece of land in front of the **Swan Inn**, New Street, near the city centre, for £100 in 1891, and the Streets Improvement Committee afterwards gave the company £50 for setting back and widening the road fifty feet.¹⁸² This was viewed as a deal between the brewers and the Corporation in some quarters, including within the Corporation itself. Opponents worried that it amounted to Corporation endorsement of the building of too-attractive pubs in prominent locations, which would encourage intemperance.

¹⁸¹ *Bristol Mercury*, 3 March 1898, 8.

¹⁸² *WDP*, 29 August 1891, 7.

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The rebuilding of the **Swan Inn** in 1891–2 involved changing its orientation from within New Street to a corner site fronting a junction.



The Swan Inn (Seven Ways from c.1975), New Street, Old Market, in 2010 © Copyright Thomas Nugent and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2065121>. This pub was recently converted to flats

Complaints were raised because workmen's cottages had also been proposed for this site. Mr Levy, a member of the committee, protested that he had had nothing to do with this transaction and that

he felt a great amount of injury would be done by having an attractive public house built in the position in which it would be in, and where there were already too many houses of the kind. They were encouraging and facilitating this drink traffic ... the committee had allowed a public-house in a back street to come out to a corner position, facing three thoroughfares ... the committee were certainly facilitating these houses being erected and encouraging the limited brewery companies. He did not say that they had any personal interest in it; but it seemed most extraordinary.¹⁸³

Levy compared the rebuilding of the **New Inn** with the **London Inn's** rebuilding in Bedminster, and like the press questioned why the latter was 'allowed to be built

¹⁸³ WDP, 29 August 1891, 7.

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right in front of all the other places'.¹⁸⁴ In reply, Alderman Pethwick asked, 'was it not for the public interest that an old, and perhaps dilapidated, public-house hidden from the public gaze, should be turned into a new modern house and brought to the public gaze?', which prompted knowing laughter.¹⁸⁵



Albert Hotel, West Street, Bedminster (Bristol United Brewery, 1889), surviving © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK); and Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

Another of Bedminster's nineteenth-century pubs that is still trading, is the **Albert Inn**. The business was run as the **Spotted Horse** from the mid-nineteenth century and was purchased by Maurice Reynolds of the Imperial Brewery, Bedminster in 1888. At the adjourned licensing session of 24 September 1889 an application was made to remove an ale licence from the **Gloucester Hotel Tap** at Hotwells (which had already been pulled down) to the **Spotted Horse** at West Street, where improvements were taking place. At the same licensing sessions a petition was made to change the name of the business to the **Albert Hotel**.

Mr Clifton, who made the application on behalf of the licensee, Mark Gould, 'humorously remarked that the wish was to dignify the house' with the name of 'hotel', an indication of the problematic nature of public house nomenclature in this period.¹⁸⁶ This first attempt failed. Clifton represented Gould at the licensing sessions the following year. On that occasion Gould petitioned to exchange the beerhouse licence held by the **Albert Hotel** for an alehouse licence held by the **Star** at Redcliff Hill. Clifton stated that the **Albert** had been 'materially enlarged' and was suited to a spirit licence and the application was granted.¹⁸⁷ The business was in the hands of Bristol United Breweries by 1899 and became part

¹⁸⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁸⁶ *WDP*, 25 September 1889, 7.

¹⁸⁷ *WDP*, 24 September 1890, 7.

of the portfolio of The Bristol Brewery Georges Co., Ltd. when they took over the firm. From 1984 it was renamed the **Albert Inn** and from 1979 developed as a music venue with a reputation for jazz. Recently trading for reduced hours, the pub closed during the course of this fieldwork but has now reopened.

Licensed Houses in Industrial and Residential Suburbs: Totterdown

Notwithstanding the cluster of dense, urban streets comprised of buildings in multiple occupancy close to the Avon at Bedminster, the majority of the district's housing conformed to two general working-class types – 'the small plain-fronted house built direct from the pavement, and the larger house with bay windows and a small forecourt'.¹⁸⁸ Two-storey public houses of similar proportions to the surrounding private houses were opened at the corners of the grids of streets in which these houses were laid out. Although much reduced in number, these corner pubs are very much a feature of parts of Totterdown and other districts, built in the second half of the nineteenth century. In the surviving photographic survey of Georges' property across the city and suburbs that was made in the 1930s, dozens of such corner public houses were recorded, many of which have been demolished, or we have been unable to identify or locate during the course of the research.

Totterdown was a relatively small, discrete settlement of neat terraced houses developed from the late 1860s on the extremely steep slopes of Pylle Hill. One local historian has identified around twenty-five buildings licensed for on and off trade in the area.¹⁸⁹ Maps and other sources indicate that the majority were corner pubs. Wrapped around the junction of two roads with, usually, the corner squared off rather than rounded, this shape of building is exemplified in the **Builders Arms** at the junction of Henry and Green Streets. The **Builders Arms** was trading by 1869, when the landlord, a 'beer retailer, mason and builder', was declared bankrupt.¹⁹⁰ By 1880 it had been renamed the **New Found Out**, which it remains:

¹⁸⁸ *Board of Trade Enquiry into Working Class Rents, Housing and Retail Prices*, 1908, 117 quoted in Meller 2013 edn., *Leisure and the Changing City*, 30.

¹⁸⁹ <https://www.flickr.com/photos/topspictures/5984314390/>, accessed 7 January 2015.

¹⁹⁰ *Bristol Mercury*, 22 June 1869, 5.

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The New Found Out, Green Street, Totterdown, October 2014 © Ros Ford

Other surviving examples in Totterdown include the **Shakespeare**, on Henry Street:



The Shakespeare, Henry Street, Totterdown, October 2014 © Ros Ford

the **Oxford Inn**, Oxford Street:

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The Oxford, Oxford Street, Totterdown, October 2014 © Ros Ford

and the **King William**, a curved corner pub on Cambridge Street that is now the Thali Café:



Thali Café (formerly the King William), Cambridge Street, Totterdown, October 2014 © Ros Ford

Political and society meetings took place at the **New Found Out** and the **Shakespeare**, and coroner's inquests were held at the **King William**. At the edge of the Totterdown, the **Cumberland Arms** (now the **Star & Dove**) was

rebuilt between the wars and the **Boars Head** and the **Three Elms** were demolished for a roundabout at some point after 1949.

The flat-fronted corner building type was frequently used for shops and post offices. Its flexibility for a variety of neighbourhood enterprises is illustrated by the case of **Park House**, a butcher's shop at the junction of Park Avenue and St John's Lane, the main road between Totterdown and Bedminster. In 1894 three licensing applications were made for the building, at 1 Park Avenue, on the corner of a short street of identical facing terraces. **Park House** was not only part of 'the entirely new neighbourhood [that] had sprung into existence' around 1890 but it now stood opposite the recently laid out Victoria Park, and was thus in a very desirable position. The first application was 'for a licence to sell beer and cider for consumption on the premises; the second was for a similar licence for 'off' consumption; and the third was an alternative application for the transfer of the licence of the Foresters Arms', in the inner district of Temple, to **Park House**.¹⁹¹ Other premises were also offered in exchange for the new licence. Mr Scammell, the surveyor for Bristol United Breweries, urged that the premises 'were admirably adapted for the sale of exciseable liquors'.¹⁹² The licensing justices however replied that they were 'satisfied that the house was well built and suitable for the requirements of a licensed place. The question was whether it was necessary', as there were several other pubs nearby.¹⁹³ A licence appears to have been granted for off-licence, possibly as a result of local residents' opposition to a full licence.¹⁹⁴ Certainly it was still an off licence by the 1930s, when it belonged to Georges.

¹⁹¹ 'Bristol Adjourned Licensing Session', *WDP*, 27 September 1894, 7.

¹⁹² *Ibid.*

¹⁹³ *Ibid.*

¹⁹⁴ *Ibid.*

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Park House, Park Avenue, Bedminster © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

As this suggests, the two-storey corner plan was as often used for off licences as on licences. There were several of these at Totterdown, and a photograph survives of the now demolished **Stanley House** in the 1930s, at which time it was owned or managed by Georges:



Stanley House off licence, Totterdown © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Licensed houses for Residential and Industrial Suburbs: Barton Hill

Barton Hill, an area to the east of Bristol, grew up around the Great Western Cotton Factory in the early nineteenth century, following the opening of the Feeder Canal. Cotton manufacture, which first began in Bristol in 1793 at a factory in the city centre at Temple Street, was established successfully at Barton Hill in the late 1830s, when the cotton factory opened.¹⁹⁵ This suburb differed from Bedminster in being more isolated or self-contained, and dependent on a smaller number of employers. The factory, saw mills and the surrounding dwellings, many for factory workers, were separated from the city and through traffic by the railway line from the Station to the West, the Netham Chemical Works to the West and the Feeder Canal to the south. Some of the social conditions were similar however. Along with the Dings, St Jude's, one or two spots on the Hotwell Road, and the Philip Street area of Bedminster, Barton Hill was still one of Bristol's most densely populated areas in the 1880s.¹⁹⁶ Poor sanitation and overcrowding meant that disease and death rates were higher in these areas than in the rest of the city.

There were a number of public houses in the area, most of which do not appear on Ordnance Survey maps, possibly because, as at Bedminster, they were smaller beerhouses. This is corroborated by directories, which tend to list the licensees as beer retailers. The area was redeveloped from the 1950s, as part of a huge clearance scheme; it is again a regeneration area, hence only a fraction of the original number of pubs and street pattern, survives. The following section focuses therefore on how customers, many or most of whom worked in the factories and mills, nearby used their locals. It also looks at change over time, and particularly at how pubs of nineteenth-century origin were being used just prior to their demolition in the 1950s.

Advertisements and reports of licence transfers indicate that brewers and landlords hoped that employees at the local works would provide steady custom from the nineteenth century. Thus, in 1862, Mr Fish applied for a licence renewal for the **Rhubarb Tavern**, on the grounds that 'the house was near the Great Western and Midland Cattle Stations', which was granted.¹⁹⁷ This pub, named for the

¹⁹⁵ J. Latimer, *The Annals of Bristol in the Nineteenth Century*, Bristol: W. S. Morgan, 1887, 237.

¹⁹⁶ Special Commissioner of the *Bristol Mercury*, *Homes of the Bristol Poor*, William Lewis & Sons, 1884, 6.

¹⁹⁷ *WDP*, 15 September 1862, 3.

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rhubarb fields which it replaced, serves as a useful example of how a public house served a community over several decades in the Victorian and Edwardian periods.



*The Rhubarb Tavern, Queen Ann Road, Barton Hill © Barton Hill History Group:
<http://www.bhhg.co.uk/showfiles.php?files=rhubarb%20tavern>, accessed 9 January 2015*

The **Rhubarb Tavern** was conveniently located for the local works, and also other kinds of workplace, including allotment gardens and cattle pens. Press notices of the 1860s stressed the pub's location 'near the cotton factory' and 'near several large factories & with an excellent covered skittle alley'.¹⁹⁸ There was also a quoits ground and it was reported in 1930 that 'the billiard (or bagatelle) room' contained an old fireplace dated 1672, originally from a house on Queen Ann Road, which was pointed out with pride to visitors.¹⁹⁹ The Barton Vale Operatives' Liberal Association was inaugurated at a public meeting at the beerhouse in 1874, when 'upwards of forty members were enrolled', suggesting that it was indeed used by local factory workers.²⁰⁰ The tavern and its skittles alley were at that time physically attached to the Barton Hill Pottery, which may have created additional custom.

When the **Lord Nelson** beerhouse at Barton Hill applied for a spirit licence in 1890, on the grounds that the district had trebled in population and that there were 'very many important manufactories near', '300 inhabitants and also managers and influential people at many of the factories' signed a memorial in

¹⁹⁸ WDP, 12 January 1867, 1 and 10 December 1867, 1.

¹⁹⁹ WDP, 24 September 1930, 7.

²⁰⁰ WDP, 20 October 1867, 5.

support. The bench refused the application, however, because the **Royal Table** and the **Rhubarb Tavern** were 300 and 400 yards away respectively.²⁰¹

The **Rhubarb** was updated several times. Alterations were made in 1886–7 by or for a W. or J. Church, and in 1899–1900 the Bristol building firm Cowlin and Company created an attractive tiled first-floor front extension with terracotta panels, for Georges.²⁰² By 1900 a new clubroom encouraged its regular use by the Licensed Victuallers' Association and it became the new headquarters of the United Ancient Order of Druids at that date. When over 1,000 men and women went on strike from the Great Western Cotton Company, following a 5% cut in wages in 1904, their male representatives met several times with officials of the Gas Workers and General Labourers' Union in the clubroom.²⁰³ In 1924 the weaving foreman of 41 years treated employees to a musical supper, the evening chaired by the chief engineer.²⁰⁴ By 1937 it was described as a 'noted Georges fully licensed house; commodious bars, good working class trade'.²⁰⁵ The **Rhubarb** is apparently the oldest building in Barton Hill and is still trading.²⁰⁶

As elsewhere in Bristol, skittles and other games were a noticeable feature of the city's pubs; such games may have offered particular relief from factory work. The **Rhubarb** had its own skittle alley, and a quoits ground and bagatelle room. The **Beaufort Arms**, on Great Western Street, just to the north, had a skittle alley 'adjoining' in the 1870s; bagatelle was also played.²⁰⁷ In 1878, Joseph Eccleston, grocer and beer retailer, allowed a game of bagatelle to be played in the yard, on a Russian bagatelle table, rather than in the tap room, because it was a hot day.²⁰⁸ Months later, Eccleston had his licence renewal opposed because he had allowed bagatelle to be played on the premises, presumably without a billiard licence, although a fatal stabbing also played its part in this decision.²⁰⁹ By the early years of the twentieth century, the **Beaufort** had its own bagatelle team;

²⁰¹ WDP, 30 September 1890, 7.

²⁰² BRO Building Plans vol 22/43b and c and vol 37/39d.

²⁰³ WDP, 24 May 1904, 5.

²⁰⁴ WDP, 1 January 1924, 8.

²⁰⁵ WDP, 6 March 1937, 2.

²⁰⁶ <http://www.bhgg.co.uk/showfiles.php?files=rhubarb%20tavern>, accessed 9 January 2015.

²⁰⁷ *Bristol Mercury*, 22 July 1878, 5.

²⁰⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁰⁹ WDP, 5 September 1878, 3.

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according to William Atterton, his father was captain of the team when the pub won the league in about 1910.²¹⁰

A 1950s survey of Barton Hill, conducted by Hilda Jennings, revealed in more detail how the district's public houses continued to be used by local workers later in the twentieth century. Jennings was the Warden of the University Settlement in Barton Hill, which was established in this part of east Bristol in 1911, the director of research having lived there from the 1890s. As at other Settlements, a movement begun in London in the 1880s, members lived in areas of poverty in which they did social and cultural work with residents. At Barton Hill, staff and students from Bristol University settled in the terraces, creating a library, open-air school and other facilities, and were particularly involved in the welfare of women and children.

Jennings observed rather different associations between the pub and local residents than Franklin had found in Bedminster. While this could well be attributed to its later date (i.e. 1950s), when drinking habits were said to have changed, evidence from the local press in the nineteenth century suggests that it may also have been determined by geography and a lack of interference by employers, especially the Great Western Cotton Factory, which dominated Barton Hill's rows of streets.

The cotton factory closed in 1925, and other factories followed. Depression ensued. In 1953 Barton Hill became one of the first Redevelopment Areas in Bristol; the Corporation compulsorily purchased the old houses, which were mostly two-storey parlour houses, along with other buildings. The first new flats opened in 1958. The survey, which was published by Jennings as *Societies in the Making: A Study of Development and Redevelopment in County Borough* in 1962, formed part of the work that Settlement staff did in resettling the community into new environments; it was also designed 'to inquire into the human and social effects of the enforced change imposed on a rooted community as a result of redevelopment'.²¹¹ The book recorded what people missed about their old home, including its pubs. Thus the survey and the oral history it contains captured late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century working-class patterns of pub organisation and use, just as these were about to change.

²¹⁰ W. Atterton, 'Life in Barton Hill, 1899–1930, as remembered by William Atterton', unpublished typescript, 1984, n.p., Bristol Central Library.

²¹¹ H. Jennings, *Societies in the Making*, London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1962 (2010 edn), 9.

The pubs in Barton Hill appear to have been used almost as a second home by local people, often on a street-by-street basis. Other than in one street, the cotton-factory dwellings were small three-bedroom terraced houses. Families described themselves by trade, such as a 'railway family', and Jennings says that until very recently 'the industrial bias was for a long time very marked in certain groups of streets, where engine-divers, guards, plate-layers, firemen and porters lived side by side, and congregated in "the locomotive" and the Railwaymen's Inn".²¹² Although the survey found 'a small minority of rigid teetotallers', 'the long association with small and well-known "houses" and the decrease in heavy drinking, which was marked in Barton Hill as elsewhere, meant that no stigma was involved in visits to the public house. It was, indeed, as a rule recognized as a social centre without the obligations of formal membership'.²¹³ However the on-going reduction in drinking, which, as Jennings noted, was recorded in city-wide and national reports as well as locally, had an effect on trade:

Most publicans stated that in recent years their "barrelage" had gone down in relation to the number of their customers and that these tended to seek social intercourse and often social activities to which the drink itself was only an accompaniment. The public houses provided, too, a field in which the raconteur and humourist or the ready speaker or informal entertainer, came into their own. In essence, it does not appear from the descriptions given by a number of the older men that public house humour in Barton Hill has greatly changed since the early years of the century.²¹⁴

Since almost every street had its own shop or shops, and the ratio of these to dwelling houses was so high, the clientele was usually small and intimate.²¹⁵ Like the shops, the survey found:

the public houses were mainly meeting places for neighbours. In them the men met to do their football pools together, to exchange views on work, politics and people, and often to take part in the darts or billiard club. The publicans prided themselves that theirs were "family houses",

²¹² Jennings, *Societies in the Making*, 35.

²¹³ *Ibid*

²¹⁴ Jennings, *Societies in the Making*, London, 49.

²¹⁵ Jennings, *Societies in the Making*, 47.

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and many husbands regularly ‘took the missus to the “local” for a Saturday evening social hour, and used it as a place where weekend visitors and relatives could be entertained. Not only outings to football matches, but also family trips to the seaside and Christmas savings clubs were organised by the publicans. Some wives, also, expressed satisfaction that the public house was so accessible. – “If you want him, you know you’ve only to pop round the corner. It’s almost the same as having him at home”.²¹⁶

The role of the publican involved not only authority but also personal relationships with customers:

The publican’s wife often likes to sit down for a game of cards, and he himself to try his hand at darts and billiards. The premises, like those of the shops, are usually small, although they often include a large room for meetings and recreational activities. Thus they too reflect and strengthen the intimacy of relationships in small local groups. As an incomer publican in the cotton works area said of his customers, ‘They’re so friendly you can’t help liking them, and if they quarrel, they don’t bear malice but are friends again next night.’²¹⁷

Friendly Societies held their meetings in the public houses and the pubs were also used for other clubs, especially those involving birds. Thus, ‘If the women no longer sit in the “local” peeling potatoes for the Sunday dinner, while their husbands encourage their caged birds to sing in turn, the public houses are still the natural venue for enthusiasts in pigeon clubs and caged birds’ societies’.²¹⁸ The dispersal of the cotton works’ inhabitants, throughout the four quarters of the city was, according to Jennings, completed within the allotted time: ‘By early 1955, only the garage proprietor and the one publican whose public house was not to be demolished remained in the cotton works area’.²¹⁹ Relocation to the new postwar estates was for many a wrench; residents missed their neighbours and local institutions such as the corner shop and pub. One group of Barton Hill neighbours tried to overcome their growing feeling of remoteness by organising reunions for all the inhabitants of their old street:

²¹⁶ Jennings, *Societies in the Making*, 49.

²¹⁷ Jennings, *Societies in the Making*, 50.

²¹⁸ *Ibid.*

²¹⁹ Jennings, *Societies in the Making*, 99.

The work entailed was very considerable and although the first of the gatherings was a great success, the next was less well attended. Some people objected to meeting in a room attached to a public house in central Bristol and others said sadly that “it was not the same”.²²⁰

Barton Hill residents who moved to the new postwar estates volunteered that they recognised that their old district had been over-stocked with shops and public houses, or perhaps felt pressed to do so by interviewers:

men remarked jokingly on the ease with which it used to be possible to get “blotto” by taking a few minutes’ walk down the main road, with only a pint at every public-house they passed. “Now a pint over a game of cards or darts will last the evening.” “The publicans have a hard time in some of the little ‘locals’”. “Drinking habits have changed and there’s no place for so many pubs”.²²¹

Nevertheless, residents missed the convenience of their former shops and public houses. One respondent said of their replacements in the new estates that ‘public houses though “grander” – “you almost feel you ought to shave again before you go to some of them” – were also more remote and less homely’.²²²

In the new Barton Hill, which was redeveloped as the residents were temporarily or permanently decanted to new estates, the old street pattern of row housing was removed for high blocks of flats surrounded by areas of grass. The shops and pubs were redistributed too:

A small shopping centre containing ten shops would be substituted for the forty-six shops formerly dispersed through the various sub-neighbourhoods. In the cotton districts only one of the four public houses would remain and some of those in the remaining part of the development area would also disappear.²²³

²²⁰ Jennings, *Societies in the Making*, 111.

²²¹ Jennings, *Societies in the Making*, 116.

²²² *Ibid.*

²²³ Jennings, *Societies in the Making*, 189.

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The cluster of pubs near the factory was remembered with affection. A poem by John Feltham (born 1929), *Barton Hill (The Memory)*, named three pubs in Great Western Street (the continuation of Great Western Road to the south), known simply as ““Bottom, “middle” house and “tops””.²²⁴ According to Mark Steeds, whose father George was ‘a Barton Hill boy’ and who sang and played dominoes in the pub, the ‘top house’ was in Henry Street, its official name being the **Beaufort Arms**.²²⁵ The ‘middle house’ was the **Mechanics** and the ‘bottom house’ was the **Weavers Arms**. The latter, he says, got its name and clientele from the Great Western Cotton Company; the **Mechanics Arms** was presumably named for the area’s railway workers. The **Beaufort Arms** was pulled down along with the street in the 1950s; George Steeds was ‘devastated’ when the pub’s ‘trade disappeared seemingly overnight’ with the area’s redevelopment at that time. Apparently the licensee was the ‘landlord’s wife as he wasn’t allowed to hold a licence due to his Fascist sympathies’.²²⁶ This, like the memory below, may serve as a corrective to the perhaps overly rosy view of many ‘lost pubs’:

The Judge and Jury club also used to frequent the Beaufort, one of its members was the notorious “Hopper” Chinook (rat catcher who used to bite their heads off in the surrounding pubs) he used to dock puppy dogs’ tails by the same method and put the money into the charity pot.²²⁷

The following section looks at public houses in a cluster of more ‘respectable’ Bristol suburbs.

Licensed Houses for Residential Suburbs: Redland and Cotham

Redland, together with neighbouring Cotham, was developed as a predominantly middle-class residential suburb, the centre of which is about two miles north-north-east from the heart of Bristol. The bulk of the housing, comprised largely of semi-detached villas, was built in the 1860s and 1870s, with pockets of later

²²⁴ <http://www.bhhg.co.uk/showfiles.php?files=Mrs%20Babbages%20shop>, accessed 10 January 2015.

²²⁵ M. Steeds, ‘The Painter and the Publican’, *Pints West*, 74 Summer 2007, 4.

²²⁶ Communication to the *Bristol Post*, 24 September 2013: <http://www.bristolpost.co.uk/Dad-great-fun-Beaufort/story-19836445-detail/story.html#v7YbdJ6V6cr5GS5X.99>, accessed 10 January 2015.

²²⁷ *Ibid.*

residential infill. Unlike Barton Hill, and the Philip Street area of Bedminster, much of the urban scene remains unchanged, including many of its public houses, allowing for a closer survey of the area's pubs.

The area of study, which reaches slightly outside of these two centres, includes pubs from within the Cotham, Redland and Gloucester Road Conservation Area and the Whiteladies Road Conservation Area. It is bounded by the Whiteladies Road (A4018) and the Gloucester/Cheltenham Roads (A38), on which a number of nineteenth-century and Edwardian licensed houses catering to local and passing custom still trade. Nearby are the Clifton and Durdham Downs, protected from building and managed from 1861 by the Downs Committee. With panoramic views across the Avon Gorge (and Clifton Suspension Bridge from 1864) and Bristol Channel to the Welsh mountains, this was one of Bristol's main public open spaces and a playground for all social classes. Horse racing was recorded on the Downs from the eighteenth century and, in the nineteenth, a camera obscura and other attractions capitalised on the fresh air and views. There were bowling greens at the **Ostrich Inn** in the early nineteenth century.²²⁸ Cricket and other field sports were played nearby. In addition to the hotels, tea gardens and other watering places that served tourists on and near the Downs, and inns that became particularly associated with sports and sports grounds, the connecting routes became popular spots for public houses, where shopping districts also emerged. The study area was then close to recreational spaces and contained destination leisure pubs as well those catering to more local trade.

In the 1840s, the Redland and Cotham areas were undeveloped and consisted of fields, farms and villages, with a handful of large villas and mansions taking advantage of the high ground. By 1855 Whiteladies Road was beginning to be lined with private houses and suburbanisation was occurring apace, with merging clusters of substantial detached and semi-detached villas laid out on the surrounding fields. Post Office Directories indicate that districts such as Redland Park were complete by 1863, while the 1874 Ashmead map shows that the whole area was largely built up by this date. The overall street pattern represents the shift from formal eighteenth-century terraced housing (Fremantle Road), to the more grand villa development (Upper Cotham); the area also includes narrow streets of mid-Victorian terraces and denser semi-detached houses at East and West Redland, and some large detached residences in grounds.²²⁹ As in other well-to-

²²⁸ J. Latimer, *The Annals of Bristol in the Nineteenth Century*, Bristol: W. S. Morgan, 1887, 4.

²²⁹ See, *Cotham and Redland Character Appraisal*, 2011.

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do residential suburbs, the houses were accompanied by pleasure gardens and parks, nursery grounds and stables, railway stations, hotels and assembly rooms, shops, churches, schools and other institutions, which all sprang up to serve the new settlement, bringing non-residents into the area and potential customers for its public houses. In Redland's case the Zoological Gardens were also nearby at Clifton, though this had its own beerhouse.

By 1900 trams passed up and down Whiteladies Road, the main route to Westbury-on-Trym and Eastville, and the Redland Garage of the Bristol Tramways Company was at the top of the hill, where Whiteladies Road meets Durdham Down at a major road junction. Thus the area contained recreational spaces, main roads and termini as well as residential enclaves which attracted a range of licensed premises. From the early nineteenth century a large public house called the **Kings Arms** stood near the top of Whiteladies Road in the part of the thoroughfare known as Blackboy Hill (both roads were named after pubs).



Blackboy Hill in a postcard of c.1900, the Kings Arms ringed. Authors' Collection.

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The Kings Arms, Whiteladies Road; note the shopping parade in the same style to the right. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, August 2014

On the Redland / Clifton borders, the **Kings Arms** was surrounded by well-to-do residential areas. It was also on one of the main routes north (now the A4018) and was thus well placed for traffic passing in and out of town. It was also very close to Durdham Down and sports grounds and in the 1860s the local cricket club had a clubroom in the 'hotel'. One evening in September 1872 twenty men met at the **Kings Arms** to form the Clifton Rugby Club. Its ten rules were 'based on Clifton College rules except an alteration was made to Rule 19 "no kicking or tripping be allowed"'.²³⁰ Like many other pubs, it was also used for coroner's inquests. Around 1889, when it was referred to as 'an old-fashioned family hotel selling home brewed ale'; it was acquired under statutory powers by the Bristol Corporation for £4,600, together with its existing license, 'for public purposes'.²³¹ A claim against the Mayor and Corporation by the landlady, Kezia Butson, for £703 for 'failure to effect certain alterations' reveals how the local authority acquired and rebuilt the pub.

Mrs Butson's contract with the Corporation was that the latter should take down the front of the house for the purpose of a street improvement, rebuild it with a magnificent frontage by 25 March, give her a cottage garden adjoining, which was at the time a separate property, and charge her no rent until the 25 March 1890. It was,

²³⁰ <http://www.cliftonrfchistory.co.uk/1870s/1870s.htm>, accessed 7 January 2015.

²³¹ *Bristol Mercury*, 28 July 1890, 8.

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therefore, contemplated that the works would occupy nine months ... a great many of the customers had migrated from the King's Arms to the Beaufort Arms ... the foreman of the works at the King's Arms, stated that the front of the house was not given over to them for setting back until the 13 July 1890, and the work was proceeded with as quickly as possible. Mr Josiah Thomas, city surveyor, stated that the premises in which Mrs Butson carried on business were not interfered with to the slightest extent until November 12, when there was a little interference with the bar. There was no further interference with the trade portion of the premises until the next July, and then when the new bar and billiard room were finished and ready for business, they first took possession of the old part of the premises. That was at the end of July, and by the 5 August the old front was down.²³²

Maps and surviving buildings indicate that the pub was developed along with the neighbouring shopping parade as part of street improvements. The tramway was also extended through the area at this time.

In 1903 it was recorded that during October or November 1897 'the King's Head Inn [sic], Redland, was disposed of by the Corporation and brought £10,600'.²³³ According to the article of 1890 above, the Corporation also bought **The Old Globe**, Bedminster, for £650, at this time, and sold it after rebuilding for £1250 shortly after.²³⁴

²³² *Bristol Mercury*, 11 April 1892, 3.

²³³ Latimer, *The Annals of Bristol in the Nineteenth Century Concluded*, 66.

²³⁴ *Bristol Mercury*, 28 July 1890, 8.



The Old Globe, East Street, Bedminster © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The article stated that ‘the licenses of those still existing will in most cases be allowed to expire’, indicating why the **Kings Arms** continued to trade for seven years before being sold on, while **The Old Globe** was offered for sale as soon as it was rebuilt.²³⁵ Both pubs were rebuilt during street improvements, which included setting back the building line. While of different size and style, both were built in red brick, a favourite material for Bristol’s turn-of-the-century pubs. Unlike **The Old Globe** however, the **Kings Arms** was given carved Bath stone dressings and a balustrade in keeping with its larger size and more prestigious location.

²³⁵ *Ibid.*

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The Kings Arms, Whiteladies Road, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

Coroner's inquests continued to be held at the **Kings Arms** and property auctions were regular events, perhaps using one of the club rooms. Many local associations and sports clubs also met there. For example in 1891, the 32nd anniversary dinner of the Loyal Blaize Castle Lodge of Oddfellows took place and, in 1895, the quarterly meeting of the Bristol and District Beer and Wine Trade Association.²³⁶ A billiard room was created during the rebuilding and is possibly the toplit room on the second floor of the annexe, shown in the photograph below. The **Kings Arms** is shown to be a free house in the photograph of around 1900; by 1938 it belonged to Georges, which added a new skittles alley.²³⁷ In 1975 Courage, which acquired the pub following the merger with Georges in 1961, leased the annexe, the portion adjoining York Street, separately from the main 'hotel':

²³⁶ *Bristol Mercury*, 27 November 1891, 6; *WDP*, 24 August 1895, 3.

²³⁷ BRO Building plan/Vol 174/7D.

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The Kings Arms at the junction of York Street, which was built over the garden adjoining the original pub, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, September 2014

After many name changes and time spent as a nightclub, the **Kings Arms** is again trading under its original name and as a pub. However because of its size and the number of rooms it is used for a range of events and has a large dining as well as drinking areas.

As mentioned in the licensing summary above, it seems that Corporation ownership of licensed premises such as the **Kings Arms** and **The Old Globe** dates from the 1880s and 1890s street improvements. In 1896 ninety-six members of the local clergy petitioned the Corporation over its policy of owning and selling on licensed houses; in its defence solicitor and councillor F. Gilmore Barnett stated that 'out of 38 licensed houses which were purchased, the committee allowed the licenses of 25 to lapse (hear, hear)'.²³⁸ Barnett was a Liberal, brother of Canon S. A. Barnett, and the rest of his response shows him to have been in the temperance rather than teetotal camp. It also illustrates the city's policy of removing the smaller licensed houses:

The object [of any licensed houses being retained by the Corporation] was that by being able to sell premises with a license attached they were enabled to get a value which to a certain extent recoupled them for the loss of the small houses the licenses of which were allowed to

²³⁸ WDP, 12 February 1896, 3.

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lapse. They were treated by the signatories of the memorial as if they encouraging drinking in licensed premises, but their figures showed that the New Streets Improvement Committee had done more than any other public body to sweep away the small licensed premises, which caused the greatest trouble and did most harm.²³⁹

Twenty-six pubs were in Corporation ownership in 1896, bringing in a rental of £1,000 annually. Barnett entirely agreed with a colleague that 'there was more mischief to be apprehended from the small public houses out of the way than from large public houses well built, well ventilated, and open to the public gaze.... He suggested that the plan of some public houses in Bristol being under the immediate control of the Corporation might be worth trying, it having been suggested elsewhere'.²⁴⁰

As elsewhere in the city, Redland's smaller pubs tended to serve the more residential areas. The **Kensington Arms**, on the corner of Kensington Road and Stanley Road, is an example of a typical Bristol corner house, a type which remained popular throughout the nineteenth century.



The Kensington Arms, Stanley Road, Redland. Source © CAMRA What Pub: <http://whatpub.com/>

The **Kensington Arms** is identified as a public house on maps of the 1880s and is currently trading as a gastropub.

Another example of a neighbourhood corner pub in Redland is the **Clyde Arms**. Built in the second half of the nineteenth century, it is of the same date and materials as the surrounding villas. Until 1935 the business traded with a beer

²³⁹ WDP, 12 February 1896, 3.

²⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

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license. It is not known if such businesses were frequented by the householders of the large properties nearby, or if they were likely to have been the resort of the gardeners and grooms who served them, or both.



Clyde Arms, Hampton Road, Redland, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

The **Clyde Arms** was one of many businesses that petitioned to extend its license in return for the surrender of a city-centre licence, in this case the license for the **Brandy Cask** in Bond Street. As was generally the case, the petition was made on the basis of local need and the class of the district: 'Mr Robinson, who appeared for the applicant, explained that the Clyde Arms was in a good class residential district, and the people frequently required to be supplied with wines and spirits. No additional licence would be created, but on the other hand a beer-house license would be extinguished'.²⁴¹ In this case, as in many others, the petition was made in conjunction with improvements to the business. One of Georges' surveyors gave evidence that 'alterations and improvements already approved by the justices were being carried out to the extent of £1,500 to £1,600' and permission was granted.²⁴²

Examples at Redland of what seem more certainly to have been licensed houses for a relatively well-to-do clientele, include **The Cambridge Arms** of 1900. By Edward Gabriel of Edmeston and Gabriel, 42 Old Broad Street, London, EC (architects) and John Perkins, 62 Lower Redland Road, Bristol (builder), the pub demonstrated the new, more historicist style favoured from the turn of the century.

²⁴¹ *WDP*, 12 March 1935, 3.

²⁴² *Ibid.*

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With its wide street frontage and large gardens to the rear, the **Cambridge**, and others that were very similar, is typical of the larger public houses with gardens built for more affluent suburbs in this period.



The Cambridge Arms, Coldharbour Road, Redland, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014



The Cambridge Arms, Coldharbour Road, Redland. Details © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The Shakespeare, Redland, was built by architects Walter S. Paul & James in 1903 for the Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.



The Shakespeare, Lower Redland Road © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Of red brick with stone dressings, this two-room corner local served a residential area and faced the post office and a small cluster of shops. It was rebuilt on the site of an earlier pub, the building of which has been dated to 1867.²⁴³ Maps indicate that the original 'Shakespeare Tavern' was one half of a semi-detached pair and that between 1874 and 1880 the pub expanded into its other half, the former Fairbank Cottage. From around 1900 onwards (i.e. before and after its rebuilding) it was sometimes known as the **Shakespeare Hotel**. Although the majority of the local housing was middle-class or above, the pub was at the corner of the working-class Woolcott Street, part of which was originally known as Woolcott's Buildings. In 1881, when the pub was run by a 48-year-old local widower and his son, this street was occupied by men who made their livings as bakers, milk-sellers, cab-men, grooms and gardeners and women who were milliners, dressmakers and laundresses. It may well be that **The Shakespeare's** clientele was drawn from this group of people rather than the professionals and merchants who typically lived in the private houses on the adjoining Lower Redland Road and its surrounding area.²⁴⁴

²⁴³ See, *Cotham and Redland Character Appraisal*, 2011.

²⁴⁴ TNA RG11/2503 45.

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The Shakespeare's rebuilding coincided with the arrival of the tramway on Lower Redland Road and new house building in the area, mostly on the gardens of large houses. **The Shakespeare** was run by members of the Skyrme family from at least 1879 until 1914. This makes the obvious point that landlords and managers often moved from the old pub into the new premises, thereby providing continuity in a fresh environment.



The Shakespeare, Lower Redland Road, Redland, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

Without an extensive survey of autobiographies and existing oral histories, which may not in any case reveal much about pub culture and even less about the surroundings, it is difficult to ascertain who drank where or indeed if certain types of customer – in terms of class, gender, age, occupation or interest group – tended to drink together. Looking for customer types is especially difficult where licensed premises were in a mixed area of housing, employment, shops and transport links, which potentially drew a mixed local and passing clientele.

As these area studies have indicated, the local press throws some light on how organised groups and societies used licensed houses. Some pubs had political allegiances and were used by particular sporting and other societies. The larger premises often served as auction houses for property and other goods. These and other formal occasions would presumably have occasioned participants taking refreshment on the premises.

As many of the examples given in this report record, licensed houses were also very frequently used for coroner's inquests, being often the only public space large enough to act as a courtroom in which the body as well as jury and witnesses could be assembled, day or night, at short notice. This remained the case until the early twentieth century. The 1902 Licensing Act prohibited the use of any room, whether licensed or not, for justices and petty sessions on licensed premises and, from 1907, it was stipulated that coroner's inquests could no longer be held on licensed premises – provided that 'other such buildings have been provided for such inquest'.²⁴⁵ That loophole meant that in some areas inquests continued to be held in public houses and hotels.²⁴⁶ In Bristol the practice seems to have ceased around 1905, a new coroners court and mortuary at Quaker Friars / Merchant Street having been completed in late 1902. However, newspapers show that in the more rural surrounding areas of Bristol, in North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, hotels were used for coroner's inquests until at least 1950.

Informal, everyday frequenting of public houses before the twentieth century is harder to gauge. At best, licensing records indicate the presence of a workplace nearby but very often give no information about the custom attached to a particular pub. Newspaper reports tend to capture the unusual – instances of drunkenness, burglary, theft, disorderly conduct and sudden death. While these can sometimes be helpful in determining the arrangement of a pub's interior spaces, they are less useful as an indicator of general patterns of trade.

Meanwhile, although the licensing sessions sometimes reveal something of the 'class' or 'character' of a pub's customer, through, say, local petitions and statements by the police, these could be prone to snobbery and exaggeration in order to block an application – as in the reports of the 'rough class' of 'factory

²⁴⁵ Licensing Act 1902 (1902 2 Edw. VII c.28 s.21).

²⁴⁶ We are grateful to Vicky Holmes for sharing her research on the use of licensed premises for inquests.

girls' with 'short dresses' from Bedminster Down, who were reputed to drink at the **Rose and Crown** and **City Arms** in Narrow Wine Street in 1900.²⁴⁷

Bristol's Licensed Houses: Building Types and Styles

In addition to showing how pubs developed to serve a range of workplaces and residential and recreational locations, the preceding area studies have introduced some of the main characteristics of Bristol's licensed houses in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Taking examples from across the city, the survey will now focus more closely on building types and styles in the period 1800–1914. This section is arranged broadly chronologically and considers the location and design of each building and its interior and exterior spaces.

1840–1870 Building and Styles

Few licensed houses built between 1800 and 1840, when the study period begins, are known to survive as pubs. Building activity was slow during and immediately after the end of Napoleonic Wars up to 1815 and, in any case, it was common at this time for licensed premises to open in buildings that had not been purpose built as such. As shown below, survivals from the seventeenth, eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries are more likely to be listed buildings and are thus not a major focus of this report.

In addition, many early pubs in the central and dock areas of Bristol were later destroyed. As the previous area studies of Hotwell Road and Bedminster have indicated, older buildings were often regarded unsatisfactory from late nineteenth-century licensing and sanitary perspectives, and license reductions in the second half of the nineteenth century saw some return to domestic use and others demolished to make way for pubs on more modern lines. Losses were particularly heavy in areas of high public house density, such as Hotwell Road. Others were more recent casualties of bombing and the postwar redevelopment of Bristol. Examples from the 1840–1870 period are more plentiful and survive in the city centre, in expanding suburbs, such as Bedminster, and in developing areas, such as Totterdown, which was first set out from the 1860s. Among the earliest is the **Turnpike** (now the **Thunderbolt**), on the Bath Road (A4) of c.1840. The pub, which was called an inn on maps of the mid-century, is in Tudor revival style and

²⁴⁷ WDP, 29 August 1900, 7.

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listed Grade II.²⁴⁸ The interior is twentieth century. It is still trading, as a public house and live music venue.



The Turnpike (now Thunderbolt), Bath Road, 2012 © Copyright Jaggery and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence:<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3215254>

The **Royal Hotel** is located on a corner site in the Gloucester Road at Bishopston, the main route north (now the A38), and appears to date from the 1860s. Part of a terrace which also has scalloped barge boards, the **Royal Hotel** expanded at some point into neighbouring buildings, one of which was a wine and spirit merchants by the 1930s. The enlarged building is presently trading as the **Hobgoblin**.

²⁴⁸ <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1201989>, accessed on 7 January 2015; R. Winstone *Bristol As It Was: Bristol's Suburbs Long Ago*. Reece Winstone Archive and Publishing, 1985, 365.

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Petches Wine & Spirit Merchants and, just seen to its right, the Royal Hotel, Gloucester Road © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum. The Royal Hotel (now the much enlarged Hobgoblin), Gloucester Road, 2010:

http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/Category:Pubs_in_Bristol#mediaviewer/File:Hobgoblin_pub,_Gloucester_Road,_Bristol_-_DSC05798.JPG

In Totterdown, a number of corner houses were wrapped around the junction of two roads. One example is the **Builders Arms** at the junction of Henry and Green Streets. The **Builders Arms** was trading by 1869, when the landlord, a 'beer retailer, mason and builder', was declared bankrupt.²⁴⁹ By 1880 it had been renamed the **New Found Out**, which it remains:



The New Found Out, Green Street, Totterdown, October 2014 © Ros Ford

²⁴⁹ *Bristol Mercury*, 22 June 1869, 5.

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Like many of Bristol's licensed houses, the **New Found Out** was sometimes called a hotel, probably to indicate respectability. The licensing sessions of the 1880s and 1890s, however, indicate that this was a 'beerhouse, with billiards'.²⁵⁰

At Clifton, **The Victoria** public house was added by 1867 to the swimming baths of c.1850. Both buildings were listed Grade II * in 1998. **The Victoria** is two storey with an attic floor and is designed in classical style. The building retains many of its original exterior features, including moulded stone architraves, with keystones and console brackets supporting cornices with acroteria above. **The Victoria's** bar fittings have been replaced, but a late nineteenth-century chimneypiece survives in the saloon.²⁵¹



The Clifton Pool and The Victoria, Southleigh Road, Clifton, 2012 © Copyright David Hallam-Jones and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence:

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3088368>

From around the mid-century, the most common type of public house in the city was probably the small corner local of two or three storeys. Early examples include the **White Horse**, of unknown Bristol location:

²⁵⁰ *Bristol Mercury*, 17 May 1888, 3 and 11 October 1892, 2.

²⁵¹ <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1323692>, accessed 7 January 2014.

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The White Horse, unknown Bristol location © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The **Red Lion** at Clifton, is another example. The pub and its adjoining terrace are of early to mid-nineteenth-century date. Reopened as a free house in 2013, the pub is listed Grade II.²⁵²



The Red Lion, Worrall Road, Clifton, in c.2013. Source © CAMRA WhatPub: <http://whatpub.com/>

²⁵² English Heritage List entry Number: 1202714.

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The **Phoenix**, in the shadow of Cabot Circus, is another example; this is also Grade II listed:²⁵³



The Phoenix, Wellington Road, St Philip's in c.2014. Source © <http://phoenixbristol.com/>

As Peter Haydon has described,

Public houses became, literally, the corner stones of urban development. The developer built the public house first, since it would prove the largest drain on his capital. He knew he could sell it rather than any house that stood in an unfinished development, and the revenue from the public houses would finance the completion of the remainder of the terrace.²⁵⁴

Francis Yorke also noted that the corner site was 'particularly desirable in urban areas' and that although it was more expensive to develop than an open site, it offered certain advantages of planning – allowing, for example, multiple entrances

²⁵³ English Heritage List Entry Number: 1219214.

²⁵⁴ P. Haydon, *The English Pub: A History*, London: Robert Hale, 1994, 200.

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to the building which reduced the need for 'long passages' and maximised the drinking area available to customers.²⁵⁵ They were also, of course, more visible.

Another example is the single-bar **Maltsters Arms** (now **Apple Tree**) at Bedminster, which has lost its adjoining terraces:



The Apple Tree, Philip Street, Bedminster, 2007 © Copyright Chris Heaton and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/369786>

It is difficult to arrive at a total figure for this type of pub because many of the streets have gone or the premises later became residential. It is also often difficult to date the buildings precisely, as the corner plan continued to be popular until at least the end of the nineteenth century. As the Totterdown study showed, this was an adaptable form for other kinds of retail businesses and could thus be subject to relatively rapid change. So while likely sites can be spotted at surviving street corners, these could just as well have been post-offices or off-licenses, as beerhouses were not usually identified on maps. To judge from photographic evidence and from maps, the flat-faced corner pub with a parapet concealing a pitched roof became more common in Bristol in the second half of the century and there were many examples that were almost identical to the **Prince of Orange** and the **Bridge Inn**, below:

²⁵⁵ F. W. B. Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, London: The Architectural Press, 1949, 40.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol



The Prince of Orange, unknown Bristol location © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum



The Bridge Inn, unknown Bristol location © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

In addition to those at Totterdown, good surviving examples of this type of end-of-terrace / corner pub are the **Red Lion**, Whitehall Road; and the **Miners Arms**, Mina Road, St Werburghs;

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*The Miners Arms, Mina Road, St Werburghs © Whatpub:
<http://whatpub.com/pubs/AVN/212/miners-arms-bristol>*

The Lion at Cliftonwood is another example and is still very much part of the streetscene:



*The Lion, Church Lane, Cliftonwood, just visible at the end of terrace, to the left, in 2012 ©
Copyright David Hallam-Jones and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence.
<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3097095>*

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Some corner pubs, such as the **Prospect Tavern**, were curved:



The Prospect Tavern, unknown Bristol location © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The small corner-pub form continued to be built in similar external style until the later 1800s and was adapted to different types of neighbourhood, including smart residential suburbs such as Redland, where the **Clyde Arms** was built of the same materials as the neighbouring villas.



Clyde Arms, Hampton Road, Redland, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

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The corner building type also included three-storey examples, such as the **Kingsdown Wine Vaults** on Kingsdown Parade and the **Post Office Tavern**, unidentified location.



Kingsdown Wine Vaults, Kingsdown Parade, still trading as a public house; and the Post Office Tavern, unidentified location © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The **White Swan** is another example of a type of public house commonly found on open sites along roads leading out of the city where space was at less of a premium. This shows late nineteenth-century ground-floor alterations made to an earlier building and is indicative of the way in which Georges updated its properties with new commercial facades in an emergent house style:



The White Swan, North Street, Downend, still trading as a public house © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

There is less evidence of the type of decorative features that began to make an appearance in London from the 1830s – decorative ironwork, over-sized lanterns and embellishments such as turrets, clocks, weather vanes and urns. As the English Heritage *Listing Guide to Commercial Architecture* puts it, ‘Not all pubs were lavishly decked out but most had some of the fittings that, when brought together, created the iconic “gin palace”: mahogany bar counters, shelving, mirrors, partitions, frosted glass windows, signage, decorative tiling, embossed ceilings, occasionally with public rooms upstairs’.²⁵⁶ Bristol’s licensed houses had some of those features – the gleaming ‘mahogany, engraved glass and polished brass’ noted by Asa Briggs in his book *Victorian Cities*;²⁵⁷ many also incorporated public or ‘club’ rooms. Few, however, came close to the elaborate ‘gin palaces’ to be found in other cities.

When compared to those of the capital and some other industrial cities, then, Bristol’s public houses appear notably sober in style, a fact that was evident to contemporary observers: ‘The typical Bristol public-house is not, however, so gaudy and glaring an attraction as the London one: there is less show of paint and gilding to lure the prey’.²⁵⁸

Certain examples of more eclectic mid-Victorian style pubs can, however, be found in the city. Showier than many of those that were built in Bristol in the nineteenth century are the **Elephant** (1867) and the **Palace Hotel** (1869), both Grade II listed.

²⁵⁶ English Heritage, *Listing Selection Guide: Commerce and Exchange Buildings*, April 2011, 12.

²⁵⁷ A. Briggs, *Victorian Cities* (1963), Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1968, 26.

²⁵⁸ ‘Blots in Bristol’, *WDP*, 4 February 1878, 6.

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The Elephant, St Nicholas Street. Architect: Henry Masters © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum; detail: © Copyright Stephen Richards and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence

The **Elephant** replaced a seventeenth-century inn of the same name and was near the Athenaeum and St Nicholas Market, where it had to compete with a large number of public houses. It survives as a bar/restaurant.



Palace Hotel, Old Market, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, July 2014

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The **Palace Hotel** was built to accompany a projected railway terminus, which was in the event sited elsewhere. The pub is known locally as the gin palace, which emphasises its unusualness as well as its landmark status in the city. One Bristolian, born in 1963, recalled drinking 'at The Gin Palace in Old Market, the old centre of Bristol, from time to time', in the 1980s: 'It was an odd public house; the décor reminded me of a fairground ride, with ornate wood carvings painted in gold everywhere and large red velvet curtains. In the 60s they filmed a Carry On film there. The floors sloped away from you in the bar as you walked in, and it was full of characters'.²⁵⁹

The other hotels and pubs that had more elaborate elevations, or which departed from the usual range of plainer styles, also tended to accompany railway stations. Thus, just south of the **Palace Hotel**, the **Midland Inn** (demolished in the 1990s) was close to the Midland Railway's St Philip's Station, which opened in 1870.



The Midland Inn, Midland Road, St Philip's © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The building of the **George Railway Hotel** coincided with the new station extension in 1870. As its entry in the National Heritage List for England states, the **George Railway** is 'one of only a few large, decorative late Victorian public houses in the city'.²⁶⁰ The interior is twentieth century; the building has

²⁵⁹ M. E. Lewis, *Memoirs of Mr Average: A social History*, Marston Gate: Amazon, n.d., 15.

²⁶⁰ <http://www.britishlistedbuildings.co.uk/en-380793-the-george-railway-hotel>, accessed 7 January 2015.

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been shrouded in protective cladding for some years and is currently under threat of development.



The George Railway Hotel, Victoria Street 1994 © Copyright Ron Hann and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/102201>

1840–1870: Plan Forms

Advertisements placed by Bristol's auctioneers, from the late 1840s, suggest that smaller businesses of that date typically incorporated a bar, a parlour, a taproom and a cellar, along with one or more letting bedrooms. Several advertisements of that decade reference the presence of separate kitchens and brewhouses, suggesting that independent brewing was still flourishing in the city. Contemporary articles and advertisements from local newspapers also reveal that some public houses had more than one kitchen. A reference to a 'public kitchen' at the **Marquis of Granby** at Pithay in an article of 1831 shows that the social / functional status of these spaces could vary, with some being used by customers while others were retained for private use.²⁶¹ Another newspaper report of 1844, concerning a robbery, offers further indication of the varying status of Bristol's public house kitchens in the first half of the nineteenth century. Sarah Curry, wife of the publican of the **Lamb and Lark** tavern in Thomas-street, recalled in her evidence that 'some men came into her house' and went into her 'private kitchen' and that when she found them there she said, "gentlemen, this is no place to draw liquors; will you please to walk into the parlour".²⁶² It is likely that Bristol's

²⁶¹ *Bristol Mercury*, 6 September 1831, 3. The term 'public kitchen' appears in other newspaper reports of the first half of the nineteenth century. For example, reference is made to a 'public kitchen' at the **Black Horse** in Hotwell Road in a crime report published in the *Bristol Mercury* in 1859. *Bristol Mercury* on 6 August 1859, 4.

²⁶² *Bristol Mercury*, 13 January 1844, 7.

'public' public house kitchens followed the model that was customary in other parts of the country and were used as a spaces into which working men could bring their own food to cook at the fire if they purchased a drink to accompany their meal. Clubrooms, which accommodated a variety of local clubs and societies, were another regular feature of the licensed houses advertised and one city centre business was described as having both a club room and a commercial room, the latter, a term more frequently associated with rooms used by commercial travellers and tradesmen within hotels.²⁶³

The picture is somewhat different by the 1860s, when smoking, or smoke rooms, which were generally the province of male customers, and private bars, used by 'better-class' customers, appear alongside bars, parlours and taprooms. Advertisements of this period suggest that pubs with three or four commercial drinking spaces were not unusual, although many were undoubtedly on a significantly smaller scale. The largest business advertised for sale in the 1860s was the **Montague Hotel** in Kingsdown Parade, a large early eighteenth-century building, arranged at that time with a bar, private parlour, coffee room, smoking room and taproom, and two kitchens, a scullery and a cellar at basement level. Above, on the first floor, were a dining and concert hall with cloakroom, lavatory and bathroom facilities, a larder, and an unspecified number of drawing rooms. On the two floors over that were letting bedrooms and servants bedrooms. The hotel was sold along with adjoining grounds that contained a billiard room, a cottage and a skittles alley. The conjunction of a bar and a taproom suggests that these two spaces may have fulfilled slightly different social functions at this time, one coming into favour as the other was falling out of fashion.

The **Rising Sun** at Ashton Gate, near Bedminster, is one of a number of surviving public houses whose origins are tied to local breweries. Although its front elevation dates from c.1904, and its interiors were altered before and after this date, it is of mid-nineteenth century origin and is one of the few pubs for which surviving plans allow changes to the building to be examined over an extended period.

²⁶³ *Bristol Mercury*, 15 January 1848, 4.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol



The Rising Sun, Ashton Road © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The original portion of the current pub is indicated on a map of 1855 and the business was well-established and trading as a fully licensed business by the 1860s. The building was part of a cluster of brewery buildings that belonged to Baynton's Somerset Brewery, later the Ashton Gate Brewery.²⁶⁴ When the site was auctioned in 1865, after its owner Thomas Baynton's death, it was listed as: 'Valuable freehold brewery, malthouses and proprietor's dwelling-house, with extensive garden, a public-house, 34 dwelling-houses, and other premises adjoining'.²⁶⁵ The pub was sold as a single lot and described in the *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette* as: 'The Full-licensed and old-established roadside public-house, known as The Rising Sun, with the extensive stables, cart-house, sheds, blacksmith's shop, covered skittles alley, and large yard, thereto respectively belonging, adjoining Baynton's Buildings aforesaid, and in the occupation of Mr. Pincott, at the very low yearly rent of £30'.²⁶⁶ The business was promoted as 'first licensed public house in the city on the West of England Turnpike Road', very compact, and admirably adapted for an extensive and economical business' and with 'an excellent well of spring water on the premises'.²⁶⁷

²⁶⁴ On the history of the site, which included dwellings and malthouses, see: Brewery History Society for English Heritage, *The Brewing Industry: Strategy for the Historic Industrial Environment, February 2010*, 14–15.

²⁶⁵ *Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette*, 27 July 1865, 4.

²⁶⁶ *Ibid.*

²⁶⁷ *Ibid.*

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In contrast, plans dating from 1908 show the arrangement of the ground floor of the **New Found Out** (formerly the **Builders Arms**) at Totterdown (trading by 1869; renamed **New Found Out**, 1880), a corner pub in a residential district. These suggest that its interior layout had been little altered from the time of its construction. While the lack of surviving plans from this period makes it difficult to assess the extent to which the **New Found Out** is representative of wider patterns of development in the city, it offers an example of the way in which one public house was planned for a local residential custom at the time and is consistent with descriptions of interior arrangements that appear in contemporary local newspaper advertisements.

The ground floor of the **New Found Out** was arranged with a corner bar, a smoke room, a bagatelle room and a kitchen. The kitchen was perhaps reserved for private use by the publican, as the first floor contained bedrooms and a clubroom, but no parlour. Plans for the pub's alteration in 1908 show the 'kitchen' re-labelled a 'sitting room' and retaining its earlier form. A corner entrance opened into the main public bar – a typical arrangement for corner public houses – and a more private entrance in Henry Street gave access to the jug and bottle compartment and the adjoining main bar. As the plans show, counter service was only available in the bar and the jug and bottle compartment.



The New Found Out, Henry Street, 1908 Building Plan, detail © Bristol Record Office, BRO 54/41c

Another factor that informed public house design in this period was the popularity of skittles. From at least the 1830s, many of the city's pubs had skittles alleys, including, in the early part of the Victorian period, those close to the centre. Such was the game's popularity that it seems likely that any available external space in the more built-up areas would be given over to a covered alley rather than ornamental gardens. A 'freehold and well frequented public house, called the Bell' was advertised as having 'a good club room and skittles alley &c behind the same', in Prewitt Street, Cathay, in 1834.²⁶⁸ Mrs Mitchell's public house in Broadmead had a skittles alley in 1836;²⁶⁹ and the **Crab's Well Tavern** at Frogmore Street had a large yard, skittles alley &c in 1838.²⁷⁰ The **Sea-Horse** public house on Maudlin Lane was advertised to let with its attached racket court and skittles alley in 1843;²⁷¹ and **The Leopard**, Frogmore Street, had a skittles alley in 1858.²⁷² Many others near the centre were mentioned. Even so, it must have been easier to accommodate covered alleys further out of the city and, where these were advertised, they tended to be accompanied with gardens and other amusements. Other mid- nineteenth-century examples of public houses advertised as having 'good' skittles alleys include the **Royal Oak** at East Street, Bedminster, which is also described in 1843 as having a garden;²⁷³ and an unnamed public house, advertised in the same year as having 'pleasure and kitchen gardens, bowling green, skittle alley, quoit ground &c', and 'several large manufactories at a short distance'.²⁷⁴ Others stressed the proximity of a public house with skittles alley to the Great Western and other railways from the late 1840s. At the **Royal Oak**, Keynsham, the skittles alley was said to be the resort of 'the lower orders ... the habitual resort of bad characters', where the men played for beer.²⁷⁵ Alleys were sometimes used for functions. For example, a dinner was laid 'in the covered skittle alley opposite the **Montague Hotel**, Kingsdown, in 1855.²⁷⁶

²⁶⁸ *Bristol Mercury*, 15 March 1834, 2.

²⁶⁹ *Bristol Mercury* 1 October 1836, 3.

²⁷⁰ *Bristol Mercury*, 20 April 1839, 2.

²⁷¹ *Bristol Mercury*, 8 April 1843, 5.

²⁷² *Bristol Mercury*, 29 May 1858, 8.

²⁷³ *Bristol Mercury*, 11 March 1843, 4.

²⁷⁴ *Bristol Mercury*, 15 July 1843, 4.

²⁷⁵ *Bristol Mercury*, 28 August 1869, 8.

²⁷⁶ *Bristol Mercury*, 19 May 1855, 8.

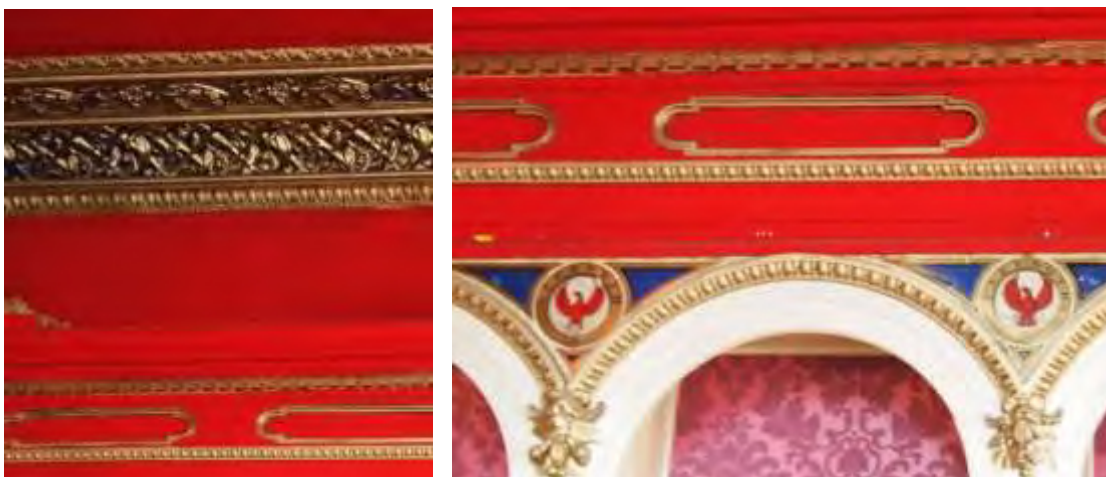
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Advertisements for licensed houses for sale or to let continued to list skittles alleys through to the end of the nineteenth century, at which time Bristol Record Office begins to list many new skittles alleys built for public houses in its plans.

1840–1870: Interior

There is limited visual evidence of the way in which the interiors of Bristol's nineteenth-century public houses were decorated and few interiors of the 1840–1870 period survive. Notable among those that remain partially intact are those of the **Nova Scotia** in Nova Scotia Place (early nineteenth-century, Grade II listed) which retains important interior features, including a mirrored mahogany bar back by Parnall and Sons of Bristol, which was founded in 1820 and specialised in shop fitting and iron work, an original bar counter, and an interior screen; **Highbury Vaults** in St Michael's Hill (mid-nineteenth century), the **King's Head** in Victoria Street (seventeenth-century with mid-nineteenth-century features) and the **Palace Hotel**, Old Market (1869). The **Highbury Vaults** in St Michael's Hill (mid-nineteenth-century interior, identified by CAMRA as being of regional importance) retains its original two-bar layout and contains a mirrored bar back that is probably nineteenth-century in origin. That of the **King's Head** in Victoria Street (seventeenth-century, listed Grade II) has an important bar back (c.1865) into which are set small gilded advertising panels for 'Claret', 'Hollands', 'Cigars', 'Mineral Waters', 'Port & Sherry' and a large panel for 'Burton Ales and Dublin Stout' that bears the name Fred Brean of Bedminster and is dated 1860.

The highly decorative interior of the **Palace Hotel** retains original cornicing and interior arcading with twisted brass columns.





Palace Hotel, Old Market, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, July 2014

1840-1870 Exterior

Maps from this period indicate that most city centre pubs had small yards; where this was larger, especially in the older inns arranged around a courtyard, this would most probably have been used for stabling and other functions. However, as discussed in the area studies, skittles and other games, including quoits, were also played outside in the early and middle parts of the century, including near the city centre, which suggests the presence of a larger yard or garden, but there is little evidence that much attention was paid to their design. Many pubs also had brewhouses in their gardens and yards. Although this is difficult to prove in the absence of supporting documentation, it seems likely that, until around the 1890s, the function of the majority of gardens attached to pubs in more built-up areas was more practical than aesthetic; where any use is indicated in the press, they seem to have served as an outdoor overspill area for the pub in good weather or were used for games.

Many had only yards, used for deliveries and storage and for the ventilation of outdoor privies and, later, WCs. Plans for the **New Found Out**, for example, which was located in a network of terraced streets, show that it had a yard that accommodated a scullery, a water closet and a urinal. The pub was built as part of Totterdown's development in the 1860s and the following plan of 1908 shows its relatively small footprint at that date.

Advertisements for public houses on the periphery of the city made more frequent reference to outdoor amenities such as stables. Some of Bristol's suburban and outlying pubs had impressive gardens in the nineteenth century, especially the hotels, inns and taverns located near the city's many waterside areas and spas; these appear to have overlapped in function with spa and tea gardens.

From at least the early nineteenth century, several of the city's resort taverns and hotels boasted large and elaborate gardens. In the early to mid-nineteenth century, these were often attached to longer established inns and taverns and thus the gardens may also have dated from earlier. In 1837 Mr Waite, of the **Old Fox Inn** at Easton/Baptist Mills, advertised the 'considerable alterations and improvements in the arrangements of his Bowling Green, Skittle Alley, Tea Gardens, Booths, and Bowers and Bathing House'.²⁷⁷ There is, however, little detail of the **Old Fox** gardens on Georgian or Victorian maps. Newspapers show that Mr Waite – previously of the **Wheatsheaf**, Horsefair, in the centre of Bristol – supplied 'baits' to gentlemen who preferred fishing, and pigeons for those who wished to shoot; there was also a pleasure boat and good stabling for customers in this suburban spot.²⁷⁸ The present building dates from the late eighteenth century (with an early twentieth-century interior) and is listed Grade II.²⁷⁹ A pub of the same name was recorded on this site next to the River Frome from much earlier in the 1700s. In the shadow of the M32, the **Old Fox Inn** closed in recent years and subsequently housed a mosque; it is currently closed again.

The **Old Swan**, in Stoke's Croft, just north of the city centre, at the entrance to the Great Northern Road, also had elaborate gardens in the early nineteenth century. The **Old Swan** was on the main route to Gloucester and coaches stopped at the inn daily. In 1837, there was a skittles alley, between rows of trees, and alcoves, arbours and roofed smoking rooms in the pleasure garden.²⁸⁰ Again, maps do not show these in any detail, beyond their perimeter, but do indicate that they were built over between about 1855 and 1874. The pub itself, at 117–19 Stokes Croft, dates from c.1711, with nineteenth-century alterations to

²⁷⁷ *Bristol Mercury*, 13 May 1837, 3.

²⁷⁸ *Ibid.*

²⁷⁹ <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1282267>, accessed 7 January 2015.

²⁸⁰ *Bristol Mercury*, 30 September 1837, 3.

the front; it is listed Grade II and still trades as the **Crofters Rights**.²⁸¹ There was a similarly impressive garden at an unnamed roadside inn, two miles from Bristol, in 1848. This sported 'a fine Bowling-green, and Pleasure-grounds, Tea-gardens with bowers, &c., fixed round the same, capital Skittle and Ninepin Alleys', two-and-a-half acres of garden ground for crops, and a stable yard and brewhouse.²⁸²

At the **Three Blackbirds Inn & Tavern**, Stapleton Road, Stapleton, the gardens were advertised, in 1837, as 'extensive, and will be fitted up for the reception of tea and other parties', where a band will attend. Moreover, the galas would be discontinued, 'and the House altogether (W. J. flatters himself) will be conducted respectably'.²⁸³ This large garden is clearly marked on the Ashmead map of 1855, where it is called Wellington Gardens. By the 1870s it was more than halved in extent, its extremities having been built over with houses. Nevertheless it remained a good sized garden, and is shown lined with trees in the 1880 Ordnance Survey map. The **Three Blackbirds** is still trading, the footprint of the garden partly preserved in the present carpark.

The majority of pub gardens that were mentioned in the press in this period were not as ornate or extensive. Even so, gardens appear to have been an important element of suburban taverns and inns and were almost always advertised in connection with games. At the **Talbot Inn**, Knowle, there was a large garden, bowling green and skittles alley in 1842;²⁸⁴ the **Glass House Tavern**, Lawrence Hill, had a bowling green and skittles alley the same year.²⁸⁵ The **Spring Hill Tavern**, Bedminster, was described in 1851 as a 'beautifully situated house, with Tea-gardens, Skittle-alley, and every accommodation'.²⁸⁶

Tea gardens, attached to public houses, were very popular up to around 1870. Thus, the **Ashley Tavern and General Shop**, Ashley Road, had a 'Tea Garden, fitted with seats and bowers' in 1854.²⁸⁷ In the 1860s, the 'Old Established' **Bell Inn** at Stapleton and the **General Draper** at the Hotwells both

²⁸¹ Bristol Record Office, 39300/1 Swan Inn, Stokes Croft, Title Deeds; English Heritage list entry number 1282098: <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1282098>, accessed 23 December 2014.

²⁸² *Bristol Mercury*, 13 May 1848, 8.

²⁸³ *Bristol Mercury*, 13 May 1837, 3.

²⁸⁴ *Bristol Mercury*, 19 March 1842, 5.

²⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁸⁶ *Bristol Mercury*, 31 May 1851, 8.

²⁸⁷ *Bristol Mercury*, 18 March 1854, 5.

had tea gardens.²⁸⁸ The presence of tea gardens did not necessarily mean that a pub was considered 'respectable'. Very often, in Bristol and elsewhere, the reverse was true. For example, one local temperance campaigner regarded 'gin palaces, music saloons, hotels, beershops, canteens and tea gardens' as equals in the 'river of drunkenness', remarking of tea gardens, that 'tea was the liquor least in request'.²⁸⁹

As shown in the area study of Avonmouth, the first **Avonmouth Hotel** had spectacular grounds, with fifteen acres of pleasure gardens laid out with parterres, meandering streams, rustic bridges and a concert room.²⁹⁰ Created in the 1860s to encourage trippers, the **Avonmouth Hotel** and the **Marine Hotel** nearby also had balconies and other viewing areas to take in prospects of the sea. The **Avonmouth Hotel** was one of the Bristol Port and Railway Company's interests. This company, 'knowing how fond the city population was of a little trip to the country', marketed the hotel and its gardens (which contained the station) extensively.²⁹¹ It would seem likely that they were used on high days and holidays, in the same fashion as tea gardens, as the hotel was located a little way away from the port.

1870–1900: Building and Style

We know much more about all aspects of the development and design of licensed houses in the last third of the nineteenth century. The structure of Bristol's licensed trade and the dominance of local breweries may have influenced the development of the city's late nineteenth-century public house architecture; as described in the previous section, this was sober in comparison to many pubs built in other cities at this time. As Robert Elwall has indicated, in the case of London, public houses commissioned by publican owners, were 'usually of a far more bizarre and fantastic nature' than those commissioned by breweries and completed by an emerging group of specialist public house architects.²⁹²

The *Builder* observed in 1878 that, although the city was copiously supplied with pubs, 'the typical Bristol public-house [was] not, however, so gaudy and glaring

²⁸⁸ *Bristol Mercury*, 12 April 1862, 4; *WDP*, 28 April 1863, 1.

²⁸⁹ 'Soiree of the Bristol Temperance Society', *Bristol Mercury*, 27 December 1861, 2.

²⁹⁰ *Bristol Mercury*, 11 March 1865, 3.

²⁹¹ *WDP*, 27 February 1865, 3.

²⁹² R. Elwall, *Bricks and Beer: English Pub Architecture, 1830–1939*, London: The British Architectural Library, 1983, 18–19.

an attraction as the London one'. This was from a long article called 'Blots in Bristol', which was quickly picked up by the Bristol papers, but neither the *Builder* nor the local press sought to explain the characteristically sober appearance of Bristol's pubs.²⁹³ Nevertheless, the *Builder's* observation did hold true for the majority of the city's pubs; there seems to have been a resistance to the sentiment, summed up in the following statement from a national publication of 1880, that 'The modern public-house, with its attractive outside, its plate-glass windows, its bright fittings, its warmth, its light, its company, and a variety of seductive baits, carries the day'.²⁹⁴

This may have had its roots in the numbers of Quakers and other Nonconformists within the Corporation and among the licensing justices, who, if not teetotal, were keen advocates of temperance and reducing the attractions of the public house. Asa Briggs noted in his *Victorian Cities* that 'the corporate wealth of cities like Bristol and Liverpool permitted their corporations to do many things which less wealthy bodies could not have afforded to do'.²⁹⁵ However the breweries evidently cooperated enormously in this, and there is little sense from the licensing sessions that they were regularly presenting designs that had to be toned down. Rather, the few breaches of the unspoken rules of sober public house design appear to have been made by tenants. For example in 1885 the police objected that although the **Bath Arms**, Lower Maudlin Street, had 'the same roof and area, the walls had been rebuilt', and the premises 'had been so altered' by the tenant 'as to destroy their identity and afford facilities for illegal trading': worse, they 'had been altered from a low beerhouse to a gin palace'.²⁹⁶ As this suggests, the police and magistrates collaborated with the Corporation in controlling the design of public houses in this way. This must have been what Bristol's Chief Constable meant, in 1899, when he said that 'those quiet influences which tend to reduce the number of licensed properties have been at work and that there are to-day eight fewer of such establishments than there were in 1898'.²⁹⁷

There is also, however, a strong sense from the press and other publications that a lack of ostentation and veneer was held to be common to all of Bristol's buildings and that this was seen as a deeper reflection of the city's understated and steady public spirit – in contrast, lay the implicit criticism, to the ostentation of some other

²⁹³ 'Blots in Bristol', *WDP*, 4 February 1878, 8.

²⁹⁴ *The British Almanac of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge*, 1880, 40–1.

²⁹⁵ Briggs, *Victorian Cities*, 39.

²⁹⁶ *Bristol Mercury*, 10 September 1885, 3.

²⁹⁷ *WDP*, 31 August 1899, 5.

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industrial and commercial cities. As the *Bristol Times* remarked in 1874, 'there is every year a steady forward, not flashy, spirit of enterprise growing up amongst us'.²⁹⁸

Yet there are examples of a more showy style – at least by Bristol standards. The **Royal Talbot Hotel**, of about 1875, was executed in polychromatic banded brickwork and described at its opening as 'a first-class modern hotel' and, in the 1890s, as 'an imposing building of massive architecture'.²⁹⁹ It was designed by Mr J. Bevan, architect, of St Leonard's Chambers, Nicholas Street. The hotel was erected at the corner of Victoria and Bath Streets on the site of 'an old-established hostelry, of the same name', but was three times larger than the building it replaced.³⁰⁰ It had 59 sitting and bedrooms and was thus truly a hotel. The old hotel and valuable adjoining buildings had all been put up for sale in 1870, prior to the Victoria Street improvements, of which the new hotel formed a part.³⁰¹



The Royal Talbot Hotel, Victoria Street © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

²⁹⁸ Cited in Briggs, *Victorian Cities*, 366.

²⁹⁹ 'Opening of the Talbot hotel', *WDP*, 6 May 1875, 3; Anon, *The Ports of the Bristol Channel; Wales and the West*, London Printing and Engraving Co., 1893, 219.

³⁰⁰ 'Opening of the Talbot Hotel', *WDP*, 6 May 1875, 3.

³⁰¹ 'Sale of Building Sites in Victoria Street', *Bristol Mercury*, 27 August 1870, 6.

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It was 'in close proximity to the General Post Office, within five minute walk of the Joint railway Station, and but five minutes 'bus or tram from the steamboat piers'.³⁰² The building, which later became the offices of The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd. is now in multiple use as offices; the condition of the interior is not known.



Former Royal Talbot Hotel, Victoria Street 2010 © Copyright Colin Park and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/2155162>

A comparable, though less imposing, example of a large curved corner pub of about the same date was the **Lamb and Anchor** at St Paul's; this was demolished in the 1950s. Buildings of this type were, however, exceptional and not typical of licensed house provision across the city at this or later periods.

It is clear that applicants for licenses, and the breweries which supported them, were attuned to the local aversion to showy public house design and the accompanying accusation that such businesses enticed the poor and encouraged drunkenness, and couched their applications in appropriate terms. As previously

³⁰² Anon, *The Ports of the Bristol Channel*, 219.

explained, it was common for the brewery architect or surveyor to defend a license application in court; thus he would explain the plans and elevations for the new or rebuilt premises in language that stressed the respectability of the new pub and its surrounding housing. That the licensing committee and opponents of applications were all too aware of this wordplay is indicated by the laughter that such applications sometimes provoked at the sessions. For example an application of 1894 to turn a Bedminster butcher's corner shop into licensed premises was reported as follows: 'The idea of the applicant was to provide for a *respectable* trade, and the building was of an *elegant* character. Externally it bore a *quiet, sober appearance* – (laughter) – with *no flashy bars* to attract custom'.³⁰³ That this was a game played by those in the trade is indicated by advertisements in the local press – often precisely those terms avoided before the licensing justices would be used for premises that were to sale or to let. To take just two representative examples, a 'free indoor beerhouse' at St Philip's was advertised as having a '*showy bar*' in 1883;³⁰⁴ and, in Bedminster a few years later, a 'pretty indoor beerhouse' was advertised by the same agents as having 'a cosy bar, all newly decorated' within '*showy corner premises*'.³⁰⁵ Nevertheless, these were small corner locals and not the large, elaborately decorated drinking establishments so often associated with Victorian pubs in cities like London, Liverpool and Belfast.

That is not to say that Bristol's nineteenth-century pubs were drab or devoid of visual interest, or that they were designed to look unlike public houses. Rather, as the following visual examples indicate, that they were simply and elegantly designed with a sparing use of applied ornament and a preference for local materials.

Although a new style of public house architecture developed in Bristol in the later nineteenth century, it should be noted that the small, unobtrusive corner pub continued to be very much a feature of the city's streets. The new style combined red brick with local stone dressings and was usually reserved for larger pubs in more prominent locations.

³⁰³ 'Bristol Adjourned Licensing Session', *WDP*, 27 September 1894, 7, emphases added.

³⁰⁴ *Bristol Mercury*, 12 May 1883, 2.

³⁰⁵ *WDP*, 18 August 1890, 2.

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Anchor, Gloucester Road, Filton (Georges, c.1900) from One Hundred and Fifty Years



Anchor, Gloucester Road, Horfield (surviving) © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

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Greenbank Hotel, Bellevue Road, Easton (Georges, c.1900), surviving © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum



Portcullis, Fishponds Road, (Georges c.1890s), surviving © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum



Albert Hotel, West Street, Bedminster (Bristol United Brewery, 1889), surviving © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

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Although more elaborate and generally larger than the small corner pub, the new style was, presumably, relatively economical as well as elegant and recognisable. Further economies were apparently achieved by architects preparing two or more plans, on similar or identical lines, for the breweries they worked for. Thus several examples can be found of pubs built with only minor variations in design. This was a pattern of development that continued in Bristol in the interwar period. Turn-of-the century examples include the **Beaufort Hunt** at Downend and the **Hope and Anchor** at Shirehampton (c.1890s, architect unknown), both of which were probably built for Georges:



The Beaufort Hunt, Downend Road, Downend and the Hope and Anchor, Lower High Street, Shirehampton. Source: Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston August 2014 and © Copyright Jaggery and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence



The Beaufort Hunt, Downend Road, Downend (late nineteenth century), surviving © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

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The **Beaufort Hunt** at Downend was built on the site of an older business that had been trading there since the 1870s, on the main route north from Bristol to Chipping Sodbury. The freehold of two dwelling houses, gardens and outhouses were purchased by the Bristol Brewery Georges and Company Limited for £675 on 15 September 1894; it appears likely that the business was rebuilt by Georges soon after their acquisition of the freehold. Georges marketed the lease at a rent of £28 per annum in 1894, along with a dwelling house and garden to the rear. When the lease was sold on in 1901 no mention was made of outbuildings. Unfortunately the plans for the **Hope and Anchor** at Shirehampton (c.1890s), probably also built for Georges, do not appear to survive so it has not been possible to compare the two buildings at the design stage.

Other examples of Bristol's turn-of-the-century red-brick pubs include several discussed in the earlier Bedminster area study and also the **Sugar Loaf**, Easton (c.1900).



The Sugar Loaf, St Mark's Road, Easton, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, September 2014

There were beginning to be exceptions to this rule, as more elaborate (and presumably expensive) designs emerged which anticipated the historicist styles favoured after 1900.

The **Sandringham**, Sandy Park, Brislington (c.1900), for Bristol United Breweries, is of a more ornate design than most of Georges' turn-of-the-century pubs. Early photographs indicate that it had decorative ironwork above the

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parapet on both street-facing elevations, a turret above the main corner entrance and large iron lanterns that overhung the street, including one of substantial scale over the corner entrance to the main bars. The pub also had partially obscured ground-floor windows, of ornamental glass.



The Sandringham, Sandy Park Road, Brislington, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, August 2014

More consciously revivalist designs include **The Old Flower Pot Inn** (or **Flower Pot**) at Kingswood of 1890, 'in Cotswold Tudor style, with a prettily painted stone plaque with the inn sign and date, 1890'.³⁰⁶ Built at the same time and in the same style as the police station (just seen next door), the footprint and building line of the new **Old Flower Pot Inn** appears to differ little from the building that it replaced. Despite its rural appearance and setting in a village high street, it was conveniently placed for the tram depot.

³⁰⁶ D. Verey and A. Brooks, *The Buildings of England: Gloucestershire and the Vale of England*, 1970; 3rd edn, New Haven: Yale University Press, 2002, 559.

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The Old Flower Pot, High Street, Kingswood © Hartley collection, Bristol Museum

William Cowlin and Son's design of 1898 for the **Punch House**, Redcliffe Back (so named because the merchants' houses at Redcliffe backed directly onto the wharves), deliberately echoed the form and detail of the city centre's older licensed houses.



The Punch House, Redcliffe Back, 1898 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 43/41a

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Georges' **New Inn**, Gloucester Road, of about the same date, also referenced seventeenth-century architecture:



The New Inn, Gloucester Road © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Also of 1898, is the more visually striking **Engineers Arms** at Bedminster. The building was updated and extended in the 1930s, when the following photograph was taken. The **Engineers Arms** is now trading as the **Brunel**, part of the Hungry Horse chain, and is described in more detail in Part Two of this study.

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The Engineers Arms, St John's Lane, Bedminster © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Although very different to the **Engineers Arms**, the **White Lion** at Frenchay Common (Georges, 1899), also illustrates the growing preference for pubs with strong historical references. Perhaps because of its setting on a village green, close to houses that had stood there for some time, the pub's white lion roundel was 'set in profuse Jacobean strapwork'.³⁰⁷ The architect of the **White Lion** is not known. In a rural setting by the Frome Valley in South Gloucestershire, but only a short walk from the main roads north out of Bristol, the **White Lion** would presumably have been a destination pub for trippers as well as being the village local; in the Frenchay Conservation Area but currently unlisted, the pub appears to be thriving.

³⁰⁷ *The Buildings of England: Gloucestershire: the Vale and the Forest of Dean*, 382.



The White Lion, Quarry Road, Frenchay Common © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The historicist trend – which increasingly included exposed timber, prominent gables, elaborate chimneys, strapwork and so on – continued after 1900 and is discussed in conjunction with the development of Bristol’s public houses in the Edwardian period, later in the report.

The period 1870–1900 was one in which more varied forms of public house signage were employed by Bristol’s breweries to identify their ownership or interest in a business, among them, stone fascias with raised or sunken lettering, an example of which can be seen at the **London Inn**, Bedminster (still trading) and shields with the monogram, for The Bristol Brewery Georges and Company Limited, of G & Co., or G, an example of which can be seen above the door of the **Spotted Cow** in Bedminster (still trading).

Carved signs, such as that at the **White Horse** Bedminster (undergoing conversion to residential, 2014) and at the **Fox Inn**, Windmill Hill (converted to residential) were also used to identify the name of some public houses.

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London Inn, Cannon Street, Bedminster, June 2014 and © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum



White Horse, West Street, Bedminster © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum



Fox Inn, Somerset Terrace, Windmill Hill, June 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston

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Other, less enduring forms of signage used by the Bristol Brewery Georges and Company Limited, included external painted boards and hanging signs. These were often suspended over the pavement and usually included the name of the business, information to show whether it was 'fully licensed' or an 'off license', or the name of the public house with 'Georges' Beers' beneath in the case of the brewery's beerhouses. Some examples of directly applied wall-painted signs can also be found on interwar photographs.



Hadley Arms, North Road, Coombe Downs, Bath and Albion, unknown location © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Examples of superficial lettering can also be found on photographs of Georges' businesses in the 1930s, such as the **Cat and Wheel**.



Cat and Wheel, Castle Green, built 1900 © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

In the case of Georges' pubs, windows were often used to promote the brewery and its wares, as can be seen in this photograph of the **Bell Inn**. Located on

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Stokes Croft, the main route north from the city where there were very many pubs, these windows were designed to attract maximum attention:



Bell Inn, Hillgrove Street, Stokes Croft © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

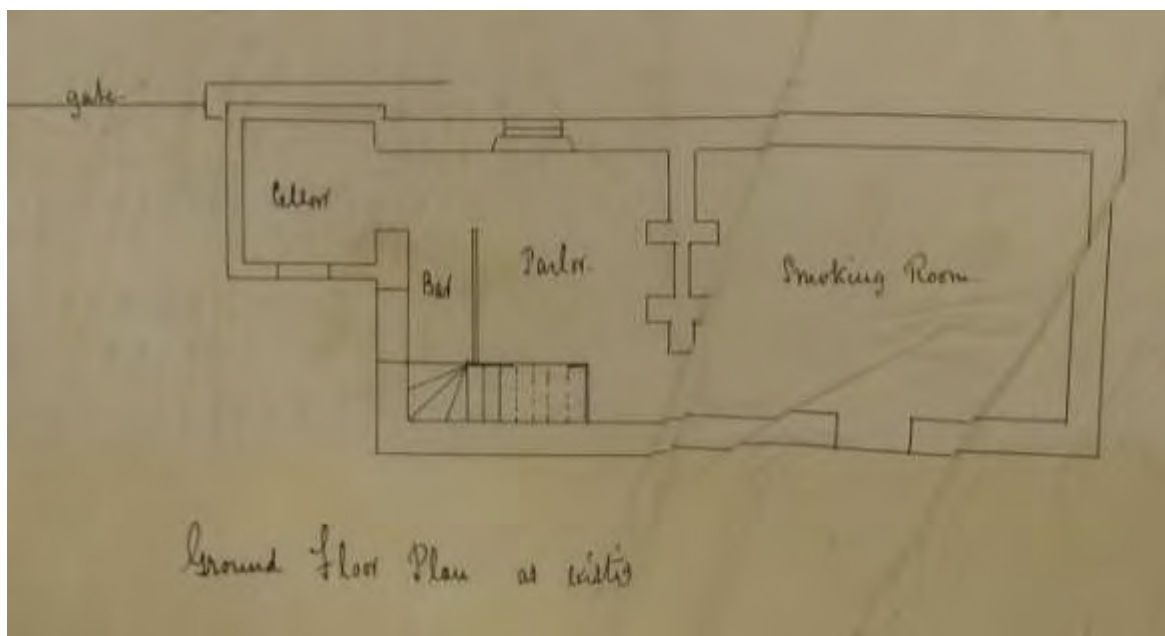
1870–1900: Plan Forms

Architectural plans and drawings for the alteration and rebuilding of **The Cambridge Arms** at Coldharbour Road in Redland, dating from 1880 and 1900, are broadly indicative of the pattern of public house development in Bristol across that period, as the simple two and three room plans that were characteristic of the mid-nineteenth century were modernised to incorporate additional drinking spaces and new forms of service.

The earliest, a set of plans alterations by George Humphreys, dated 18th October 1880, show the arrangement of the interior along with the changes that were proposed at that time. The ground floor 'as existing' had two rooms, a smoking room and a parlour. Within the parlour was a small area indicated as a 'bar' and the plan suggests that this may have been of a type of dual-purpose service/storage space that pre-dated the more widespread introduction of bar counters. Rooms of this type originated in seventeenth-century inns and functioned as store for wines and spirits and a space from which drinks were served and

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payment taken from customers.³⁰⁸ From these seventeenth-century origins, bars of this type evolved in other types of licensed sites, sometimes as a glazed element within, or to the rear of the taproom, from which the licensee could observe his or her customers. In the early years of the nineteenth century, London's Chief Magistrate regarded this highly visible, public location as an aid to sobriety.³⁰⁹ No surviving examples of this type of space have been found during the course of the fieldwork. Many undoubtedly disappeared as businesses were modernised in response to commercial opportunities and legislative change from the 1870s.



Alteration and addition to *The Cambridge Arms*, Cold Harbour Lane, George Humphreys, 18 October 1880. Details © Bristol Record Office – BRO 17/64f

The ground floor plan 'as altered' (below) shows that the owner intended to introduce a curved bar counter to the interior, with an area of fixed seating to one side and a parlour and smoking room to the other. While some historians suggest that the bar counter originally evolved from the type of service space that can be seen on plans for **The Cambridge Arms** of 18th October 1880, and from the gradual separation of the domestic portion of the interior from the public spaces used by customers – a characteristic of the modernisation of licensed sites – others have suggested that the origins of public house counter service lie in other commercial spaces, in particular, the early gin shops that emerged in London and

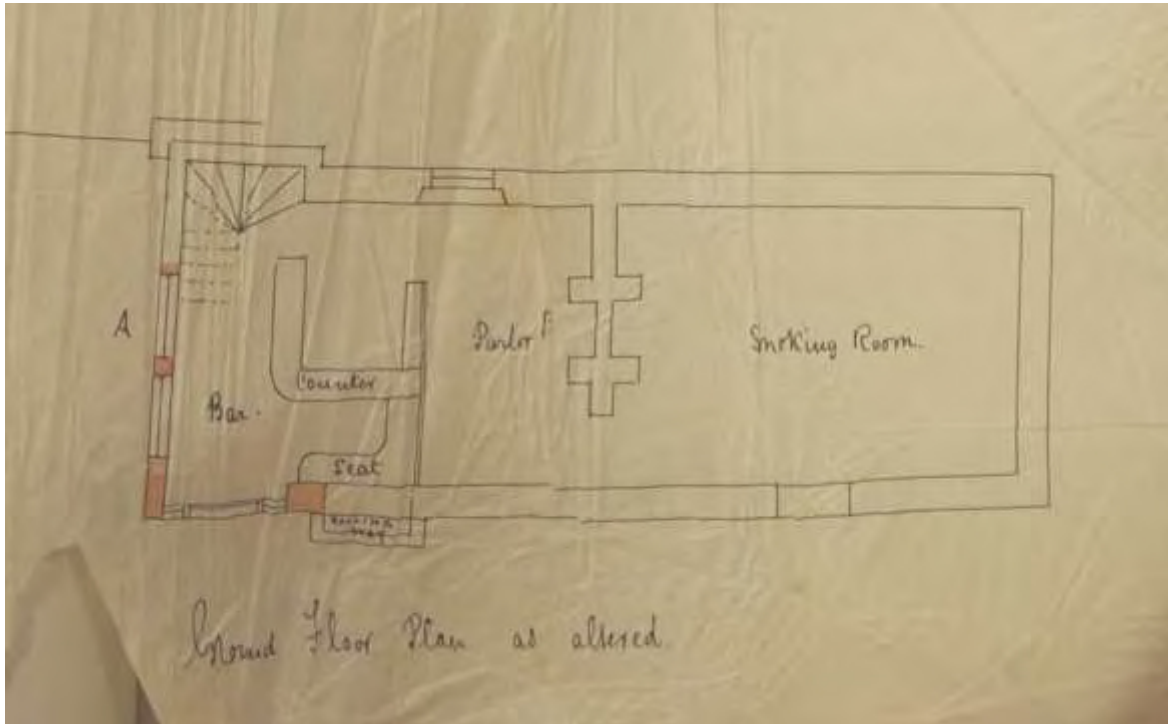
³⁰⁸ G. Brandwood, A. Davison, M. Slaughter, *Licensed to Sell: The History and Heritage of the Public House*, London: English Heritage, 2004, 16.

³⁰⁹ See Sir Nathaniel Conant's evidence to the Select Committee of the House of Commons on the Police of the Metropolis, reported in *The Times* on 29 and 30 August 1816.

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other cities from around 1815, which were themselves modelled on the type of service counters used in other retail businesses.³¹⁰

Another proposed addition to the plans for **The Cambridge Arms** was a rolling way to ease the movement of heavy beer barrels.



Alteration and addition to *The Cambridge Arms*, Cold Harbour Lane, George Humphreys, 18 October 1880. Details © Bristol Record Office – BRO 17/64f

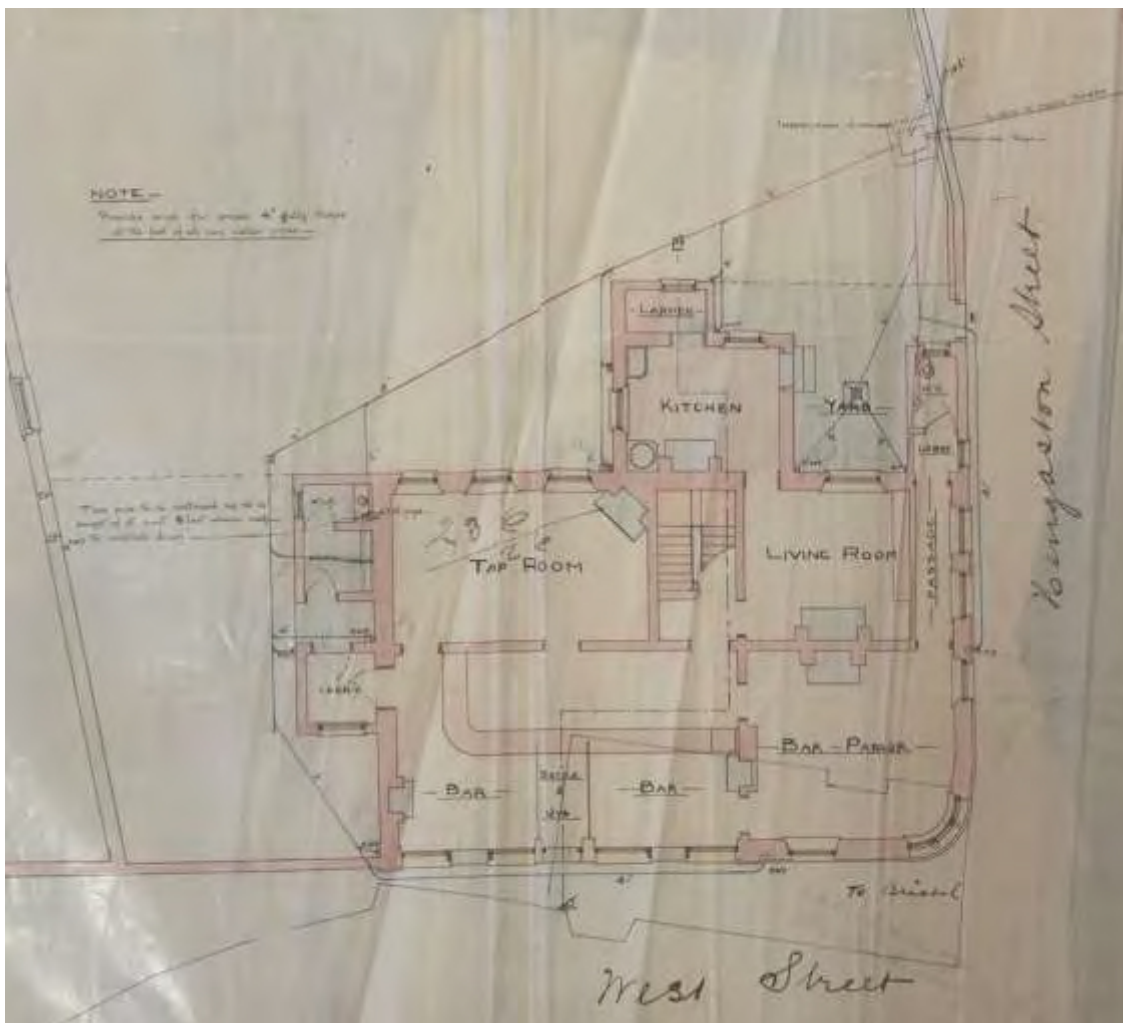
At the time of these alterations the area around **The Cambridge Arms** was beginning to change and by the end of the century the completion of terraced housing to the south, in Manor Park and Manor Park Road, had significantly increased the potential of the business.

As well as catering to the needs of those who wished to drink in its bars, **The Cambridge Arms** served the domestic requirements of this local population. Like many public houses based in residential neighbourhoods, it had an area set aside for 'private' or 'off' sales. Known variously as the 'jug and bottle', 'bottle and jug', 'off sales', 'outdoor department', 'off licence' or 'shop', the area of the

³¹⁰ The early case for retail origins was made by Mark Girouard in his study *Victorian Pubs*, first published by Studio Vista in 1975. Maurice Gorham and H. Mc G. Dunnett's 'Inside the Pub', a special issue of the *Architectural Review*, published in October 1949, places the evolution of the bar counter within the context of the changing relationship between domestic and commercial spaces.

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public house that served liquor for consumption off the premises was often discreetly located to one side of the public house; if it was a corner site, on the quieter street, where women, children, female servants – the principal users of these spaces – could purchase alcohol for domestic consumption without having to enter the main public drinking area. The majority of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century Bristol plans studied follow this pattern, as can also be seen on those for the **Engineers Arms** at Bedminster (1899), **The Cambridge Arms** at Redland (1900) and the **Plough and Windmill** at Bedminster (1898) shown below:



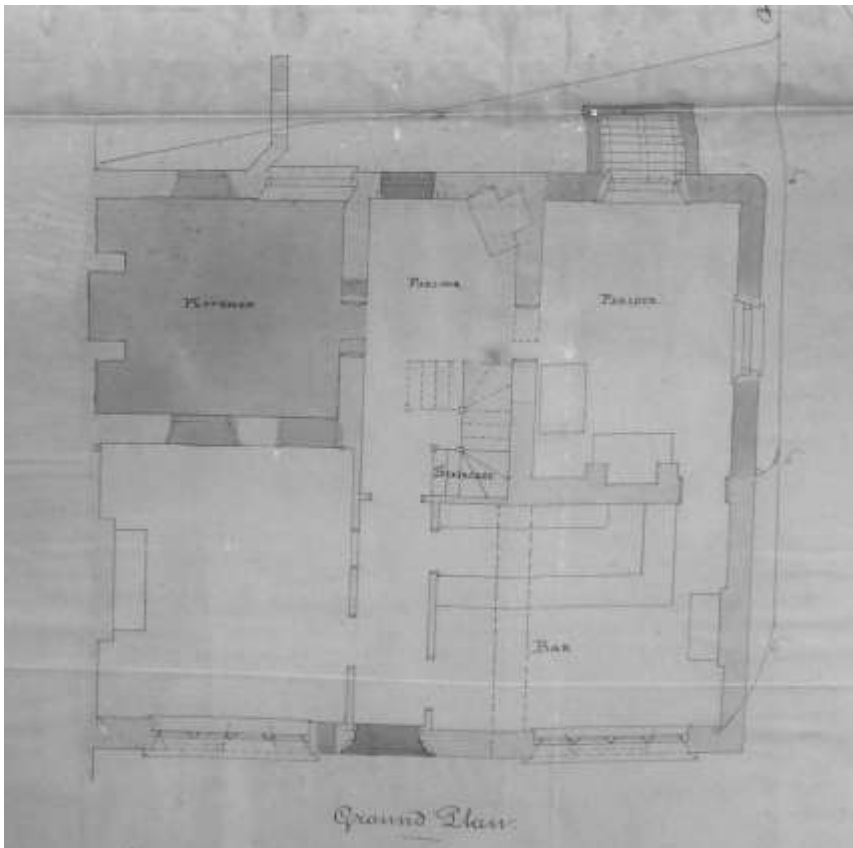
Plough and Windmill, West Street, Bedminster (1898). Detail © Bristol Record Office – 34/64b

Some pubs retained a jug and bottle in its original location in the later twentieth century. For example a Kingswood resident remembered being sent as a boy by his mother to fetch a bag of peanuts and a bottle of stout from the **Anchor Made Forever**, a nineteenth-century pub, on New Cheltenham Road, in the 1970s: 'As you walked into The Anchor Inn, there was a door to your right, which was the

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lounge, a place for couples and ladies, and a door on your left which was the bar. Straight in front of you was a door that led to a small little room about a meter square where you could buy pies, pasties, and beer etc. My mother used to call it the “bottle and jug”.³¹¹

Another public house that was altered in the 1870–1900 period, for which architectural plans survive, is the **Rising Sun** in Ashton Gate. Plans of 1879, by Henry Williams, show a central entrance with a bar the right and an unmarked space the left, a kitchen and two parlours to the rear. As the plan shows, counter service was available in the bar

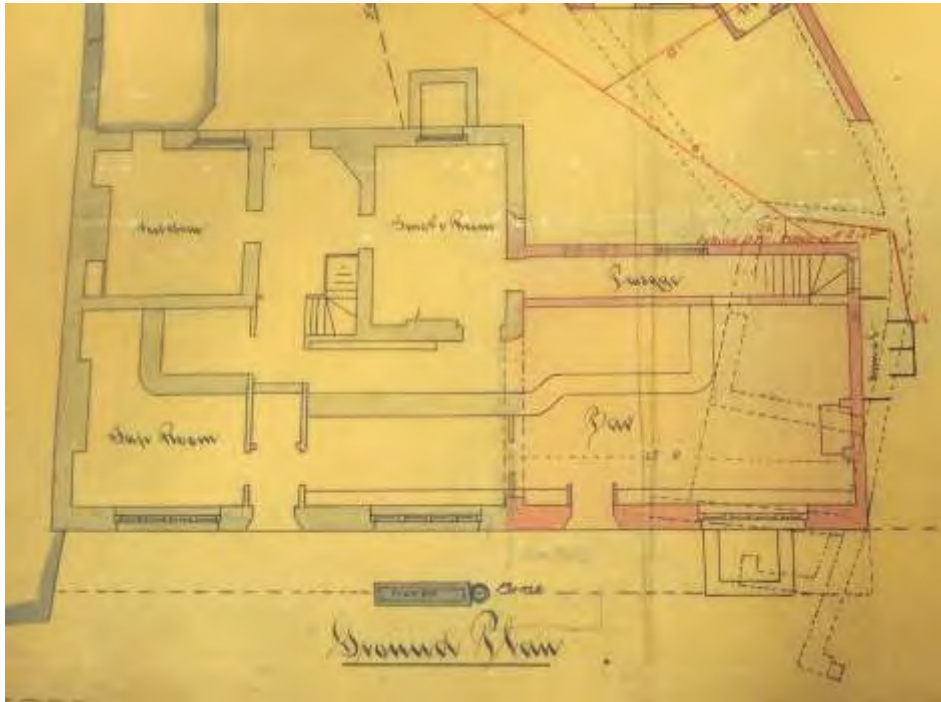


Rising Sun, Ashton Road, Ashton Gate, detail from plans of 1879 by Henry Williams © Bristol Record Office – BRO 16/25a

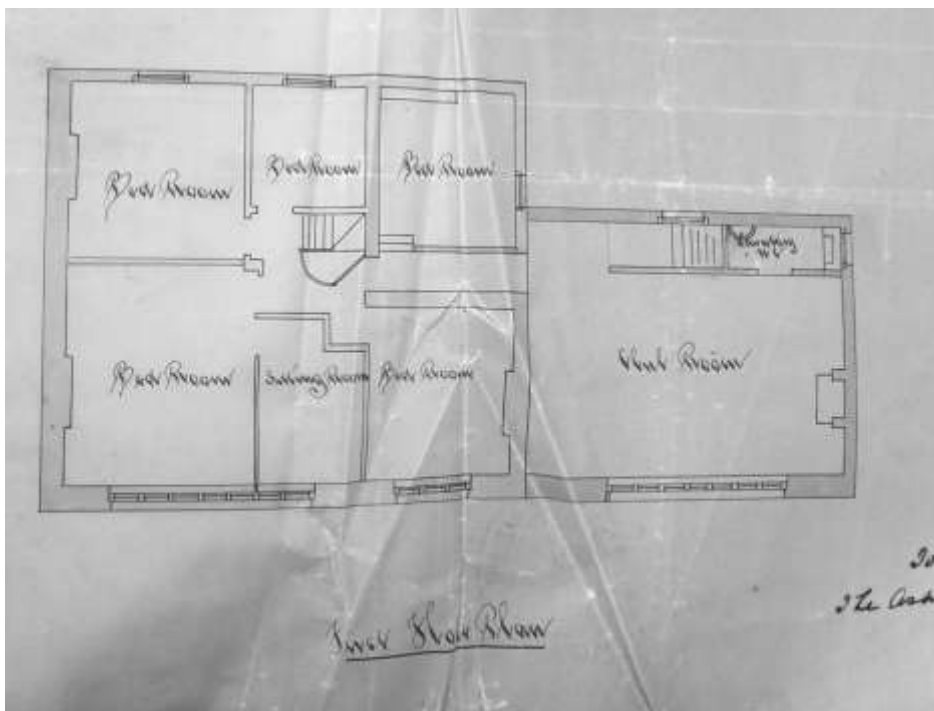
Further alterations were made to the **Rising Sun** in 1898, by John A. Wright for the Ashton Gate Brewery. These increased the size of the ground floor bar and added a club room above.

³¹¹ M. E. Lewis, *Memoirs of Mr Average: A social History*, Marston Gate: Amazon, n.d., 64.

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Rising Sun, Ashton Road, Ashton Gate, proposed ground floor alterations by John A. Wright for the Ashton Gate Brewery, 1898 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 35/26a



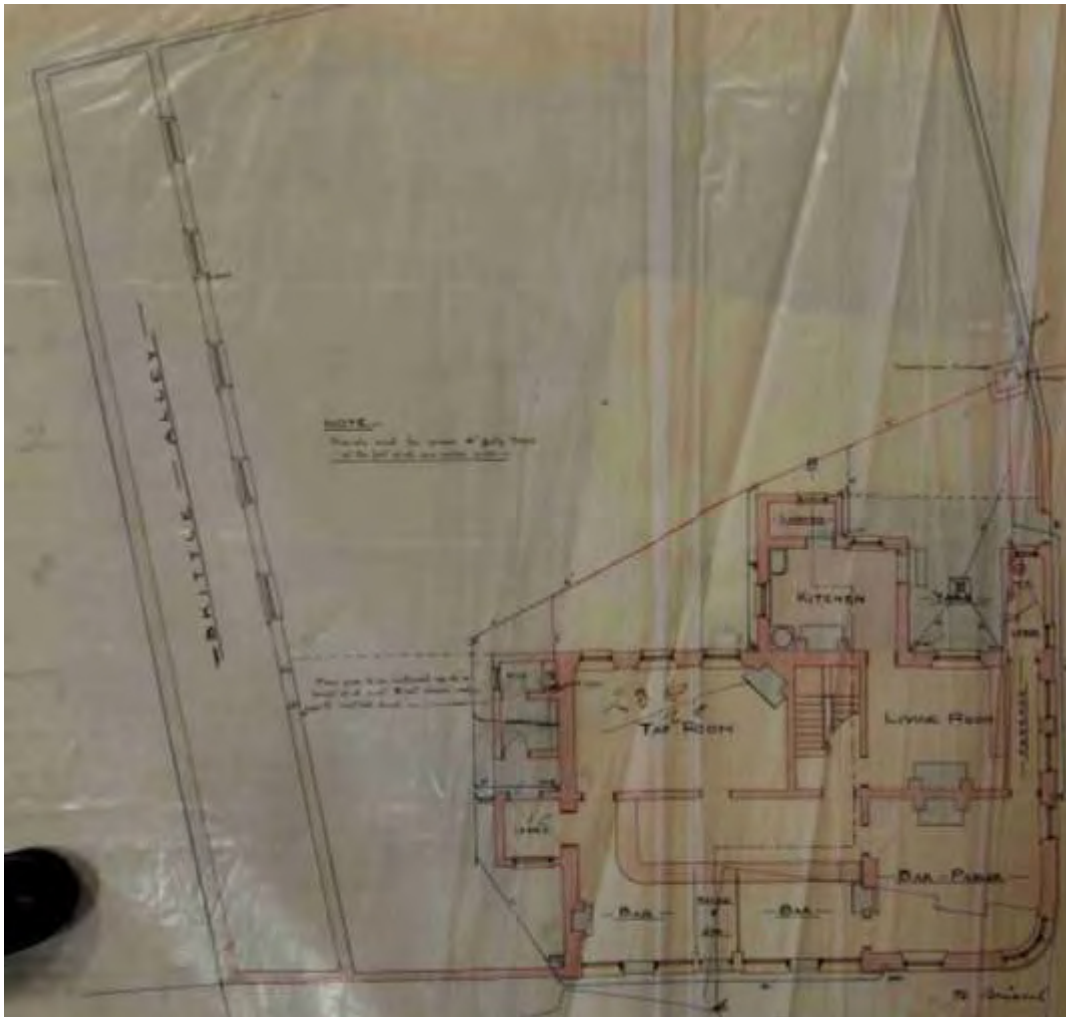
Rising Sun, Ashton Road, Ashton Gate, proposed first floor alterations by John A. Wright for the Ashton Gate Brewery, 1898 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 35/26a

Surviving plans show that several pubs, including small corner locals, of the late nineteenth century had club rooms, which were usually on the first floor. The **Golden Lion** at Fishponds had a 'football club room' on the ground floor, shown

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in the plans of the original premises and in the proposed alterations for Bristol United Breweries of 1898.³¹²

Covered skittles alleys continued to be popular and remained a distinctive feature of Bristol's late nineteenth-century public houses. They were sometimes attached to the public house and sometimes freestanding, built for example into the boundary wall. Some plans of skittles alleys survive, for example that at the **Plough and Windmill** of 1898, where the alley is shown located at the western perimeter of the rear open space:



Plough and Windmill, West Street, Bedminster, note the skittles alley to the left of the site © Bristol Record Office – BRO 34/64e

The **Plough and Windmill**'s skittles alley survives.

³¹² BRO Building plan/Volume 43/folio 28.

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Advertisements for licensed houses for sale or to let continued to list skittles alleys through to the end of the nineteenth century. Many more are indicated in Ordnance Survey maps of 1880 and 1901, where the long narrow structures attached to public houses or their gardens are almost certainly covered alleys. Bristol Record Office holds records of many new skittles alleys built for public houses that were built in the late nineteenth century in its plans.

1870–1900: Interior

Ian Leith has noted public house interiors as one of a number of alarming gaps in London's photographic record.³¹³ The picture appears similar in Bristol, where it seems that few interiors were recorded. Nevertheless, photographs dating from the interwar period are a helpful indicator, allowing some comparisons to be made between the interiors of newly completed public houses and those of older origin, such as the two main bars of the late nineteenth-century **Royal Hotel** at Avonmouth; these distinctions are discussed in greater detail in the following section of the report.

Some general comments can, however, be made on the interiors of the **Royal Hotel**, which, when photographed in the 1930s, for Georges' anniversary publication, retained a number of features that are more typical of late nineteenth-century public house interiors. Among the most notable are an elaborate bar back with an inset clock to mark the licensing hours; decorative embellishments to the customer side of the bar counter; fixed button-backed seating, which was often a feature of the saloon bar; decorative ceiling mouldings and more light fittings of more ornate design than those typically seen in photographs of public house interiors of the early twentieth century; and the use of new durable wall coverings, such as Lincrusta.

³¹³ I. Leith, 'Amateurs, Antiquaries and Tradesmen: A context for photographic history in London', *London Topographical Record* 28, no.157 (2001): 105.

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The Saloon Bar, Royal Hotel, Gloucester Road, Avonmouth, c.1938, from One Hundred and Fifty Years, 41



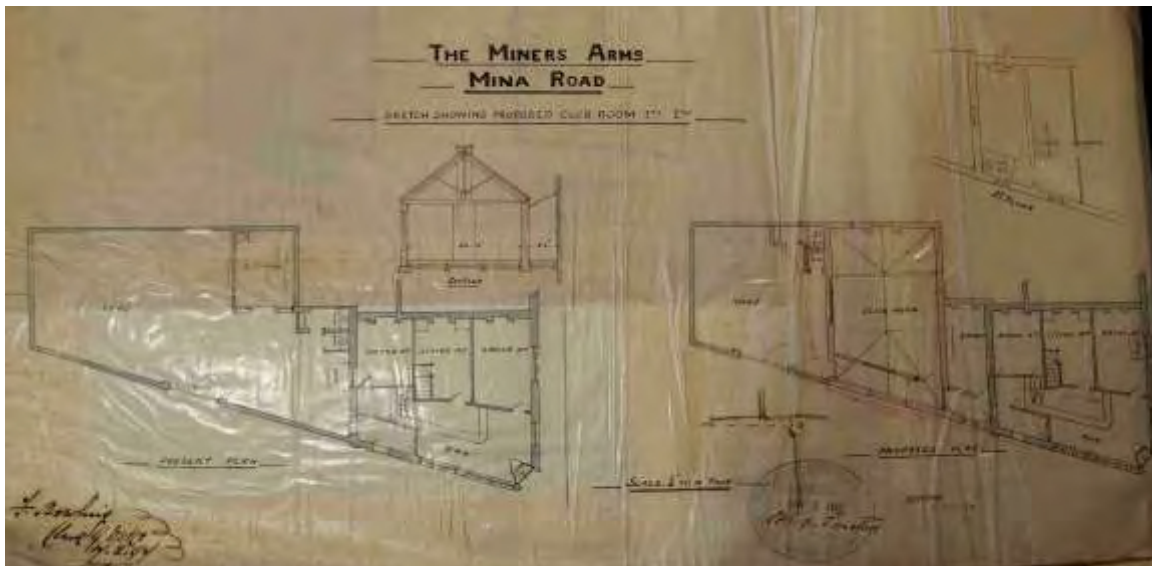
The Public Bar, Royal Hotel, Gloucester Road, Avonmouth, c.1938, from One Hundred and Fifty Years, 41

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In contrast the interior of the **General Draper**, in Hotwell Road, which was rebuilt in 1899 for the Anglo Bavarian Brewery Company, by the Bristol architects Walter S. Paul and James, appears to have been of less luxurious design. All of the bar fittings were in 'pitch pine' – a cheaper, hard-wearing alternative to mahogany, which was also used at the time.³¹⁴

1870–1900: Exterior

Other than at resort hotels, and the inns and taverns associated with suburban watering holes, there is little evidence to suggest that most new public houses, especially those nearer the city centre, had anything but a small garden or yard in the last third of the century. As external space came under pressure as a result of increased demand for new public house facilities, the general pattern in urban areas was for outdoor space to be reduced. The **Miners Arms**, a small corner pub belonging to Bristol United Breweries on Mina Road at St Werburgh's, illustrates the tendency to extend the property into the garden or yard in the last third of the nineteenth century. In 1880, when it was advertised to let, the pub had 'a bower and tea gardens'.³¹⁵ In 1897 a new club house was built at the back of the premises with a window onto the remaining yard, which was now halved in size.



The Miners Arms, Mina Road, St Werburghs © Bristol Record Office – BRO 33/57b

³¹⁴ *Building News*, 18 August 1899: http://archiseek.com/2014/general-draper-bristol/#.VFNxZOdOR_k, accessed 7 January 2015.

³¹⁵ *WDP*, 1 September 1880, 3.

Tea gardens appeared less frequently in press notices of the last third of the nineteenth century than is the case in the early to mid-Victorian era. Nevertheless, as suggested by the example at the **Miners Arms** in 1880, they continued to be found around Bristol, even in the smaller pubs. Thus tea gardens were advertised, with the 'bowling saloon', at the **South Wales Railway Tavern** (also known as the **Watercress Farm**), Ashley Vale, the same year.³¹⁶ The smaller number listed may have been partly a change in terminology – for example the **Railway Inn** at Stapleton Road was advertised as having remodeled 'Pleasure Gardens' in 1880, 'with music and dancing on the green'.³¹⁷ Some of the longer established gardens for trippers, such as those at the **New Inn**, Rownham, were known as both tea gardens and pleasure grounds in the late nineteenth century.³¹⁸ In 1890, after one hundred years of trading, the **New Inn**, had its license refused, when the *Bristol Mercury* reflected that

The Inn has been a favourite resort of Bristolians, who, in the days when the Portishead railway was not, used to picnic in the tea gardens on the Somersetshire side of the Avon, and after ruralising in the arbours, and indulging in the swings and in dancing to the seductive music of a harp, flute, and fiddle, generally called at the inn for a "nip" of something before crossing the ferry.³¹⁹

Pubs without gardens were not of course mentioned as such in advertisements. However reports of court cases and licensing sessions sometimes reveal snapshots of the exterior workings of small urban pubs. As described in the Barton Hill area study, in 1878 the licensee of the **Beaufort Arms**, on Great Western Street, allowed a game of bagatelle to be played in the yard because it was a hot day.³²⁰ The **Beaufort** also had its own skittles alley adjoining. Nearby, the **Rhubarb Tavern** had an outdoor skittles alley and quoits ground. The 'excellent covered skittle alley' was stressed in advertisements which highlighted its location 'near the cotton factory' and 'near several large factories' in the late 1860s.³²¹ Outdoor games – even in yards and small gardens – may have been especially attractive to factory operatives.

³¹⁶ *WDP*, 6 July 1880, 4.

³¹⁷ *WDP*, 1 July 1880, 7.

³¹⁸ *Ibid.*

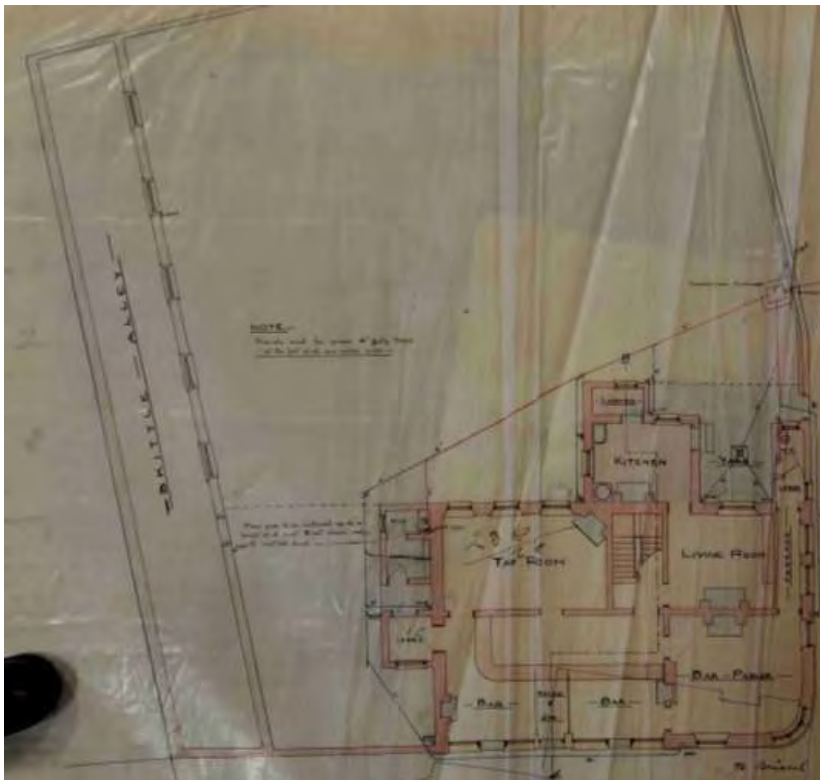
³¹⁹ 'The Talk of Bristol', *WDP*, 21 October 1890, 8.

³²⁰ *Bristol Mercury*, 22 July 1878, 5.

³²¹ *WDP*, 12 January 1867, 1 and 10 December 1867, 1.

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Although more architects' plans survive for the late 1890s, the number is too small to make general judgements on the provision and layout of gardens; moreover because surviving plans were mostly concerned with drainage, those submitted by architects to the authorities do not usually indicate external layouts, other than boundary lines, and did not always include those. We know from maps (and, sometimes, later photographs) that many of Bristol's suburban pubs of the 1890–1914 period had relatively large gardens. However, prior to the 1920s these are generally not elucidated in architects' plans. In plans for the **Plough and Windmill**, Bedminster, of 1898, a large garden was delineated but, other than the skittle alley, nothing much else is indicated except that it was overlooked from the windows of the taproom.



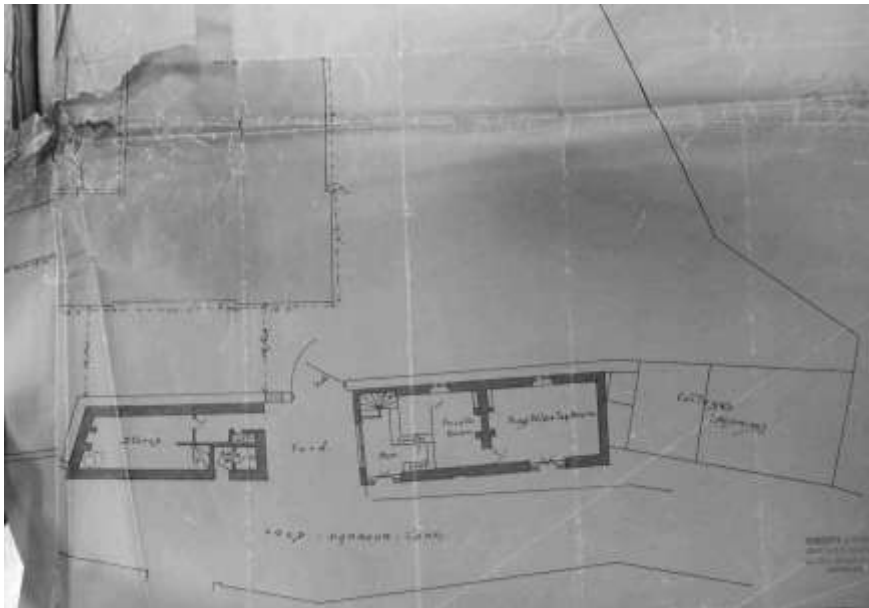
Plough and Windmill, West Street, Bedminster, note the skittle alley to the left of the site © Bristol Record Office – BRO 34/64e

The **Engineers Arms** of 1899 also had a comparatively large rear garden that was not captured in any of the surviving plans beyond outline detail. Like others of this date, the plan was mostly concerned to show the relationship of the new public house to the one about to be demolished. At best, such plans indicate the materials of the boundary and the location of entry points and, less frequently, whether the space encompassed was a called a garden or a yard. As many of our examples indicate, plans also show how the rebuilding often occurred during

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road widening or street improvements, which could set the building further back into existing gardens and yards.

The Cambridge Arms at Redland serves as a good example of the limited amount of information such late nineteenth century plans provide; the new building is shown in outline to the top of the plan and the old buildings and adjacent cottages are below:



The Cambridge Arms, Coldharbour Road, Redland, detail of plan dated 1900 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 37/71b

Maps and fire insurance plans throw some light on the exterior spaces of pubs in the more built-up areas. The 1896 Goad fire insurance plans of Bedminster indicate that most licensed houses in Bedminster Parade and surrounding streets had a small yard at the back or side, and that, like the **Miners Arms**, Mina Road, St Werburgh's, these had in many cases been partially built over with single-storey extensions by that date.

There were also some more unusual arrangements. The **Rummer Hotel** on Bedminster Parade shared a garden or large yard with the **Rummer Inn** on Stillhouse Lane, which ran parallel; the landlord of both was William Loxton.³²² No vehicular access is indicated to the rear of the two pubs, which plans and maps suggest was unusual as the majority of licensed premises had separate rear or side access. A copy of a plan of the **London Inn** at Bedminster of 1889, i.e.

³²² *Wright's Directory of Bristol & Clifton*, 1886, 107; *Goad Insurance Plan Vol II*, 1896, 59–1.

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just before the pub's rebuilding by Georges in 1890, shows that the yard was entered through a gate in the wall and that there was a 'hauling way' at the far end, which was reached from the adjoining street:



The London Inn, Cannon Street, Bedminster © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Some yards contained stables and brewhouses and others housed animals. The **Saddlers Arms** on Stapleton Road, for example, had a fowl house in the yard in 1898.³²³

Most urban pubs of the late nineteenth century had little or no outdoor space at the front. However, on main routes through the suburbs, some had forecourts or drives, as at the **Anchor** (c.1900), on the Gloucester Road at Horfield:



Anchor, Gloucester Road, Horfield © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

³²³ BRO Building plan/Volume 43/ c.f 31 (pp. destroyed).

Meanwhile in more rural areas, examples can be found of public houses that offered customers some social space to the front of their buildings. **The Bridge Inn**, at Mangotsfield, for example, had a veranda with seating:



The Bridge Inn, Bridge Road, Mangotsfield © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

1900–1914: Building and Style

Following the pattern of late nineteenth-century development, pubs continued to be rebuilt on an enlarged scale in the Edwardian period as owners tried to mitigate the effect of lost licenses by attracting customers to larger, more attractive, and more comfortable drinking places.

From around the late 1890s and especially after 1900, historicism and a greater use of ornament became more evident in the external architecture of the city's licensed houses. This kind of revivalism did not entirely replace the familiar Bristol buildings of red-brick with local stone dressings; rather, it began to create a greater range of detailing and styles in smaller pubs, with more extravagant interpretations of the past reserved in the main for the larger, suburban premises.

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As illustrated in the case of the **Engineers Arms**, in the 1870–1900 section, exposed timber became more common. Presumably drawing upon contemporary Arts and Crafts and Queen Anne and other domestic revival styles, ornamental plasterwork began to appear (**The Cambridge Arms**, Redland and **The Pilgrim Inn**, Brislington), while, tall chimneys (e.g. **Beaufort Hunt**, Shirehampton), tile-hung fronts (**Prince of Wales**, Westbury-on-Trym) and other domestic-revival type details all began to feature more prominently. Even in the smaller, plainer public houses, steeply sloping rooflines, such as seen at the **Royal Oak** (Mouse), Westbury-on-Trym, acknowledged the overall trend.



The Royal Oak (now the Mouse), Waters Lane, Westbury on Trym, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

Gables were often combined with exposed timber, as indicated at the **Cross Hands**, Fishponds (c.1900) and the **Wellington Hotel**, Horfield – two ‘hotels’ that illustrate how larger, more impressive buildings tended to be placed at ‘island’ sites, which as F. W. B. Yorke argued, combined the advantages of corner locations with those of more open sites.³²⁴ In this case the hotels were also facing main roads, the A432 Staple Hill Road and the A38 Gloucester Road.

³²⁴ F. W. B. Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, London: The Architectural Press, 1949, 40.

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The Cross Hands, Staple Hill Road, Fishponds, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, September 2014



The Wellington Hotel, Gloucester Road, Horfield © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Smaller examples are to be found at the **Knowle Hotel**, Knowle (c.1905) and the **Luckwell Hotel**, Bedminster (1903), both of which are still trading:

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Knowle Hotel, Leighton Road, Knowle, 2012 © Copyright Jaggerly and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3774481>



The Luckwell Hotel, Luckwell Road, Bedminster, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

There were also some more unusual and overtly historicist designs, which tended to be in the villages or more outlying areas or where there were other historic buildings nearby.

At Brislington, the architect of **The Langton Court Hotel** of 1903 appears to have made deliberate reference to a seventeenth-century house on the site,

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creating prominent gables, oriel windows and a first-floor overhang supported on pillars to the front of the new building.



The Langton Court Hotel, Langton Court Road, Brislington, from One Hundred and Fifty Years

No dates appear on an early photograph of the building and it would seem that those present on the gables – 1902 and 2013 – have been added recently.



The Langton Court Hotel, Langton Court Road, Brislington, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, August 2014

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The Langton Court, Langton Court Road, Brislington, August 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston

The 1902 date may refer to the demolition of the older building, part or all of which was still trading as **The Langton Court Hotel** until that date, when it was owned by Georges, or to when the plans were drawn up. Old Langton Court, Highworth Road, on whose land **The Langton Court** was originally built, was listed Grade II in 1994.³²⁵



The rear of the Langton Court Hotel, Langton Court Road, Brislington and earlier buildings associated with the site, August 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston

³²⁵ English Heritage List entry Number: 1202298.

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The license application of late 1903 was made on the basis 'that the neighbourhood would become improved in the future, the place being not far from St Anne's Railway Station'.³²⁶ As this suggests, the hotel was in a growing residential district, St Anne's Park, comprised mainly of terraced houses. As the hotel was described as 'the new Langton Court Hotel' in March 1904, when a concert was held in aid of St Anne's Park football club, it must have opened in late 1903.³²⁷ An alehouse license was granted at this time. A skittles alley and garden survive from the date of the 1903 building. The architect is not known. However as a Mr Gabriel defended the plans before the licensing justices, it is possible that the designer was Edward Gabriel of Edmeston and Gabriel of London – architects of **The Cambridge Arms** (1900) at Redland.³²⁸

Similar to **The Langton Court Hotel**, but without the first floor overhang and oriel windows, was **The Red Lion** at Knowle; this was demolished at some point between the 1950s and 2012 and recently built housing now occupies the site.

The Shant (formerly the **Crown**) at Kingswood is one of the most elegant examples of Edwardian revivalism in the Bristol area. This has the date 1910 in a cartouche at the apex of the gable, a date corroborated by map evidence.



The Crown Inn (known locally as The Shant from at least the 1940s), Crown Road, Kingswood, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, September 2014

³²⁶ WDP, 15 December 1903, 9.

³²⁷ WDP, 8 March 1904, 6.

³²⁸ WDP, 7 March 1903, 11.

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Unfortunately little is known about this Georges pub other than that it replaced an earlier **Crown** public house and was, in 1910, in a still rural but growing residential area. **The Shant** has a good-sized garden, as was common for outer suburban and country pubs and is on high ground at Hopewell Hill.³²⁹

Equally unusual, and also of 1910, is the **Richmond Spring** at Gordon Road, Clifton. In Edwardian Baroque style, the pub was described in Georges' 150th year anniversary publication as 'An old house which takes its name from the spring over which it is built'.³³⁰ Its unusual design may reflect its location in Georgian Clifton, and perhaps because the spring was said to be 'one of the original supplies for conduits, the earliest water system of Bristol'.³³¹ The **Richmond Spring** was 'entirely rebuilt' in 1932.³³²



Richmond Spring, Gordon Road, Clifton © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

³²⁹ One local resident recalls being in the garden as a child, just after the Second World War: 'The Shant is at the end of Crown Road, a big white pub that's really called the Crown, but everyone calls it the Shant. I don't know why. They just do', in S. Lewis, *Just One More Day: A Memoir*, 2006, 189.

³³⁰ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 64.

³³¹ *Ibid.*

³³² *Ibid*, 64.

A significant number of Bristol pubs were rebuilt in the first ten years of the twentieth century, among them: the **Three Horseshoes** at Church Road (H. Williams and T. G. Phipps, 1906, demolished for residential development c.2005); the **Crown Inn**, Lower Church Lane (J. T. Wallace for Bristol United Breweries, 1906–7); the **Three Crowns**, Blackswarth Road (C. & C. Thompson, 1904); the **Colston Arms**, Bedminster (J. A. Wright for Ashton Gate Brewery, 1904–5); the **Rose and Crown**, Burchells Hill Road (C. & C. Thompson, 1904–5); **Seymour House**, Filwood Road (Paul & James for Georges, 1902–3); **The Perseverance**, Feeder Road (Paul & James for Georges, 1902–3); the **Westbury House**, Etloe Road (Munro & Son for Georges, 1902–3); the **Old Oak**, Grove Road, Fishponds (Munro & Son for Georges, 1902–3); the **Foresters Arms**, Feeder Road (C. & C. Thompson, 1903–4); the **Whitehall**, Gilbert Road (Paul & James, 1903); **Garricks Head**, Broad Quay (J. Perkins, 1902); **King's Arms**, Devon Road (Paul & James, for Georges, 1902–3); **White Horse**, West Street, Bedminster (H. Williams for Georges, 1899–1900); **Royal Exchange** (Paul & James for Anglo-Bavarian Co., 1899–1900); the **Rising Sun**, Temple Back (T. Scammell, 1900–1); the **Cat and Wheel**, Castle Green (T. Scammell, 1900); **The Rising Sun**, Windmill Hill (Cowlin and Son builders, 1900); and the **Coach and Horses**, Braggs Lane (for Anglo Bavarian Brewery, 1900).

As the list suggests, new pubs were rebuilt in city centre as well as suburban areas. Although many were relatively small and most were in the familiar red brick with stone dressings, these and others of the period 1900–1914 represent some of the city's most recognisable pubs. The majority were built in the decade between 1900 and 1910; a selection is illustrated, below.

The Rising Sun, Windmill Hill, was rebuilt in 1900 for Georges by William Cowlin and Sons on the garden of an earlier pub of the same name; it appears to have been built without the rising sun pediment shown in the drawing. The pub was one of the few to be erected by a building firm rather than one that styled itself as an architects' or surveyors' practice. This is probably because the Cowlin company was a major Bristol builder, which undertook a range of domestic and commercial architecture in Bedminster and across the city. **The Rising Sun** is still trading:

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The Rising Sun (detail) 1900 © Bristol Record Office, BRO 38/35A. The Rising Sun, Alfred Road, Windmill Hill, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014 (note the roll-up security shutters housed above the bar window)

Another pub of the same name, rebuilt for Georges at Lower Castle Street in 1906, is one of the more unusual designs. This building, on a prominent corner in the city centre, was demolished in the 1950s.



The Rising Sun, Lower Castle Street, central area © Hartley collection, Bristol Museum

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The **Three Crowns**, at Blackswarth Road, St George, by C. & C. Thompson, 1904, another rebuilding, is still trading.



The Three Crowns, Blackswarth Road, St George © Tim Belsten

Nearby the **Pied Horse**, at 94 Summerhill Road, Hanham, was designed by Walter S. Paul & James for Georges; completed in 1906, this pub is still trading:



The Pied Horse, Summerhill Road, Hanham © Bristol Pubs: <http://www.bristolpubs.co.uk>

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Some public houses were more domestic in scale and siting, for example **The Shakespeare**, Redland (1903) and the **Prince-of-Wales**, Westbury-on-Trym (1906); these were also the work of W. S. Paul and James for The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.:



The Shakespeare, Lower Redland Road, Redland (left) and the Prince of Wales, Stoke Lane, Westbury on Trym, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

Further examples of pubs built to similar designs can also be found at the turn of the twentieth century, such as **The Cambridge Arms**, Redland (1900) and **The Pilgrim Inn**, Brislington (c.1900), which survive and are still trading:



The Cambridge Arms, Coldharbour Road, Redland and The Pilgrim Inn, Hollywood Road, Brislington © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol



The Pilgrim Inn, Hollywood Road, Brislington, 2007 © Copyright Pete Yeates and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/641848>

Similar, and also still trading from this period, are The **Royal Oak** (now **The Mouse**), Westbury-on-Trym, the **Dolphin** at Oldland Common, and the **Elm Tree Inn**, Bishopsworth:



The Royal Oak (now The Mouse), Waters Lane, Westbury-on-Trym and The Dolphin, Oldland Common © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

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The Elm Tree, Queen's Road, Bishopsworth, from One Hundred and Fifty Years, 73

The Langton Court Hotel, Brislington, 1903 (still trading), and **The Red Lion**, Knowle, of about the same date (now demolished), also appear to have been variations on the same design. Their positioning in Georges' 150th anniversary publication of 1938 makes this particularly evident:



THE RED LION,
KNOWLE.

At the end of the car terminus. Recently enlarged inside. Contains modern billiard room. A last port of call on the way out to the Knowle Greyhound Track.

THE LANGTON COURT
HOTEL,
ST. ANNE'S.

The only fully licensed house in the district, with good skittle alley and room for darts.



The Red Lion, Wells Road, Knowle, and The Langton Court Hotel, Langton Court Road, Brislington, from One Hundred and Fifty Years, 65

1900–1914: Plan Forms

Bristol's public house plans continued to evolve in the early years of the twentieth century, through the modernisation of existing businesses and the construction of new ones. As plans for the **Engineers Arms** at Bedminster of 1901 indicate, older spaces, such as bar parlours, parlours and tap rooms were gradually disappearing. Plans were also becoming less convoluted, with corridor spaces reduced in favour of enlarged drinking spaces and a general extension of counter service to more, although not all of the interior.



Engineers Arms, St John's Lane, Bedminster. Plan of site showing the present public house and the position of the proposed new one. Henry Williams, architect, with annotation dated June 1901. Detail © Bristol Record Office – BRO 36/65d

Another public house that was modernised in this period was **The Perseverance** on the Feeder Road (by the Feeder Canal).

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The Perseverance, Feeder Road © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Plans by W. S. Paul and James for the alteration of **The Perseverance** in 1903, show the reorganisation of the ground floor from a typical nineteenth-century arrangement of kitchen, bar parlour, taproom and bar, with counter service to the bar, to a large prominent corner bar, with a single corner entrance and a central servery and separate jug and bottle compartment, which can be seen with a lamp above its entrance on this photograph of the exterior.



The Perseverance, Feeder Road, plans for The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd. by W. S. Paul and James (1903). Detail of the existing plan © Bristol Record Office – BRO 43/45

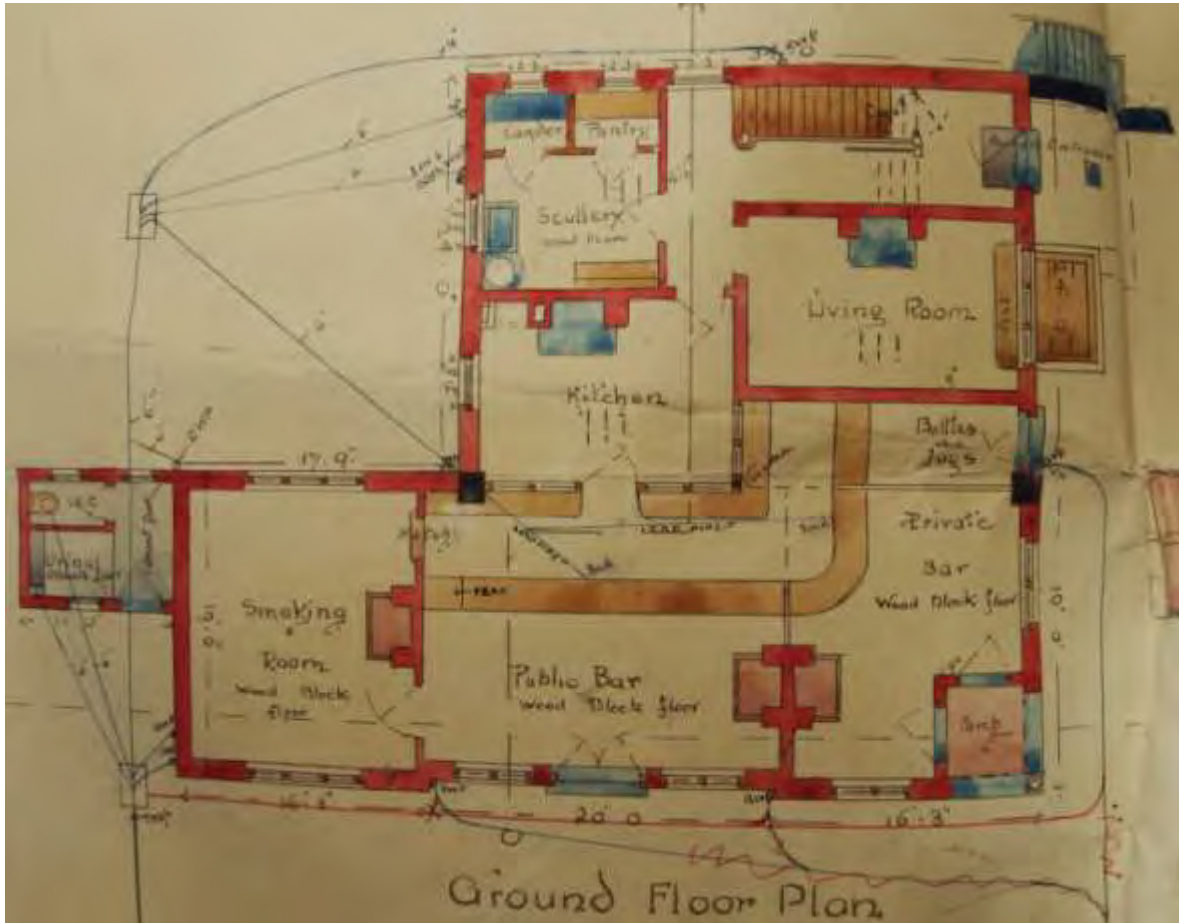
The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol



The Perseverance, Feeder Road, plans for The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd. by W. S. Paul and James (1903). Detail of the existing plan © Bristol Record Office – BRO 43/45

Edward Gabriel's plans of 1900 for the rebuilding of **The Cambridge Arms** at Redland impose a clear separation of the public drinking spaces to one side of the bar and the private living, service and storage spaces to the rear.

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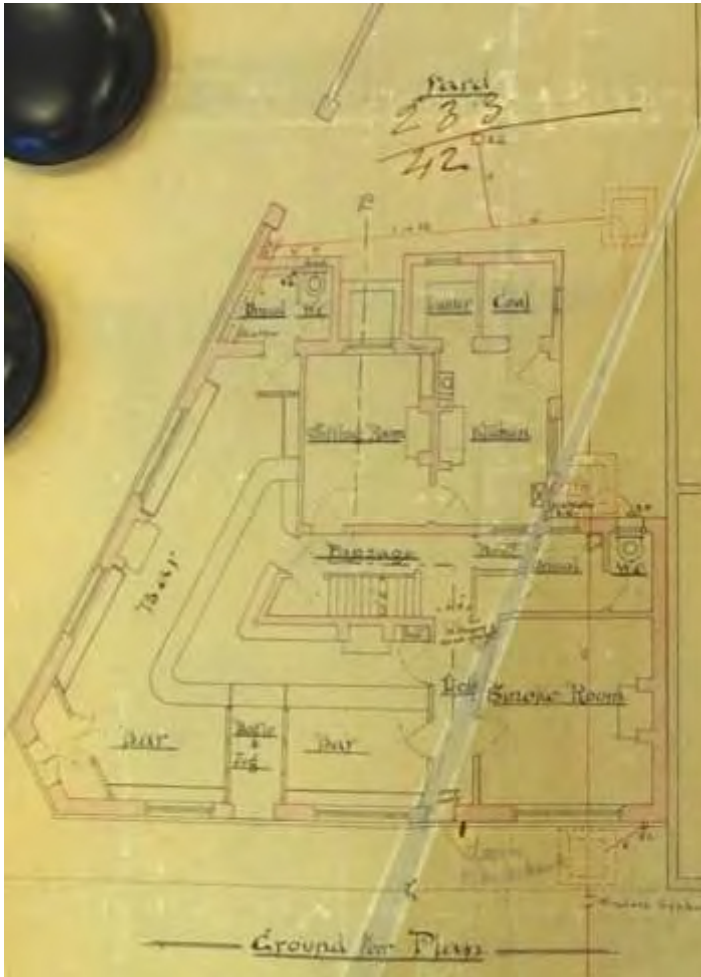
The Cambridge Arms, Coldharbour Road, Redland, Drawing No. 1, Edward Gabriel Architect, 42 Old Broad St, London, E.C., 1900. Detail © Bristol Record Office – BRO 37/71b

As appears typical in Bristol at this time, the commercial portion of the interior was arranged as three public drinking areas: a smoking room, a public bar and a private bar, with a separate service space for off sales. Counter service was available in all of the bars, but service to the smoking room was more discrete, via a hatch rather than an open bar counter. The plans for the new building show that customers had access to a single water closet and adjoining urinal, which were only accessible from the exterior. This external location was appropriate according to contemporary sanitary advice. *Clarke's Pocket Book for Plumbers* (1893) outlined suitable sites for water closets and urinals, suggesting that they should be perfectly airtight and separated from surrounding spaces, as well as being situated next to external walls and ventilated independently of the rest of the building.³³³

³³³ J. Wright Clarke, *Clarke's Pocket Book for Plumbers, Architects, Sanitary Engineers, &c., &c.* London: R. J. Bush & Co., 1893, 83.

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Plans for the **Luckwell Hotel**, a new corner pub, designed by John A. Wright for the Ashton Gate Brewery in 1903, show a similar arrangement of public and commercial space and the retention of a sitting room to the rear of the bar counter. It also provided customers with a choice of bars: a public bar, a smaller and more private bar and a smoke room. Separate toilets served the public bar and the bars to the other side of the ground floor, with the jug and bottle compartment dividing them. The **Luckwell Hotel** also had a first floor clubroom.



The Luckwell Hotel, Luckwell Road, Bedminster, ground floor plan by John A. Wright for the Ashton Gate Brewery, 1903. Detail © Bristol Record Office – BRO 43/45

As bottled drinks became more widely available from the late nineteenth century, off sales compartments began to incorporate display spaces, indicated on plans as 'display' or 'show case' and some had small window displays to signal the presence of an off-sales counter and its location, which was important if a business had more than one entrance. An example can be seen below.

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The Cat and Wheel, Castle Green, a city centre corner pub of 1900 by Thomas Scammell, had a window display of this type, showing the side on which off sales could be purchased © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

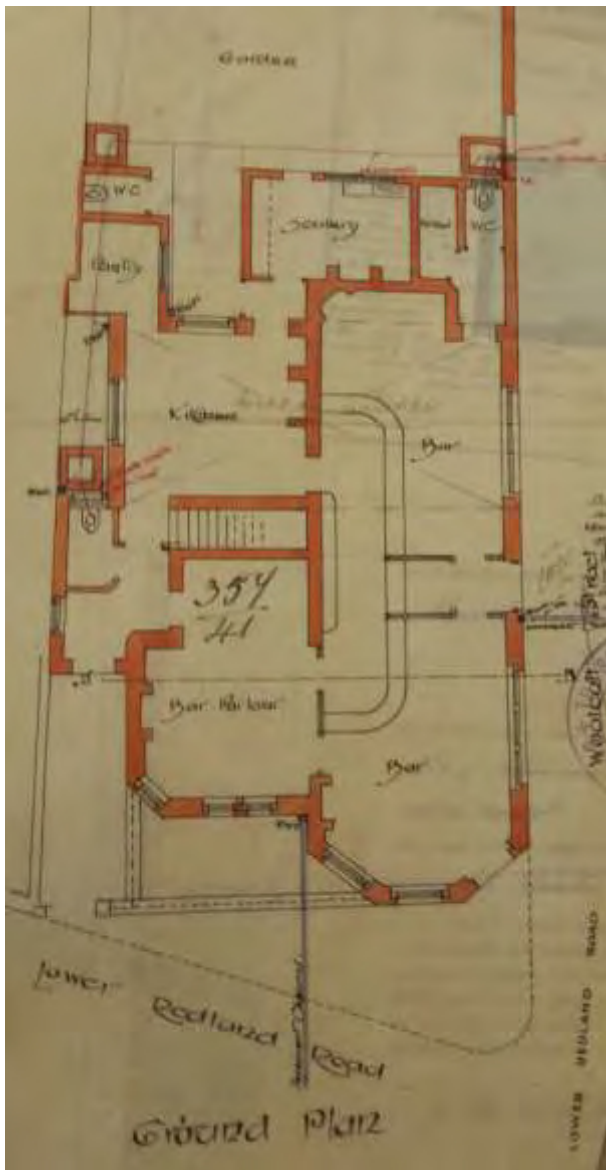
Some early twentieth-century plans suggest only a nominal separation of the off sales counter from surrounding spaces. Those for the rebuilding of the **Prince of Wales** at Westbury-on-Trym indicate a partially partitioned bottle and jug area within the main public bar, but with an entrance close by.



Prince of Wales, Stoke Lane, Westbury-on-Trym, plans of 1905 by W.S. Paul and James for The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd. Detail © Bristol Record Office – BRO 50/4c

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A similar arrangement can be seen on W. S. Paul and James's plans for **The Shakespeare** at Redland (1903).



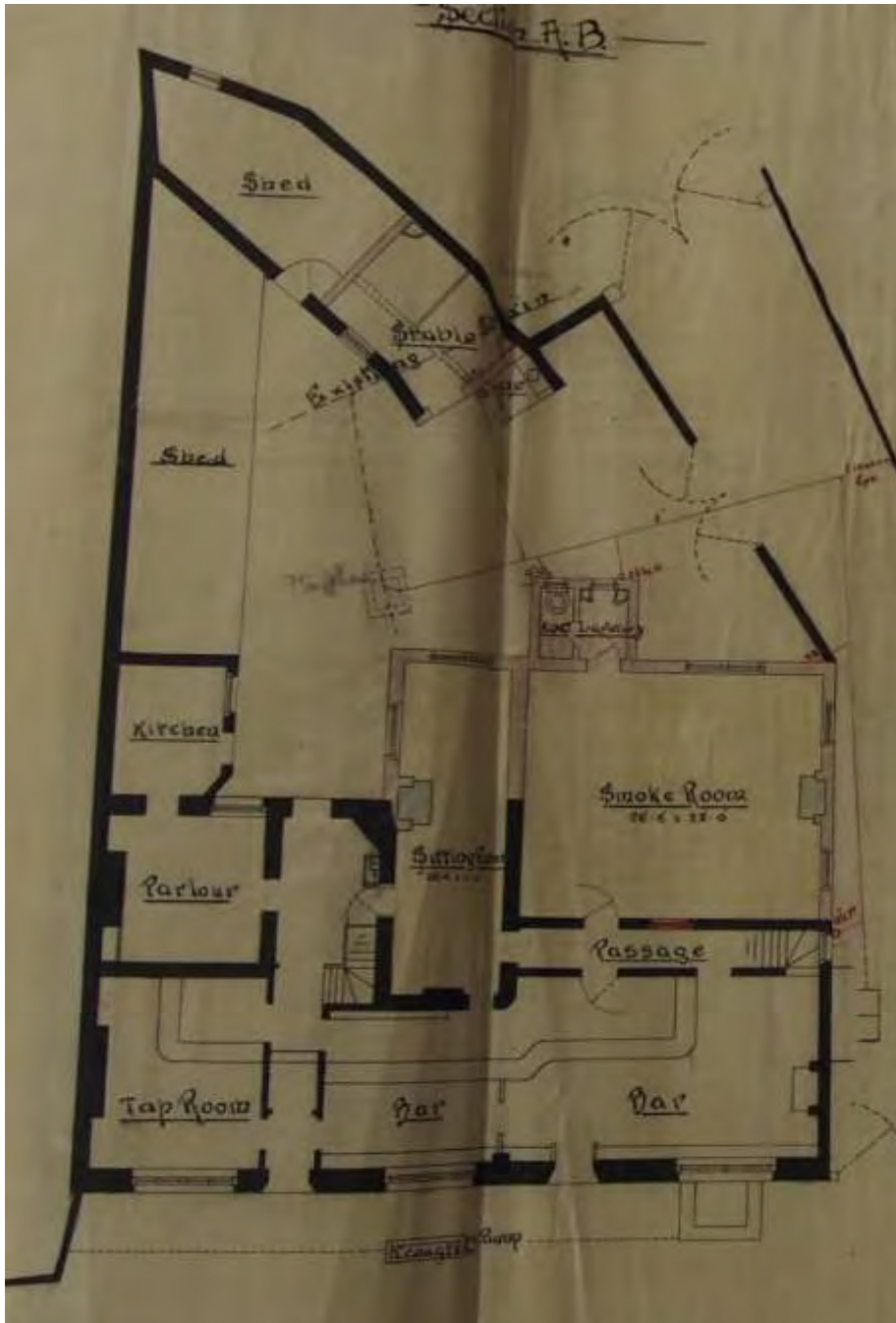
The Shakespeare, Lower Redland Road, Redland, plans of 1903 by W. S. Paul and James for The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd. Detail © Bristol Record Office – BRO 43/41a

The **Rising Sun** at Ashton Gate was subject to further modernisation in this period. From the early twentieth century the **Rising Sun** began to develop recreational and sporting connections, when land opposite, belonging to Sir Greville Smyth, was gifted by Lady Smyth to extend the existing public park in Bedminster.³³⁴ At some time between 1898 and 1904 a small extension was made to the ground floor and the kitchen moved into the new addition to create a parlour. Further alterations by J. A. Wright in 1904 enlarged the ground and first

³³⁴ WDP, 9 and 18 July 1902.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

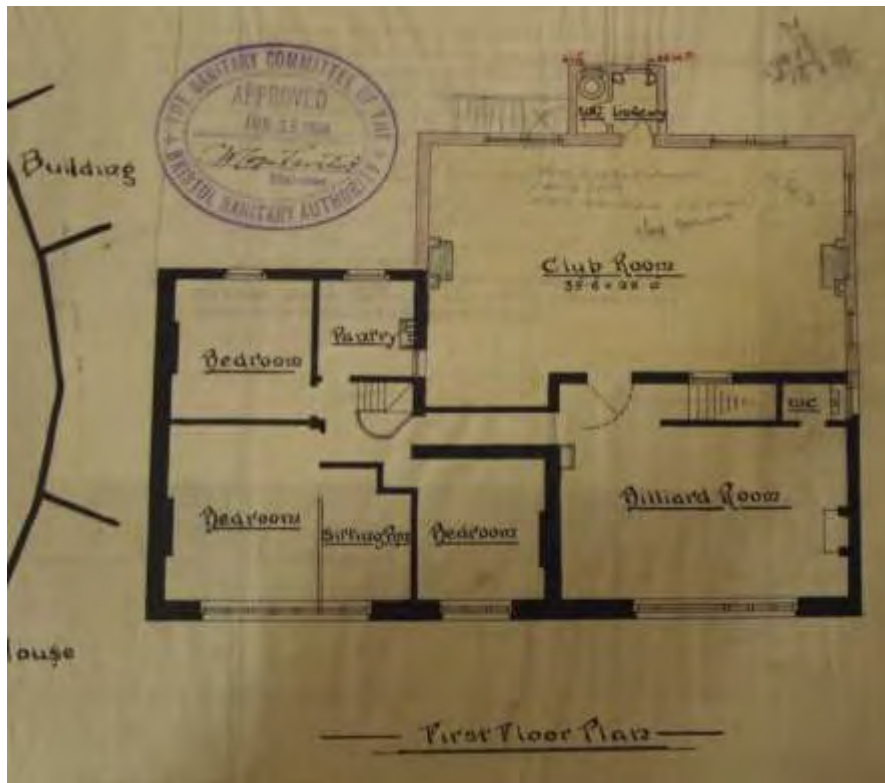
floors to create an enlarged smoke room and a new billiard room. The **Pied Horse** at Hanham (Paul and James, 1906) also had a billiard room; this was on the ground floor, and there was a clubroom upstairs.³³⁵ These are some of the few examples of post 1900 billiard rooms found on Bristol plans, skittles alleys being a far more popular addition.



Rising Sun, Ashton Road, Ashton Gate, additions by John A. Wright for the Ashton Gate Brewery, 1904 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 46/76b

³³⁵ BRO Building Plan/Volume 50/41e and f.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol



Rising Sun, Ashton Road, Ashton Gate, additions by John A. Wright for the Ashton Gate Brewery, 1904 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 46/76b

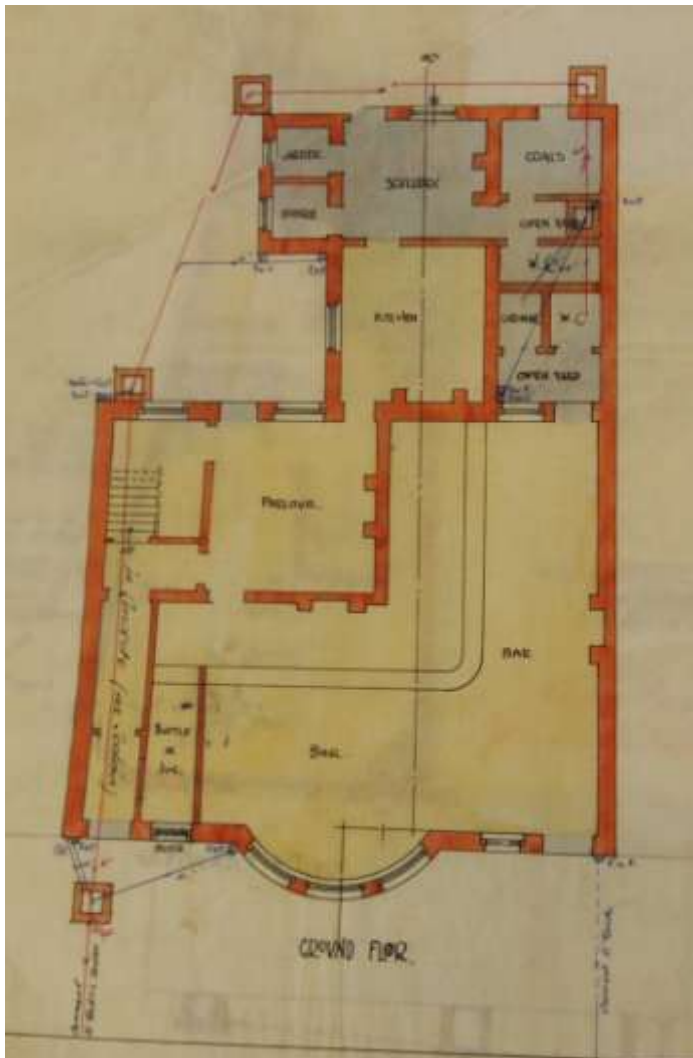
Along with many sporting clubs and societies, the Bristol Beer, Spirit and Wine Trade Protection and Benevolent Association met there regularly in the 1920s. The pub currently trades as Bar BS3. It has three function rooms and a large garden and is used by Bristol City home fans on match days

In addition to the many existing public houses that were modernised by their owners in this period, certain examples can be found of attempts to secure “on” licenses by updating existing “off” sales businesses. These were sometimes protracted, and not always successful, as the example of the proposed rebuilding of a small beerhouse on Golden Hill, for Georges and Co., Ltd. indicates. The business had traded as an off licence until 1898, when the licence-holder applied for an on licence. Georges had an interest in the business and in return for an extension to the license offered to surrender the on licence of the **Lamb and Anchor** at Newtown and give up an off licence at 22 Bouverie Street, Easton. The magistrates argued that this was insufficient and proposed that two ‘indoor’ licences should be surrendered. As Georges were negotiating licence changes for several other properties and were unwilling to increase their offer the licensing magistrates took the matter under consideration until the following month. Their first attempt failed and in conjunction with the licence-holder, Georges made a

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further attempt to obtain a licence for “on” sales in 1903. At that time they proposed enlarging the business by taking in a small adjoining cottage and plans were drawn up by the Bristol architects Paul and James.

Golden Hill, between Henleaze and Horfield, was described as ‘a small village in itself’ that was in an area of rapid development. Mr James, from the architects Paul and James, gave evidence to show that the nearest beerhouse was 1,125 yards away and the nearest fully licensed house, the **County Ground Hotel**, 1,276 yards away. The request to extend the licence was once again refused.³³⁶ The building that they proposed was of modest scale, with a bar and a separate jug and bottle compartment served by a single bar counter.



Golden Hill Ale and Porter Stores, Golden Hill, Horfield, 1903. Architects: Paul and James © Bristol Record Office – BRO 43/41a

³³⁶ WDP, 7 March 1903, 11.

Skittles alleys continued to be a distinctive feature of many of Bristol's licensed houses in the early twentieth century. Among those new and rebuilt alleys for which plans survive are the **Montague Hotel**, Kingsdown Parade (G. Humphrey, 1899–1900), the **Willway Tavern**, Bedminster (1899–1900) and the **Talbot Inn**, Wells Road (1902, for Wilkins and Son).

1900–1914: Interior

As previously indicated, many of Bristol's public houses were rebuilt or remodelled in the early part of the twentieth century, a significant number of which survive, albeit, in most cases, with substantially altered interiors. No specification of works for an interior scheme was located during the fieldwork. While Georges' photographic documentation of the interiors of their public houses from the 1930s and their representation in local newspapers has allowed a reasonably detailed analysis of their most significant interior design features, those from earlier periods are less well recorded.

Until the 1890s relatively few interiors were photographed and those that were are more often elite spaces, rather than everyday sites of working-class recreation. While certain durable features such as bar counters and bar backs survive in some locations, along with some examples of contemporary glass, original features such as internal partitions have often been removed and others, such as flooring and plasterwork, been concealed beneath carpets or suspended ceilings.

Something can, however, be suggested about the general pattern of development in this period and the companies that may have been involved in fitting out the interiors of Bristol's public houses at the time.

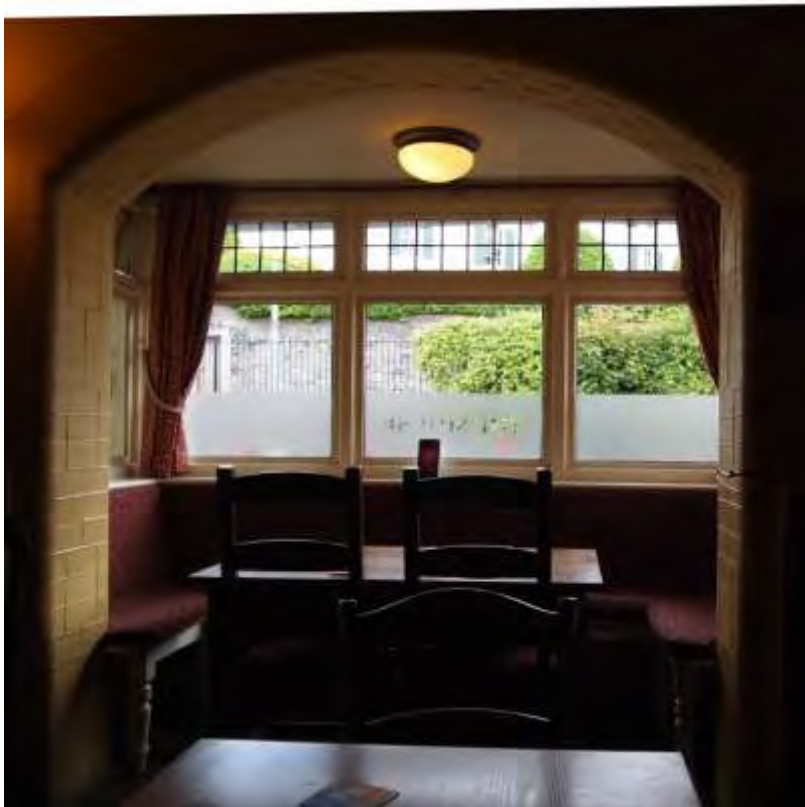
Parnall and Sons Limited (established 1820) had their head offices and works in Bristol in this period and regularly placed prominent advertisements for their services as shop fitters, bar fitters and suppliers of beer engines, counter screens and signs in Bristol's local newspapers of the 1890s. The firm remained active in Bristol in the early years of the twentieth century.³³⁷ The company exhibited at the West of England Catering Trades exhibition at Colston Hall in 1903, showing meat and bread slicing machines, 'bar fittings, beer engines, improved patent bottling machines, coring machines, bottle washers, capsuling machines, pumps,

³³⁷ *WDP*, 24 October 1890, no page number.

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taps, and every bar and cellar requisite'.³³⁸ As previously indicated, Parnall and Sons was responsible for the bar back at the **Nova Scotia** public house in Hotwells.

Of those public houses visited during the completion of the fieldwork, one of the most evocative of the period is **The Mouse** at Westbury-on-Trym, formerly the **Royal Oak**. Its interior perhaps retains more character than many survivals of similar date because of the strength of the architectural design, which has ensured that two original bay window seating alcoves remain as originally conceived.



One of the two alcove seating areas at The Mouse (formerly Royal Oak), Waters Lane, Westbury on Trym, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

The windows, which in the left hand bay originally advertised 'Pale Georges Ales' and in the right hand bay 'Beers Georges Stout' have been replaced, along with a decorative glass roundel of the Georges' horse motif from the entrance lobby. An early photograph of the interior reveals other alterations to the ceiling and the removal of the original picture rail.

³³⁸ WDP, 1 August 1903, 9.

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Another early twentieth-century pub that retains some original interior features, including panelling and interior glazing, is **The Shakespeare** in Lower Redland Road. Shown below is the entrance lobby, which originally opened to the bar for jug and bottle service. Judging by plans of 1903, by W. S. Paul and James for Georges, the blackboard that can be seen to the left of this 2014 photograph is in the approximate position of the original jug and bottle counter. The pub is unlisted but has been identified by CAMRA as having an interior of regional importance, although CAMRA currently date the building to the 1920s.



The Shakespeare, Lower Redland Road, Redland, showing the lobby entrance, which was originally connected to the bar counter for off sales. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

The influence of art nouveau design can also be seen in some of the interior glazing that survives from this period. Given their prominence in the city, it seems likely that Messrs W. Goldman and Son of Newfoundland Street were responsible for some of what survives.³³⁹

³³⁹ WDP, 15 December 1937, 4.



The Shakespeare, Lower Redland Road, Redland. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

Contemporary photographic evidence, in the form of an early twentieth-century advertising postcard for the **Pied Horse Hotel** at Hanham, another pub by Walter S. Paul and James, dating from 1906, gives some indication of the way in which Georges' pubs of this date were decorated. The card depicts the public bar, the private bar and the smoke room. Little decorative distinction can be seen between the public and private bars, both of which, as the architectural plans for the building show, were connected to the bar counter, the dominant visual feature within the interior. The smoke room is of different character, in part due to its domestic proportions and the fact that a fireplace in that room formed a focal point.

1900–1914: Exterior

Surviving plans suggest that Bristol's new Edwardian pubs were often designed with only a utilitarian yard or garden, which could be under pressure from ongoing alterations or the enlargement of the building to provide increased bar space or new sanitary facilities. It is difficult to assess the extent to which the clear emphasis that can be seen on outdoor spaces and gardens in the interwar years, which is discussed in Part Two of this report, has its origins in this earlier period. While there appears to be greater evidence of the labelling of outdoor spaces as

'garden' rather than 'yard', which perhaps suggests a new emphasis on the recreational dimensions of these spaces, drawing firm conclusions about the numbers of gardens or the proportions of gardens to yards is problematic. Moreover, such evidence as there is relates mostly to suburban areas, and it appears that city centre public houses mostly continued to be provided with yards.

In the early twentieth century the (re)introduction of public house gardens was an aspect of plans put forward by reform groups, such as the People's Refreshment House Association. In 1910, an advocate of such reform, Reginald Cripps, described the ideal public house as incorporating a 'decently furnished bar and tap-room' and a 'bright and comfortable tea room, with entrance either direct from the road or through a tea-garden'.³⁴⁰ Cripps commented: 'The tea-room and the tea-lawn do not, of course, cater for the labouring class, but they have an indirect effect in improving the general tone of a house'.³⁴¹

Almost nothing can be said about how – or even if – the gardens were laid out and planted. Those plans located during the course of the research mostly give little or no detail about the exterior space – even at the larger suburban pubs with a clearly marked 'garden'. However, some information can be gleaned from plans about the organisation of the functions of the back of the pub and the relationship of these to the exterior spaces; this is more evident in pubs built on relatively small plots than those that have larger footprints. What seems clear from this evidence is the fact that in the early years of the twentieth century Bristol's public house architects were not thinking about gardens and outdoor spaces in the same way as those who were designing in the years following the First World War, in response to experiments in state management at this time.

Although there were signs that the relationship of the garden to the back and sides of the pub was beginning to be considered more carefully in the Edwardian period – to improve access or give direct views to the garden, unhindered by accumulations of back offices – this appears to have been patchy and slow, and partly dictated by local topography. Thus the **Prince of Wales**, in the village of Westbury-on-Trym, designed by Paul and James in 1906, had the usual jumble of utility rooms and outbuildings at the back, which projected into the garden space, probably because the public rooms all faced the street:

³⁴⁰ R. Cripps, 'Notes on Public House Reform: A paper read at Denison House by Reginald Cripps', (London: People's Refreshment House Association Ltd, 1910), 9.

³⁴¹ *Ibid.*

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol



Prince of Wales, Stoke Lane, Westbury-on-Trym, detail of plan of 1905 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 50/4c

At **The Rising Sun**, Windmill Hill, rebuilt for Georges in about 1900, the new pub was arranged so that the kitchen and scullery were to one side, allowing a view from the smoking room into the garden at the rear.

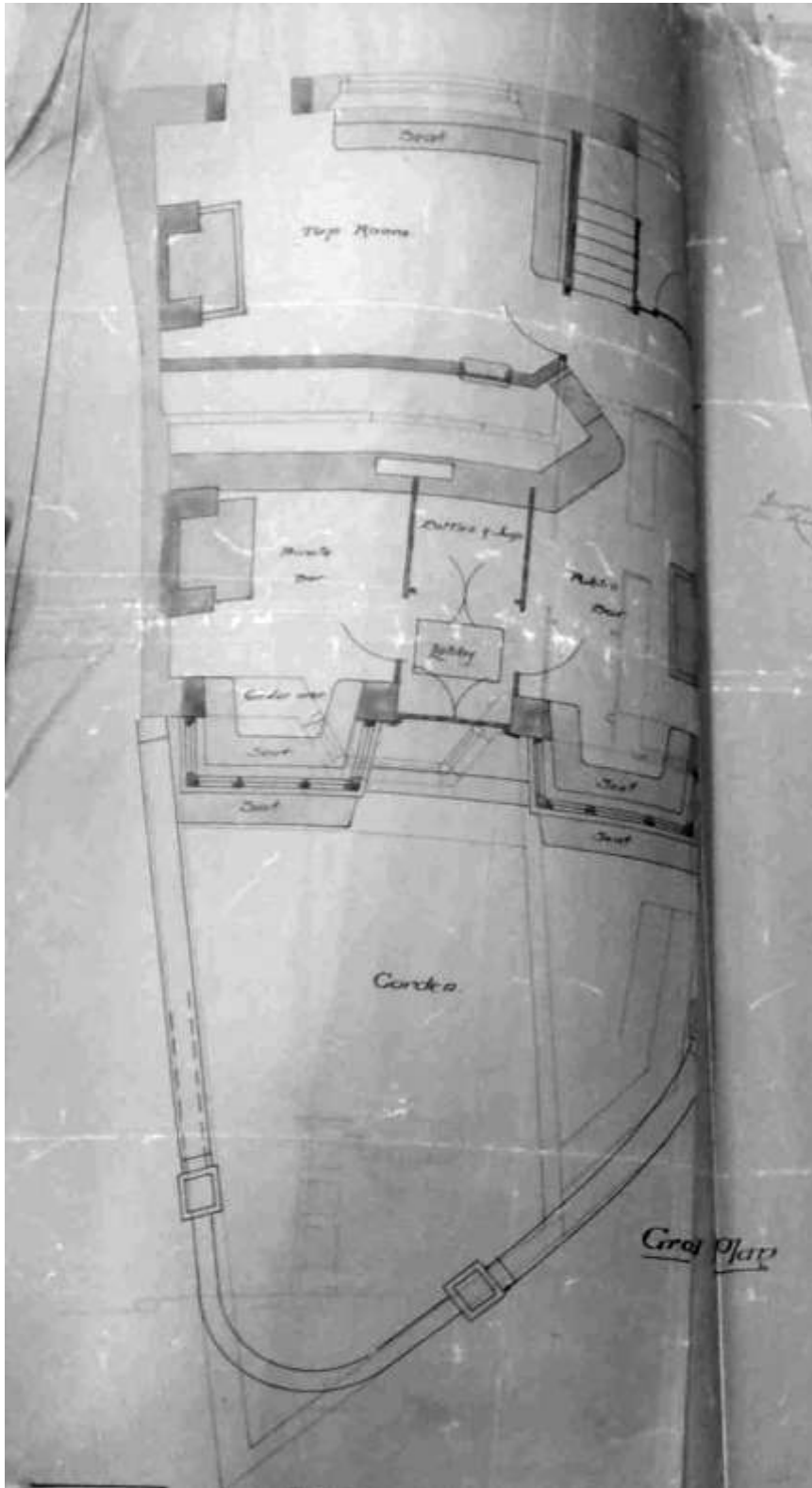


The Rising Sun, Alfred Road, Windmill Hill, Building Plan, 1900 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 38/35A

The new **Rising Sun**, designed by the building firm of William Cowlin and Son, occupied a large portion of the original beerhouse's long back garden. The old building had faced Windmill Hill Road and the new pub was given an entrance and a new address on the parallel Alfred Road. There may, therefore, have been an existing garden ground, which affected how Cowlin and Son laid out the building. Or it is possible that the long, narrow space shown in the plan was left open for skittles. Either way, the plan suggests an attempt to rationalize the back of the premises.

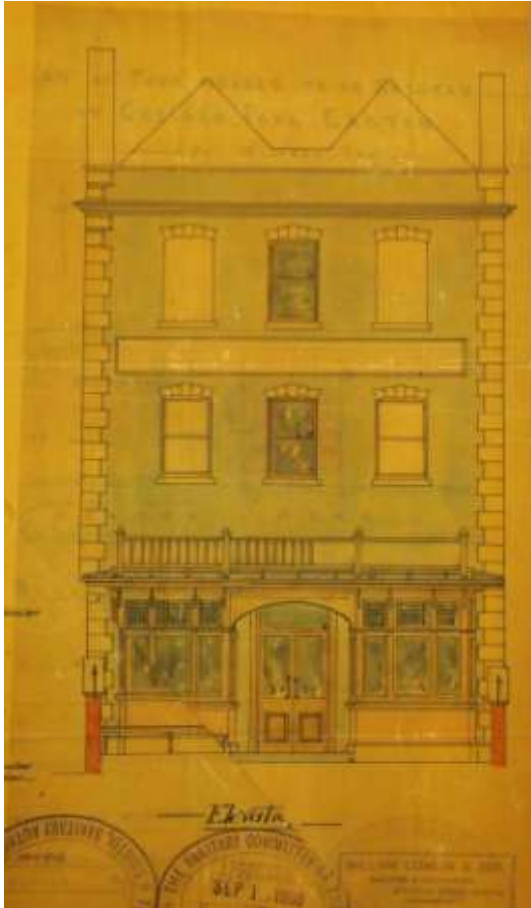
Another, slightly earlier, pub designed by Cowlin and Son for Georges had a garden that was more fully integrated with the building design – probably because it was at the front. Unusually, the **Punch House** (plans approved September 1898) had a front garden, with doorside seats of a type more traditionally associated with rural pubs. Unfortunately, it is not known where the **Punch House** stood on Redcliffe Back, along the quays near the city centre, so is unclear what the view from the garden might have been (i.e. if it faced the water) and whether this influenced the layout.

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Punch House, Redcliffe Back, detail © Bristol Record Office – BRO 43/41a

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol



The Punch House, Redcliffe Back, showing the seats at the front © Bristol Record Office – BRO 43/41a

A small 'garden' is also indicated on the plan of **The Shakespeare**, Redland (1903). The designers, Paul and James, appear to have sought to integrate the building with the garden, which is on a lower level, rather more carefully than they had at the **Prince of Wales**, Westbury-on-Trym.



The Shakespeare, Lower Redland Road © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

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The Shakespeare also has a small raised or terraced garden front, below the 'bar parlour' on the plan, which is now used as an outdoor drinking area. The sloping site probably informed this element of the design.



The Shakespeare, Lower Redland Road, Redland © Bristol Record Office, BRO 43/41a

Some of the larger, suburban pubs, such as **The Cambridge Arms**, Redland (1900), **The Langton Court Hotel**, Brislington (1903) and the **Crown**, Kingswood (now **The Shant**, 1910) were set in large gardens but nothing is known about their layout, planting or use by customers. Others built around this date, such as the **Royal Oak (Mouse)** at Westbury on Trym, had spectacular views. In more built-up areas, pubs continued to be provided with yards, as at **The Perseverance**, Feeder Road (1903), which also had a shed that was larger than the adjoining yard. Although space was tight behind the **Luckwell Hotel**,

Bedminster (1903), which was a corner pub, the yard was capable of accommodating new stables in 1911. Overall, it is probable that, in the majority of cases, the smaller Edwardian pubs built in Bristol's central areas, including many of those listed on pp.147–60 (most of which are long since demolished), were likely to have had yards rather than gardens. It also seems likely that even where there were gardens, these would have been at least partly utilitarian spaces that contained toilets or urinals, storage areas, in addition to any garden or green space. More certainly, the exterior spaces of many pubs, both yards and gardens, continued to be used for outdoor games including skittles, as they would be after the First World War.

Where space allowed, covered skittles alleys were often provided in, alongside, or adjoining, the garden. With a few exceptions, gardens and yards of the smaller pubs were hardly ever mentioned in the licensing reports or police court notices other than to propose closing off access or to prevent drinks being passed over walls. Photography and other sources are also silent on this space. It is telling that the only photograph of a Victorian or Edwardian public house garden to be located during this survey was taken after alterations were made to the pub in the 1930s. As will be shown in Part Two, the interwar period was the heyday of the pub garden, and was particularly associated with the reformed public house located in the suburbs.

As Part One has shown, in the last quarter of the nineteenth century and particularly after 1890, Bristol's licensing justices continued their policy of removing the licenses of small, back-street licensed houses and replacing them with a smaller number of improved premises. These were mostly larger and were usually more open; they tended to be in new suburbs although there was also some rebuilding closer to the city centre. Although there were exceptions to the general rule, Bristol's Victorian pubs were also relatively 'sober' in appearance. This appears to have been an almost unspoken agreement between the breweries, which in the main commissioned the new designs from their own or external architects, the licensing justices that passed them, and other influences from within the Corporation, the police and the magistrates. Even the more intricate, historicist designs that were introduced in the Edwardian period appear restrained in comparison with many of the licensed houses built by breweries and publicans in other cities at this date. This was a trend that continued in Bristol between the wars.

PART TWO: 1914–1939

1914–1939: Licensing Legislation and the Licensed Trade

The outbreak of the First World War ‘transformed the whole issue of liquor control’ as regulatory debate began to centre on issues of national efficiency rather than moral and social reform.³⁴² The Intoxicating Liquor Temporary Restrictions Act of 1914 and the Defence of the Realm Liquor Control Act of 1915 regulated the sale of alcohol during the First World War. The impact of the former, which came into effect at the end of August 1914, can be seen in the introduction of restricted public house opening hours in numerous licensing districts.³⁴³ In 1916, the Central Control Board took control of retail outlets in Enfield Lock, until just after the War, Invergordon and Carlisle and Gretna. What came to be known as The Carlisle Scheme of state intervention and management influenced wider discussions about public house design and reform that continued in the interwar years.

Interwar legislation, in the form of the Licensing Act of 1921, brought to an end the authority of the Central Control Board, but retained State management in most of the areas where it had been pioneered during the War. The 1923 Intoxication Liquor (Sales To Persons Under Eighteen) Act allowed the sale of beer, porter, cider or Perry to those aged 16 or over with a meal and the sale of alcohol to those aged 18 or over without a meal. The Royal Commission on Licensing of 1930–1 was an important stimulus to public house improvements. The Commission published its report in 1932 and its findings were used as a model by licensing justices.³⁴⁴

It has been estimated that around 5,900 pubs were newly constructed or rebuilt in the interwar years, with development concentrated in the second half of the 1930s.³⁴⁵ Surveys for the Brewers’ Society (1927 and 1930) showed that £2 million was spent on improvements to over 20,000 pubs (around 27% of pubs)

³⁴² J. Greenway, *Drink and British Politics Since 1830: A Study in Policy-Making*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2003, 91.

³⁴³ See P. Haydon, *The English Pub. A History*, London: Robert Hale, 1995, 275.

³⁴⁴ Francis Yorke was of the opinion that it ‘undoubtedly accelerated the improvement and reconditioning of public houses’ and observed that ‘many licensing benches have taken it as a guide for their deliberations, and a precedent for their sanctions’. F. W. B. Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, London: The Architectural Press, 1949, 24.

³⁴⁵ P. Jennings, *The Local: A History of the English Pub*, Stroud: Tempus Publishing, 2007, 200,

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between 1922 and 1930 and this increased in the following decade.³⁴⁶ According to David Gutzke, almost as many on licenses – both pubs and beerhouses – were built in England and Wales in the years 1935–1939 as in the preceding fifteen years.³⁴⁷ This tallies with Georges' activity in Bristol and the wider area: in 1937 the company spent over £200,000 on building pubs alone.³⁴⁸

Urban planning regulations also informed the development of public houses from the mid-1930s. The 1935 Restriction of Ribbon Development Act, for example, had an influence on the siting of new pubs, requiring them to be set back 60 feet or more from the centre of the road. At least one Georges' public house design was refused on the basis of the Ribbon Development Act, in July 1938. According to surviving plans; this was for a new pub to be located at the corner of Wells Road and Hengrove Lane in Hengrove / Knowle; the decision was soon overturned, however, as the **Happy Landings** opened on this site just before Christmas in 1938.³⁴⁹

New pubs were sometimes built directly behind established businesses which were later demolished.³⁵⁰ An example can be seen in the construction of a new public house at Henleaze, the **Eastfield Inn**, which was built to the rear of a business of the same name.³⁵¹

³⁴⁶ Jennings, *The Local*, 200; Haydon, *The English Pub*, 288; Nicholls, *The Politics of Alcohol*, 182.

³⁴⁷ D. W. Gutzke, *Pubs and Progressives: Reinventing the Public House in England, 1896–1960*, Dekalb: North Illinois University Press, 2004, 210.

³⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

³⁴⁹ BRO Building plan/Volume 171/65s.

³⁵⁰ Oliver, *Renaissance*, 30.

³⁵¹ 'Inns Ancient and Modern', *WDP*, 15 November 1934, 5.

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The new Eastfield Inn, Henleaze Road, Henleaze, with the old inn in the foreground, c.1934 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Nationally, mergers and acquisitions continued within the brewery industry, the number of breweries falling from 3,650 in 1914 to 885 in 1939.³⁵² By 1914 there were only 6 independent brewers left in Bristol, down from 21 in 1877, and The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd. had emerged as the most significant of them.³⁵³

In Bristol, the number of public houses continued to decline in the interwar years. In 1920 figures for the city were returned as 405 alehouses, 413 'on' licenses for beer, beer and wine; one license for the on sales of wine; 223 for the 'off' sale of beer and cider; 66 grocers' licences and 25 chemists (to sell medicated wines) totalling 1,133.³⁵⁴ In a report of 1932, by the Chief Constable of Bristol Mr C. G. Maby, he stated that the city had 89 fully licensed houses, 338 beer houses, 225 houses licensed for beer off sales, 58 grocers licensed to sell beer, wines and

³⁵² Haydon, *The English Pub*, 292. J. D. Pratten gives figures of 4,500 breweries in 1910 but only 840 in 1939. J. D. Pratten, 'The development of the UK public house. Part 2: signs of change to the UK public house, 1959–1989', *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*, 19/6 (2007): 516.

³⁵³ Brewery History Society for English Heritage *Strategy for the Historic Industrial Environment: The Brewing Industry*, February 2010, 14.

³⁵⁴ *WDP*, 13 April 1920, 6.

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spirits in bottles for consumption off the premises and 29 chemists with licenses to sell medicated wines in bottles, a total of 739, which in terms of licenses per head of population was one license to every 382 inhabitants of the city.³⁵⁵

One of the ways in which Bristol's licensing magistrates sought to ensure the orderly running of pubs in the city was to impose certain conditions on owners who employed managers to run them on their behalf. In 1937, the *Brewers' Journal* reported that in Bristol,

the lessee of a site for a public-house is required to enter into covenants that the licensed refreshment house shall be placed under the care of a manager experienced in catering and that the manager shall be engaged on terms giving him a direct monetary interest in promoting the sale of food and non-alcoholic refreshments, but not of alcoholic liquors. He is required also to encourage the consumption of food and liquor at separate tables served by waiters and waitresses instead of at a bar and to develop to the utmost the catering side of the business, and, in particular, the sale of cooked food and non-alcoholic liquors.³⁵⁶

The pub was to be an amenity and as the above quotation suggests, another way in which Bristol's licensing magistrates attempted to support its role in the community was through interventions into the design of new premises.

This is exemplified by a dispute between Georges and the licensing justices over arrangements for the service of drinks at the **Bristol Bulldog** at Horfield. At some point during the construction of the building the plans were altered from those initially submitted for approval and a service bar was introduced to the skittles alley. The licensing justices objected to the alteration on the basis that the skittles alley should be 'an amenity to the district – a place where a man could go for a game of skittles and not necessarily to drink beer'.³⁵⁷ This, as discussed later in the article, followed a model adopted in London, where on the large housing estates facilities 'were given not only for intoxicating liquors but proper amenities which people could use without touching the bars at all'.³⁵⁸

³⁵⁵ 'Type of Public House Wanted in Bristol', *WDP*, 2 February 1932, 7.

³⁵⁶ *Brewers Journal*, 15 January 1937, cited in A. Mutch, 'Shaping the Public House, 1850–1950: Business Strategies, State Regulation and Social History', *Cultural and Social History*, 2004, 198.

³⁵⁷ *WDP*, 7 January 1938, 3.

³⁵⁸ 'Bristol's Housing Estates Dry', *WDP*, 31 May 1931, 7 and 8.

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Another contested element of public house design in interwar Bristol was the provision of waiting areas for children. This reflects a more widespread national concern with the presence and service of children in pubs that gathered pace in the 1890s and led to the Intoxicating Liquor (Sale to Children) Act of 1901, generally referred to as the Child Messenger Act, which prevented the sale of alcohol from pubs in open vessels. In February 1916, a Bristol magistrate reportedly ‘lambasted 35 local publicans for providing designated waiting areas for children, seeing this as an inducement to drink’.³⁵⁹ These issues aside, interwar Bristol appears to have been a well-regulated and comparatively sober city. According to figures produced by the True Temperance Movement in 1931, cases of drunkenness (Carlisle, Liverpool, Newcastle, Birmingham, Salford, Leeds and Bristol) varied from 9.58 per 10,000 in Carlisle to 0.8 in Bristol.³⁶⁰ In a 1944 article entitled ‘Sober Bristol’, the *Western Daily Press* reported that Bristol was, with the exception of Cambridge, the soberest city in the country.³⁶¹

The process of extending existing licenses continued in this period, but applications were not always looked upon favourably. One example is that of the established beerhouse, the **Duke of York**, which was close to Horfield Barracks, and is shown on a large site to the south of the barracks on maps from the 1880s.



Duke of York, Gloucester Road, Horfield © Courage Western Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

³⁵⁹ S. Moss, ‘“A Grave Question”: The Children Act and Public House Regulation, c.1908–1939’, *Crimes and Misdemeanours*, 3/2 (2009): 105.

³⁶⁰ Haydon, *The English Pub*, 284.

³⁶¹ ‘Bristol Second Soberest City in Country’, *WDP*, 8 February 1944, 2.

In 1937 a petition was made for a wine and spirits license on the basis of improvements to the business. As reported in the *Western Daily Press* on 2 March of that year, Joseph Arbery, licensee of the **Duke of York** beerhouse Gloucester Road, had his application for an 'on' wine licence refused. His legal representative claimed that the owners would begin 'extensions costing £6,000 as soon as the application was granted' and argued a case of local need with reference to building development in the area and the fact that the new Wessex Avenue would run by the business. A petition in support of the wine license, signed by 500 residents and 250 non-residents, was handed to the Bench with the application. The application was refused on the grounds that it 'would enable drivers to consume alcohol in a concentrated form' which was 'highly undesirable' and that the business was near to Horfield Barracks and 'might be a temptation to young recruits'.³⁶²

1914–1939: Location and Planning

'Modern Houses of Refreshment': Bristol's Reformed Pubs Between the Wars

Building new licensed houses in the suburbs in exchange for the loss of licenses to older public houses, particularly in inner city areas that were already well served by pubs and beerhouses, was key to Bristol's licensing policy in the interwar years and is consistent with the contemporary approach of licensing authorities in other English cities. This resulted, as was intended, in fewer and, it was said, 'better pubs'. The idea was pioneered in Birmingham before the First World War and was taken up by public house reformers and within the context of the state management of public houses. The phrase soon became common currency.³⁶³ In 1925, for example, a member of the state management scheme 'advocated the policy of few and better public houses', in an address to the shareholders of Mitchells and Butlers of Birmingham.³⁶⁴ Georges were similarly focused on improvements, and in 1931 Mr Christopher George announced that,

with regard to brighter and better public houses this was, of course, no new policy as far as the brewers, and indeed ... others, were concerned. Two years ago he informed the shareholders that they are

³⁶² *WDP*, 2 March 1937, 5.

³⁶³ 'Major Astor on Control of the Liquor Trade', *WDP*, 26 October 1918, 6.

³⁶⁴ 'Fewer But Better', *WDP*, 14 August 1925, 12.

bringing as many of their houses as possible up to the standard of modern requirements and informed them that the amount then spent on that object was the largest in any one year.³⁶⁵

By 1935, Georges was using 'fewer and better' or 'fewer but better'; thus it was reported (probably through a press release) that the new **Beehive Inn** at Horfield was 'in keeping with the policy of Messrs Georges of providing fewer but better houses'.³⁶⁶ In the brewery's 150th anniversary souvenir of 1938, this emphasis on modernisation along reformed lines was clear:

The modern inn is a home from home, where food and drink may be obtained under hygienic conditions with comfort and good fellowship. The aim of the Company has been to provide a house where a man can take his wife without fear of debasing conditions, for the force of public opinion and good surroundings are the greatest safeguards against excess, possibly the greatest agent working for temperance this country has ever known. This fact has now been recognised by the Licensing Justices, who do not stand in the way of reconstruction as did those of a past generation.

Even the older houses of historical interest have been modernised with regard to cellarage, service and sanitary arrangements, wherever possible without destroying their old-world atmosphere and appearance.

The provision of gardens is also a great asset for such times as the climate allows for outdoors rest and recreation, in many cases special parts for children being set aside to play in for the benefit of parents and with their families. Many of these gardens are really ornamental and a joy to the town dweller who delights in well-kept lawns and flower beds.³⁶⁷

In Bristol as elsewhere, the new public houses were also generally larger and more open than those they replaced. As David Gutzke records, between 1932 and 1938 Georges 'received eight new licenses, extinguished nineteen others with compensation, and surrendered thirty-two additional premises – a net loss of

³⁶⁵ 'Brighter Public Houses', *WDP*, 20 November 1931, 8.

³⁶⁶ 'Another Modern House of Refreshment', *WDP*, 5 February 1935, 5.

³⁶⁷ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 22.

forty-three licences'.³⁶⁸ As reflects the dominance of Georges at this time, the majority of the pubs to be covered in this section were built by this company or its subsidiaries. It is clear from brewery and other records that Georges had a company surveyor who designed some of its pubs and also contracted Bristol architects to design others. We found no examples of pubs designed by building firms between the wars, which was occasionally the case in the period 1900–1914.

These architect-designed pubs were visually striking and relatively large, with up-to-date facilities for storing, serving and consuming beer and other refreshments in comfortable and pleasant surroundings. They symbolised, to the licensing authorities and brewers, at least, 'progress' in public house design and drinking culture. As Georges' own publicity put it, 'what was good enough for their forefathers was not good enough for the present generation. Low ceilings and insufficient ventilation were too often a feature of the old public house'. 'The modern inn was', it was said, 'a home from home, where food and drink may be obtained under hygienic conditions with comfort and good fellowship'.³⁶⁹

The customer was then as much a part of the reformed public house as the building he – and increasingly she – drank in. As Gutzke explains, 'In promoting a public opinion antithetical to insobriety, a new type of customer would operate as an effective "policeman".' By the late 1930s this view had, he says, 'become pervasive even among more cautious, provincial brewers'; in this connection he cites Georges' official history of 1938, which described 'public opinion and environment as "the greatest safeguards against excess, possibly the greatest agent working for temperance this country has ever known"'.³⁷⁰ Georges had in fact been promoting this line of argument for some time. At an annual dinner of the Bristol Beer and Wine Trade held in November 1894, Mr C. E. A. George commented on the desirability of a more open trade: 'They wanted their trade carried on in the open, because they felt sure that the more it was carried on in that manner the more respectable it would be'; he then went on to note that 'Drunkenness was a curse to them and endangered their licenses. A public-house was very much what the public themselves made it'.³⁷¹

³⁶⁸ Gutzke, *Pubs and Progressives*, 200.

³⁶⁹ *One Hundred & Fifty Years*, 22.

³⁷⁰ Gutzke, *Pubs and Progressives*, 110.

³⁷¹ WDP, 29 November 1894, 3

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As explored below, the idea that reformed licensed houses encouraged temperance was also built into the fabric of buildings, through their architecture, interior design and gardens. It was also widely advanced through the breweries' promotional literature and in newspaper reports, which in the case of Georges were most probably provided by the company in the form of press releases. Bristol's new public houses were then widely reported on at the time. As a full-page illustrated article of 1934 in the *Western Daily Press* put it, the breweries were 'literally encircling our city with outstanding examples of all that is best in up-to-date refreshment houses', continuing that, 'all the hotels mentioned are definite social as well as architectural amenities to the rapidly growing suburbs in which they are situated'.³⁷²

Although Georges did some rebuilding of 'country inns' on the main roads leading out of Bristol from the mid-1920s, as shown below, the firm's pub-building programme did not really get going until the late 1920s, with a boom period dating from the mid-1930s onwards, which is consistent with a national boom in pub improvements just before the Second World War.³⁷³

While Georges rebuilt a handful of city centre pubs in the 1930s, the company's main activity was in building pubs for the new settlements which resulted from Bristol's outward expansion between the wars. The new suburbs were formed both from local authority (Corporation) housing for people decanted or displaced from central areas and from speculatively financed housing estates; initially at least, these new settlements were very poorly provided for in the way of indoor social or community spaces and their custom was eagerly sought by breweries.

The location of pubs and the granting of licenses on the new estates was bound tightly to the Corporation's housing policy. The first part of the following section lays out the role of the Housing Committee in deciding if and where licensed houses could be built on Corporation estates, and what form these should take. The second examines pubs built to serve private housing and on the edges of the Corporation's suburban estates.

³⁷² WDP, 15 November 1934, 5.

³⁷³ As David Gutzke has indicated, 'almost as many on-licenses – both pubs and beerhouses – were built in the period 1935–1939 as in the preceding fifteen years', Gutzke, *Pubs and Progressives*, 210.

'A New Bristol Community': The Corporation of Bristol's Housing Policy and Planning Between the Wars

The Corporation of Bristol's planning policy following the First World War was, as Rosamond Jevons and John Madge showed in their survey *Housing Estates: A Study of Bristol Corporation Policy and Practice Between the Wars*, 'to develop housing estates in the suburbs'.³⁷⁴ As a local press report of 1928 remarked, the Corporation's estates were creating 'a new Bristol community'.³⁷⁵

Bristol took an active policy in slum clearance and was quick off the mark in its postwar rebuilding scheme – in which, according to Mark Swenarton, Patrick Abercrombie took a leading role.³⁷⁶ The Housing Committee itself formed in 1917 and the first houses were tenanted by mid-1920. Relatively little residential building occurred in inner districts, with the result that the city expanded outwards into new areas, spreading the population more thinly. 'For better or worse', wrote Jevons and Madge, whose research was conducted in the late 1930s but delayed in its publication by the war, 'the inspiration for the design of most housing estates built in England between the wars comes from three experiments in town planning; these can be called the garden village, the garden city and the garden suburb. The Bristol estates conform to normal practice'. The dwellings provided were predominantly two- or three-bedroom houses. Only 4 per cent of the total were flats and on the estates, flats constituted 1.8 per cent of the total dwellings.³⁷⁷ The Corporation built 'some 15,000 dwellings in Bristol on nine main estates before 1939, amounting to 40 per cent of all new houses in the city between the wars'.³⁷⁸

There were three phases of council house building: from 1919 to 1921, when the Government was briefly committed to building high-quality 'homes for heroes'; the legislation of 1923 and 1924, which set lower housing standards and lower rents for a second phase of building in the city; and a third followed the Housing Act of 1930, which required that all local authorities draw up plans for slum clearance,

³⁷⁴ R. Jevons and J. Madge, *Housing Estates: A Study of Bristol Corporation Policy and Practice Between the Wars*, Bristol: University of Bristol, 1946, 16.

³⁷⁵ 'Local Notes', *WDP*, 5 May 1928, 7.

³⁷⁶ M. Swenarton, *Building the New Jerusalem: Architecture, Housing and Politics, 1900–1930*, Bracknell: IHS BRE Press, 2008, 192.

³⁷⁷ Jevons and Madge, *Housing Estates*, 19.

³⁷⁸ P. Malpass and J. Walmsley, *100 Hundred Years of Council Housing Bristol*. Bristol: University of the West of England, 2005, 5.

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and under this legislation Bristol built more than 3,000 houses.³⁷⁹ Peter Malpass and Jenny Walmsley calculate that about three quarters of all council houses and flats built in Bristol between 1920 and 1938 were for general need, and less than a quarter were for slum clearance. After 1932 new building was mainly for slum clearance and concentrated on Filwood Park (later known as Knowle West) and Southmead'.³⁸⁰ These were both important areas in the question of interwar public house provision.

According to Jevons and Madge, 'the need for substantial increase in the number of houses gave the Corporation little alternative to their policy of building houses in new estates on the fringes of the city'. The Corporation had, they continued, developed nine main housing estates between the wars, each of 400 or more houses, on the hills to the north, south and east of Bristol:

By far the largest is the Knowle and Bedminster Estate to the South, with 6,034 houses. All except one (Shirehampton) of these estates are within the radius of four miles from the city centre. Most of these estates include a small number of dwellings provided by private enterprise ... The addition of several small scattered sites brings the total number [of dwellings] up to just under 15,000.³⁸¹

The oldest estates were at Fishponds, Sea Mills, and parts of Bedminster and Knowle: 'all were begun in 1920 and the former two were completed by 1932. Meanwhile between 1926 and 1932 several new estates were developed at Speedwell, Horfield, Bedminster Down and St Anne's; in 1931, the first houses were built at Southmead and the Knowle extension was begun'.³⁸²

These early projects were designed to meet housing shortage rather than slum clearance, although the council also took advantage of the 1923 act provision to carry out certain slum clearance schemes – notable among these was the rehousing of families from the Dings area of St Philips ward. Densities were low: all of the estates had a density lower than the recommended twelve per acre of the Tudor Walters report; that of Sea Mills was only 6.8 per acre, though Jevons and

³⁷⁹ Malpass and Walmsley, *100 Hundred Years of Council Housing Bristol*, 4.

³⁸⁰ *Ibid.*

³⁸¹ Jevons and Madge, *Housing Estates*, 16.

³⁸² Jevons and Madge, *Housing Estates*, 18.

Madge observed that subsequent districts had been planned 'on less spacious lines and the practice of planting trees and grass verges has ceased'.³⁸³

They outlined the planning of the social facilities on the estates, including the provision or otherwise of pubs, as follows:

Each estate has some kind of centre; this is usually laid out as a green square with the shops at one side or at each corner. The squares are unobtrusive, the public buildings are few and those which do exist are not all located in the centre; some centres have sacrificed the sense of unity through their excessive area of unusable open space, and the scattering of public buildings too uniformly around their fringes. The scale is too large for the size of buildings. In the smaller estates life gravitates to the nearest main road off the estate, where a better shopping centre and perhaps other amenities – such as public-houses and cinemas – can be found.³⁸⁴

Jevons and Madge did not describe public houses or drinking culture in any detail, noting only that the erection of public houses, though not prohibited, was strictly controlled: 'so far there is only one', they wrote, 'the Venture Inn, at Filwood Park, and one off-license premises in Filwood Broadway'.³⁸⁵ Filwood Park was later known as Knowle West. They did however outline the community value of **The Venture Inn** (built 1935, demolished for flats, 2006), with its 'entertainment hall', writing that 'without discounting the theory that there is less rowdyism in small pubs, it must be said with justice that the Venture Inn provides a social centre and meeting place of some importance. Probably the local population is not large or dense enough to support other commercial entertainment enterprises'. However, they continued, 'the adequacy of facilities at Filwood Park can only be judged in relation to the size of population and of its age composition':

One Anglican church, one cinema and one public-house for more than 12,000 residents represents less than a bare minimum of amenity. The growth of the estate is not yet complete; without further provision the position would get worse. In a town serving a population of this size,

³⁸³ Jevons and Madge, *Housing Estates*, 22–3.

³⁸⁴ Jevons and Madge, *Housing Estates*, 23.

³⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

the higher density and greater diversity of income groups would support probably two cinemas and five pubs. The central area of a larger town would support many more.³⁸⁶

The reasons for the lack of public houses on the Corporation's estates are explained below.

'Fewer and Better'? Pub Building and Licensing Policy on Corporation Estates

Public houses are often omitted or glanced over in the literature on interwar housing, on both social and speculative suburban residential estates. However, as the contemporary press was aware, the pub was an important subject – either because it was excluded from a housing development or because it was an all-too-rare community resource in outlying and out-of-county estates. As Peter Scott writes:

One of the amenities most central to the social life of inner-city communities, and most objectionable to social reformers, the public house, was often deliberately barred from estate developments. The Ministry of Health had recommended that, to achieve good town planning, licensed premises must form part of the amenities of new estates. Yet some councils objected to pub provision, which might encourage "reckless" expenditure and behaviour by tenants. For example Liverpool did not allow any public houses, despite the large size and physical remoteness of many of their estates.³⁸⁷

While not in favour of excluding public houses from its settlements, the London County Council (LCC) was concerned about the provision of licensed premises on estates in the interwar period, and was, like the Bristol Corporation, under pressure from the temperance movement.³⁸⁸ In March 1920, the LCC's Housing Sub-Committee considered 'the question of the licensed house' on the new Becontree estate at Dagenham, and decided that 'these premises, if acquired by the Council, should be run on the basis of Trust Houses and suggest that a few

³⁸⁶ Jevons and Madge, *Housing Estates*, 82, 83.

³⁸⁷ P. Scott, *The Making of the Modern British Home: The Suburban Semi and Family Life*, Oxford: OUP, 2013, 56.

³⁸⁸ <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1413050>.

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sites be allocated'.³⁸⁹ In the event, pubs on LCC estates were run as 'improved public houses', by breweries, rather than on a Trust House model.³⁹⁰

The first to be built was the **Fellowship Inn**, opened in 1923; this was on the Bellingham estate, which Ernest Edwin William's book of 1924, *The New Public House*, characterised as 'a sort of municipal garden city on the outskirts of Croydon'.³⁹¹



The Fellowship Inn, Randlestown Road, Bellingham in 2012 © Copyright Dr Neil Clifton and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence:

<http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/3106517> (accessed 9 January 2015)

³⁸⁹ LMA/LCC/HSG/GEN/2/34, Report by the Architect and Director of Housing to the Housing (Buildings and Development) Sub-Committee, 3 March 1920, 9.

³⁹⁰ In 1893 the Bishop of Chester introduced a bill to place public houses under the control of special companies, which would pay a 5% dividend to investors and donate any profit above that level to charity. The aim was to establish a retail context in which the publican had no incentive to promote alcohol above food and non-alcoholic beverages. The bill failed, but the idea of disinterested management was taken up by other organisations in the 1890s, including the People's Refreshment House Association and the Central Public House Trust Association, which aimed to improve the public house by making it 'more club-like and more home-like'. See, A. N. Cumming, *Public-House Reform: an explanation with an appendix*, London: Swan Sonnenschein & Co. and New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1901.

³⁹¹ E. E. Williams, *The New Public House*, Chapman and Hall, 1924, 172.

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The architect was F. G. Newnham, of the brewery Barclay Perkins and Co., which invested heavily in improved pubs.³⁹² According to *The New Public House*, the **Fellowship** 'undoubtedly represents the last word in public-house improvement; it is indeed a revelation of what may be done'.³⁹³

Newnham also designed other pubs on LCC estates for Barclay Perkins and Co., including the **Downham Tavern** (1930 – demolished and replaced with a new pub in recent years). The **Downham Tavern** was twice the size of the **Fellowship** at Bellingham, and was comparable to **The Venture Inn** at Knowle, in being the only licensed premises to serve a huge new settlement, which at Downham was 30,000 souls.



Downham Tavern sign © Copyright Philip Talmage and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: <http://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/74405> (accessed 9 January 2015)

As one newspaper put it, 'the pub is a centre of communal life; on a housing estate, where the residents are often deprived of many of the amenities usual to less-planned area'.³⁹⁴ Consequently the **Downham Tavern** had a range of facilities – although, with a concert hall, a large dance floor (with permanent orchestra), two large lounges, a tea room, an off licence, a children's room supervised by nurses, and a shop for provisions, these far exceeded those of **The**

³⁹² <http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1413050>.

³⁹³ Williams, *The New Public House*, 172.

³⁹⁴ 'Public House Poetry', *Portsmouth Evening News*, 27 August 1937, 4.

Venture Inn.³⁹⁵ ‘Designed on simple lines in free Georgian style’,³⁹⁶ it was from the same architectural mould as **The Venture Inn**, unlike the **Fellowship at Bellingham**, which was Tudor-inspired.

As at Liverpool and, to a lesser extent, London, the Corporation of Bristol initially resisted the building of any licensed premises on its housing estates. The first four – Fishponds (Hillfields), Knowle, Shirehampton and Sea Mills – were started in 1919, and in June 1920 the first tenants moved into new houses at Beechen Drive, Hillfields.³⁹⁷ From this time until the mid-1930s – more than ten years – no licensed premises were allowed on these or subsequent estates; even after this date, when the policy was rescinded, some Corporation settlements remained without a public house. The local papers frequently mentioned this lack. For example in 1928 the *Western Daily Press* observed that while the shops ‘in the shopping centre of the suburb’ at Sea Mills were updating their windows and churches were going up, ‘It is an interesting fact that modern Sea Mills, with its thousand new houses is still without a new public-house or an off-license’.³⁹⁸

As house building continued into the 1930s, there was increasing public discussion about the provision or otherwise of pubs on Bristol’s growing number of estates. In May 1931 a long article the *Western Daily Press* reported on ‘the lively debate’ at the City Council, following ‘a report of the Housing Committee to vary the decision arrived at 11 years ago, to allow no licensed premises on Corporation estates’.³⁹⁹ Although this resulted in no change to that decision, the arguments in favour were those that would eventually cause a shift in policy. The main argument was that, in addition to pressure from residents, while the Corporation could very carefully control building within its estates it had less power to ban their erection on their outskirts. The breweries, especially Georges, eagerly snapped up plots of land with the intention of providing new public houses to attract this ready market. When the estates expanded, some of these became practically within the settlement. Thus, in the early 1930s, it had begun to be argued that a small number of carefully controlled pubs, on the model of those serving the London County Council’s estates, such as the **Fellowship Inn**, Bellingham (1923) and the **Downham Tavern**, Downham (1930), should be

³⁹⁵ ‘A Palatial Public House’, *Nottingham Evening Post*, 30 May 1930, 8.

³⁹⁶ ‘Downham’s Largest House’, Advertisement reproduced in Age Exchange, *Just Like the Country*, Blackheath, 1991, 86.

³⁹⁷ Malpass and Walmsley, *100 Hundred Years of Council Housing Bristol*, 23.

³⁹⁸ ‘Local notes and news’, *WDP*, 5 May 1928, 7.

³⁹⁹ Bristol’s Housing Estates Dry’, *WDP*, 31 May 1931, 7 and 8.

sanctioned on Bristol's council estates. The following extract from the same article in the *Western Daily Press* of May 1931, called 'Bristol's Housing Estates Dry', explained the line of argument in favour:

... the Housing Committee ... had given careful consideration to the question of permitting the erection of licensed premises on the corporation housing estates and recommended that each such application should be considered upon its merits and no application acceded to unless by a majority of residents decided by canvas. In the event of the application being entertained the committee recommended that they should impose conditions as to type of building and system, of management. ... It had been the policy of the Committee up to the present time not to permit the erection of any licensed premises upon the Corporation housing estates. But the estates were now developing over big areas and applications were being made to the licensing justices for licenses for premises adjoining the estates. He understood that if there were to be any new licensed houses the policy of the justices was to close down other public-houses in other parts of the city where there was a redundancy, and it was thought that if new licensed premises were to exist it was well, as far as possible, for "the powers that be" to have some little control with regard to management etc. ... to give a case in point, at Horfield a license was granted to some premises which had now become practically in the middle of the housing estate there and yet the committee had no control over the house. ... He thought that people on the estates ought to have some voice in saying whether there should be a public-house on the estate or not, and the provision was made in the report for that. In the big housing estates in London, facilities were given not only for intoxicating liquors but proper amenities which people could use without touching the bars at all.⁴⁰⁰

The Venture Inn had some of the facilities for non-drinkers and children that had been created in pubs on the interwar London Council Estates, and was comparable to the **Downham Tavern** (1930) in being the only public house to serve a huge estate. But by the time **The Venture Inn** opened, in 1935, the LCC had become more liberal in the provision of pubs on its estates. For example, reporting on the number of licensed premises at Becontree in 1935, the

⁴⁰⁰ 'Bristol's Housing Estates Dry', *WDP*, 31 May 1931, 7 and 8.

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LCC's Housing and Public Health Committee reported that 'there are at present five licensed refreshment houses on the estate. In addition there are two premises with off-licenses and two licensed clubs'.⁴⁰¹

Land had also been sold or reserved for one further refreshment house at that date.⁴⁰² Commenced in 1920 and completed by 1935, Becontree was then the 'largest housing estate in the world', with an area of 'more than four square miles' and an estimated population in 1935 of 115,000, with hundreds more houses still in the course of construction. This far exceeded the proportion of pubs to people at Knowle West, where in 1939, one pub served a community of some 27,000.⁴⁰³

As already stated, the policy of refusing licenses on Bristol's estates remained after the debate of 1931. Church groups congratulated this decision and claimed that residents were outraged at those who sold drink nearby. Perhaps sensing a shift in opinion by Council members and the public from this date, reports of Georges' new pubs, began more strongly to state the Corporation's continued aversion to licensed premises on its estates. For example, at the opening in 1933 of **The Friendship**, Knowle, and **The Welcome Inn**, Southmead, the *Western Daily Press* reported that 'both stand *right on the edge* of two extensive Corporation housing estates on which the City Council have so far refused to allow licensed houses to be built. They are erected in accordance with the plans approved by the Bristol Licensing Justices and will no doubt prove a popular amenity to the residents of both neighbourhoods'.⁴⁰⁴

Following discussion in late 1932, members of the Housing Committee, which was deeply divided on the matter and contained some vehement teetotallers as well as more pragmatic temperance advocates, decided 'to approve licensed premises for housing estates subject to a canvass of the residents and other conditions' in January 1933. This was voted for 'as it was evident that failure to allocate such sites [to breweries for licensed houses] resulted in the erection of licensed premises on contiguous lands'. Alderman Jones, chairman of the Housing Committee, submitted the report and said that 'the matter was brought before the Council again because there had been an offer for a piece of land on the Knowle estate

⁴⁰¹ LMA/LCC/HSG/GEN/2/35, Report of the Housing and Public Health Committee: Becontree, 6 March 1935, 1, 2.

⁴⁰² *Ibid.*

⁴⁰³ Malpass and Walmsley, *100 Years of Council Housing in Bristol*, 4.

⁴⁰⁴ 'Modern Public Houses', *WDP*, 12 April 1933, 5, emphasis added.

for licensed premises.⁴⁰⁵ The report of the decision, which became known as the Resolution of 10 January 1933, continued:

They knew that licensed houses were being built near housing sites, and it was thought that if they were actually on the estate the Council would have more control over them. All the committee were asking for was power to negotiate and if they obtained that power then they would take a vote of the people on the estate to ascertain if the majority were in favour of licensed premises or not. If the majority were not in favour, then the matter would end.⁴⁰⁶

In early 1934, the Corporation issued to the press a draft form of the advertisement that would invite tenders for the provision of a licensed refreshment house and social centre on the Knowle Housing Estate (known initially as Filwood Park):

The Committee suggested that the proposed refreshment house should be conducted on the lines of the licensed premises permitted on the estates of the London County Council. An appendix was given containing the covenants which would secure that object. ... The refreshment house [was] to be provided at Melvin Square, on the Knowle West housing estate. It was proposed that the site, together with the buildings to be erected, should be leased for the term of 99 years. As to the character of the building ... a covenant in the appendix states the lessee would provide and maintain in a prominent position on the premises a suitable public notice calling attention to separate rooms for the use and accommodation of persons, and in particular women, in which rooms no alcoholic liquor should be disposed or consumed.⁴⁰⁷

This tender was for **The Venture Inn**, which 'opened to serve' in December 1935. Georges won the contract for the pub, which was designed by the Company surveyor, W. Cockram, describing it as its 'New Model Licensed House'.⁴⁰⁸ Georges hoped that, with its 'skittle alley, fine garden, assembly hall',

⁴⁰⁵ 'How Bristol Councillors Voted: Drink and Domesticity', *WDP*, 11 January 1933, 7.

⁴⁰⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴⁰⁷ 'Conditions of License at the Knowle Estate', *WDP*, 6 February 1934, 9.

⁴⁰⁸ Advertisement, *WDP*, 16 December 1935, 5.

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and other bars and public rooms, **The Venture Inn** would become 'a social rendezvous': 'it is particularly stressed', ran the report, 'that people may attend functions at the inn, and not – unless they desire to do so – drink a single glass of beer'.

At the opening, Mr George then thanked the Housing Committee, and the local Alderman and Councillor, saying that 'It was very good of them to help us to build the inn in the first place'. He continued, 'I should like to see similar places to this on all our housing estates'.

The Chairman of the Housing Committee commented that 'in the first place there was a recommendation that no licensed houses should be permitted on any of the new estates. This was rescinded, however, and a vote was taken of the inhabitants, and the speaker really felt that the vote was a fair and unbiased one'. The building contractor, Mr Hayes, also joined in, saying 'that now that people had been moved to the new estates under the slum clearance schemes they should be provided with facilities for social intercourse. He thought the Venture Inn was to the great advantage of the community generally'.⁴⁰⁹



The Venture Inn, Melvin Square, Knowle West, c.1938 © Bristol Museum, Hartley Collection

Georges was proud of its achievement, stating in its anniversary volume some four years later that the pub was, 'as its name implies ... a venture on new lines. Apart

⁴⁰⁹ 'Palatial New Inn for Knowle West', *WDP*, 17 December 1935, 5.

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from it being an inn it has been designed to form a social centre for the inhabitants of this new estate'.⁴¹⁰ Although the exterior of **The Venture Inn** was more restrained than its contemporaries in other suburbs – according to Georges, one of its few marks of distinction was the illuminated clock in the gable of the front bay, which was intended to fulfil 'a public purpose'.⁴¹¹ It was located at the heart of the estate, on Melvin Square, overlooking a central green. As the aerial photograph of 1947 shows, the pub was zoned close to shops, on the north side of the Square, with schools and the Social Centre to the south.



The Filwood Social Centre and surrounding streets, Filwood Park, 1947, from www.Britainfromabove.org.uk © English Heritage

Georges' anniversary booklet continued:

One feature quite distinct from any other house owned by the Company is the assembly room, capable of seating 300 people, where concerts,

⁴¹⁰ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 46.

⁴¹¹ *Ibid.*

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meetings and dances can be held. A separate café for soft drinks and meals and a club room have their own entrances apart from the bars. A speciality of the Venture is the catering facilities, which provide luncheons, teas and suppers.⁴¹²



Plan of the ground floor of The Venture Inn, Melvin Square, Filwood Park, as built, dated 3 May 1939 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 178/f64

Plans for the development of the ground floor in 1939 suggest that the entertainment space was not a commercial success. These show the re-arrangement of the café and off licence and extension of the main public bar.

⁴¹² *Ibid.*



Plan showing proposed alterations to the ground floor of The Venture Inn, Melvin Square, Filwood Park, dated 3 May 1939 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 178/f64

The new **Venture Inn**, and those pubs built near the other new estates like Southmead, were sometimes considered by residents as rather smart and formal affairs, compared to those they replaced – too smart and formal in some cases, or so, at least, was the perception. ‘I’m told that when the Venture Inn first opened you even had to wear a dinner suit’, said one resident of Knowle West, recalling Melvin Square in the late 1930s.⁴¹³ Meanwhile, the Barton Hill residents who were rehoused in the Corporation’s estates at Southmead and Knowle West between the wars said that they felt that the new ‘public houses though “grandier” – “you almost feel you ought to shave again before you go to some of them” – were also more remote and less homely’.⁴¹⁴

But this was not the whole picture. According to the same resident of Knowle West, looking back at life on the estate from the 1970s, ‘the Venture Inn used to

⁴¹³ Mrs M. M. Young, 12 Leinster Avenue, Knowle, Letter to the *Evening Post*, 5 January 1976. Bristol Central Library Press Clippings file.

⁴¹⁴ Jennings, *Societies in the Making*, 116.

be like a Petticoat Lane on a Sunday morning. Anything could be bartered, bought or sold, especially wild rabbits, alive or dead, which were always on the menu for most people's Sunday dinner'.⁴¹⁵ She also remembered it as a bus stop. On Friday nights the Black Shirts held their meetings in Melvin Square, she remembered: '— just what the Venture Lads wanted after a few pints, but of course it wasn't what the police wanted. It used to draw the crowds any way for the free show and laugh'.⁴¹⁶

Despite the apparently amicable arrangement between the Corporation and Georges over **The Venture Inn**, the Corporation did not rush to grant licenses for the other social housing estates that were already built, perhaps because the majority of house building was completed by this date. As a result, Georges subsequently became quite open about its circumventing of the Corporation's 'prohibition' of pubs on its estates, by acquiring land on their fringes. In late 1936, as stated in another article in the local press:

the prohibition of licensed premises on the new housing estates will never prevent people taking alcoholic refreshment. If facilities are not provided in their own area, people will either go out of the area or send someone to fetch it, and this will lead to undesirable overcrowding in those licensed houses which happen to verge on the fringe of the Corporation estates. We are ever on the alert looking out for suitable and desirable sites on the rapidly-growing housing estates. If I might be permitted this year to coin a slogan for the licensing magistrates it would be, "Redistribution" not "reduction" of licenses.⁴¹⁷

Thus on Christmas Eve 1936, the new **Progress Inn**, Westbury Lane, Sea Mills (Meredith and James for Georges; Red Bus Nursery since 2014), could still be described as 'overlooking the Sea Mills housing estate'.⁴¹⁸

Further research might untangle whether residents voted against licensed premises or whether the breweries actually found it easier to locate their pubs on the edges of the Corporation's estates where they received, presumably, less interference at the design stage. The Knowle West estate was large and Georges may have

⁴¹⁵ Mrs M. M. Young, 12 Leinster Avenue, Knowle, Letter to the *Evening Post*, 5 January 1976. Bristol Central Library Press Clippings file.

⁴¹⁶ *Ibid.*

⁴¹⁷ 'Good Progress with Two New Houses', *WDP*, 13 November 1936, 11.

⁴¹⁸ *WDP*, 24 December 1936, 3, emphasis added.

calculated that any interference was worth the reward in terms of custom and also winning the first and only Corporation contract.

As with most public objections to new public houses, complaints came from the unlikely alliance of members of the Council, local publicans and temperance reformers. The 100th Annual Report of the Bristol Temperance Societies of 1936 stated that 'there was clear evidence that far too much money was being spent in the new public-houses in and near the Bristol housing estates. Even the most enthusiastic supporters of the liquor traffic would have a difficulty in justifying the draining of those poor areas of money which ought to have gone in food, clothes and other necessities'.⁴¹⁹ Earlier the same year the Societies had protested at the 'regrettable' presence of the Housing Committee at the opening of the new house [**The Venture Inn**] at Knowle West' (Filwood Park), in 1935.⁴²⁰ They had sympathy from within the Housing committee. For example Alderman W. H. Hennessey, claimed that 'the working-class people had no money to spend on beer, they had not sufficient to keep body and soul together' – an opinion that he continued to voice until at least 1950.⁴²¹ He was right about the poverty of the residents: according to Jevons and Madge, 'the commonest estate tenant is an unskilled manual worker, for example a builder's labourer or a docker. About one third of the total are of this class. The next largest group of tenants are semi-skilled, engaged on repetitive factory work, driving lorries and so forth'. Meanwhile on the Knowle and Bedminster estate where **The Venture Inn** was situated, 'more than 40% of the heads of families were found to be unskilled'.⁴²² In addition to the lower wages that unskilled labourers could expect to earn, the distance from place of work added to the relatively high cost of living in a Corporation house.

In 1938, the Council considered the Housing Committee's proposal to sanction alterations at **The Venture Inn**, because 'It had been found that there was not much demand for the café arrangements, but the licensed part of the premises had been so successful that there was overcrowding, and the police had called attention to the fact that customers were taking their drinks outside'.⁴²³ One councillor put it more bluntly, saying that 'the cafe business had been unprofitable,

⁴¹⁹ 'Report of the Bristol Temperance Societies', *WDP*, 10 February 1936, 5.

⁴²⁰ 'New Public-House on Knowle West Estate', *WDP*, 21 January 1936, 8.

⁴²¹ 'Licensed Premises for Housing Estates', *WDP*, 11 January 1933, 7; 'Public House Sites on Housing Estates', *WDP*, 6 September 1949, 6.

⁴²² Jevons and Madge, *Housing Estates*, 24–5.

⁴²³ 'Welcome Inn [sic], Knowle', *WDP*, 10 November 1938, 8.

and the temperance part was absolutely empty'. The licensed premises were thus extended into the 'public hall'.⁴²⁴ The Corporation cited this extension as a reason not to grant a license for a new pub to serve the nearby Novers Park Estate at Knowle in February 1939.⁴²⁵

Jevons and Madge were not persuaded of the need for the large size of **The Venture Inn** and were unconcerned with its architecture. They were however quite sure of the essential social function of the pub, along with other facilities, especially for new communities in the suburbs:

One big pub is often a poor alternative to three small ones. If public-houses are not considered expedient on moral grounds, then other institutions should be devised to replace them. Why are there no billiard saloons or milk bars? This emasculation of entertainment has without doubt deprived Filwood of much social life and amusement. In practice, churches and chapels, local shops, cinemas, clubs, dance halls, fun fairs, as well as pubs, hardly exist on the estate. It is in these circumstances, denied its traditional institutions and amenities, denied the life and variety which course through the veins of a central area, that a neighbourhood feels the burden of its own poverty.⁴²⁶

The Resolution of 10 January 1933, to provide Bristol's council estates with a public house only if residents were canvassed in favour, continued until late 1946. From this date, as the section below on the city's postwar social housing will show, the Housing Committee recommended that the Council rescind the resolution.⁴²⁷

Perhaps taking account of the vehemence of Jevons's and Madge's findings as regards the necessity of public houses on Corporation estates, which were published the same year, the Council recommended in 1946 the 'authorisation of the committee to enter into such negotiations as they consider necessary with the Licensing Planning Committee and the owners of the licensed premises within the centre reconstruction area and the other areas'.⁴²⁸

⁴²⁴ 'Accommodation at Knowle Inn', *WDP*, 4 October 1938, 5.

⁴²⁵ 'Proposed Licensed House', *WDP*, 25 February 1939, 5.

⁴²⁶ Jevons and Madge, *Housing Estates*, 86.

⁴²⁷ 'How Bristol Councillors Voted: Drink and Domesticity', *WDP*, 11 January 1933, 7.

⁴²⁸ 'Licensed Houses on New Estates', *WDP*, 6 December 1946, 2.

‘They are literally encircling our city with outstanding examples of all that is best in up-to-date refreshment houses’: Georges’ new modern houses between the wars

Public houses were of course also designed to serve Bristol’s new speculatively built estates. In 1938 ‘Mr Wall, Vicar of All Hallows’ Church, Easton, congratulated those firms who were responsible for building the new licensed houses which were making their appearance in the suburbs ... the magnificent new buildings which some of the brewers were putting up. He thought they would last for many generations as a typical type of English Architecture’.⁴²⁹

As with the council housing, the majority of private estates followed the national trend in being situated in new suburbs around the city, or in suburban-type housing clustered around existing villages which then, with the aid of improved transport links, began to merge with others suburbs into greater Bristol. This section will not look in any detail at how these estates were financed and built. Instead, it will focus on the pubs built to serve particular ‘private’ settlements, although as noted above, many of these were close to or adjoined Corporation estates, and were thus not entirely discrete developments, while the breweries presumably hoped that the pubs would serve as many customers as possible. In addition to analysing each pub – based on plans, contemporary photographs, maps, and records from site visits to surviving buildings – the text below will outline the local housing types, describe where on an estate a pub was located and describe its likely customer base, augmented with memories of customers and staff. These are arranged in chronological groups according to style and form and, within these, by date order from first opening. Most of those built in and around Bristol will be mentioned, with a closer focus upon the case-study public houses.

‘Back to the Good Old Days’: Georges’ public house style, 1925–1935

Between 1925 and the early 1930s, Georges built a series of large, roadside pubs in the Tudor style in and between Bristol’s surrounding villages. These were mostly rebuildings of older ‘country inns’, a modernisation process that took place

⁴²⁹ ‘Striking Tribute to Licensing Trade’, *WDP*, 10 February 1938, 8.

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alongside the improvement of Georges' existing property, including 'real' Tudor and later coaching inns.



The Anchor Inn, Ham Green, Pill and the Horse Shoe Inn, Downend, from One Hundred and Fifty Years, 74 and 69

The new 'Tudor' pubs were two-storied with gables and half-timbering, arranged with their largest side facing the road, and plenty of 'turn-in' and parking space for cars. These included the **Anchor** at Ham Green, near Pill – 'opposite the isolation hospital and a stopping place for buses' – of 1925; the **Cross Hands Inn**, Pilning, 'on the road to New Passage and Severn Beach', of 1926; the **King's Head**, Bedminster Down, with its 'fine view of the Avon Gorge and Suspension Bridge', c.1930; the **Horse Shoe Inn**, Downend, 1932; the **Plume of Feathers**, built on the road between Berkeley and Sharpness in 1933; and the **Railway Inn**, Patchway, also of the 1930s.

In 1929 Georges began using a new style of architecture for its pubs, especially those to be situated in expanding settlements and new suburbs. These buildings continued to reference the Tudor period and reflected the on-going importance of the sixteenth-century port and its architectural heritage, including the many pubs at the heart of the city, to Bristol's identity.

Externally the new Bristol pubs differed from the 'brewers' Tudor' seen in London and elsewhere, being less ornate and, arguably, lighter in design. Georges' new style of interwar pubs also tended to be smaller than their Edwardian forebears in the suburbs closer to the city and included little of none of the elaborate moulded plasterwork seen, for example, at **The Cambridge Arms** and the **Langton Court Hotel**.

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In 1929 **The Fellowship** at Filton Avenue, Horfield, was 'the first house designed and erected by the Company in their present style of building'.⁴³⁰



The Fellowship, Filton Avenue, Horfield, c.1938, from One Hundred and Fifty Years, 30

Initially known as the **Fellowship Hotel**, it was heralded as 'the most modern house in Bristol', with 'excellent planning and appointments', and was built of the trademark red brick that Georges would use in all its pubs of the interwar period. With its name designed to suggest 'recreation, refreshment and fellowship', the pub was built 'in an entirely new neighbourhood where thousands of houses were being built. There was nothing cheap about the building, and the house was a credit to the architect and buildings, to the company and to the city of Bristol'.⁴³¹

In its design, **The Fellowship** contained some historicist references, in details such as chimneys, leaded windows and a bell-tower (concealing a ventilator) topped with a weathervane, depicting fellowship, but was otherwise of a modern design that departed from Georges' 1920s pubs and certainly those built before 1914. Closer inspection of the two-storey building, which was arranged on a

⁴³⁰ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 30.

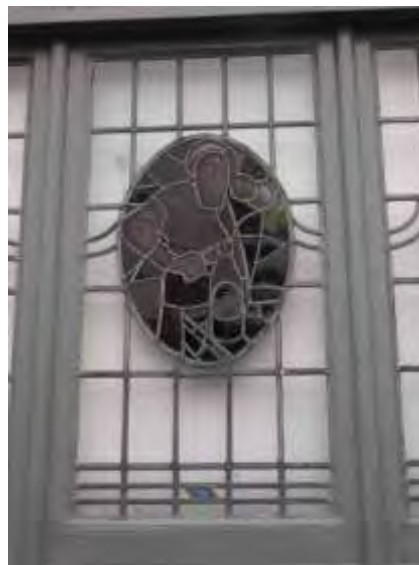
⁴³¹ 'Adding to Amenities to Horfield', 5 April 1930, *WDP*, 6.

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large corner site, reveals stained glass in the ground floor windows, which depict fellowship, cheery pub scenes and also naval themes, since the sign of the pub was a ship in full sail. Now a Tesco Express, the original decorative window panes survive and remain visible from the outside of the store.



The converted Fellowship, Filton Avenue, Horfield in August 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014



Original windows at the converted Fellowship, Filton Avenue, Horfield in August 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

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In established districts and village locations, such as Shirehampton and Westbury-on-Trym, the brewery favoured more traditional styles. The **George Inn** was rebuilt by R. C. James and V. Steadman for Georges in c.1929 on the site of an earlier pub;⁴³² its revivalism was more evident than some of Georges later interwar pubs and may have been partly on account of its location 'at the side of the village green' in Shirehampton.⁴³³

Near the docks at Avonmouth, this had once been outside the city boundaries but was by the 1930s a Bristol suburb that included and bordered on large areas of both local authority and speculative housing.



The George Inn, Lower High Street, Shirehampton © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Red-brick at ground floor level, with a tile-hung storey incorporating herringbone details above, and a hipped roof over, from which tall chimneys sporting diamond-patterned brickwork rose, the **George** set the historicist tone for Georges' new model pubs of the early to mid-1930s. Though they usually differed from the local housing styles, these would share much in common with the cultural

⁴³² 'The George, Shirehampton', *Building*, March 1931.

⁴³³ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 37.

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and architectural conservative modernity associated with most suburban domestic architecture of this period. The simple but solid architectural historicism of the **George Inn**'s exterior and interior details, which were intended to suit its setting, were married with modern methods of planning and the use of new technologies within the pub.

As far as external architecture was concerned, the **George Inn** was a one-off. Georges often designed and – if the licenses were granted – erected two or more pubs to the same or similar plans.



The Friendship Inn, Axbridge Road, Knowle, c.1933 (left) and The Welcome Inn, Southmead Road, Southmead, c.1933 (right), from One Hundred and Fifty Years, 44 and 28

Although **The Friendship** and the **Welcome** were described as following 'the lines of "The Fellowship" Inn which has proved an outstanding success since it was opened', the treatment of their elevations, 'in half-timbered style',⁴³⁴ owes more to the **George**. Half-timbering and stone mullioned windows, and other more obvious references to historic and broadly Tudor building styles, remained favourites with Georges' architect/s through to the mid-1930s, when new styles began to be introduced. Georges' early 1930s pubs were often specifically referred to as Tudor. For example, 'The exteriors' of the identical **Friendship** and **Welcome Inns** (both 1933) were described as being 'of pleasing elevation in the style of the Tudor period, with oak half-timbered work to the first floor and gables, and with Bath stone mullioned windows and doorways to the ground floor'.⁴³⁵

⁴³⁴ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 28.

⁴³⁵ 'Modern Licensed Houses', *WDP*, 12 April 1933, 5.

In 2009 Bristol Civic Society applied to have **The Friendship** protected as a listed building, but it was turned into a Tesco Express supermarket in 2013.⁴³⁶ The strong feelings that the loss of local pubs engenders can be seen in the response of one long-term resident, who grew up in Axbridge Road with her five siblings. On witnessing its fate, she asked the builders whether it might be possible to have the old pub sign, telling the *Evening Post*,

My parents both lived and met in this road, my grandparents lived in this road and I have lived in this road all my life. The pub just holds so many wonderful memories for all of us. When my parents were here they watched the Friendship Inn being built. Every Christmas my father took my five brothers to the Friendship Inn for one drink only and then they would all come back and have their Christmas dinner ... The Friendship Inn is part of my history, of my family's history. If I am able to get hold of the sign I will erect it in my garden so my family can see it and enjoy the memories.⁴³⁷

Despite their obvious historic references, the 1930s pubs now appeared far more modern, as Georges intended. Thus the **Foresters Arms** (1933) at Westbury-on-Trym, another 'quaint old village' that had been drawn within the city's boundaries, was described by the company as having been 'rebuilt and modernised a few years ago with half-timbered front', and 'is in keeping with the place'.⁴³⁸

⁴³⁶ <http://www.bristolpost.co.uk/Civic-Society-Tackles-Tesco-inn-s-fate/story-11287043-detail/story.html#ixzz3Ho1UxrUF>, accessed 7 January 2015.

⁴³⁷ <http://www.bedminsterpeople.co.uk/news/Bristol-woman-appeals-Tesco-Friendship-Inn-pub-sign/story-4515752-detail/story.html>, accessed 7 January 2015.

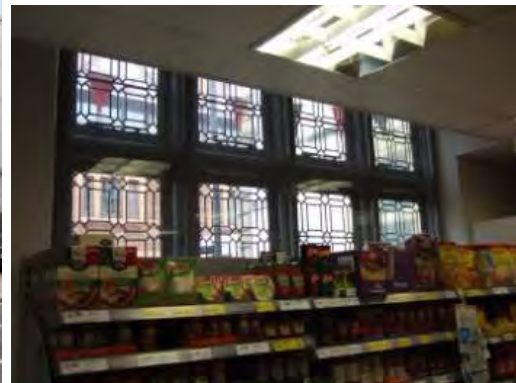
⁴³⁸ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 36.

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Foresters Arms, Westbury Hill, Westbury-on-Trym © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The pub was converted to a Tesco Express in 2014, leaving the former use of the building clearly legible. The original windows were left intact and although partially obscured by shelves give some sense of the original space from the interior.



The converted Foresters Arms, Westbury Hill, Westbury-on-Trym, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, July 2014

Another pub that was rebuilt in the late 1930s, with a front elevation in local brick with half-timbered upper storeys was the **Foresters Arms** at Gloucester Road, Bishopston. The pub was built to plans by L. F. Webb (1935) and was still trading in early 2014. It was, however, closed at the time of the fieldwork, possibly for refurbishment.

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Left: *The Foresters, Gloucester Road, Bristol.* Source: © Copyright Eirian Evans and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence. Right: *A detail of the right-hand side of the Foresters Arms, Gloucester Road © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum*

Residual elements of the Tudor style can also be seen in some of the brewery's new suburban pubs of the early 1930s. The first floor of the **Eastfield Inn** at Henleaze, for example, has oriel windows, slightly projecting gables and a decorative stonework balcony with a half-timbered central element. The chimney incorporates decorative brickwork and chimney pots.



The Eastfield Inn, Henleaze Road, Henleaze. Rebuilt by The Bristol Brewery Georges and Company, Limited in 1934 © Ry George

A full-page illustrated article in the *Western Daily Press* of 1934 was at pains to stress the links between past and present and 'ancient and modern' in Bristol's

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new pubs: 'The Engineers' Arms – and the new public houses – have about them a look that carries the imagination back to the old coaching days, when the tavern or hostel was the most important place in the district because the coach and mail arrived there'. 'Such are the picturesque traditions between ancient and modern inns', the article continued, except that 'instead of stage coaches and horseback riders there are motor-cars, charabancs and cyclists'.⁴³⁹ The pub was named for the Bristol Engineers, whose rifle range was nearby, and is one of many in Bristol whose names reflect local connections.⁴⁴⁰

In addition to the **Engineers Arms**, which was built by Georges in 1899 and, 'owing to the rapid growth of the population of this district ... enlarged to more than double its original size' in 1932, the article discussed the **Beehive** and the **Eastfield Inn**, which are among many examples of pubs named for earlier businesses that had existed on the same site. All three have been recently refurbished and appear to be trading successfully.



⁴³⁹ 'Inns Ancient and Modern', *WDP*, 15 November 1934, 5.

⁴⁴⁰ *Evening World*, 20 August 1940, loose cutting, Bristol Central Library.

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Top to bottom: the Beehive and the Eastfield Inn at Henleaze and the Engineers Arms at Bedminster. Sources: (Left): Beehive, *One Hundred and Fifty Years*; Eastfield Inn and Engineers Arms © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum; (Right): Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston 2014

The **Beehive** was closed and reportedly in bad repair before it was taken over by two Bristol entrepreneurs in 2009. The **Eastfield Inn** was refurbished by Star Pubs and Bars in 2013 to create, 'an outstanding traditional pub catering for a broad range of the community from senior citizens to couples and families' and is now trading with its original skittles alley in use.⁴⁴¹ The **Engineers Arms** currently trades as the **Brunel**, part of the food- and family-oriented Hungry Horse chain. The **Eastfield Inn** and the **Beehive** have both been proposed for listing as community assets via the Bristol Know Your Place websites.

Also built at this date, to a similar design to the **Eastfield**, was the **Lord Nelson**, opened in Cleve, North Somerset, in 1936. Unlike the **Eastfield Inn**, the **Lord Nelson** was a village pub on a main road twelve miles south of Bristol rather than a suburban local, although there was a small cluster of 'suburban' semis and bungalows nearby. Doubtless locals used it too but Georges' description of its location 'on the main road to the West of England, just below Brockley Combe the well known beauty spot', suggests that it was intended mainly to serve motorists and sightseers.⁴⁴² The **Lord Nelson** is still trading as a Hungry Horse pub.

⁴⁴¹ <http://www.starpubs.co.uk/news/1555746-star-pubs-and-bars-invests-over-800-000-in-bristol-pubs>, accessed 7 January 2015.

⁴⁴² *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 54.

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The Eastfield Inn, Henleaze Road, Henleaze (1934) and the Lord Nelson, Main Road, Cleve (1936). Source: © Ry George and Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Many of Georges' 'suburban' interwar pubs were in fact located in villages. While they were connected to Bristol by main roads, pubs such as the **George**, at Shirehampton, and **The Black Lion**, Whitchurch, were also part of long established high streets. And, as was common with much outlying development at this time, some suburban pubs were on the fringe of rural areas. For example, when Joyce Storey moved into a Southmead prefab in the late 1940s, her children's school was in Horfield, which required a daily walk 'across the common, past the drill hall and Manor Farm, where in those days the fields still stretched all the way down to the back of the Beehive Inn'.⁴⁴³

Pubs of similar style were also built in village locations further away from Bristol. The **Woodborough Inn** at Winscombe, Somerset, for example, named for an old inn, which was lost to fire in the 1830s, has elements which are of somewhat similar design to Georges' suburban pubs of the 1930s. As with many of the new interwar pubs, this village pub was located near transport networks, in this case the Bridgewater Road (A38) and Bristol Airport, and served, presumably, as a destination pub as well as a village local. In December 2014, the **Woodborough** was bought by the privately owned pub chain, Heartstone Inns.

⁴⁴³ J. Storey, *The House in South Road: An Autobiography*, London: Virago, 2000, 297.

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The Woodborough Inn, Winscombe © Copyright David Purchase and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence

'New Model Public Houses': Georges' Suburban Pubs, 1935–1939



The Black Lion, Whitchurch © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

From 1935, Georges began to experiment with different styles alongside its more tried and tested designs. The new pubs seem to have been deliberately designed to appear more avant-garde than their contemporaries and predecessors. Modernist these were not, but Georges may have been influenced by the building of pubs in more modern forms elsewhere in Britain and so sought to update their 'brand' of public houses.

This shift in design could have resulted from a change in company architect, since Mr R. B. Edwards, of Georges' Surveyors' Department, designed the **Beehive Inn** in 1935, after which time the Tudor influenced designs were no longer produced. However, as Edwards was working under the Chief Surveyor, W. T. Cockram, it may have reflected a change in preference by the brewery for the architectural style of its pubs. In any case Georges seems to have hired an external architectural practice for two new pubs, **The Black Lion** (seen above), in the south Bristol village and growing suburb of Whitchurch (1935), and the **Progress** at Sea Mills, to the north west of the city (1936); the architect of these was the Bristol firm of James and Meredith. The precise relationship between these architects and the brewery is not clear. However, R. C. James had also designed **The George** at Shirehampton (with his then partner Vincent Steadman) for Georges in c.1929, a pub of Tudor style (see p. 212). As shown on p. 14, the James family of architects had a longer association with Georges, going back to at least the 1890s.

Although in many respects very similar to their earlier interwar pubs, apart from in their arched entrance treatments, Georges' anniversary publication flagged up the modernity and difference of those built from 1935. For example **The Black Lion** was 'quite distinct from the usual style of the new houses', and was, unusually for the Company's suburban pubs, photographed at night-time as well as in daylight to show how lighting made the building look even more dramatic:



The Black Lion, Whitchurch at night © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Messrs T. Weeks & Sons was the building contractor for **The Black Lion**. The pub was 'rebuilt on the site of the old country inn of that name and of the White Hart' – an off-license – in 1935:

The new house has been considerably set back off the road, thus providing good accommodation for cars and improving the corner position it now occupies ... A very pleasing aspect is the light coloured rough-cast walls with dark red tiled roof. The low arched windows on either side of the entrance to the main bar form a striking frontage. At the side is a separate off license department for outdoor service.⁴⁴⁴

Opened in late 1936, the **Progress**, was, 'as its name implies', according to Georges, 'another step forward in modern public house design. One of the largest recently built by the Company [that] serves a huge and growing district'.⁴⁴⁵

⁴⁴⁴ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 48.

⁴⁴⁵ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 38.



The Progress Inn, Westbury Lane, Sea Mills, c.1938, One Hundred and Fifty Years, 38

Georges advertised the **Progress** as ‘the new model licensed house’.⁴⁴⁶

As suggested above, it may be that external influences played their part in the new direction taken in Georges’ pub design of the mid-1930s. **The Progress** (1936) bears a close similarity to a pub of 1934, built in the north London suburbs at Cockfosters, which featured in the architectural press at this time. This was the **Cock**, designed for the Watford brewery, Benskins, by J. C. F. James, ARIBA.⁴⁴⁷ The roofline, bay windows and arches in front of the entrances of the **Cock** are very akin to those of the **Progress**. The same arched entrance treatment can also be seen at **The Black Lion**. One further Georges pub of this period, the **Railway Inn** at Patchway, also employed this device. The **Railway Inn** was presumably also by Meredith and James, although its half-timber first-floor elevation suggests a more composite design. The exact date of the **Railway** is not known. Georges made ‘additions’ to the pub in 1938 and it is possible that the arched entrance was added at that time.⁴⁴⁸

⁴⁴⁶ WDP, 24 December 1936, 3.

⁴⁴⁷ See E. Cole, ‘The Urban and Suburban Public House in Inter-War England, 1918–1939’, Chapter 7, English Heritage Research Report series, number 4/2015.

⁴⁴⁸ Gloucestershire Archives/DA38/710/70: Additions to Railway Inn, Patchway, for the Bristol Brewery Georges and Company, 1938.



The Railway Inn, Patchway © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

The **Railway Inn** survives, in much altered form, as a car sales showroom. **The Black Lion** is currently trading as the **Maes Knoll**, a Toby Carvery, and the **Progress Inn** is now a children's nursery, following a period as the **Ironbridge** public house.

In the 1930s James and Meredith also designed private houses on the Redland Court Road and Henbury Hill Estates for Stone and Co. Ltd., builders, of Redland Road.⁴⁴⁹ They also completed two city-centre pubs. R. C. James designed the plans for the rebuilding of the **Horse and Jockey** in Frogmore Street (1932), now trading as **Queenshilling**. James and Meredith were responsible for the plans for the rebuilding of the **Spread Eagle** at Narrow Plain, St Philips (1937), on, or close to the site of the Spread Eagle Brewery in Narrow Plain. Another of Georges' reconstructed pubs of the early 1930s is the **Richmond Spring** at Gordon Road, Clifton, which is described in Georges' 150th year souvenir publication as 'An old house which takes its name from the spring over which it is built. This house was entirely rebuilt in 1932. The spring was one of the original

⁴⁴⁹ WDP, 21 April 1934, 3.

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supplies for conduits, the earliest water system of Bristol'.⁴⁵⁰ The **Richmond Spring**, which was awarded a Grade II listing in 1994, is described as being in Edwardian Baroque style and dating from c.1910.



Richmond Spring, Gordon Road, Clifton © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)



The Richmond Spring, Gordon Road, Clifton © Copyright Nigel Cox and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence

⁴⁵⁰ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 64.

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When the **Severn Beach Hotel** opened in March 1937, it was claimed that it had the largest interior of Georges' new 'super-pubs'.



The Severn Beach Hotel, Severn Beach, c.1938 © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum.

Built in a boxy neo-Georgian style by the Chief Surveyor, W. T. Cockram, Georges hoped that it would become both a local and a destination pub in 'one of the popular resorts of Bristol'. Severn Beach was 'a growing neighbourhood and people come here – especially during the summer – from Bristol and from many other places around'.⁴⁵¹ In addition to daytrippers, many holidaymakers stayed on camp sites or in caravans; some stayed permanently. A report of the opening of Georges' new 'super-house' makes reference to the future provision of 'hotel accommodation for visitors' but suggests that it was conceived very much as a public house and place of entertainment rather than a hotel.⁴⁵²

As noted of the Victorian and Edwardian pubs, 'hotel' was often a name used to indicate a pub's superior status and perhaps, to indicate that it had additional facilities, such as clubrooms. It did not necessarily indicate that rooms were

⁴⁵¹ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 34; 'New Luxury Hotel at Severn Beach', *WDP*, 11 February 1937, 5.

⁴⁵² 'New Luxury Hotel at Severn Beach', *WDP*, 11 February 1937, 5.

available for overnight stays. However it should be pointed out here that several of Georges' interwar pubs did in fact have bedrooms for visitors to stay in. **The Welcome Inn** and **The Friendship** both provided overnight accommodation, for example, which was accessed from a separate entrance hall.⁴⁵³ However, the rooms were few and overnight hospitality was never a primary function of these pubs.

Cockram built four further pubs to variations of this neo-Georgian design between 1938 and 1939: the **Enterprise**, Vale Lane, Parson Street, Bedminster (1938); The **Bristol Bulldog**, Filton Avenue, Filton (1938); the **Happy Landings**, Hengrove Road, Hengrove (1938); and the **Good Intent**, Broomhill Road, Brislington (1939). The **Bristol Bulldog** and the **Good Intent** are still trading. The **Happy Landings** has been partially converted to residential and is not trading (September 2014) and the **Enterprise** was demolished for housing around 2007.

'Too Modern' for Bristol? Departures from Historicism, 1937–1938

In 1937 and 1938 a small number of moderne or modern style public houses were built in and around Bristol. These were usually found in distinctive areas of the city and the West Country more widely, and date to 1937 and 1938. They were however, fewer in number and more conservative in design than many of the reformed public houses built around London at this date. Heralded by Georges as 'a good example of the Company's modern houses', the new **Prince of Wales**, which opened in September 1937, had 'a modern bar and lounge and special accommodation for children'.⁴⁵⁴

⁴⁵³ 'Modern Licensed Houses', *WDP*, 12 April 1933, 5.

⁴⁵⁴ 'Weston-Super-Mare Receives its Charter', *WDP*, 16 September 1937, 3.



The Prince of Wales, Carlton Street, Weston-Super-Mare, c.1938 © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

'Georges new hotel' may have been just a streamlined updating of the corner local but it was still different. It was also near the sea-front at Weston Super Mare, about twenty miles south-east of Bristol.⁴⁵⁵ Since the seaside was one of the places in England where modern styles of architecture have traditionally been more acceptable, this may explain the **Prince of Wales's** departure from the company's usual range of styles. In 1938 the licensee applied to extend his six-day beer license for a seven day wine and spirits license, which was the cause of long debate at the licensing sessions. Reference was made to the £5,000 that Georges had spent on building the pub, but the request for a spirits license was refused; no architect was named.⁴⁵⁶ The **Prince of Wales** is still trading as **Scallys**, a music venue.

The same year, 1937, a 'new Modern Hostelry', **The Five Alls**, was opened at Chippenham in Wiltshire, some twenty miles east of Bristol. This was on a quiet suburban street, but it was also a quarter of a mile from the busy A4 between

⁴⁵⁵ *One Hundred & Fifty Years*, 71.

⁴⁵⁶ *WDP*, 12 March 1938, 19.

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London and Bristol. The familiar hipped roof and chimneys remain, while steel windows update the façade, lending the building a sense of modernity; this sense is also reflected in the horizontality of the design, as the pub stretches along the roadside, with a drive-through forecourt. **The Five Alls** was designed by Walter Rudman, MC, FRIBA, of Chippenham, in collaboration with W. T. Cockram, Georges' chief surveyor, while the contractors were Messrs Downing, Rudman and Bent, of Old Road, Chippenham. An article in the *Bath Weekly Herald* noted 'that Messrs Georges had secured local firms to do their work and that fact was much appreciated in the town'.⁴⁵⁷



The Five Alls, Chippenham, from One Hundred and Fifty Years, 38

Doubtless local opinion as well as location counted in where it was considered desirable or acceptable for 'modern' pubs to be built, and it may be significant that neither the **Prince of Wales** nor **The Five Alls** was in Bristol, where perhaps the licensing authorities or Georges' anticipation of their ruling tended to be more conservative. For instance, the director of Georges remarked that he hoped that **The Five Alls** 'wasn't too modern', but the Mayor of Bath said that he 'was sure that they would feel they had a brought a great improvement to

⁴⁵⁷ 'Chippenham's New Modern Hostelry', *Bath Weekly Chronicle and Herald*, 6 March 1937, 15.

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Chippenham, in the way of licensed houses. It was one of which would be taken as a model'.⁴⁵⁸

In February the following year, 1938, Simonds opened a pub to quite a different design in the area. This was the **Shoe Inn** at North Wraxall, on the London Road between Marshfield and Chippenham. It was designed by Alec F. French, LRIBA, a Bristol-based architect who was also responsible for the Orpheus cinema at Henleaze, and other buildings in the city at this date, including luxury flats and office buildings.⁴⁵⁹



The Shoe Inn, North Wraxall, c.1938 © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum.

The **Shoe** was designed 'to conform with the amenities of the neighbourhood and in the Cotswold style, and it is interesting to note that the whole of the stone was quarried almost immediately adjoining the site'.⁴⁶⁰ The brewery said the new pub 'formed one link in an important chain of houses which stretched from London to Devon'.⁴⁶¹

⁴⁵⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁵⁹ See *WDP*, 28 February 1938, 5; 16 November 1937, 4; and 26 January 1938, 7.

⁴⁶⁰ 'The Shoe Inn, North Wraxall, Wiltshire', *The Builder*, 24 June 1938, 1234.

⁴⁶¹ 'A Local House', *WDP*, 4 February 1935, 11.

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In 1938, two striking and more obviously 'modern' pubs were built for Georges in Bristol's suburbs, the **Star Inn**, Soundwell, and the **Merchants Arms**, Stapleton. Like virtually all of Georges' outlying pubs, these served local housing estates. But like **The Five Alls**, they were also situated on or near main roads, and their novel appearance may perhaps have been calculated to draw upon the modernity associated with much roadhouse architecture of this date.

Externally, the **Star** and **Merchants Arms** differed from anything Georges had built before. Both were designed for the company by Meredith and James, who had been responsible for the **Progress** (1936) and **The Black Lion** (1935). **The Star** (now the **Turnpike**), was opened in February 1938; the pub is shown in the architects' projection of 1938 and as photographed in the 1950s:



The Star Inn, Soundwell Road, Soundwell, c.1938. One Hundred and Fifty Years, 62



The Star Inn, Soundwell Road, Soundwell © Ry George

Perhaps so as not to scare the public, reports of the opening in the local press did not focus on the **Star**'s architectural novelty, but on its size and facilities, especially its up-to-date skittles alley. For example,

Mr C. George paid compliments to the excellent work done by the architects Messrs Meredith and James. The new premises would be of great benefit to the district and especially to the people on the vast new housing estate just below it ... There are spacious bars and lounges, car parks, gardens, and other amenities – all excellently appointed. Money has not been spared to ensure that customers shall be comfortable and efficiently served with refreshments.⁴⁶²

The architectural press, however, focussed more on the **Star**'s novelty.

There was rather more publicity surrounding the opening of the **Merchants Arms**, a new pub built on land owned by the Merchant Venturers (hence its name), which was opened in May 1938. According to the *Western Daily Press*, this was a 'super-house':

The house itself is a combination of road house, club, and inn, and its attractive structure, with well laid-out garden, has been designed in the

⁴⁶² 'Soundwell Star Inn Re-built: New Skittle Alley opened', *WDP*, 24 February 1938, 5.

best modern style. The flat roof and concrete strings under the window heads give a striking effect of spaciousness, and a subdued but distinctive colour note is provided by the Coleford facing bricks in two colours, red and Cotswold grey.⁴⁶³

The pub's steel windows were by Gardiner, Sons and Co. Ltd., architectural metal craftsmen of Bristol. The firm also made signs for Georges, including the original sign for the **Eastfield Inn**.

In plan and arrangement, the lounge of the **Merchants Arms** was 'identical' with that of the **Star Inn**. The external materials were also the same, other than that the pitched roof of the **Star** was of 'antique Italian tiles'.⁴⁶⁴ The contractors for the **Merchants Arms** were Messrs Stone and Co, with whom Meredith and James already had a working relationship.⁴⁶⁵ Stone was responsible for other building on the Merchant Venturers' estate; they were 'the builders of the modern shops which face the **Merchants Arms**. These provide the only convenient shopping centre for a large and rapidly growing estate. Messrs Stone already announce the building of another 200 private houses, priced at £475 upwards'.⁴⁶⁶ Georges usually used a contractor named Hayes in Bristol, so this arrangement may have been unusual, either because of its location on Merchant Venturers' land or because Stone often worked with Meredith and James.

The **Star** and the **Merchants Arms** were the only Georges' public houses to be featured in architectural journals between the wars. This departure from Georges' usual style during 1938 may well have been because the British Architects' Conference was held in Bristol on 22–25 June of that year.⁴⁶⁷ Other local pubs to feature in the architectural press in June 1938 were the **Shoe Inn**, North Wraxall (Simonds, 1938) and the **King George VI** at Filton. The latter was designed by W. H. Watkins's for Bristol United Breweries, as reported in *The Builder* and the *Architects' Journal*; it is shown below in a later view from the Courage archive.⁴⁶⁸

⁴⁶³ 'New Luxury Licensed House', *WDP*, 31 May 1938, 4.

⁴⁶⁴ 'Two Inns Near Bristol', *The Architect & Building News*, 17 June 1938, 328–31.

⁴⁶⁵ *WDP*, 21 April 1934, 3.

⁴⁶⁶ 'New Luxury Licensed House', *WDP*, 31 May 1938, 4.

⁴⁶⁷ 'The Conference at Bristol', *Architects' Journal*, 30 June 1938, 1103.

⁴⁶⁸ 'King George VI Hotel, Filton, Bristol', *Builder*, 24 June 1938, 1229.



King George VI, corner of Filton Avenue and Station Road, Filton © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

The **Merchants Arms** is still trading under that name as part of Greene King's Hungry Horse chain. The **Shoe Inn** at North Wraxall is now a private house. The **King George VI** at Filton has a planning application pending, for conversion to flats and retail use. Bristol Pubs Group has formally objected.

'Beautiful Palaces': Georges' 'Luxury Licensed Houses', 1938–1939

With the exception of the **Star** and the **Merchants Arms**, Georges' other pubs of the late 1930s returned to the style established by **The Venture Inn** of 1935, and continued in the **Severn Beach Hotel** (1937). The **Bristol Bulldog** (1938), **Happy Landings** (1938), **Enterprise** (1938) and **Good Intent** (1939) were all designed by the Company Surveyor, W. T. Cockram (who also designed **The Venture Inn** and **Severn Beach**), in a solid, restrained, almost municipal neo-Georgian that would prove very adaptable.

The Bristol Bulldog in Horfield, opened January 1938, and the **Enterprise**, which opened at Bedminster in June the same year, were part of what Georges called 'the 1938 programme'.⁴⁶⁹

⁴⁶⁹ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 62–3.

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The Bristol Bulldog, Filton Avenue, Filton, 1938, One Hundred and Fifty Years, 62



Enterprise, Vale Lane, Parson Street, Bedminster, c.1938 © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Wide, squat and, like **The Venture Inn** (1935) and **Severn Beach** (1937), with much reduced chimneys than in previous designs, these imposing pubs marked a new phase in Georges' pub building. Nevertheless with their hipped roof lines and elevations in red brick with bath stone dressings, they were still recognisable as Georges' premises and are even today known as Georges' red-brick pubs.

Georges is known to have built two further pubs in Bristol just before the start of the Second World War; the first of which, the **Happy Landings**, Knowle, in

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broadly neo-Georgian style, was put up in a record ten weeks and opened in time for Christmas 1938:



Happy Landings, Hengrove Road, Hengrove © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Though using the same language of 'progress' as previously, Georges now framed this in connection with housing and sanitary policy, rather than just reformed drinking habits. At the opening of the **Happy Landings**, it was stated that 'progress in health and housing in the city had brought great benefit, and now the public houses were built on modern lines to correspond with that progress. Georges' Brewery were especially playing a pleasing part in that progressive policy'.⁴⁷⁰ Progress and modernity were also signalled in the pub's name, the **Happy Landings**, so called because it was the nearest pub of its type to Whitchurch Airport. The **Bristol Bulldog** (1938), now **Bulldog**, was also named for Bristol's aircraft industry, in honour of the Bristol Aeroplane Company's fighter plane of that name. Like the **Bulldog** and **Enterprise**, the **Happy Landings** was given neo-classical columns to its entrances.

The **Good Intent**, which appears to be Georges' last public house of the interwar years, was opened at Brislington in May 1939.⁴⁷¹ In this instance the

⁴⁷⁰ 'Happy Landings Luxury Inn Opened', *WDP*, 20 December 1938, 5.

⁴⁷¹ *WDP*, 6 May 1939, 12.

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architect was more sparing with such detail, producing an elegant pub that did not loom quite so much over the surrounding houses as its near contemporaries:



Good Intent, Broomhill Road, Brislington, c.1939 © Ry George; and Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, August 2014

The **Good Intent** was described as ‘an attractive and pleasant building with pleasing lines’, ‘whose windows at nighttime gleam cosily. Neon letters spell out in blue the name of the this house, the Good Intent, with, below, the significant phrase, “Georges Beers”’.⁴⁷² This pub, which is opposite a small shopping parade and on high ground overlooking what is now Eastwood Farm Nature Reserve, is still trading.

Georges was careful to use the language of the reformed public house movement in publicity for all its public houses between the wars, stressing the recreational aspects of its new pubs and the facilities for non-drinkers, including children. This was especially true of **The Venture Inn** because it was, as described above, the only pub to be licensed on a Corporation estate, where there were particular fears about the presence of licensed houses. Georges had taken the same tack, in stressing the pub’s recreational facilities other than drinking, with those of its pubs that bordered on this and other Corporation estates, for example **The Friendship Inn** at Knowle, and **The Welcome Inn**, Southmead (both 1933). Publicity however played up their role as pubs for both passers by as well as new resident communities. Thus **The Friendship** invited ‘all who pass that way’ while the **Welcome** lived ‘up to its name for all the new folk who are flocking out to that part of the city’. Such reports sought to present the pubs as classless family spaces and as places of rest. ‘In any of them’, as an article of 1934 continued, ‘the

⁴⁷² ‘The Good Intent, Brislington’, *WDP*, 6 May 1939 12.

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working-man having his evening pint will be as much at home as the man of the means who calls in with his family in need of rest and refreshment during a long motor journey. There are lounges for ladies, gardens for family parties, and sand pits where small children may play in safety'.⁴⁷³

Georges presented its pubs built to serve speculative housing for the better off in similar if not identical fashion to those of its premises located near local authority estates. For example, when the new **Beehive** was proposed in 1934 – 'of the hotel nature with every accommodation' – a petition was presented from 265 residents in favour of the application, which pointed out that the district was rapidly growing in size and importance'.⁴⁷⁴ At its opening the following year, an article titled 'modern houses of refreshment' described how 'the public-house of today was a social centre where the public might gather at will and enjoy honest refreshment in each other's company'.⁴⁷⁵



The Prospect Inn, Minster-in-Thanel, 2007 © Copyright David Mills and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence

John Law points out, in connection with Oliver Hill's **Prospect Inn** (Minster-in-Thanel, Kent) of 1938, that this 'icon of modernism and modernity' was 'in its construction and organisation, harking back to a much older tradition in English society':

⁴⁷³ 'Inns Ancient and Modern', *WDP*, 15 November 1934, 5.

⁴⁷⁴ 'Improved Public Houses for Bristol', *WDP*, 15 March 1934, 5.

⁴⁷⁵ 'Another Modern House of Refreshment', *WDP*, 6 February 1935, 5.

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Although they were sufficiently commercially oriented to welcome the charabanc and its customers the brewery owners of the Prospect Inn were not prepared to consider the idea that middle class and working class drinkers could sit in the same room or share the same toilets. In this manner the modernist form of the inn was a disguise.⁴⁷⁶

Georges did not built modernist pubs; nor did the brewery usually opt for particularly radical designs for their exteriors. But it did use the language of progress – social and architectural – in its publicity. As was customary in this period, however, the practice of retaining at least one bar for general custom and one for a more select custom continued.

The pubs were instead presented as progressive in other areas. Regardless of the real or perceived clientele of a pub, or its location or style, the benefits of light and air, and how the pubs' architecture incorporated these, were among most often repeated qualities of Georges' pubs. Thus alongside comfort and welcome, which were also always stressed, it was said of the **Beehive** that the 'skylights, original in style, and specially constructed windows ... enable[d] air and sunshine to be distributed all over the house'.⁴⁷⁷ Meanwhile, the **Progress** (1936) was provided with 'downward radiant heating which also ensures proper ventilation'.⁴⁷⁸ 'After all', ran a report of the **Merchants Arms** (1938), 'more space, with its accompaniment of light and air, with better seating accommodation, is the cardinal factor in what is best in making for the uplift of the public house. Good beer is worthy of good surroundings'.⁴⁷⁹

Modernity was not George's only emphasis, however. Local pride and national patriotism were equally important. It was often reported how the company employed local workmen and also that it used local materials and suppliers. For example, in an article of 1933 about **The Friendship** and **The Welcome Inn**, called 'Modern Public Houses', it was said that 'for building and furniture ... these two houses are all British and 95 per cent all Bristol'.⁴⁸⁰ Naturally the Beer was British too: 'Georges actually use more than 80 per cent of English malt in all their

⁴⁷⁶ M. J. Law, *The Prospect Inn: Modernity, Modernism and Mobility in the 1930s*: <https://westminster.academia.edu/MichaelJohnLaw/Papers>, accessed 7 January 2015.

⁴⁷⁷ 'Another Modern House of Refreshment', *WDP*, 6 February 1935, 5.

⁴⁷⁸ 'Opening of Progress Inn at Kingsweston', *WDP*, 24 December 1936, 5.

⁴⁷⁹ 'Modern Houses of Refreshment', *WDP*, 1 June 1938, 8.

⁴⁸⁰ 'Modern Public Houses', *WDP*, 12 April 1933, 5.

beers, most of which is grown in adjacent counties. We brew nothing but English hops, and we use no foreign hops whatever'.⁴⁸¹

'A combination of road house, club, and inn'? Roadhouses and modern public houses

With the increase of road traffic between the wars, Bristol's roadside public houses took on a renewed importance for both the travelling public and the breweries. Older pubs were closed and rebuilt and new premises appeared along main routes. They were designed to cater for passing travellers as well as those who drove there specially, perhaps to enjoy the gardens and views that many of the suburban pubs boasted. Many of the new pubs were conveniently located for local beauty spots and could be enjoyed as part of a day out. In this they shared some characteristics with the new roadhouses that were appearing on the major routes around English towns, especially in the South of England. While Bristol's roadhouses are not a major element of this study, they are discussed here because of their influence on the development of smaller roadside public houses of the interwar period in response to increased mobility and changing drinking habits.

The roadhouse, a type of 'sizeable country club style location of entertainment and dancing' evolved in the 1920s to cater to the more affluent motoring classes, particularly on major routes out of London.⁴⁸² They had origins in the petrol station and their heyday in the early 1930s, but were a short-lived phenomenon and were already in decline before the Second World War.⁴⁸³ David Gutzke notes that there has, subsequently, been 'considerable confusion' between the roadhouse and reformed public house in this period, and that some architectural historians have used the terms interchangeably.⁴⁸⁴ John Law, however, suggests that the term was used at the time to mean both the new, very large breweries' pubs *and* the roadhouse, which 'should have petrol in its veins'.⁴⁸⁵

⁴⁸¹ WDP, 17 November 1933, 10.

⁴⁸² M. J. Law, 'Turning Night into Day: Transgression and Americanization at the English Interwar Roadhouse', *Journal of Historical Geography*, 35 (2009): 473–94.

⁴⁸³ Law, 'Turning Night into Day', 493.

⁴⁸⁴ D. W. Gutzke, 'Improved Pubs and Road Houses: Rivals for Public Affection in Interwar England', *Brewery History*, 119 (2005): 2–9, 2.

⁴⁸⁵ Law, 'Turning Night into Day', 493.

In Bristol at least, the breweries added to any confusion by invoking the facilities and general modernity of the roadhouse in publicity for their new 'luxury licensed houses'. Thus Georges announced the 'modern style' of the **Merchants Arms** at Stapleton, as 'a combination of road house, club, and inn' in 1938.⁴⁸⁶ However, according to Gutzke, most interwar Britons, 'at least those who drank alcohol on licensed premises, knew better, and would not have mistaken either of them'.⁴⁸⁷ The principal distinction was, he says, that the capital for roadhouse construction was unrelated to the industries involved with alcohol production: 'Liquor sales, indeed, were not viewed as the most critical attraction: certainly some roadhouses ... eventually acquired a liquor licence, but many others never held one'.⁴⁸⁸ Some were licensed, but those around Bristol do not appear to have been; Fred Little, a member of the National Trade Defence Association described them as 'sort of unlicensed hotels'.⁴⁸⁹

That, initially, appears to have been the case with the **Paradise Roadhouse**, at Wrington, on the Bristol–Bridgwater road (A38), near Bristol Airport. According to the son of the owner, Ronald Leach, this began as a petrol station in about 1932–3, and expanded later to include a cafe; the local press reported that this was completed, with a sprung dance floor and a snack bar, in 1936.⁴⁹⁰ 'In the design of the [new] exterior', the article stated, 'no effort has been spared to make the group of buildings harmonise with the picturesque stretch of country in which they are placed. The designer was Mr J. Ralph Edwards, ARIBA, of Unity Street, Bristol'.⁴⁹¹ A prominent local architect, Edwards had in 1930 won a competition organised by Somerset Rural Community Council 'for his designs for country garages and filling stations' in order to 'combat the spoilation of the countryside'.⁴⁹²

⁴⁸⁶ *WDP*, 31 May 1938, 4.

⁴⁸⁷ Gutzke, 'Improved Pubs and Road Houses', 2.

⁴⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁴⁸⁹ *WDP*, 13 December 1934, 9.

⁴⁹⁰ See <http://www.wringtonsomerset.org.uk/archive/recollections/loach.html>, accessed 7 January 2015; 'Paradise Roadhouse at Foot of Redhill', *WDP*, 4 July 1936, 11.

⁴⁹¹ 'Paradise Roadhouse at Foot of Redhill', *WDP*, 4 July 1936, 11.

⁴⁹² *WDP*, 13 February 1930, 5.



The Paradise Roadhouse, Wrington © Copyright Ronald Loach and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence: www.geograph.org.uk/photo/890220

In 1939 Leach applied for a full on license for the roadhouse and was granted a license for beer and wine.⁴⁹³ His son remembers that during the war ‘bus loads of people ... would arrive there in the evenings to get away from the night bombing of Bristol. They would sleep on the dance floor (at no cost) but spent very little money and would leave again in the morning to go back to work. The petrol side of the business was also non-existent of course because of the rationing’. His mother was forced to sell the business in about 1943.⁴⁹⁴

The **Paradise** appeared in *The Builder* in 1942, with a photograph that focussed on Richards’ new, modern extension, excluding the more picturesque, ‘older filling station’, which was shown only in the accompanying plan; the article repeated how the buildings harmonised with the landscape and stressed how wide lawns separated the buildings from the main road.⁴⁹⁵

⁴⁹³ ‘Wine Licenses Granted’, *WDP*, 7 February 1939, 8.

⁴⁹⁴ <http://www.wringtonsomerset.org.uk/archive/recollections/loach.html>, accessed 7 January 2015.

⁴⁹⁵ ‘Paradise Road House, Redhill, Bristol’, *The Builder*, 17 April 1942, 339.

Gardens were an important element of the roadhouse, often with rockeries, as well as lawns and seating, as at the **Paradise**. In keeping with its 'modern style', the **Green Trees Roadhouse**, opened at Failand to the West of the city in 1937, had a roof garden.⁴⁹⁶ The wider setting was also a draw. Just 'twenty minutes run' from Bristol, the **Green Trees** was 'almost surrounded by fields and some acres of woodland. In fact you can walk through the French windows from the main dining room almost straight into the woods'. There were views over golf links and the Channel.⁴⁹⁷

Further roadhouses around the city included the **Mile Three Roadhouse**, on the Bridgewater Road at Long Ashton built about 1935, and a café and roadhouse at Patchway, by Messrs Davies and Son, built in about 1938 on the site of Colston Lodge.⁴⁹⁸ The **Green Trees** had bedrooms for guests, and served food to 'casual visitors' until 2.30 in the morning.⁴⁹⁹ Some interwar pubs did provide for overnight stays. **The Welcome Inn** and **The Friendship** (both 1933) each offered accommodation, which was accessed from a separate entrance hall.⁵⁰⁰ The **Severn Beach Hotel** also had rooms for guests. Nevertheless, these were exceptions and, in any case, overnight hospitality played only a small part in the overall running of the business.

Bristol roadhouses differed from pubs in other ways. Each was a meeting place for local motorcar and motorcycle clubs, used for events such as parking competitions as well as the starting place for trials and runs.⁵⁰¹ This suggests a more particular clientele and pattern of social use than was the case for the city's other interwar pubs.

These uses were, nevertheless, shaped by the growth of private transport, including cycling and motorcycling. Many pubs were closely associated with cyclists and cycling clubs – an association which began in the 1890s in the other areas – and this was especially the case for those in outlying areas of Bristol or its satellite villages. The local papers reveal many of such associations, sometimes over a number of years. To take just one example, of 1937, the Easy Riders

⁴⁹⁶ 'The Green Trees Modern Road House', *WDP*, 17 January 1938, 4.

⁴⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁴⁹⁸ Gloucestershire Archives, DA 38/710/76, 1938–1939.

⁴⁹⁹ 'The Green Trees Modern Road House', *WDP*, 17 January 1938, 4.

⁵⁰⁰ 'Modern Licensed Houses', *WDP*, 12 April 1933, 5.

⁵⁰¹ See, for example, 'A Wheel in the West', *WDP*, 8 February 1935, 3.

section of the Cyclists' Touring Club met at 9am at **The Black Lion**, in the village of Whitchurch, on the main road south from Bristol.⁵⁰²

Moreover motorised transport – private motor cars and motor cycles, and buses and charabancs – was clearly important in creating increased custom for the new pubs. While it seems rather large and heavy to have been of much practical use, Georges' anniversary publication of 1938 included a map and details of bus routes and tram stops for the many pubs included, as well as giving the names of established and more modern 'bye-pass' roads.⁵⁰³ **The Black Lion**, at Whitchurch, was described as being 'quite handy to Bristol Airport'. The inscription to the inside back cover of the publication reads:

Carry this book in your car when on your travels for business or pleasure: a Georges' house may be just handy, and what is better than Georges' Beer? A map is provided shewing the places where there are Georges' houses. We do not want people to drink more beer – we want more people to drink beer!

Thus, the modernity of Georges' new public houses was closely aligned with expanded opportunities for travel and leisure.

1918–1939: Plan Forms

In general, plans for newly constructed Bristol pubs of the interwar years, most of which were built in suburban locations, typically incorporated three or four commercial drinking spaces on the ground floor, along with an "off" sales department and often a skittles alley. In addition to the regular inclusion of a public bar (which was often labelled simply as the bar) and a lounge, other spaces that feature on plans include smoke, or smoking rooms, refreshment rooms and coffee rooms. The labelling of interior spaces on certain plans, such as those for the **Beehive** at Henleaze (dated 1934), suggests that lounges sometimes had a dual purpose, operating as refreshment spaces in which food was served. In the case of others, such as **The Welcome Inn** at Southmead (dated 1936), a coffee room served that function. Smoking rooms, a regular feature of Bristol's nineteenth-century public house plans, continued to be incorporated into some interwar designs. Other, older forms of drinking space – taprooms, kitchens,

⁵⁰² 'Our Cyclists Column', *WDP*, 15 July 1937, 3.

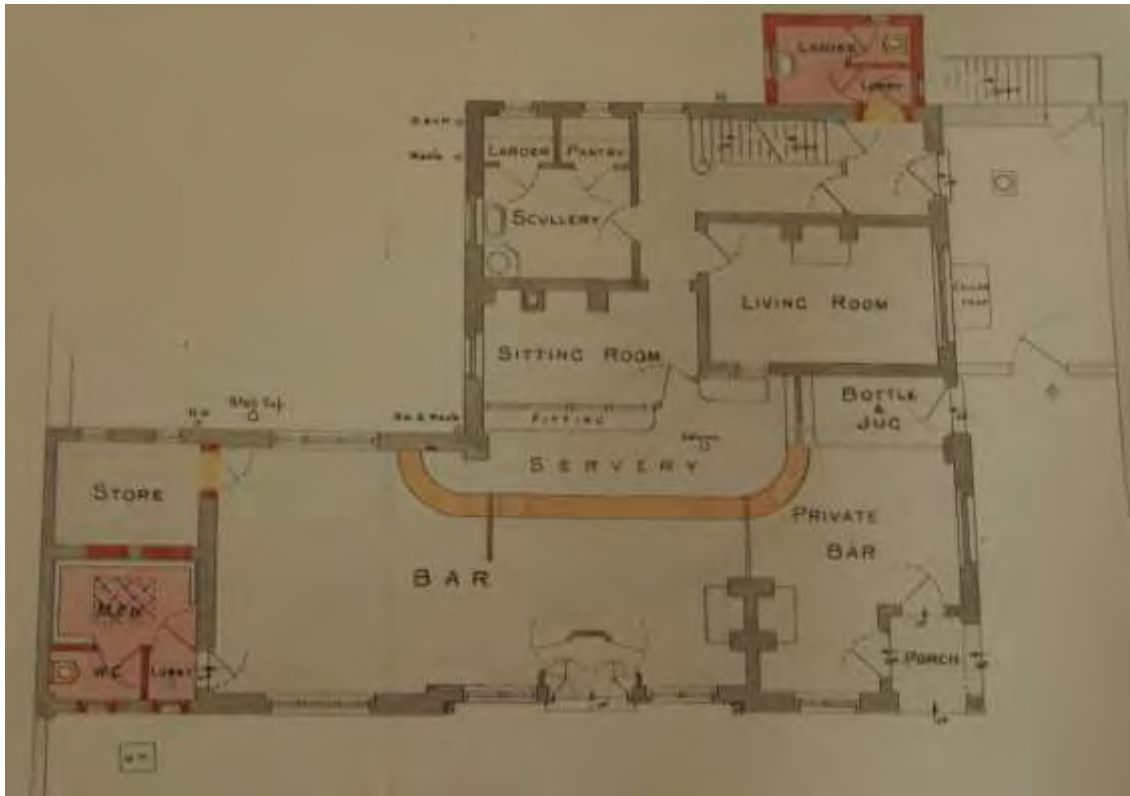
⁵⁰³ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, gummed insert, inside back cover.

parlours, and bar parlours – had largely fallen out of favour by this time. Private bars, references to which can be found in Bristol's local newspapers from the 1860s, persisted somewhat longer. **The Cambridge Arms** at Redland (1900) retained its private bar into the interwar period and the inclusion of a private bar on plans for the rebuilding of the **Eastfield Inn** at Henleaze suggests that they were still believed to be appropriate for some suburban locations. The general pattern in these years was for the publican's accommodation to be located on the first floor of newly-built public houses. However, one exception can be found in plans for **The Welcome Inn** at Southmead (1936), which incorporate a ground floor sitting room, giving access to the kitchen and scullery. The location of the sitting room within the ground floor plan suggests that it was of a domestic, rather than commercial nature.

Plans from this period also suggest that patterns of service were relatively slow to change, particularly when compared to developments in London. Counter service remained largely restricted to the main public bar and the jug and bottle compartment, with drinks being carried through to more comfortably furnished, socially exclusive lounges and smoking rooms. In the postwar period counter service was generally extended across the commercial drinking spaces on the ground floor; one of the principal distinctions that can be made between the organisation of the interiors of Bristol's public houses in the two periods. The examples that follow show some of the ways in which public house plans evolved in particular Bristol locations in the interwar years.

Plans for **The Cambridge Arms** at Redland, dated 1931, show the re-organisation of the ground floor drinking space to provide one large bar to the front of the building, with direct access to an indoor cloakroom for men, and a smaller private bar with an off sales counter to the side, which remained unchanged from 1900.

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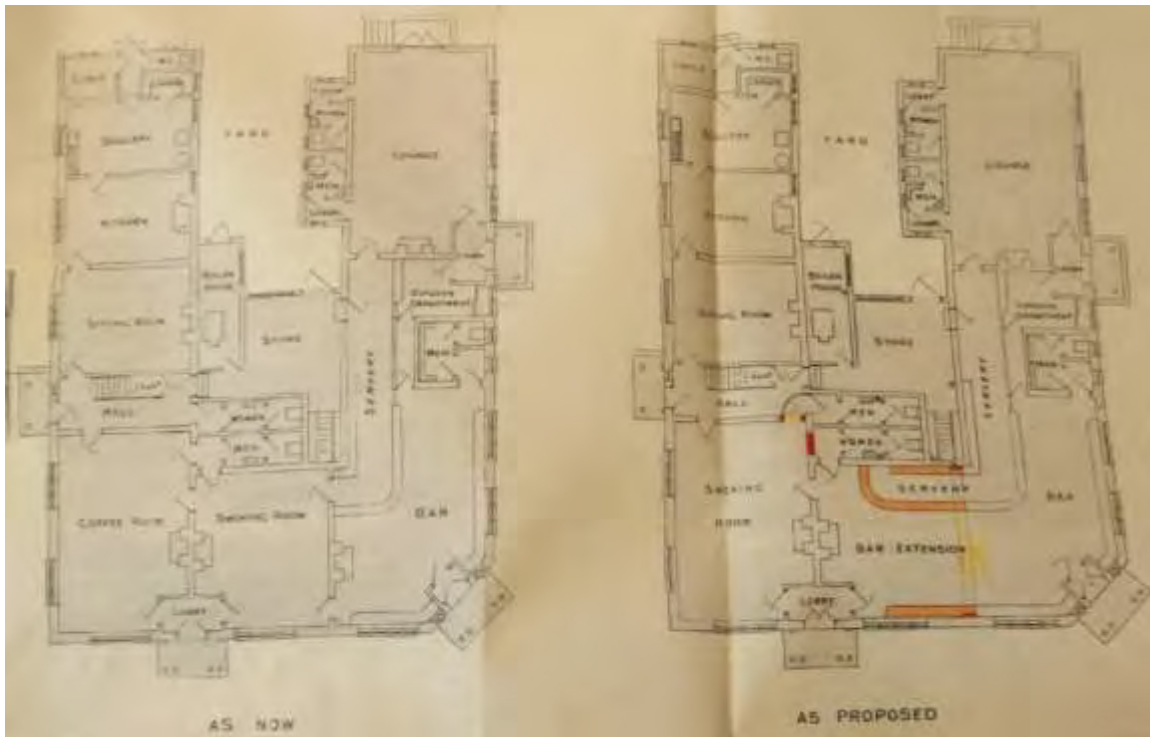


*The Cambridge Arms, Coldharbour Road, Redland. Proposed Alterations dated 1 April 1931.
Detail © Bristol Record Office – BRO 108/30j*

Open bar counter service was extended across all of the public drinking areas, but there is a suggestion of some form of screen or hatch to the jug and bottle compartment. By 1931 **The Cambridge Arms** was clearly attracting, or seeking to attract, female customers as the plans also indicate the addition of toilet facilities for ladies on the 'private' side of the building, alongside the residential entrance, the private bar and the bottle and jug compartment.

In the case of public houses designed for new areas of mass housing, such as Southmead, which evolved from the early 1920s, predicting the potential custom appears to have been difficult. Georges altered and extended a number of new businesses very soon after their completion. Such was the popularity of **The Fellowship** at Horfield (1929), another development area of the 1920s, that the building was significantly enlarged within a year of its opening in 1929. At that time, the main bar was doubled in size and the lounge moved from its original position to a new extension. The picture at **The Welcome Inn** at Southmead (1933) was very similar. The interior was originally configured as a coffee room, smoking room and public bar to the front of the building and a large lounge to the rear. Counter service initially extended only to the main public bar and the outdoor compartment.

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Welcome Inn, Southmead Road, Southmead. Proposed bar extension, 1936 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 146/35g

Plans for the alteration of **The Welcome Inn** in 1936 show the extension of the bar counter to serve an enlarged public bar and the replacement of the coffee room with a smoking room. **The Welcome Inn** and **The Friendship** both provided overnight accommodation, which was accessed from a separate entrance hall.⁵⁰⁴

The Friendship at Axbridge Road, Knowle, was constructed on the same plan as **The Welcome Inn** at Southmead, although Georges claimed, 'this is not apparent to the eye owing to the plan having to be reversed to suit the sites'.⁵⁰⁵ They are in fact externally very similar, while a drayman who delivered to both pubs during the 1980s understood that internally their plans were identical.⁵⁰⁶

⁵⁰⁴ 'Modern Licensed Houses', *WDP*, 12 April 1933, 5.

⁵⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁰⁶ Personal communication with the authors, 2014.

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Above: The Friendship, Axbridge Road, Knowle (1933). Below: The Welcome Inn, Southmead Road, Southmead (1933), One Hundred and Fifty Years, 44 and 28.

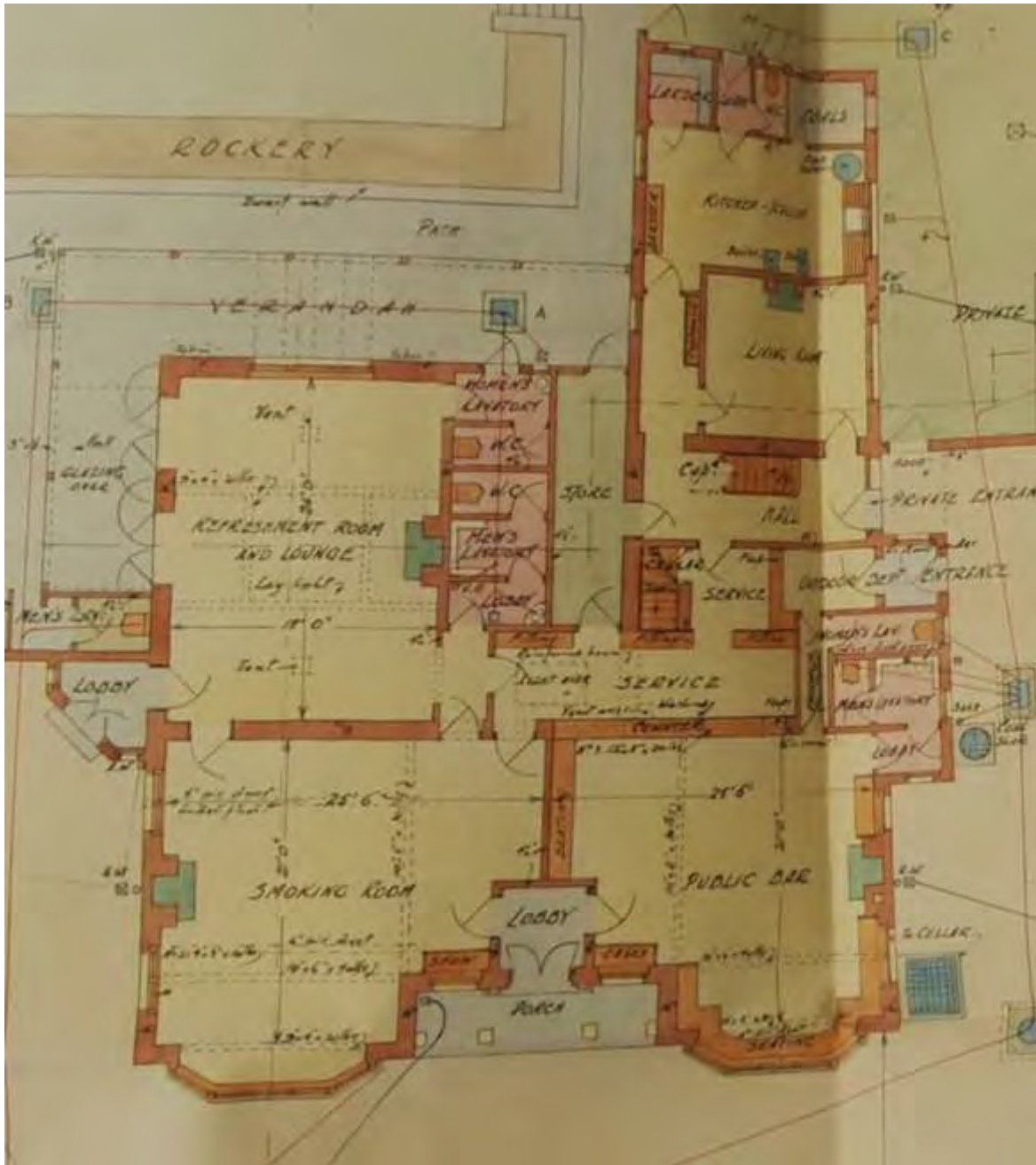
The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol



The Friendship, Knowle. Proposed bar extension, 1936 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 146/35e

In the late nineteenth century, coffee rooms were generally associated with a more refined custom than that of the public bars and were a room in which food could be served to male and female customers out of licensing hours, allowing public houses to compete for trade with unlicensed refreshment houses. The disappearance of the coffee room from **The Welcome Inn** and **The Friendship** suggests that these spaces were less attractive to customers than they had been. The lounge was perhaps fulfilling an equivalent function, or serving a different set of customer preferences by that date.

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The Beehive, Wellington Hill West, Henleaze. Detail of the ground floor, May 1934 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 131/74e

Plans of May 1934 show that the **Beehive** at Wellington Hill West in Henleaze was configured slightly differently. The commercial spaces on the ground floor were arranged with two principal drinking spaces to the front of the building – a public bar and a smoking room – and a dual-purpose refreshment room/lounge, opening onto the garden to the rear. No coffee room was included in the original plan. Counter service was restricted to the public bar and the jug and bottle compartment. Plans for additional 'new lavatories in garden' and a skittles alley were drawn up in 1936. The **Eastfield Inn** (1934) at Henleaze was similarly

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arranged, but with a private bar and a skittles alley included in the original design. The skittles alley bisected the plot, separating the area of the garden used by the licensee from that provided for the pub's customers. Counter service was available in the public and private bars to the front of the building and to an outdoor department to the side. As at the **Beehive**, a separate smoking room and refreshment room were located to the left of the building and a refreshment room to the rear, which opened onto the garden.



The Eastfield Inn, Henleaze Road, Henleaze. Detail of the ground floor, April 1934 © Bristol Record Office BRO – 133/15

One notable aspect of the development of Bristol's public house plans in the twentieth century is the location and design of off sales spaces. Off sales counters were subject to careful scrutiny during the late nineteenth century as the drive to open up the interior to surveillance gathered momentum. As Francis Yorke indicated, the regulation of off sales remained a focus into the second half of the twentieth century:

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The out-door department or every compartment in any licensed house to be used exclusively for the sale of liquor to be consumed “off the premises” must communicate directly with the street, and the street door to this department must be clear glazed to a height not exceeding 4ft. 6ins. above the street level (the size of panes sometimes being stipulated). Glass must be free from lettering, and if lights are leaded they must be free from ornament. No seating whatever is permitted in this department.⁵⁰⁷

Bristol plans for newly built public houses of the 1930s show that side entrances continued to be favoured in certain locations. W. H. Watkins’ plans for the **King George VI Hotel** at Filton (1938), for Bristol United Breweries, include a discreetly located bottle and jug to the rear of the building, behind the saloon bar.⁵⁰⁸ A side entrance was also favoured for **The Welcome Inn** at Southmead. There is, however, also evidence of change. The jug and bottle began to evolve in more distinctive form, as a clearly differentiated retail space within the public house, often with a display window and an independent entrance. Examples can be seen at the **Merchants Arms** at Stapleton and the **Star** at Soundwell (now the **Turnpike**).



The remains of the 'Off Licence' at the Merchants Arms, Bell Hill, Stapleton. Architects: R. C. James and H. E. Meredith for The Bristol Brewery Georges and Company, Limited. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

⁵⁰⁷ F. W. B. Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, London: The Architectural Press, 1949, 20–1.

⁵⁰⁸ *The Architect and Building News*, 27 May 1938, 252.



The remains of the corner 'Off Licence' at the Star, Soundwell Road, Soundwell, Architects: R. C. James and H. E. Meredith for The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

Skittles Alleys

Located to the rear or side of a pub, the skittles alley was one of the most distinctive features of Bristol's licensed houses and continued into the interwar period, when increasingly sophisticated 'modern' skittles alleys were advertised in the press. Basil Oliver noted in *The Renaissance of the English Public House* that covered skittles alleys were popular in Cardiff as well as the West Country and were a feature of the new interwar public houses.⁵⁰⁹ However, in this book, which includes a photograph of the alley at **The Star** at Soundwell in Bristol, he wrote that although skittles remained a popular pub game in South Wales and the south-west of England, 'probably darts runs both bowls and skittles pretty close as the favourite pastime now'.⁵¹⁰ Darts and bowls may have become popular but skittles remained an important part of Bristol's public house culture and many of the new pubs were designed with skittles alleys or had them incorporated shortly after opening; older pubs in the city were also often provided with new covered alleys in the 1930s. In addition to Bristol and South Wales, Francis Yorke included Leicestershire to the areas with traditions of skittle-playing, but the alley he

⁵⁰⁹ Oliver, *The Renaissance of the English Public House*, 114–5.

⁵¹⁰ *Ibid.*, 111. On the history of skittles within the pub see, A. Taylor, *Played at the Pub: The Pub Games of Britain*, English Heritage, 3rd rev. ed. 2009.

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illustrated of a Leicester alley differs from the long narrow plan found all over Bristol and surroundings areas.⁵¹¹

Several skittles alleys are illustrated in plan form in the description of public house gardens which follows and their exteriors are also visible in many photographs. Some were built at the same time as the rest of the building and others were added slightly later. Alterations were also made. For example at some point during the construction of the building of the **Bristol Bulldog**, Horfield (1938), the plans were altered from those initially submitted for approval and a service bar was introduced to the skittles alley. The skittles alley at the **Eastfield Inn** (1934) is the best preserved interwar example identified during the course of the fieldwork and is still very much in use today.



The Skittles alley at the Eastfield Inn, Henleaze Road, Henleaze in 2014. Source: Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

⁵¹¹ Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, 154–5.

1918–1939: Interior

Contemporary newspaper advertisements reveal the names of some of the companies involved in fitting out Bristol's pubs of this period. Birmingham firm Gaskell and Chambers, which had a Bristol office at 13 Bath Street, was responsible for equipping the interior of the **Shoe Inn** at Wraxall (Simonds, 1938) and advertised its involvement alongside an article on the new pub that appeared in the *Western Daily Press and Bristol Mirror* in February of that year.⁵¹² The advertisement shows that the company was responsible for the bar counter and for installing its own patent "Dalex" hygienic beer engine and 'cellar system of glass piping'.⁵¹³ Gaskell and Chambers were also responsible for the equipment of the remodelled, historic **Hatchet Inn** in the city centre in 1937 and for that used in the catering facilities at the newly constructed Temple Meads station in 1935.⁵¹⁴ It seems that they were favoured by Simonds brewery, as they were also involved in fitting out the interiors of another Simonds' pub, the **Bath Arms Hotel** at Cheddar, for which another notable Bristol firm, Rowe Brothers of Victoria Street, completed the sanitaryware.⁵¹⁵

The article on the **Shoe Inn** at Wraxall included a picture of the lounge, which is shown with a deep open hearth in exposed brick, with muskets and swords hung above for decoration. The room is described as 'comfortable' and as having 'exquisite oak panelling and fittings' pointing to the continuing dominance of timber in interwar public house interior design. Oak was particularly favoured for public house interiors at this time. The interiors of **The Friendship** and **The Welcome Inn** were completed in 'handsome oak' with bar counters and bar backs of simple design, somewhat lower to the ceiling and with less ornamentation than can be seen in earlier interwar examples.⁵¹⁶

Evident, also, is a general lightening of decorative schemes. The public bars at **The Welcome Inn** and **The Venture Inn** are, for example, notably lighter and of more open design than the panelled public bar and more elaborate bar back of **The Fellowship**, completed seven years earlier. This simplification can also be seen in the design of fireplaces and in the design of ceilings, which are becoming

⁵¹² 'A Cotswold Inn that Mirrors Nature', *WDP*, 4 February, 1938, 4.

⁵¹³ *WDP*, 4 February, 1938, 4.

⁵¹⁴ *WDP*, 10 May 1937, 5 and 30 August 1935, 14.

⁵¹⁵ *WDP*, 1 October 1938, 11.

⁵¹⁶ 'Modern Licensed Houses', *WDP*, 12 April 1933, 5.

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less ornate, with limited use of plaster mouldings and no ceiling roses. Light fittings of this period are also of less elaborate design; those at **The Venture Inn** were in modish Odeon style.

The use of decorative glass, which can be seen in photographs of **The Fellowship** (and which survives in the Tesco supermarket that replaced it) is restricted to a few motifs in the windows and interior glazing, notably the doors. Their authorship is unknown, but one firm that was known for glazing work was Messrs W. Goldman and Son of Newfoundland Street in Bristol (based there from the 1860s), who completed all the glazing for the **Borough Arms Hotel** at Weston-Super-Mare (1937).⁵¹⁷ A report on the opening of the **Borough Arms Hotel** also indicates the names of a number of other firms that were involved in the completion of its interiors, among them Gaskell and Chambers, which equipped the bars and also supplied the furniture for the public bar and the lounge, and H. F. Tottle and Sons Limited of Bridgwater, which supplied the oak fittings in the lounge and the maple floor to the skittle alley.⁵¹⁸



The Public Bar at The Fellowship, Filton Avenue, Horfield (1929) © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

⁵¹⁷ WDP, 15 December 1937, 4.

⁵¹⁸ *Ibid.*

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Wooden wall panelling was a major feature of the interior of **The Fellowship** and additional decorative details were (at least that the time that this photograph was taken) restricted to a charger on the plate rack above each fireplace and a few photographs on the mantelpiece. The bar back remained dominant and along with the products on display and the polished beer pumps on the bar counter provided the main visual interest within the public bar.



A lounge or smoke room at The Fellowship, Filton Avenue, Horfield (1929) © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

In the smoke room or lounge, the fire surround was embellished with a ship – a symbol repeated in the pub’s window and its exterior sign – and a portrait head to the other, with a motto in between. The extravagant planter to the centre of the image was probably part of the photographic staging of the interior and would more likely have been placed on the floor.

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The Public Bar at The Welcome Inn, Southmead Road, Southmead, c.1938 © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Photographs show that parquet flooring was often used in public bars and sometimes extended to other drinking spaces, where the addition of rugs signified their superior status, as can be seen in photographs of the interior of **The Fellowship**. The floor was also, as photographs of the public bar of **The Venture Inn** reveal, used by Georges to promote its products. Set into the floor are adverts for the brewery's beers.

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Below: *The Venture Inn, Public Bar, Melvin Square, Knowle West, c.1938 © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum*

At the **Beehive** in Henleaze, the name of the pub was set into the floor and is a surviving element of the original decorative scheme.



The interior of the Beehive, Wellington Hill West, Henleaze in 2014. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, July 2014

At **The Welcome Inn**, prominent radiators to the front of the bar announced its modernity to customers. Fireplaces nevertheless remained important features within most public bars. Photographs of Georges' interiors of the 1930s indicate the incorporation of elements of standard design. The fireplace in the public bar of **The Five Alls** was, for example, of the same design as that of the **Engineers**

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Arms at Bedminster. A more stylish note was struck at **The Black Lion** at Whitchurch, where the long bar and fashionably curving pillars of the counter-back were echoed in the design of the fireplace in the lounge. The lighting and furniture is also of contemporary design.



The Long Bar at The Black Lion, Whitchurch, c. 1938, One Hundred and Fifty Years, 31



The Lounge at The Black Lion, Whitchurch, c. 1938, One Hundred and Fifty Years, 31

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The modernity of the new Georges pubs was also reflected in the new system of beer dispensation that they introduced in the 1930s, which was a particular point of note in a local newspaper article on the opening of **The Welcome Inn** and **The Friendship**:

The beer is conveyed to the bars in a manner unique to Bristol and in a form considered to be the most hygienic possible, namely, by air pressure from the case to the fountains on the counter. The pipes are of monel metal – this is a new metal perfectly bright and smooth and free from corrosion; practically it is of the nature of silver and will always retain its brightness and smoothness. It is absolutely unstainable and has been selected by the company after extensive tests.⁵¹⁹

The old system of beer pumps is superseded by this new system, by which a small automatic motor keeps the air pressure in the cases to the required pressure to force the liquid to the fountains on the counter, and is practically the same as drawing direct from the wood, thus ensuring freshness and freedom from contamination of any description.⁵²⁰

Lounges varied in style from the relatively spare interior of the **Severn Beach Hotel** – perhaps designed for practicality as the business was intended to serve a high volume of trade – to the more homely design of the lounge of the **Eastfield Inn**, with its soft furnishings, decorative fire screen, coat stand, plants and pictures.

⁵¹⁹ 'Modern Licensed Houses', *WDP*, 12 April 1933, 5.

⁵²⁰ *WDP*, 12 April 1933, 5.

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Severn Beach Hotel Lounge, One Hundred and Fifty Years, 35



Eastfield Inn, Henleaze Road, Henleaze, lounge, One Hundred and Fifty Years, 27

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The **Eastfield** lounge led out to the loggia and garden and the use of cane furniture in this part of the interior was in keeping with its garden location.

Another opening recorded in the local press was that of the **Bristol Bulldog** at Filton Avenue in Horfield, in January 1938. The pub was described as 'the latest and most modern house of the Bristol Brewery, Georges and Co., Ltd' and its features described as:

Lounge and smoking room panelled in solid oak, public bar laid with rubber flooring, off-sales department with separate entrance, spacious club room on first floor, also with separate entrance; skittles alley with regulation camber, ample accommodation for car parking, central heating, and pressure system of supply to ensure beers being in the best possible condition.⁵²¹

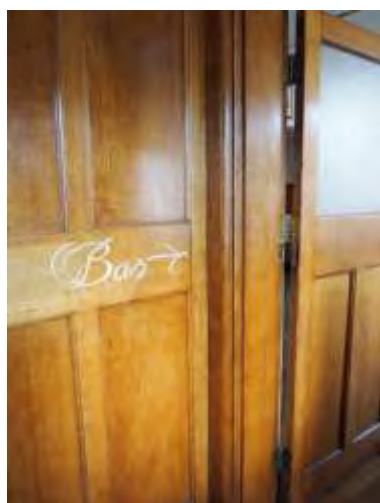
The majority of interwar pubs visited during the fieldwork have had substantial alterations made to their interiors. The **Beehive** at Henleaze is unusual in retaining a number of original features, including windows, the bar counter, original ceiling mouldings and skylight, wall panelling and the previously mentioned parquet flooring.



The Beehive, Wellington Hill West, Henleaze, from One Hundred and Fifty Years, 25

⁵²¹ WDP, 7 January 1938, 3.

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The interior of the Beehive at Henleaze in summer 2014. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

Some of the city's ancient public houses were also reconstructed and remodelled between the wars. Reconstructed throughout, in 1937, the newly completed interiors of the historic **Hatchet Inn**, in the city centre, combined 'ancient charm with modern service and comfort' and included a 'new lounge and snack bar, luxuriously furnished'.⁵²² The lounge and bar counter were oak panelled and fitted with what appear, from a photograph of the room published in a local newspaper, to be iron chandeliers of a relatively plain, circular design that look back to the early seventeenth-century origins of the building.⁵²³

⁵²² WDP, 10 May 1937, 5.

⁵²³ *Ibid.*

1918–1939: Exterior

Gardens were an important element of Bristol's new public houses of the interwar period, particularly after 1930. This is in large part due to the dominance of and influence within the trade by Georges, which had early ideas about the importance of the garden to public house improvement. But it was also a result of the continued trend for providing a smaller number of pubs in the suburbs, where there was generally more room for outside drinking space as well as the other necessary exterior facilities that pubs required. The plans indicate that the garden was now considered to be fully part of the licensed premises rather than an adjunct and was more fully integrated into the design. Meanwhile photographs and text supplied to the local press show that the garden had become a vital part of how the new pubs were presented to the public.

There were three main, related, reasons for this. First was the general trend for new pubs to follow residential development outwards into the suburbs, where land was cheaper and more readily available, in return for the relinquishing of licenses in older, urban districts. Second was the renewed emphasis on light and air, watchwords of Victorian sanitary reform, which entered the debates on the interwar public house reform with vigour. Thus the gardens and grounds would assist in the 'opening up' of the pub at the back, front and sides, while glazed loggias, French doors and so on would provide additional illumination and ventilation. Related to the first and second reasons, a third was that the layout and planting contributed to the public house being a place of civilised and healthy recreation for all the family, which at the same time would discourage perpendicular drinking. Moderate, temperate drinking was believed to be encouraged at tables and in congenial surroundings, which included garden settings and threshold areas such as loggias, verandas and terraces.

Ironically, the one public house that was designed more deliberately to encourage temperance, through the provision of extra rooms for the consumption of non-alcoholic drinks, was left in consequence with very little garden. This was **The Venture Inn** at Knowle, the only pub allowed by the Housing Committee to be built within a Corporation estate, where there were many children resident. Together with the skittles alley, the café and club room, which were provided with

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'their own entrances apart from the bars',⁵²⁴ took up almost all of the available exterior space:



The Venture Inn, Melvin Square, Knowle, dated 3 May 1939 © Bristol Record Office, BRO 178/f64

This was an exception, however, and the majority of Georges' pubs were built in residential areas on land not owned by the Corporation. Suburban pubs that sought to attract families from the local area or further field needed space to accommodate them in self-contained areas. The garden was a convenient place to do this, because it was separated from adult drinkers inside but also, as F. W. B. Yorke advised, because 'from the garden better supervision [of children] is obtained'. Yorke observed in 1949 that 'well-laid out gardens ... had a distinct bearing upon the [licensing] justices', who would be shown the plans.⁵²⁵ The garden could thus be crucial to the success of a new license application. Georges certainly stressed its large, convenient gardens and the provision for children in the press. This is presumably at least part of the reason that plans for licensed premises of the 1930s (when a small but representative sample survives), almost

⁵²⁴ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 46.

⁵²⁵ Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, 24.

always show garden layout as well as the plan of the building; they sometimes included more detailed landscape designs. A fourth reason for the new focus on the garden was that the new concern for planning meant that the garden, while important, was also a somewhat elastic space into which the pub or carpark could extend over time. As Yorke put it, 'the garden may be planned as a flexible unit to await later requirements. A good garden is an asset, and the smallest plot may be given scale by thoughtful planning'.⁵²⁶ In suburban areas where gardens came to be expected, it therefore made sense to purchase a relatively large plot at the outset rather than to have to acquire land over time.

Georges presented its gardens as part of its overall modernisation and improvements, part of the creation of 'a home from home'.⁵²⁷ Stella Moss points out that many public house improvers between the wars 'were motivated by the desire to inculcate new standards of respectable recreation', and that the garden, especially in suburban areas, was an important element in this. Moreover, she says, it was 'significant that the question of children's presence in pubs was often a leading preoccupation' and that 'numerous trade groups argued in favour of the expansion of separate children's facilities and dining amenities in order to make licensed premises more welcoming to families'.⁵²⁸ Compared with London, there is little comment in the Bristol press about children loitering outside or drinking in public houses at this date, other than concern expressed by the licensing justices that women and children should be 'protected' from the jug and bottle department (in 1921).⁵²⁹ However as Moss also points out, 'while such enterprises promoted children's welfare, brewers doubtless were inspired by more than just progressive principles. With children occupied and content, parents were more inclined to relax, spending more time and therefore more money in the pub – so the thinking ran'.⁵³⁰ In Bristol, Georges – masters of self-promotion – argued that the preference for better drinking environments was customer led, writing in its lavishly illustrated 150th anniversary booklet, that the 'enlightenment of the people has caused a demand for more comfort and pleasanter surroundings for refreshment'.⁵³¹ Gardens played a central role in this, not just in terms of outside space, but in their arrangement and planting, which were intended to suggest an ordered as well as a pleasant space for rest and recreation:

⁵²⁶ Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, 48.

⁵²⁷ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 22.

⁵²⁸ Moss, "A Grave Question", 111

⁵²⁹ For example, *WDP*, 8 February 1921, 6.

⁵³⁰ Moss, "A Grave Question", 113–14.

⁵³¹ *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 22.

The provision of gardens is also a great asset for such times as the climate allows for outdoor rest and recreation, in many cases special parts for children being set aside to play in for the benefit of parents with their families. Many of these gardens are really ornamental and a joy to the town dweller who delights in well-kept lawns and flower beds.⁵³²

The gardens were legally, as well as customarily, part of the licensed premises. The terraces, for example, 'should be licensed as drinking areas'.⁵³³ Perimeters, and the boundaries between the staff garden and yard and the pub garden, had to be clearly demarcated. Grounds could be arranged, as Yorke recommended, 'so that during non-licensed hours the whole of the licensed portion maybe shut off, leaving free access to the tea-room and domestic side of the house'.⁵³⁴ Because of this, the plans presented to the licensing judges were exceptionally detailed as regards the grounds at this date and are excellent sources for the gardens when first designed.

In the case of the pubs built by Georges' surveyors in the 1930s, R. B. Edwards and W. T. Cockram, plans show that the architect designed both the building and the gardens immediately adjoining and that these were submitted to the licensing authorities. Contemporary photographs and site visits show that these plans were as executed rather than guides. The following sections look at the composite parts of the external space of Georges' interwar pubs.

Most of Georges' interwar suburban pubs had a forecourt, with a low wall at the front. This made a clear demarcation from the street without interrupting the view of the building. It was also, according to Yorke, 'to prevent dazzle from car lights in the park'.⁵³⁵ Cars and parking were then an important design consideration. 'The car park has become a vital adjunct to the modern pub, wrote Yorke in 1949, 'and with the growing motor traffic the maximum space should be set aside for this purpose'.⁵³⁶ Georges was well aware of this and press reports from the 1930s stressed the 'accommodation for cars', for example at the **Beehive** at Horfield;⁵³⁷ and the 'extensive motor-car park' at the **Happy Landings**,

⁵³² *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 22.

⁵³³ Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, 49.

⁵³⁴ Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, 94.

⁵³⁵ Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, 48.

⁵³⁶ Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, 46.

⁵³⁷ 'Another Modern House of Refreshment', *WDP*, 6 February 1935, 5.

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Hengrove.⁵³⁸ And while some forecourts incorporated pots and other planting, as Yorke recommended, they were intended primarily as a drive-through access road rather than a garden (external drinking areas at the fronts of pubs were discouraged). Some claimed their forecourts catered specially to trippers. For example, the **Lord Nelson**, at Cleeve, 'on the main road to the west of England just beyond Brockley Combe the well known beauty spot', had 'a good pull in for cars and charabancs':



Lord Nelson, Main Road, Cleeve © Hartley collection, Bristol Museum

The Black Lion at Whitchurch, on the rural fringes to the south of the city, was likewise conceived of as a destination pub as well as a village local, and which therefore facilitated car access, as shown in the illustration, below

⁵³⁸ WDP, 20 December 1938, 5.

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The Black Lion, Whitchurch, by Edward Sharland © Bristol Central Library

The garden at the back was always completely contained by fencing or walls, entered through a gate in the front wall for customers as well as through the pub itself; a gate at the other side led to the private, staff yard and garden. At the **Beehive** (1935), below, the public entrance can be seen to the left – a gate in the wall – and the private garage entrance is to the right.

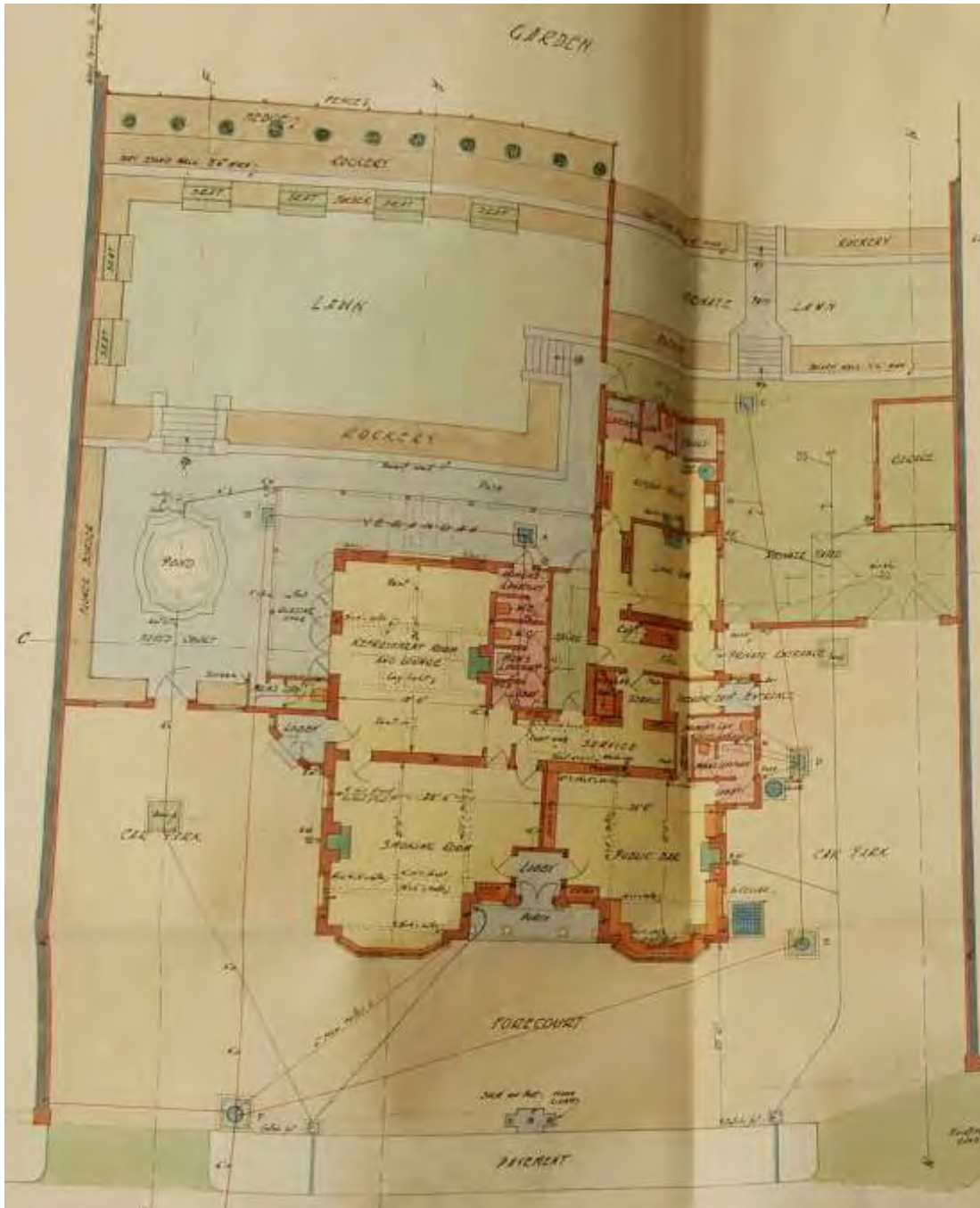


Detail of the Beehive, Wellington Hill West, Henleaze, May 1934 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 131/74e

A paved court lay behind this public garden gate, created in the space between the boundary wall and the refreshment room and lounge, at the centre of which was a 'pond' surrounded by raised flower beds. This arrangement, described somewhat ambitiously as 'a lawn with ornamental lake' in press publicity, can be seen below.⁵³⁹

⁵³⁹ 'Another Modern House of Refreshment', *WDP*, 6 February 1935, 5.

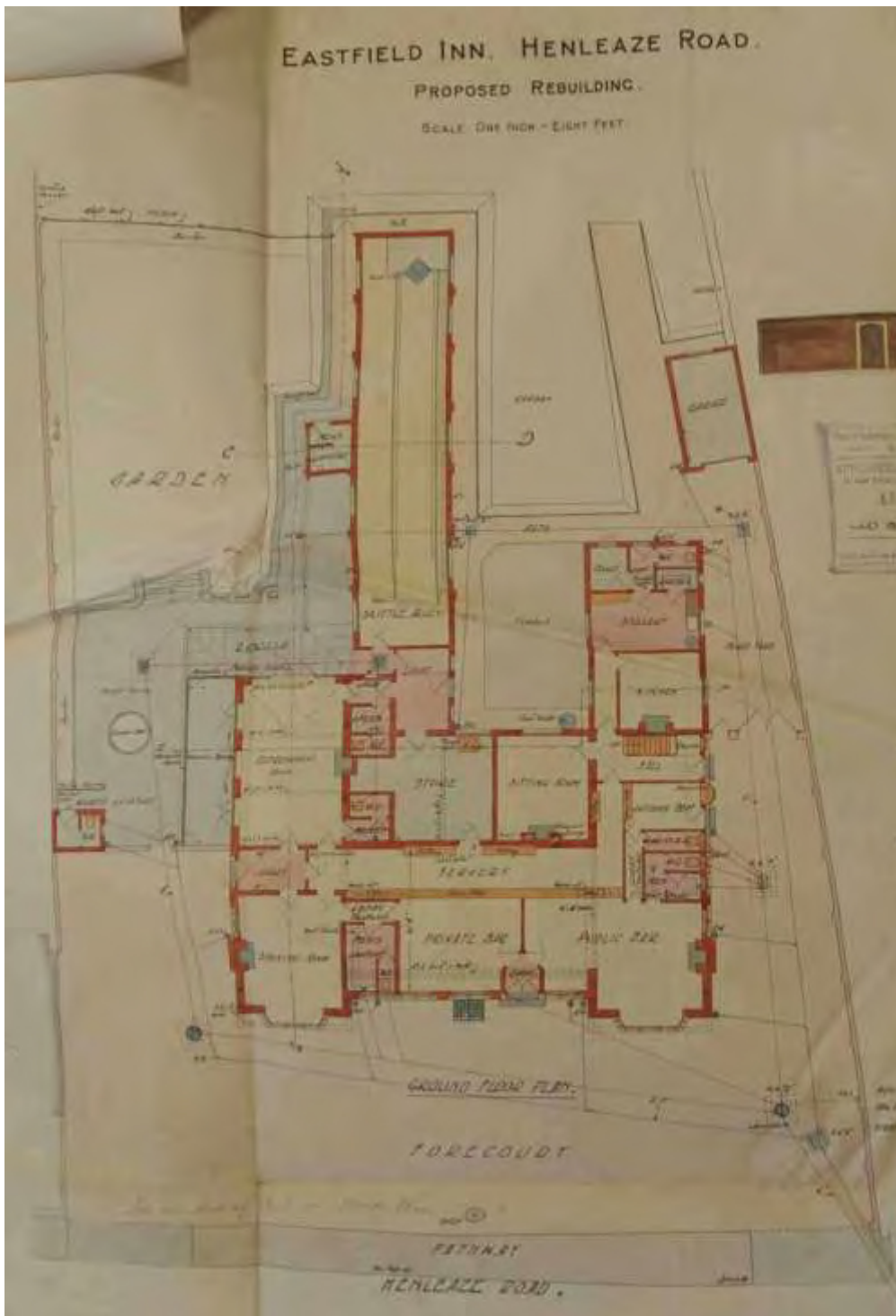
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The garden of the Beehive, Wellington Hill West, Henleaze, May 1934 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 131/74e

At the **Eastfield Inn**, Eastfield, the same area was treated almost identically but was instead crazy paved with a 'flower bed' in the centre, surrounded by dwarf walls and a border; a glazed 'loggia' linked the refreshment room with the garden via French doors. A skittles alley, which survives, extended from the back of the pub to the end of the garden.

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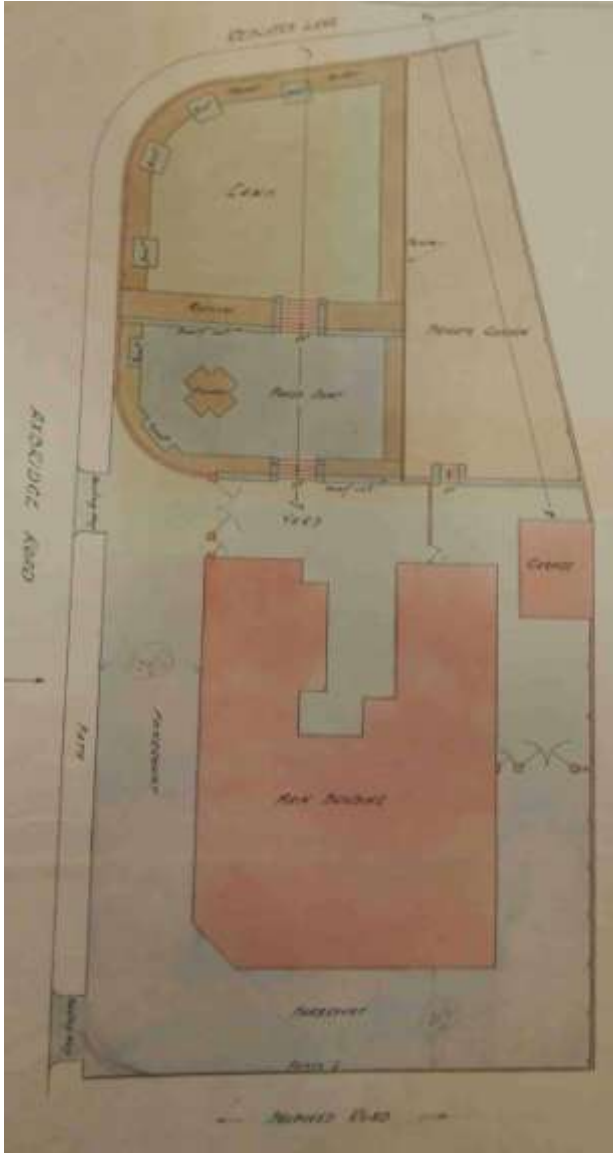


The garden of the Eastfield Inn, Henleaze Road, Henleaze, detail of © Bristol Record Office – BRO 133/15

Designed as a series of interlocking spaces, the landscaping of this and other Georges' pub gardens incorporated ornamental courtyards, eating and drinking areas, space for games and, usually, a children's area. Lawned and paved areas were edged with flower borders into which seats were incorporated. Shallow terracing, designed to accommodate local topography, also reinforced the

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distinctness of these areas in districts that were not on level ground. This was the case of **The Friendship**, Knowle, which had a much smaller garden than either the **Beehive** or the **Eastfield**, but was comprised in the area near the pub of two similar interlocking areas.



Garden of the new public house proposed for Axbridge Road, Knowle in a plan of 1932 (i.e. the future Georges pub, The Friendship) © Bristol Record Office – BRO 120/7p

A paved court, with a flower bed at the centre, lay immediately behind the pub. On the higher ground was a lawn, the two areas separated by a broad rockery but linked via a flight of stone steps at the centre. At the back was a high wall with seats set in borders in front; low stone walls were used elsewhere.

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At almost all of Georges' interwar pubs, a glazed 'verandah' or 'loggia' or French doors opened from the refreshment and dining areas into the courtyard or other garden area. This linked back and sides of the pub with the exterior and provided an overspill eating and drinking area that could be used in wet weather as well as dry; some also had covered walkways, such as **The Fellowship**, Horfield, below.



The Fellowship, Filton Avenue, Horfield, One Hundred and Fifty Years, 31

The Black Lion at Whitchurch has a covered terrace area between the back of the pub and the garden, along the side of the skittles alley:

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The rear of The Black Lion, Whitchurch © Hartley collection, Bristol Museum

As noted, the 'loggia' was a linking device between interior, threshold and garden spaces that was used in many of Georges' interwar pubs, such as the **Lord Nelson**, below:



The Lord Nelson, Main Road, Cleeve © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

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Photographs taken by Georges of the gardens of the **Beehive** and **Eastfield Inn** show how the 'loggia' linked the refreshment room to the courtyard garden; and they also indicate that the gardens were built as they were shown on the architect's plans.



The garden of the Eastfield Inn, Henleaze Road, Henleaze © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum



The garden of the Beehive, Wellington Hill West, Henleaze © Hartley collection, Bristol Museum

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The stone shown in these photographs was used in many of the Georges' interwar gardens, as flower-bed and pool edgings, crazy paving, steps and, as shown in the garden below, rockeries (or rockworks) and walls.



The loggia and rockwork at an unidentified Georges' pub of the interwar period © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Examples of this stonework can still be seen at surviving pubs and also in the revamped gardens of older properties that were owned by Georges in the 1930s, especially in walls and steps.



The garden at the Eastfield Inn, Henleaze Road, Henleaze in June 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston

Photographs indicate that, when first opened, the planting was fairly sparse and was comprised groups or lines shrubs, with conifers to demarcate pathways and steps, and occasional fruit trees. This was augmented with bulbs and other seasonal flowering plants and what appear to be alpine and similar planting in the rockery areas and tubs. With one exception, discussed below, no information had been found on whether Georges used an in-house team or a contractor for its landscaping and garden maintenance. The consistency of the planting, hard landscaping materials and the interlocking garden designs, however, suggest that if the work was contracted out, only one firm was used, as Georges' architects tended only to specify materials and layout in the areas close to the pub.

As this might suggest, any land beyond this area tended to be indicated as lawned 'garden' but was not always all incorporated in the plan. Where it was indicated, this part of the plot would usually contain any children's area. Plans for the **Beehive** support Yorke's recommendation that 'the garden may be planned as a flexible unit to await later requirements'.⁵⁴⁰ Approved in March 1934, they indicate that the pub garden was initially neat and quite small, and similar to that of **The Friendship**, as shown above.⁵⁴¹ Comprising the land immediately adjoining the pub, it was designed as two interlocking areas: a square paved space into which the verandah opened, and a raised oblong lawned garden that was reached via a short flight of stone steps. The large 'garden' at the extremity of the plot, part of the original pub garden before the rebuilding, and which reached another 105 feet in length (i.e. half of the overall footprint), was accessed through the staff garden and was left off the plan. By 1936, however, the architect had cut a new entrance through the lawn, which was now designated 'adults only', to the larger garden beyond. The latter became a 'public garden for adults and children', and contained a new service store and bar counter, and separate men's and women's lavatories. Paths were laid around the plot and a deep border punctuated the perimeter at the rear. Skittles alleys were sometimes also added later. To judge from press reports, the reason for this was that it was imperative commercially to open the pub as soon as possible, ideally with some garden space, laid out as per the plan submitted to the licensing justices; any refinements to the overall external area could be made in succeeding years.

⁵⁴⁰ Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, 48.

⁵⁴¹ BRO/Building plan/Volume 131/75g, 6 June 1934.

Like the designs prepared by Edwards and then Cockram, the plans of James's and Meredith's **Merchants Arms** and **Star Inn** (both 1938) published in the *Architect and Building News* that year, and later in Yorke's *Public Houses* and Oliver's *Renaissance of the Public House*, show the pubs with rudimentary garden plans. The **Merchants Arms**, Stapleton, is shown arranged around a 'formal garden', entered from the lounge, which was presumably to the designs of the architect.⁵⁴² Cruciform in plan, and described in an article in the local press as 'a lovely sunken garden and terraces which overlook the River From', this garden is clearly visible in the 1946 aerial survey and was thus more than a notional sketch by the architect.⁵⁴³ The contractors however also took credit for this design. The same article stated, alongside an advertisement for the firm, that Messrs Luke Rogers and Sons, the florists, nurserymen and seedsmen, of 101 Whiteladies Road, were responsible for

the excellent design and construction of the lovely garden – the focal point of the Merchants' Arms. Working on the theory that the garden of to-day should be regarded as an outdoor room, and thus demands individual treatment, Messrs Luke Rogers have achieved a delightful piece of work.⁵⁴⁴

It continued that 'no garden is too large – or too small – for them to deal with'.⁵⁴⁵ The firm had a second branch at Redland and nurseries at Coombe Dingle, very close to Georges' **Progress Inn**. From 1933, the company was widely reported in the press as providing the floral decorations at receptions and exhibitions, such as, in 1936, the Modern Home & Building Exhibition at the Coliseum Cinema and a rock and water garden at the Royal Show.⁵⁴⁶ That a contractor was named for the garden of this pub was unusual, as were some other development features including the fact that a shopping parade was erected opposite at the same time and by the same builders in similar style. This may have been because the land locally was owned by the Merchant Venturers, which had, presumably, particular requirements of or influence on the design. The gardens and rear elevations of these two pubs – unusual in design by Georges' standards – appeared in several illustrated articles in the architectural press during 1938. The grounds at the rear and side of the **Merchants Arms** were particularly difficult due to the drop,

⁵⁴² Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, 124.

⁵⁴³ *WDP*, 31 May 1938, 4.

⁵⁴⁴ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁴⁶ *WDP*, 14 May 1936, 8; *WDP*, 25 June 1936, 8.

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leading to the Frome Valley, and were arranged as a terrace leading to a lower courtyard garden; both areas commanded views of the River and, from around 1940, the neighbouring allotments, which survive. The courtyard is now overgrown with conifers.



Steps leading from the rear of the Merchants Arms, Bell Hill, Stapleton, to the courtyard, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, September 2014

The notion of the garden as an outdoor room was current in gardening magazines and design literature of this date. Not surprisingly, there is little sense that the gardens were intended to appear like the grounds of private houses. Georges' pub gardens – the brewery tended not to call them 'beer gardens' – appear more like the gardens made for nursery show grounds and temporary exhibitions than homes. This was partly because of the quantity and variety of competent hard landscaping – terracing, beds, borders, pools and sunken gardens were all used in abundance in Georges' interwar pubs (e.g. at the **Happy Landings**, which had 'a paved sunken garden outside'⁵⁴⁷). The similarity to commercial landscaping was also suggested in showy, seasonal planting, especially in prominent areas of the pub – as seen, for example, in the long ornamental borders, outside the skittles alley of **The Fellowship Inn**:

⁵⁴⁷ WDP, 20 December 1938, 5.

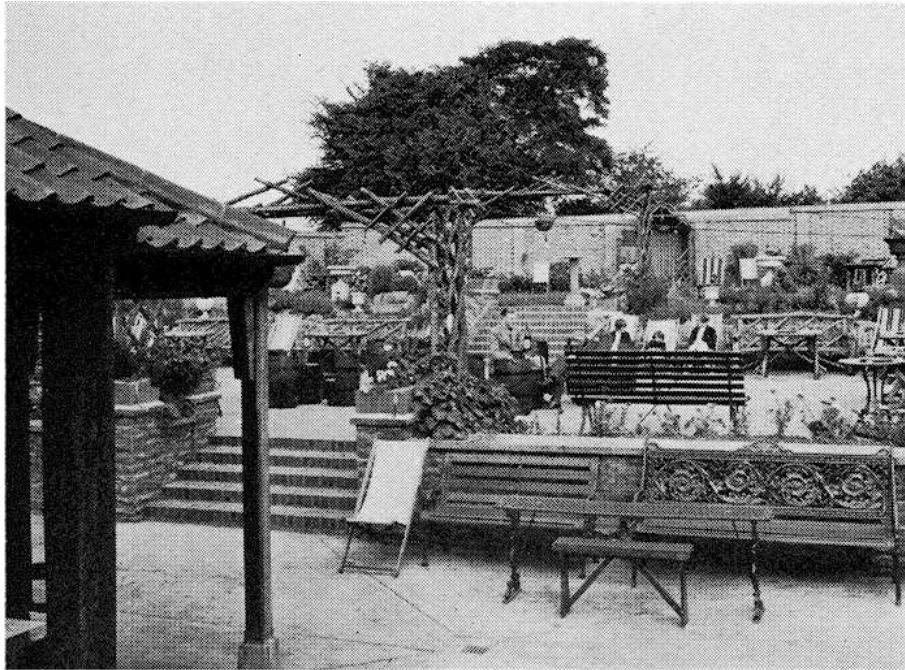
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The Fellowship, Filton Avenue, Horfield © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

It was also suggested in the number of popular ornaments the gardens contained. Rustic-work arches and furniture and other decorative items are seen in all contemporary photographs of Georges' pubs. For example, at **The Friendship**, there were rustic-work benches, arches and arbours, in addition to what appear to be Coalbrookdale benches and tables and also more functional park-type benches. Urns, birdbaths, sundials, fountains, concrete or plaster elves, and hanging baskets were among the many other ornaments and furniture that were provided for customers, objects which could be found at any nurserymen's warehouse or hardware corner store. These could have been added by managers, but their appearance in all the pub gardens photographed for Georges suggests that these design choices were more likely determined by the brewery or its contractors.

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Garden of The Friendship, Axbridge Road, Knowle, from One Hundred and Fifty Years, 45

In keeping with the vogue for sunbathing, many deckchairs were depicted, as at **The Friendship**, above. Half barrels are also shown in photographs of many of the gardens (for example, the **Beehive**, **Eastfield** and **Friendship**) as seating and plant tubs.



The courtyard and garden at one of Georges' interwar pubs, possibly The Friendship, Axbridge Road, Knowle © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

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Some of Georges' gardens appear less 'designed' than others, and perhaps more like domestic plots, as indicated in the image of the unidentified pub below. This could be either because photographs were taken when the pubs were first opened and before more detailed planting and laying out was tackled, or because greater attention appears to have been paid to landscaping difficult, sloping sites than at pubs built on level areas of ground. Either way, the photograph shows that rustic, pergola-type structures and rockeries and other kinds of rockwork were common to all of Georges' pub gardens.



The garden of one of Georges' interwar pubs © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Where space allowed, outdoor sporting areas were also incorporated, such as the 'miniature golf course' that was planned for **The Welcome Inn** at Southmead, in addition to its gardens and lawns.⁵⁴⁸

⁵⁴⁸ WDP, 12 April 1933, 5.



*The Welcome Inn, Southmead Road, Southmead © British Towns and Villages network:
<http://www.british-towns.net/england/southwestern/bristol/southmead/album/welcome-inn-garden>*

As this suggests, the outdoor room idea had particular practical appeal for public house gardens in being able to accommodate large numbers of people at particular seasons without the expense of permanent buildings. Thus the gardens at the **Merchants Arms** (1938) and **The Five Ails**, Chippenham (1937), were described as tea-gardens or gardens where tea could be served.⁵⁴⁹ Meanwhile of the enormous **Severn Beach Hotel** (1937), the largest of Georges' pubs, which served a growing resident population as well as day-trippers to the coast, it was claimed that the loggias could hold 200 people, 'while several hundreds more can be accommodated on the lawns, which will be prepared in ample time for the summer season'.⁵⁵⁰

The company continued to provide large and up-to-date skittles alleys for its pubs up to 1939, but there is some evidence that simpler gardens were being created at this date, or perhaps that there was less need to focus on them in publicity. Thus of the **Good Intent**, Brislington, opened in May 1939, it was reported

⁵⁴⁹ 'Stapleton public house right up-to-date', *WDP*, 3 April 1937, 10; 'New Public House at Chippenham', *WDP*, 5 March 1937, 4.

⁵⁵⁰ 'New luxury hotel at Severn Beach', *WDP*, 11 February 1937, 5.

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simply that that 'walled garden' was 'being turved in readiness for the summer season, when drinks may be taken out of doors'.⁵⁵¹

As mentioned above, clear boundaries were required between the public garden and the staff garden. Plans suggest that the latter were laid out more simply but even so, the architect indicated lawns, dry-stone walls and a rockery for the **Eastfield** and **Beehive**. At **The Friendship**, however, the staff area was marked as a 'kitchen garden'. Naturally the brewery photographs tended to focus only on the pub garden, while only plans and maps showed the true footprint area. The following image of the garden of the **Engineers Arms** at Ashton Gate, Bedminster, however, gives an indication of how this demarcation could bisect the exterior ground at the rear. Extended in the 1930s when the photograph below was taken, the plot of the **Engineers Arms** continued across the back of the building for an equal distance to the right.



The garden of the Engineers Arms, St John's Lane, Bedminster © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum

Today, the dividing fence has gone and other than a small area fenced off for drinking and a children's play area, the remainder is a carpark, bounded by a skittles alley, just out of sight to the right:

⁵⁵¹ WDP, 6 May 1939, 12.

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The rear of the Brunel (formerly the Engineers Arms), St John's Lane, Bedminster, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

Ironically the very design features that Francis Yorke recommended in the *Planning and Equipment of Public Houses* of 1949, including forecourts and car parking, which Georges had for the most part instigated in their interwar houses, have increased their value to developers and thus raised the level of threat to the buildings. The particular fate of gardens created for pubs built in the period from about 1930 to 1970 is discussed further at the end of Part Three.

PART THREE: 1939–1985

1939–1985: Licensing Legislation and the Licensed Trade

A number of licensing and planning acts were passed in the years after the Second World War. A Planning Act of 1945 allowed local planning committees to decide upon licence requirements in war damaged areas.⁵⁵² The 1949 Licensing Act extended the programme of state management to New Towns, but the legislation was never implemented. Further power to regulate and limit the number of businesses licensed for the sale of alcohol was, however, enshrined in the Licensing Act of 1953. This required all licensed premises to be 'structurally adapted to the class of license required' and all 'on' licensed premises to have at least two public rooms. As James Nicholls has indicated, 'In effect, this meant that licensing authorities could demand expensive renovation work to be carried out on pubs with the threat of closure if the owner was unwilling, or unable to stump up the necessary outlay'.⁵⁵³

The Licensing Act of 1961 was important in relaxing restrictions on opening hours for pubs and off licenses, marking the point at which supermarkets could trade selling alcohol all day. This undoubtedly hastened the decline of jug and bottle compartments. Pubs that wished to play the radio or recorded music, or have televisions in their bars no longer had to apply for a special license to do so. Legislation also informed the type of activities taking place in public houses. The 1960 Betting and Gaming Act allowed certain forms of gambling to take place for first time, stimulating the introduction of gaming machines to nearly 80% of pubs by 1984.⁵⁵⁴

The years after the Second World War were ones in which public houses were in the hands of a relatively small group of firms. Brewery numbers continued to decline quite rapidly through the 1940s and 1950s, leaving only 247 companies trading nationally in 1960.⁵⁵⁵ In 1956 Georges acquired Bristol United Breweries

⁵⁵² Nicholls, *The Politics of Alcohol*, 192.

⁵⁵³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁵⁴ J. D. Pratten, 'The development of the UK public house. Part 2: signs of change to the UK public house, 1959–1989', *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management*, 19/6, 2007, 514.

⁵⁵⁵ Pratten, 'The development of the modern UK public house. Part 1: The traditional British public house of the twentieth century', *International Journal of Contemporary Hospitality Management* 19/4, 2007, 338.

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(incorporated 1889), which had around 600 pubs. Following the acquisition Georges dominated the Bristol market with around 1300 pubs in Bristol and across the West of England. Georges was acquired by the London firm of Courage Barclay and Simonds in 1961 and at that time had 540 public houses in Bristol.

Bristol was, according to its Chief Constable, the most sober city in the country in 1946, with very low convictions for drunkenness and pubs that were generally well run.⁵⁵⁶ This pattern of sobriety continued across the period. A report in the *Times* newspaper in 1960 noted that 'Last year, once again, Bristol was the most sober city in the British Isles with less than one-third of a drunkard for each 1,000 of the population'.⁵⁵⁷ This was against a national picture of increased alcohol consumption, which almost doubled between 1950 and 1975.⁵⁵⁸

During the War licenses were removed from some bombed out businesses to other areas.⁵⁵⁹ Dening's third edition of *Old Inns of Bristol*, published in 1944, records the demise of many of Bristol's old inns during the war, the names of which reappear in postwar public houses, among them the **Golden Bottle** on Welsh Back.⁵⁶⁰ The period also saw the redevelopment of historic inns, such as the **Hatchet Inn** at Frogmore Street, which was altered and enlarged to accommodate a new road layout. The redevelopment, described as 'a successful piece of urban surgery' was awarded a Civic Trust Award in 1969.⁵⁶¹

The upgrading of licenses also continued in postwar Bristol. The **Trident** at Badminton Road in Downend, for example, had traded under that name as an off licence for over twenty years before being rebuilt when granted a full license in the mid-1960s.⁵⁶²

The new pub, shown below – transformed into a 'fully licensed "neighbourhood" local' – was designed to comply with contemporary licensing legislation, providing two bars for customers, a public bar on one side and a lounge on the

⁵⁵⁶ WDP, 4 February 1947, 5.

⁵⁵⁷ *Times*, 14 March 1960, 8.

⁵⁵⁸ Nicholls, *The Politics of Alcohol*, 196.

⁵⁵⁹ WDP, 18 April 1944, 3.

⁵⁶⁰ C. F. W. Dening, *Old Inns of Bristol*, 3rd edition, Bristol: John Wright and Sons, 1944, 122.

⁵⁶¹ B. Bonsor and R. R. E. Heslewood, 'The Public House in a Modern Society', *Journal of the Royal Society of Arts*, vol. 118, n. 5168 (July 1970): 459.

⁵⁶² *Golden Cockerel*, August 1965, 2.

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other, in “wings” that formally alluded to the pub’s aeronautical name. The off-licence, as was typical of many Bristol designs of postwar period, was centrally located and designed with a more conventional shopfront to indicate its retail function.⁵⁶³



The Trident, Downend, Golden Cockerel, August 1965, 2 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Competition for pubs continued to increase in the 1960s as the number of licensed restaurants grew and reached 20,500 by 1979.⁵⁶⁴ Off license numbers also increased significantly, from 26,200 in 1951 to 41,100 by 1979 and 51,600 in 1989.⁵⁶⁵ Breweries grew in size and by 1967, according to the Monopolies Commission Report on the Supply of Beer, over half of Britain’s on-licenses were owned by the six largest firms: Bass Charrington, Allied, Whitbread, Watney Mann, Courage and Scottish and Newcastle.⁵⁶⁶ This remained the principal structure of the trade until the introduction of the Government’s Beer Orders of 1989, which required brewers to reduce by half any holding of public houses above a limit of 2,000 and led to major changes in ownership and the emergence of new, retail-focused pubcos.⁵⁶⁷

⁵⁶³ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶⁴ Pratten, ‘The development of the UK public house. Part 2’, 514.

⁵⁶⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁶⁶ P. Jennings, *The Local*, 2007, 220.

⁵⁶⁷ On the Beer Orders see Nicholls, *The Politics of Alcohol*, chapter 15.

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Courage remained a major force in the market in the 1970s and owned over a third of Bristol's city centre pubs in 1975.⁵⁶⁸ Bristol Council retained a small number, owning sixteen city centre pubs in 1979.⁵⁶⁹ There was some restructuring of pub ownership in the city in the 1970s. In 1978, as part of a national rebalancing of portfolios, Courage transferred 40 Bristol pubs to Ind Coope.⁵⁷⁰ The **Isambard Brunel**, opposite Temple Meads station, was the first of their newly acquired pubs to be refurbished. The 1970s was a difficult decade for Bristol's smaller pubs and in 1979 the *Evening Post* reported that without significant reform of the rates system many might be forced to close.⁵⁷¹

Local licensing hours also changed. In Bristol, hours were extended to 11 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays with effect from March 21st 1980, bringing closing times into line with those in surrounding areas.⁵⁷²

In 1984 the *Evening Post* reported on plans to make it more difficult to open new public houses in 'village' locations such as Westbury-on-Trym, Clifton and Kingsdown and stated that the city had 608 public houses and wine bars, a figure that was growing by 3% a year at that time.⁵⁷³ Falling trade in the early 1980s prompted a number of Bristol publicans and breweries to press successfully for a reduction in rates and at that time the Licensed Victuallers' Association estimated that a quarter of tenanted public houses in the West Country were in the process of being sold.⁵⁷⁴

1939–1985: The Location and Planning of Public Houses

In 1945 a Licensing Planning Committee was set up to secure 'a proper provision and distribution of licensed premises' in Bristol within the context of the postwar replanning and development of the city.⁵⁷⁵

⁵⁶⁸ M. Aubrey, P. Chatterton, R. Hollands, *Youth culture and nightlife in Bristol*, Centre for Urban and Regional Development Studies and Department of Sociology and Social Policy University of Newcastle upon Tyne, undated (c.2002).

⁵⁶⁹ WDP, 23 March 1979, loose cutting, Bristol Central Library.

⁵⁷⁰ *Evening Post*, 19 May 1979, loose cutting, Bristol Central Library.

⁵⁷¹ *Evening Post*, 20 April 1979, loose cutting, Bristol Central Library.

⁵⁷² *Evening Post*, 8 March 1980, loose cutting, Bristol Central Library.

⁵⁷³ *Evening Post*, 7 March 1984, loose cutting, Bristol Central Library.

⁵⁷⁴ *Evening Post*, 13 January 1983 and 2 March 1983, loose cutting, Bristol Central Library.

⁵⁷⁵ WDP, 1 November 1945, 3.

As S. R. Denison noted in his essay on brewing of 1959, 'In recent years ... the shift of population from congested urban centres has involved many companies in extensive building' of new public houses. 'The annual statements of the chairmen of brewery companies since the last war', he continued, 'abound with references to this need to build new public houses in order to keep up with population movements. The actual amount of building was, of course, until recently closely restricted by the limitations on building imposed by government, and the main programme of new building comes after the end of our period'. He cited some examples to illustrate these points:

In 1948, the Chairman of Benskin's Watford Brewery referred to the fact that five new towns were to be built in the "company's area", so that it would be necessary to pursue a policy of removing licences to new estates, this being possible because ample finance was available. The Chairman of Georges stated in 1953 that new licenses had been obtained for new housing estates and that the licenses of several properties which had been destroyed during the war were available for transfer to new areas. The situation was well summarised by the Chairman of Mitchells and Butlers in his statement for 1957, in which year the company had opened eleven new fully-licensed pubs and thirteen off-licenses: "While we have good reason to be satisfied with the progress we have made in building new premises and improving some of the older ones, we have closed during the year thirteen Full Licenses, twelve Beer On-licenses and eleven Off-licenses, most of them in support of the new licensed premises opened. Much of the trade of the new premises therefore is a replacement of trade lost in those houses which have been closed".⁵⁷⁶

New models of public house were also emerging in this period. Frank Berni and Aldo Berni founded the first Berni Inn in Bristol in the **Rummer** public house in 1955, these early pub-restaurants were the precursors to some of the contemporary chains – Toby Carvery and, more recently, the Hungry Horse and Sizzling Pubs chains (e.g. **Brunel**, Bedminster; **Maes Knoll**, Whitchurch; **Shield and Dagger**, Dundry; **Turnpike**, Soundwell; **Yeoman**, Whitchurch) that can be found operating in the city today.

⁵⁷⁶ F. H. Henderson, *Studies in Company Finance: a symposium on the economic analysis and interpretation of British company accounts*, London and New York: Cambridge University Press, 1959, 143.

H. & G. Simonds opened one new public house in the city in 1957, and had 'begun on the construction of six others', which were due to be completed at the end of that year.⁵⁷⁷ But until 1961 Georges and its subsidiaries, including Bristol United Breweries, were the main builders of the pubs on Bristol's outlying estates, as shown below in the examination of the pubs built on the Corporation's earliest postwar estates. After 1961, when Georges was taken over by Courage, Courage dominated. The **Old Crow** at Henbury is one of a very few Bristol pubs from this period to have been created for a London brewery, Charles Hammerton and Company of Stockwell. The company, and seven tied pubs and 207 off-licenses, were taken over by Watney, Combe, Reid and Company, in 1951.⁵⁷⁸ The architects of the **Old Crow** were the Bristol practice, Burrough and Hannam, which also worked for Bristol United Breweries.

'The New Local': Postwar Public Houses in Bristol, 1940–1965

Bristol was the fifth most heavily bombed British city of the Second World War, a particular target because of its importance as a port and manufacturing centre and the presence of the Bristol Aeroplane Company (BAC) at Filton.

Planning for the postwar city began during the early 1940s, following the Bristol Blitz of 1940 and 1941. The city architect, J. Nelson Meredith, and the city engineer, H. Marston Webb, were responsible for the pre-War planning of the city and thus had a vested interest in continuing these policies.⁵⁷⁹ The Bristol Plan covered the whole of the city's redevelopment and expansion – the rebuilding of the bombed city centre and new settlements in the city's fringes. The Corporation continued the policy of building the majority of its social and private housing in outlying areas of the city and in the formerly rural areas of neighbouring counties, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. Over time, most of these areas, some of which became the size of small towns, were incorporated within the city boundary. As a report critical of the postwar plan put it in 1952, 'the city has already spread far enough. We would say, too far. Its sprawl, attenuated by the

⁵⁷⁷ 'H. & G. Simonds Sales Record', *Times*, 30 December 1957, 11.

⁵⁷⁸ L. Richmond and A. Turton, eds, *The Brewing Industry: A Guide to Historical Records*, Manchester: Manchester University Press, 1990, 98.

⁵⁷⁹ J. Gould and C. Gould, *Coventry Planned: The Architecture of the Plan for Coventry 1940–1978*, English Heritage, 2009, 78.

docks at Avonmouth, is further extended by suburban development outside the city boundary'.⁵⁸⁰

Concerns that the new residential developments should be different from the Knowle West (Filwood Park) experiment of the interwar period – ‘a ghastly wilderness’ in one view, although the Housing Committee protested at this – were aired in the early 1940s.⁵⁸¹ As the Lord Mayor put it at the opening of the Rehousing and Re-planning Exhibition at Radiant House in 1943, ‘we want to be sure, so far as Bristol is concerned, that we don’t built another Knowle West ... We want smaller housing estates’, he said, as ‘30,000 people are [now] living at Knowle West’. In addition to the size of estates, the provision of amenities including public houses was also discussed. The Mayor highlighted the problems created by poor transport facilities and the limited cinema and public house accommodation at Knowle West.⁵⁸²

Taking heed of Jevons’ and Madge’s *Housing Estates* report of 1946, the Housing and Planning and Reconstruction Committee recommended the same year that the 1933 resolution (of canvassing residents before licensing a public house on council estates, which was agreed in 1946) be rescinded in favour of negotiating direct with the breweries as regards the location of ‘licensed premises within the reconstruction area and the other areas’.⁵⁸³ As this suggests, unlike the Corporation’s interwar estates, the new estates would incorporate public houses at the planning stage.

In addition to the Corporation’s various committees on housing, licensing and postwar rebuilding, national legislation made a few years later also impacted upon these decisions. The Licensing Bill of 1949 made provision for the new Labour government to take over licensed premises, ‘i.e. hotels, inns, public-houses and breweries in the new towns and adjacent areas’.⁵⁸⁴ The same year, the cities of Bath and Bristol were declared licensing planning areas, under the Licensing Planning Act. In response to this legislation, brewers trading in the two cities joined together to form a committee to meet and discuss with the Licensing Planning Committee all matters dealing with the siting of licensed houses on the

⁵⁸⁰ C. Childs, D. Rigby and D. A. C. A. Boyne, ‘Survey of Bristol’, *Architects’ Journal*, 2 October 1952, 403.

⁵⁸¹ ‘Estate Not a Ghastly Wilderness’, *WDP*, 6 January 1942, 3.

⁵⁸² ‘Bristol’s Postwar Housing Plans’, *WDP*, 21 October 1943, 2.

⁵⁸³ ‘Licensed Houses on New Estates’, *WDP*, 6 December 1946, 2.

⁵⁸⁴ ‘Bristol Brewery Georges’ and Company’, *WDP*, 28 January 1949, 2.

new housing estates. According to Georges, these meetings were 'proceeding on a satisfactory and very friendly basis'.⁵⁸⁵

This did not mean however that the Housing Committee had had a complete *volte-face* on the question of pubs on its estates. Many on the Committee remained vehemently opposed to the condoning of public houses for the poor; like earlier opponents, some members argued that it discouraged thrift as well as sobriety. In 1948 Alderman Hennessey declared, 'I do not think it should be our policy to ram drink down the throats of our tenants'.⁵⁸⁶ He went on to say that 'there was a great deal of difference of opinion throughout the country concerning the provision of licensed houses on housing estates. Some of the larger authorities had said there should not be any public houses on the new estates; others had set a limit. It seemed that in Bristol an attempt was being made by the trade to wrest from the Corporation as many sites as possible for licensed premises'.⁵⁸⁷

There were some advocates within the Corporation of a scheme for state-managed public houses in the immediate postwar years, largely because of concerns over the breweries' power on Corporation estates.⁵⁸⁸ At the 1946 debate over whether to rescind the 1933 policy, Mr J. H. Knight appealed against the proposal to negotiate with breweries. This was because 'of the possibilities it offers the city to develop the licensed trade on our new estates from the angle of your municipal restaurants': 'Let us build licensed cafes, if you like, a decent standard of place where people can get sandwiches, beer, spirits, tea and coffee'.⁵⁸⁹ The Rev. A. Mervyn Stockwood agreed, but thought that the problem was not drink as such but 'the general atmosphere, environment and psychological impact of many public houses of the type existing in various parts of the city today'. He suggested the Corporation take over the public houses, if they could, 'the present ones and the future ones – and run them as a good club was run'. In this way they would 'become the means for the development of personality, health and the recreation of citizens'. However, the general view was that 'small public houses on the estates were an amenity' and that negotiating with the breweries rather than polling residents gave the Corporation more powers in this area.⁵⁹⁰

⁵⁸⁵ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸⁶ 'Public house sites on new estates', *WDP*, 6 September 1949, 1.

⁵⁸⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁵⁸⁹ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹⁰ 'Licenses on New Estates', *WDP*, 11 December 1946, 1.

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In 1952 the Conservative Government overturned the 1949 Act with the passing of the Licensed Premises in New Towns Bill. This was

to repeal so much of the Licensing Act, 1949, as provides for State management of the liquor trade in new towns; to make provision as to the grant of new justices' licences, and the removal of justices' licences, for or to premises in new towns in England and Wales and as to the grant of new certificates and the renewal of certificates in respect of premises in new towns in Scotland.⁵⁹¹

The Member for Bristol South from 1945, William Wilkins, opposed the Bill.⁵⁹² The former Home Secretary likewise said the new Act was 'a triumph for the brewers since it ensured that every new public house in the New Towns would be "tied"'.⁵⁹³ The effect of this in Bristol was that the pubs on the new estates, many of which could have been categorised as New Towns, would be built and owned by the breweries on land leased from the Corporation. By 1963, Courage estate records indicate that there was a policy of allowing breweries to buy the freeholds of their public houses in and around the city.

The general movement for new licensed houses in the postwar years was then outwards into suburban and fringe areas of the city. This followed the postwar plan, but it was also a continuation of existing licensing policy, as breweries continued to close licensed houses in the older, built-up districts nearer the centre of the city in exchange for new licenses in the suburbs. Meanwhile the Planning and Reconstruction Committee preferred to negotiate for new licenses on Corporation estates rather than compensate licensees in cases where they had lost pubs through enemy action.⁵⁹⁴

Taking heed of the mistakes of the pre-war period, the Corporation now gave greater thought to as well as permission for the building of public houses on the new estates, which were planned as ideal village communities.

The estates were planned 'along "neighbourhood unit" lines';⁵⁹⁵ this model, developed in the 1940s, would later inform the layout of New Towns. John

⁵⁹¹ *House of Commons Debates*, 5 February 1952 vol. 495 c809.

⁵⁹² *House of Commons Debates*, 21 July 1952 vol. 504 cc49–235.

⁵⁹³ 'Licensed Premises in New Towns', *Times*, 28 February 1952, 4.

⁵⁹⁴ 'Licenses on New Estates', *WDP*, 11 December 1946, 1.

⁵⁹⁵ 'Henbury Estate Plans Approved', *WDP*, 25 May 1948, 4.

Madge, ARIBA, research fellow at the University of Bristol's Building Research station, explained in January 1946 how the 'neighbourhood plan' was designed to create distinct 'villages' that would form part of a greater Bristol:

... while the idea of the neighbourhood should be promoted it would be wrong to attempt to make each unit self-supporting or to isolate its population from the facilities which are naturally located in the centre. At the same time it is stressed that, while every area in different parts of the city should have its share of the various classes which go to make up society, the knitting of these classes into a happy community is a problem which calls for extremely careful planning.⁵⁹⁶

The best method of achieving this object, Madge said, was 'probably to lay each estate out on the principle of the close or village green by which each group of 100 to 300 houses would be allotted to families of similar backgrounds and interests, and would be provided with its own immediate social facilities'.⁵⁹⁷

This was the same John Madge who, as part of the University of Bristol Social Survey had researched Bristol's housing estates with Rosamond Jevons and Herbert Tout in the late 1930s.⁵⁹⁸ Brother of Charles, the poet and co-founder of Mass-Observation, Madge began to specialise in the application of sociology to architectural design for the Building Research Station at the University of Bristol after the war.⁵⁹⁹ Here he was in charge of Reconstruction and Research Group and a member of the Neighbourhood Planning Sub-Committee. His role also encompassed the zoning of amenities on the new estates, including their public houses. 'What we are aiming at is to get [the shops] in the right place in relation to the houses, along with the other local amenities of a neighbourhood such as the halls, cinema, library recreation ground, public-house, and so on'.⁶⁰⁰

The Planning and Reconstruction Committee was also at least partly responsible for the trend for smaller public houses around the city. It decided in 1947 that 'On Bristol's future housing estates the smaller "inn" type public house is to be

⁵⁹⁶ 'Neighbourhood Planning', *WDP*, 11 January 1946, 3.

⁵⁹⁷ *Ibid.*

⁵⁹⁸ R. Jevons and J. Madge, *Housing Estates: A Study of Bristol Corporation Policy and Practice Between the Wars*, Bristol: University of Bristol, 1946, 16.

⁵⁹⁹ E. Darling, *Re-forming Britain: Narratives of Modernity Before Reconstruction*, London: Routledge, 2007, 250.

⁶⁰⁰ 'Neighbourhood Planning', *WDP*, 11 January 1946, 3.

preferred to the large multi-barred premises that have seen built in some districts'.⁶⁰¹

Although the number of pubs provided by 1970 was not large, at least in proportion to the numbers of dwellings built and the population these housed, it was far more generous than in the interwar period. This section will look at how public houses were incorporated into the earliest postwar estates from the planning stages, and at how the pubs were zoned. This is followed by a description of the smaller number of pubs built for the redesigned city centre and inner suburban housing projects, and at provision at Yate, Bristol's New Town. Part Three of the report will then focus, broadly chronologically, on key estate pubs of this period, looking at their external architecture, plans, interior design, garden and landscape setting. It begins with a brief description of Bristol's prefabricated settlements built from the mid-1940s, and the 'temporary' public houses erected to serve their residents.

Prefab Pubs: Temporary Public Houses, 1945–1955

Bristol's rebuilding programme began before the end of the War. The first homes to go up, in June 1945, were prefabricated units funded by central Government. Three hundred and eighty-two were occupied in 1946, and these types of buildings quickly became known locally as 'prefabs'.⁶⁰² Around 2,700 were built on different sites across Bristol,⁶⁰³ usually in the same areas in which permanent housing was also being planned. In 2005, some 330 prefabs were still in use in the city – one of the largest concentrations left in the country.⁶⁰⁴ Other kinds of temporary and prefabricated structures were put up to serve the new settlements. At Hillfields, Fishponds, for example, 'In addition to more than 600 houses, prefab. shops were constructed'.⁶⁰⁵ At Southmead, the 'new community centre' opened in 1949 was 'a reused Nissan shell'.⁶⁰⁶

⁶⁰¹ 'Your Local Will be Smaller', *WDP*, 24 April 1947, 5.

⁶⁰² 'Postwar Municipal Development in Bristol', *RIBA Journal*, May 1950, 258.

⁶⁰³ Malpass and Walmsley, *100 Hundred Years of Council Housing Bristol*, 6.

⁶⁰⁴ University of the West of England, *The History of Council Housing*, 2008: http://fet.uwe.ac.uk/conweb/house_ages/council_housing/print.htm, accessed 7 January 2015.

⁶⁰⁵ 'Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities 4 – Hillfields, Fishponds', *Bristol Evening Post*, 1954, Bristol Central Library: Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities file, 72.8

⁶⁰⁶ 'Southmead Fosters the Community Spirit', *Bristol Evening Post*, 22 July 1949, Bristol Central Library, Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities file, 72.7.

There is some evidence that prefabricated pubs were also built in the mid- to late 1940s. According to Jevons and Madge, a new public house was opened 'just off' the Knowle West estate in 1945, although it is not clear what or where this was.⁶⁰⁷ At the village of Charlton near Southmead in 1946, Mrs Jefferies, licensee of Charlton's only public house wondered, 'Shall I get a prefab pub?', when the village was due to be demolished for the expansion of the BAC site for Brabazon aircraft, and her neighbours' homes were shortly to be replaced with prefabs.⁶⁰⁸

Prefab or at least temporary pubs were certainly built in the 1950s. At Southmead in 1954, where house building was now 'practically complete', the whole area was still described as lacking in amenities. Unlike in the 1930s developments, however, the few amenities in Southmead's postwar extension did include pubs. 'A new permanent public house' had been built by 1954 – the **Standard of England** on Greystoke Avenue, a Tesco Express from 2011 – while 'among the temporary buildings [were] the Community Association meeting place and a public house'.⁶⁰⁹ This probably referred to the **Wayfarer**, opened by Georges in 1953. On the Southmead/Brentry borders at 200 Pen Park Road near the junction with Charlton Road, the **Wayfarer** was described in the *Brewing Review* as a 'prefabricated public-house'.⁶¹⁰ In a press report of 1980, at the time of the pub's proposed demolition for housing, it was stated that the **Wayfarer** had been built as a temporary measure because of doubts over road projects for the area.⁶¹¹ However the *Brewing Review* indicated that it actually resulted from longer term planning, and stated that 'the site, which was purchased prior to the war for future development, is situated in a fast growing housing estate and is approximately a quarter of a mile from the "Brabazon" runway at Filton, of the Bristol Aeroplane Co Ltd., from whose freight-carrying aircraft, the **Wayfarer**, the new house takes its name'.⁶¹² One migrant to the new estate in the 1950s remembered that

Eventually, my parents got a council house on the right side of the city nearer to [Father's] work. In fact it was built on what had been

⁶⁰⁷ Jevons and Madge, *Housing Estates*, 82.

⁶⁰⁸ 'Brabazon Jet Liner', *WDP*, 26 March 1946, 4.

⁶⁰⁹ 'Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities 2 – Southmead', *Bristol Evening Post*, 1954, Bristol Central Library, Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities file, 72.4.

⁶¹⁰ 'The Wayfarer, Bristol', *Brewing Review*, 67/2 (1953): 510–11.

⁶¹¹ H. Weekes, 'Homes Plan Threat to Demolish Pub', *Bristol Evening Post*, January 1980. Bristol Central Library: 805.59.

⁶¹² 'The Wayfarer, Bristol', *Brewing Review*, 1953, 510–11.

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farmland and a nearby village of Charlton. We were the first in the street. Boy was it muddy. No shops, but a mobile shop van, the Co-op for general groceries, The Bread van, the milkman, the butcher's van and the Coal man etc. The local pub (not that I was old enough to use it!) was a "temporary" wood built structure that last[ed] until the 1990s [and was known] as the "Wayfarer", named after an aircraft built nearby in one of the many Aircraft factories.⁶¹³

Photographs of the **Wayfarer** taken for Georges show a single-storey, wooden, shed-like structure with a corrugated roof and metal windows. According to *Brewing Review* 'the layout allows for three timber-framed buildings, living quarters 50 feet by 16 feet; skittle alley 60 feet by 16 feet; and main building 60 feet by 35 feet'.⁶¹⁴



The Wayfarer, Pen Park Road, photograph c. 1950s © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

⁶¹³ Posted by Col Bloodnock on 20 January 2013 at <http://whirligigtv.yuku.com/reply/221923/Re-My-1940s-or-1950s-home>, accessed 6 August 2014.

⁶¹⁴ 'The Wayfarer, Bristol', *Brewing Review*, 510–11.

In 1980, when the **Wayfarer** was under threat of demolition, the landlord, whose family had been running the pub since 1955 said, 'his regulars were "keeping an open mind" about the scheme. They like the old pub as it is and are only hoping the new one will retain the same character'".⁶¹⁵ The original **Wayfarer** was subsequently demolished and a new pub of the same name, a one-bar pub incorporating a residential flat, was built on a site nearby in around 1985. This later pub was demolished recently, after closing in 2011; a planning application for the site, for the erection of three units with 14 residential apartments above, together with ancillary car parking and access arrangements, was withdrawn in June 2014.

New Communities in the Suburbs, 1945–1965

The boom period of postwar licensed house building in Bristol began in the mid-1950s, largely because where houses were built pubs usually followed, and building restrictions were not lifted until 1954. 'New estates were emerging and established ones expanded, and at the peak of production in Bristol in 1955, 43 families per week were being moved into brand new homes'.⁶¹⁶ Until the 1960s the majority of social housing was built in small two-storey houses in pairs or short terraces set in gardens – more generous versions of pre-war designs, which continued to disperse the population over large areas of ground. This occurred in 'two distinct phases': in new estates at the edges of the built-up area including Lawrence Weston, Lockleaze, Henbury, Hartcliffe and Withywood or, as at Southmead, extensions to existing settlements. The redevelopment of 'slum' areas in inner suburbs incorporating blocks of flats formed the other, smaller phase. Public house provision differed between these schemes and also between inner city and suburban areas, thus they are described separately, below.

There were numerous reports in the national press about Bristol's leading position in the league table of municipal house building at this time.⁶¹⁷ The local press also followed the building out into the suburbs. In 1954 a series of articles called 'Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities' appeared in the *Bristol Evening Post*. These 'turned a spotlight on the new communities which are making the new Bristol, concentrating mainly on the new large housing estates which are rapidly

⁶¹⁵ Weekes, 'Homes Plan Threat to Demolish Pub', Bristol Central Library: 805.59.

⁶¹⁶ University of the West of England, The History of Council Housing, 2008: http://fet.uwe.ac.uk/conweb/house_ages/council_housing/print.htm, accessed 7 January 2015.

⁶¹⁷ Malpass and Walmsley, *100 Hundred Years of Council Housing*, 6.

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encircling the city'.⁶¹⁸ The articles reported on the amenities for the new settlements and, although pubs were not the only focus, they recognised their particular importance to residents who had been decanted from established communities.

Prior to their settlement in the new estates, local people

had been living in the central area of the city, with a shop around the corner, a cinema in the next street, and a pub nearby. Moreover all their friends and relatives have lived nearby. Suddenly they are swept into a brand new council house, or a flat, and they must begin a completely new life on a completely new estate.⁶¹⁹

A pub could be a meeting place and a focal point. Older village pubs, where they existed, were not necessarily welcoming to incomers. Naturally the breweries were keen on the idea of the new local with a dedicated customer base. As Richard Courage remarked at the opening of the **Golden Cockerel** in Highridge (the first pub to open following Georges' merger with Courage) in 1961:

the trade must follow the distribution of population; and with the movement of large sections of the community outwards from city to suburbs, it was inevitable that some town pubs of inferior quality should be closed, just as it was vitally necessary to provide the infant communities in the suburbs with new houses where they could meet and have a drink in an informal and friendly atmosphere.⁶²⁰

What the brewery had tried to create was 'a "local" which will be meeting-place, rendezvous and home-from-home'.⁶²¹

Not including refurbished pubs and those built for the New Town, our survey has identified around forty-five new licensed houses built to serve Bristol's new communities on the fringes of the city in the period between 1955 and 1970; some of the first to go up are described below.

⁶¹⁸ 'The New Communities – a Summing Up', *Bristol Evening Post*, 1954, Bristol Central Library: Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities file, 72.23.

⁶¹⁹ *Ibid.*

⁶²⁰ 'The Golden Cockerel', *What's Brewing*, Winter 1961/2, 7.

⁶²¹ *What's Brewing*, Winter 1961/2, 8.

Lawrence Weston – ‘an Estate in a Beautiful Setting’

In 1946, details of the suggested layout of the Lawrence Weston estate, comprising 352 acres on the north-west outskirts of the city, were presented by the City Architect, J. Nelson Meredith. It was designed to accommodate 10,000 inhabitants in some 2,200 houses, and the plan included provision for shops, churches, schools, a library, a concert hall, a health centre, parks and public houses.

The Corporation was proud of Lawrence Weston. As the *Western Daily Press* commented, ‘Lawrence Weston, when its 2,600 houses are built, will vie with Mr Silkin’s Stevenage as a show-town of the age’.⁶²²

Lawrence Weston’s pubs were zoned near the shops, and overlooked or were close to green spaces. Initially, two sites were provided for public houses – one near the main shopping centre and the other, in Kingsweston, close to one of the two subsidiary shopping centres.⁶²³ Three years later, after pressure from the breweries and much debate within the Housing Committee, it was decided that Lawrence Weston would have four public house sites – in addition to an existing public house in Lawrence Weston, the **Mason’s Arms**.⁶²⁴

The **Mason’s Arms** was a Victorian pub, first recorded as trading in the late 1880s.⁶²⁵ Its retention and updating was part of Corporation policy in which historic buildings as well as trees and landscape were incorporated into the plan. According to the *Evening Post*, ‘Some of the best features of the area have not been lost – a farmhouse has become the resident agent’s office ... Lawrence Weston farmhouse is soon to be turned into a youth centre’ and ‘the old Mason’s Arms has been turned into a modern public-house’.⁶²⁶ Some alterations to the pub were made in 1947, including a new lavatory and porch; the architect was J. Ralph Edwards, designer of the interwar **Paradise Roadhouse**, for J. & T.

⁶²² ‘From Estates to Neighbourhoods’, *WDP*, 8 May 1946, 3.

⁶²³ ‘Kings Weston Estate Lay-Out’, *WDP*, 12 March 1946, 2.

⁶²⁴ *Ibid.*

⁶²⁵ S. Roper, ‘Masons’ Arms in Lawrence Weston’, Bristol & Regional Archaeological Services, May 2011, <http://www.baras.org.uk/masons-arms-in-lawrence-weston>, accessed 7 January 2015.

⁶²⁶ ‘Spotlighting Bristol’s New Communities 1 – Lawrence Weston’, *Bristol Evening Post*, 1954, Bristol Central Library, 72.2.

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Usher.⁶²⁷ Between 1947 and 1954 a new public bar extension and skittles alley were also added.⁶²⁸ The pub was demolished in 2011.⁶²⁹



Mason's Arms, Lawrence Weston Road, Lawrence Weston, detail from 'Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities 1 – Lawrence Weston', Bristol Evening Post, 1954 © Bristol Central Library, 72.2

The new pubs at Lawrence Weston were the **English Rose** (Bristol United Breweries, 1955), Broadlands Drive; **The Penpole Inn** (Georges, opened in 1958), and **The Giant Goram** (H. & G. Simonds, c.1959, architect Reginald E. Southall)⁶³⁰ both on Barrowmead Drive; and the **Long Cross** (H. & G. Simonds, c.1958) on Long Cross.

⁶²⁷ BRO Building plan/Volume 199/1e.

⁶²⁸ Roper, 'Mason's Arms in Lawrence Weston'; 'Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities 1 – Lawrence Weston', Bristol Central Library, 72.2.

⁶²⁹ Roper, 'Mason's Arms in Lawrence Weston'.

⁶³⁰ Reginald E. Southall also designed the Prince of Wales at Bracknell New Town and the Royal Oak at James Street, Brighton, for H. & G. Simonds.

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The English Rose, Broadlands Drive, Lawrence Weston © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)



The Penpole Inn, Kings Weston Lane, Lawrence Weston © Ry George



The Giant Goram, Barrowmead Drive, Lawrence Weston © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Although there were some changes over time, in terms of scale, form and zoning, these pubs set the tone for the majority of the public houses built on Bristol's outer estates from the mid-1950s until the later 1960s. Unfortunately their present state is also typical: the **English Rose** was demolished for housing in 2008, as was **The Penpole Inn** around 2012, and in 2014 the **Long Cross** was also pulled down. **The Giant Goram** was still trading in October 2014.

Henbury

Henbury was developed as a large Corporation estate from the late 1940s and is about five miles north west of the city centre. In addition to conforming to the postwar plan that favoured low-density houses set amid plenty of green space, Henbury, like many of the new outlying estates encompassed an existing village. In Henbury's case, the model village of Blaise Hamlet was also nearby. In the application to compulsorily purchase land for 2,000 houses on the Henbury estate in 1947, the Corporation said that it was 'anxious to preserve the nature of Henbury as a village. We have nothing in mind which would interfere with the village itself'.⁶³¹ As at the larger settlement of Lawrence Weston and the Corporation suburbs of Southmead and Brentry, which are also nearby, Henbury's

⁶³¹ 'Henbury Plan and BAC', *WDP*, 29 August 1947, 3.

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recreational facilities were incorporated at the planning stage and included both new and refurbished public houses. By mid-1954, 'two public houses at Henbury ... had their accommodation enlarged and one new house is about to be built'.⁶³² The new pub was probably either the **Henbury Inn**, in Satchfield Crescent, the site for which was marked on the 1949 Bristol Plan, or the **Old Crow** on Crow Lane. The **Henbury Inn** (Georges, late 1950s), on the corner of Satchfield Crescent and Richeson Walk, was demolished and replaced with housing in 2007–8; no contemporary photographs were located of the **Henbury Inn** during the research. The **Old Crow** (Charles Hammerton & Co., 1959), which is still trading with a B&B, replaced an older pub of the same name on this site; the plans were dated 1956 and the pub opened in late 1959.

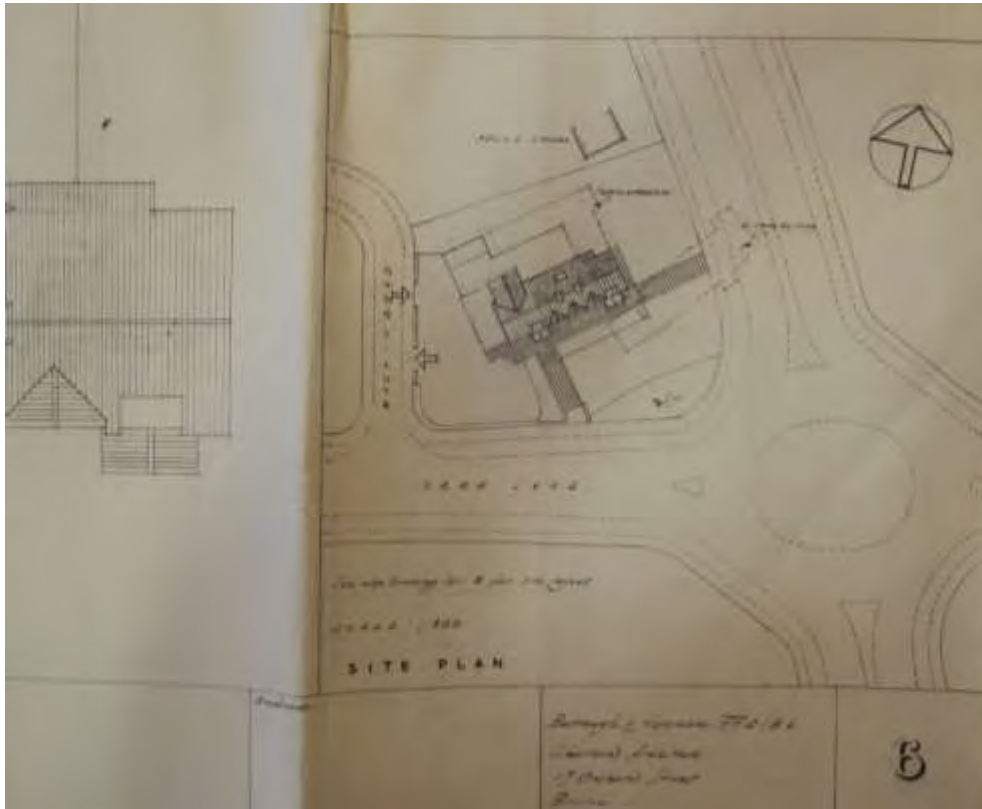


The Old Crow, Crow Lane, Henbury and the 'modern' Old Crow © Bristol Central Library, *Press Cuttings Book*, c.1960

In their architectural details and materials, such as local stone and similar-looking substitutes, the pubs were intended to enhance their semi-rural settings. The settings were however just as modern as the pubs. Roads linked the zoned areas within the new settlements, which were separated from industrial centres by green belts; in an updating of the traditional coaching inn, the new **Old Crow** faced a 'busy traffic roundabout':

⁶³² 'Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities 2 – Southmead', *Bristol Evening Post*, 1954, Bristol Central Library, 72.4.

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The Old Crow, Crow Lane, Henbury © Bristol Record Office – BRO 29053/3c

The shops were nearby, at the main 'civic centre' on Crow Lane; as at the other centres there was also a church, library and open space.



The Old Crow, Crow Lane, Henbury, in June 2014. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014



Crow Lane, Henbury, showing the shops facing the park in June 2014. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

The modern vernacular of the rebuilt **Old Crow**, which architects favoured for the domestic-scale pubs built to serve Bristol's outlying estates of the 1950s and early 1960s, is described in more detail, below. It followed through from the planning, in which the pubs, and the other amenities which formed the civic centres of the estates, were organised on the lines of idealised rural communities. The architecture of the Welfare State was clustered around village greens, where facilities for recreation, including the local pub, were also to be located.

Lockleaze

Around four miles to the south east of Henbury, Lockleaze was another early Corporation settlement of the early postwar years. It was developed from 1947 on some 220 acres of former agricultural land to the north east of the city centre, which would 'be fashioned as a community centre surrounding a village green. There will be a group of shops next to a public house and a garden site, swimming baths, a library, a community centre, health centre, Corporation offices and a car park'.⁶³³ This 'village green' was Gainsborough Gardens (later Square), which formed the heart of Lockleaze, which contained 1,164 dwellings and an estimated population of 4,100. **The Blue Boy** held a prominent position on the north side of the green and would rub shoulders with new shopping parades, including a large Co-op, a police station and flats for the elderly as well as the amenities mentioned above.

The shops opened in the early 1950s and Georges opened **The Blue Boy** (which soon also became known as the **Gainsborough**) on 1 December 1958.

⁶³³ 'Design for Future', WDP, 22 April 1947, 5.

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The Blue Boy (later the Gainsborough) at Gainsborough Square, Lockleaze © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

At around the same time, the **Golden Bottle** was also built for the estate, to the west of Gainsborough Square. The brewery is not known.



The Golden Bottle, Constable Road, Lockleaze in July 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

The new estate and its pubs were remembered with affection. From her council house on the 'old estate at Horfield', Joyce Storey looked longingly at the 'new Lockleaze estate' on the other side of Dovercourt Road:⁶³⁴

Just over the bridge, the new Lockleaze estate rubbed shoulders with the old. Once farmland and meadow, it was now wide roads and new houses. On my way up to the post office I often made a detour along

⁶³⁴ J. Storey, *The House in South Road: An Autobiography*, London: Virago, 2000, 333, 356.

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Landseer Avenue. All the roads around there were named after famous English painters – although, truth to tell, it was the first time in our lives we’d ever heard of such people as Chrome, Bonnington or Hogarth. The shopping area was romantically named Gainsborough Square, and outside the pub the sign that swung and creaked in the wind depicted Gainsborough’s “Blue Boy”.⁶³⁵

Other also remembered **The Blue Boy** – as a bus stop and landmark as well as a meeting place.⁶³⁶ William Smith was born in the Dings, St Philip’s, and was among the first wave of settlers in the 1950s: ‘the new estate in the north part of Bristol was called Lockleaze, a district where I was to spend all of my formative years. There were very few houses already built when we arrived, but they were occupied immediately upon completion’. He recalled the two pubs built for the estate: ‘They were named the Golden Bottle and The Blue Boy’.⁶³⁷ His family favoured the **Golden Bottle**, which was just a short walk from home, and they would all go to the pub ‘while the Sunday dinner was cooking in the oven back at number 64’.⁶³⁸ ‘Drinking beer was recreation for the working class’, the author recalls, and ‘standing around the bar with a pint of Georges’ bitter ale, relishing the pleasure of a Woodbine cigarette and chatting with their mates’, was their entertainment’.⁶³⁹

The **Gainsborough (The Blue Boy)** is vacant, in poor condition and likely to be demolished along with the shops, a symbol of the area’s increasing deprivation over the past few decades.

⁶³⁵ *Ibid.*, 356–7.

⁶³⁶ B. Smith, *Rant and Dawdle a Fictional Memoir of Colston Wilmott*, Toronto: Charivari, 2010, 42.

⁶³⁷ *Ibid.*, 38.

⁶³⁸ *Ibid.*, 174.

⁶³⁹ *Ibid.*, 62.

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Gainsborough Square in July 2014; an arrow marks the closed pub. Source: Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

Lockleaze had by the late twentieth century become known as Bristol's 'lost suburb' and the area around the Square is presently a regeneration zone. The pub had gained a poor reputation and the community involvement process indicated 'popular support for the provision of a larger food store/supermarket'; another idea was for a new 'family pub' on the site.⁶⁴⁰ The **Golden Bottle** was closed in 2011 but has reopened after refurbishment and was trading in the summer of 2014.

Hartcliffe, Bishopsworth, Highridge and Oldbury Court

A similar story of decline in recent years can be told about Hartcliffe, a large Corporation suburb built from 1952 in south Bristol, which between 1958 and 1964 was provided with five new public houses: the **Hartcliffe Inn** (Georges, 1958), the **Gatcombe House** (Georges, 1959), the **Red Hart** (Georges, 1960), the **Fulford House** (Georges, c.1960) and the **Harriers** (Courage, 1964):

⁶⁴⁰ City Design Group, *Gainsborough Square Regeneration Project Regeneration Strategy, Consultation Draft/01*, November 2012, 24.

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The Hartcliffe Inn, Brocks Road, Hartcliffe © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)



The Gatcombe House, Gatcombe Road, Hartcliffe © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)



The Red Hart, Bishport Avenue, Hartcliffe © Ry George

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The Fulford House, Fulford Road, Hartcliffe © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)



The Harriers, Bishport Avenue, Hartcliffe: Golden Cockerel, Winter 1964 no. 9, 25 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

It is not known how the Hartcliffe pubs fared in the early years but by the 1990s they all had a poor reputation. Following the economic recession of the late 1980s, and the loss of the main employer, Imperial Tobacco, in 1990, Hartcliffe became one of the most deprived areas in the country. Lack of investment, the disturbances of 1992 and changes in retail patterns, including out-of-town shopping and superstores, all contributed by 2006 to the decline of Hartcliffe's commercial heart at Symes Avenue. In 2006 the Council described the shortly to be demolished shopping centre as having 'remained in a poor state, probably the worst district centre in Bristol, for over ten years'.⁶⁴¹

The **Gatcombe House** was demolished around 2005 and Hartcliffe's remaining four pubs, which were all on or near main roads surrounding the shopping centre, closed in the next five or six years. Thus, although the **Red Hart** had been converted in 1980 to 'a typical English country inn with traditional period

⁶⁴¹ Bristol City Council, Hartcliffe & Withywood SRB5 Evaluation Brief (2), 03/03/2006, 7.

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fittings',⁶⁴² by 2011 the *Bristol Post* called it a derelict 'eyesore' and in 2012 planning permission was granted for its replacement with houses. The **Fulford House**, the **Harriers** and the **Hartcliffe Inn** have also ceased trading as pubs or have been demolished; all had become notorious, to judge from local press reports.

On the neighbouring estate at Bishopsworth, only one of the two pubs built in the mid-1960s survives. Permission was given for the demolition of the **Rising Sun**, Bishopsworth (Courage, 1965), and its replacement with housing, in 2012.



The Rising Sun, Queens Road, Bishopsworth, Golden Cockerel, February 1966 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

There had been a **Rising Sun** on this site from at least 1870 and, when 'business in the old inn ended at 2.30 pm', on 13 December 1965, 'it continued at the new licensed house at 5.30, so that there was no inconvenience to customers'.⁶⁴³ **The Maytree** at Bishopsworth (Courage, 1963), is still trading.

⁶⁴² *Bristol Evening Post*, 8 November 1980, loose cutting, Bristol Central Library.

⁶⁴³ *Golden Cockerel*, February 1966, 4–5.

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The Maytree, St Peter's Rise, Bishopsworth © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

The **Golden Cockerel** was opened at Highridge, in south Bristol, in 1961. Its name commemorated the fact that this was the first pub to be opened in Bristol by Courage Barclay and Simonds. It was, however, designed for Georges' subsidiary, Bristol United Breweries, by architects Burrough and Hannam, just before Georges' merger with Courage.



The Golden Cockerel, Lakemead Grove, Highridge: What's Brewing: The Georges Group Gazette, Winter 1961, 6. Authors' collection

The **Golden Cockerel** was demolished and replaced with housing in 2011. More successful, at least in the longer term, was the pub erected for the smaller

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Corporation suburb built on the Oldbury Court estate at Fishponds, to the north east of the city. House building commenced in the early 1950s and planning consent for the new pub was granted in 1955. Clustered near the shops around one of a series of greens, the **Oldbury Court Inn** (unknown brewery, c. late 1950s) is still trading:



The Oldbury Court Inn, Gill Avenue, Fishponds in September 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

Located in green fields about four miles from the city centre, the estate is close to the busy Downend Road (A432), which runs north-east between Bristol and Old Sodbury. The smaller size of the estate, and its proximity to existing transport networks, employment and facilities, including the portion of the original estate (landscaped by Humphry Repton) retained by the Corporation as open space and playing fields, doubtless contributed to the pub's survival.



The Oldbury Court Inn, Gill Avenue, Fishponds (marked with a red arrow) in its 'village' setting in September 2014. Source: Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

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With only a small amount of recent building around the green, the site gives an idea of how the pub was planned as a community facility for the estate, which unusually for Bristol at this date comprised a high proportion of flats.

Not surprisingly, the breweries and their architects clearly understood that Bristol's postwar estates were planned as modern villages as part of the neighbourhood plan. From 1961, Courage in particular stressed how its pubs fit in with the new settlements, and sought to create welcoming 'new locals'. Company reports usually described the suburbs they were built for as 'vast' or 'huge' and often named the main local industry and employer, especially in the later 1960s. The **Harvesters** (Courage, 1967), the third pub built for Stockwood, a private development, and 'a local with a view right over Bristol, fits admirably into the neighbourhood pattern, yet contrives to be different'.⁶⁴⁴

Pubs for 'private enterprise estates', 1955–1970

The Corporation and the breweries were less specific on how they planned for the provision of public houses on private estates compared to the mass of comment about how this was managed in connection with social housing developments. In 1950 the *RIBA Journal* noted that a number of private houses had been created in Bristol under the Small Builder's Scheme (Ministry of Health Circular, 92/46) but did not give details of the amenities planned for these settlements.⁶⁴⁵ In 1954 the *Bristol Evening News* reported on 'the greatest private enterprise building venture in the South-West'. This was a cluster of 'six private enterprise estates' in the Downend and Moored districts between Bromley Heath Road and Badminton Road, to the north east of the city (not far from the Oldbury Court estate at Fishponds), which created 1,020 new houses and bungalows. The community buildings planned included a public house as well as schools, shops and a church, although in 1954 these were not yet built.⁶⁴⁶ The pub was possibly **The Trident**, built by Courage in 1965 on the site of a 1945 off-license of the same name.⁶⁴⁷

⁶⁴⁴ *Golden Cockerel*, February 1967, 3.

⁶⁴⁵ 'Post-War Municipal Development in Bristol', *RIBA Journal*, May 1950, 258.

⁶⁴⁶ 'More New Communities on "Fringe" of Bristol', *Bristol Evening Post*, c.1954, Bristol Central Library: Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities file, 72.27.

⁶⁴⁷ *Golden Cockerel*, June 1964, 2 and August 1965, 2.



The Trident, Badminton Road, Downend, Golden Cockerel, August 1965, 2 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Bristol's 1950s and '60s 'private' estates were, like their interwar counterparts, often sandwiched between those built by the Corporation, in this case Hillhouse and Stanbridge, with the result that **The Trident** and other pubs on or near private estates may have had a wider catchment area and social reach. Courage hoped that the proposed access road to the new M4 motorway near to **The Trident** would encourage passing as well as local trade.⁶⁴⁸ However the *Evening Post* suggested a clear social separation between clienteles in the Downend area, stating that 'there will be no clash of community interests [because] the main Badminton Road divides the two areas into independent neighbourhoods'.⁶⁴⁹

Regardless of an area's social makeup, however, Courage, appears to have conceived of its pubs in similar terms from 1961, when it became the main pub builder in Bristol. This is illustrated by the case of Stockwood, a 1960s satellite development to the south of the city, set amid fields. The housing is a mixture of short terraces, semi-detached and detached homes, many in chalet style, some of which are reported as being by George Wimpey. Courage built three pubs for the area: the **Concorde** (1965), named for the airliner four years before its maiden flight, the **Man in Space** (1965) and the **Harvesters** (1967):

⁶⁴⁸ *Ibid.*

⁶⁴⁹ 'More New Communities on "Fringe" of Bristol', Bristol Central Library: Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities file, 72.27.

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Man in Space, Pynne Road, Stockwood, Golden Cockerel, Feb 1966, 4-5 © Courage Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Courage also included another of its new pubs, the **Antelope** (1964), within this Stockwood cluster, designed by the company architects' department under the direction of Mr G. N. Coveney:



The Antelope, Sturminster Road, Stockwood, 1964 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Located on a main road leading into Stockwood, the **Antelope** served a small cluster of pre- and postwar local authority housing just to the west of the main 'private' development, separated by a school and open space. The social character of the neighbourhoods apparently had no bearing on how Courage viewed these pubs, at least according to its magazine, the *Golden Cockerel*. Thus the **Antelope** was introduced as 'the first licensed house to be built on a huge new development south of the city', while the **Harvesters** 'fits admirably into the

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neighbourhood pattern, yet contrives to be different'; all four were announced as 'new locals'.⁶⁵⁰ This is perhaps unsurprising, given that the whole of the Stockwood area was developed on a neighbourhood plan in the same way as the local authority estates. But it also seems to have been Courage policy not to differentiate between customer types or catchment areas when selecting the design of its pubs.



Concorde, Stockwood Lane, Stockwood in September 2014. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014



Harvesters, Harrington Road, Stockwood in 2014. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

⁶⁵⁰ *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1964, 7 and February 1967, 3.

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Like the **Red Hart** at Hartcliffe, the **Antelope** was given a 'traditional English' makeover by Courage in 1980 but was demolished for flats around 2010; the **Man in Space** was demolished in 2014. The **Concorde** and **Harvesters** are still trading. According to staff at the two surviving pubs, the closures were in part due to pressure from local residents who found the pubs troublesome.

At the end of the 1960s the majority of Courage pubs for Bristol's new outer suburbs were probably built on speculatively financed estates or where there was a mix of local authority and private housing nearby. Because they were being erected in areas that were already partly developed, Courage's outer suburban pubs of the later 1960s were less frequently found on village greens and more often at junctions or tucked away within a development. As described below, these pubs retained their domestic scale and feel but their 'local' detailing tended to be much simpler; arguably, the buildings looked, from the outside, as much like detached suburban houses of the period as pubs. Some, such as two pubs named after local trades, **The Jolly Cobbler** at Kingswood, (1966, still trading) and the **Glass Cutter** at Henbury (1967, now flats), were built in older suburbs; these occupied corner sites, near which there was a small amount of new housing and a tiny shopping parade. Courage described the **Glass Cutter** as 'a new-born local', 'designed to fit into its environment, pleasantly and unostentatiously'.⁶⁵¹



The Glass Cutter, Petherton Road, Hengrove, Golden Cockerel, August 1967, 3

⁶⁵¹ *Golden Cockerel*, August 1967, 3.



The Jolly Cobbler, Chiphouse Road, Kingswood: Golden Cockerel, August 1966

The **Court Farm Tavern**, now the John Harvey Arms, in Whitchurch, to the south west of Stockwood, is another example of a standard late 1960s' design set amidst a contemporary speculatively financed south Bristol suburb. Meanwhile the **Charlton** (Courage, 1969) was 'a "local" which fitted into the neighbourhood pattern' of nearby Keynsham, an upmarket suburb.⁶⁵² The **Yeoman**, of similar date and style to the **Court Farm Tavern**, is situated nearby on the busy A37 and would presumably have served passing trade.

The range, size and finish of these 'unostentatious' pubs built for the outer suburbs in the late 1960s did not then differ in any significant way according to the tenure type or age of local housing, while the amount of outside space appears to have been determined by the site. Because of this, and because in many new settlements, as at Hartcliffe and Stockwood, the pubs were not all built at the same time but over several years, the remainder of the discussion of postwar estate pubs will compare pubs from across Bristol's fringe settlements, looking at their architecture, interior design and exterior spaces.

Before looking more closely at the design of public houses across these new outlying estates, we will introduce those built as part of three discrete postwar rebuilding schemes: those opened to serve the new housing precincts on clearance

⁶⁵² *Golden Cockerel*, February 1969, 4.

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sites in more central areas of the city and those built in the heart of the city's commercial area; and the pubs that served Bristol's New Town.

Pubs on Bristol's inner housing estates and shopping centre

In addition to its peripheral house building programme the Corporation also redeveloped some inner industrial suburban housing districts, replacing bombed or 'slum' nineteenth-century terraces with, mostly, high-rise flats. These were at Barton Hill, Easton, Bedminster, Kingsdown and Redcliffe. There were few new pubs for these schemes. Instead, the numbers of pubs were reduced and those premises which escaped demolition were refurbished.

The first of these inner schemes was at Redcliffe, which had already been identified as a slum clearance area in the 1930s. The first block of the Redcliffe Housing Precinct, around the church of St Mary Redcliffe, was opened in December 1954. Some families displaced from Barton Hill were rehoused in the Redcliffe flats, while larger households tended to move to houses in Southmead; both were entitled to return to the new flats in Barton Hill if they chose.⁶⁵³

At Redcliffe, further blocks were erected in the early 1960s, at around which time the **Mayor's Arms**, a Victorian pub on the corner of Clarence Road and Mayor Street, close to the river, was demolished. The building history is unclear but at around the same time, the old pub was replaced with a new **Mayor's Arms**. The Raj Mahal Indian restaurant now stands on this site.



Site of the former Mayor's Arms, Clarence Road, Redcliffe, c.2013

As described on pp. 335–7, the Redcliffe area gained a brand new pub in 1969.

⁶⁵³ 'Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities 8 – Redcliffe', *Bristol Evening Post*, 2 July 1954, Bristol Central Library: Spotlighting Bristol's New Communities file, 72.22.

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As noted in the area study, Barton Hill lost most of its pubs as part of its rebuilding in the 1950s. No new pubs were built to serve the community, which was now mostly housed in flats. According to Hilda Jennings's survey, *Societies in the Making* (1962), 'In the cotton districts only one of the four public houses would remain and some of those in the remaining part of the development area would also disappear'.⁶⁵⁴

Perhaps more surprisingly, there was little new pub building in the city's central commercial areas in the postwar period. Courage completed three new pubs in the city centre in the mid-1960s. According to the brewery's in-house magazine, the **Prince Rupert**, the first of these, was also the first entirely new pub to be built in the centre of Bristol for over a century.⁶⁵⁵ It was followed by the **Mail Coach** in Bond Street (opened 3 February 1964) and the **Crown and Cushion** in Penn Street (opened 4 October 1966). Both of these were demolished, as part of the Broadmead area redevelopment, in recent years.



The Mail Coach, Broadmead, 1964. Source: Golden Cockerel, Summer 1964. The Crown and Cushion, Penn Street, 1966, Golden Cockerel, December 1966 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

⁶⁵⁴ Jennings, *Societies in the Making*, 189.

⁶⁵⁵ *Golden Cockerel*, April 1965, 8.

Yate and Chipping Sodbury: Bristol's 'New Town'

In the late 1950s a New Town was built to serve Bristol's expanding population. This was centred on Yate, eleven miles north-east of the city centre. Yate was a nineteenth-century railway village, boosted by the use of the area by the Royal Flying Corps in the First World War and on-going extractive industries locally before its postwar expansion as a New Town.⁶⁵⁶ In 1952 the Corporation of Bristol, Sodbury Rural District Council and Gloucestershire County Council agreed to expand Yate as part of an 'overspill scheme' to manage Bristol's urban population (along with Warmley, Keynsham and other settlements surrounding the city). According to the draft *Victoria County History of Gloucestershire*, 'the District Council purchased the site of the former airfield, and a plan for construction was drawn up in 1954 and while eight hundred housing units were to be built on an area of 100 acres, longer term, 3,000 new homes were planned for the Yate–Sodbury area'.⁶⁵⁷

The 'new town' was not outlined fully until 1959. As the *Victoria County History* records, the urbanisation of Yate did not follow the model of development as set out in the 1946 New Towns Act: 'expansion was not administered centrally, but was a cooperative effort between local councils and private developers, facilitated by the New Towns Act 1952 and informed by the ideas which underpinned it'.⁶⁵⁸ In addition to a new town centre, each neighbourhood would have 'subcentres' with a shopping centre, schools and recreational spaces, as on the Corporation-planned estates around Bristol. The original 1959 outline for Yate was superseded by a 1966 plan for Yate and Chipping Sodbury, to which amendments were made in 1967 and 1970.⁶⁵⁹

Yate New Town incorporated a number of existing village pubs dating from the sixteenth to the nineteenth centuries, most or all of which are still trading (in 2014), and two further buildings were converted to new use as large public houses in the 1960s and '70s. In addition, two new pubs were built near Yate's shopping centres, in 1965.

⁶⁵⁶ R. Wallis, *The Victoria County History of Gloucestershire*, vol. 14, Yate: Settlement, November 2012; revised Feb and August 2013, [draft] 1–24, 1, 19.

⁶⁵⁷ Wallis, *The Victoria County History of Gloucestershire*, 19–20.

⁶⁵⁸ *Ibid.*, 20.

⁶⁵⁹ *Ibid.*, 20–1.

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Left: *Abbotswood Inn, Abbotswood Shopping Centre, Yate.* Right: *Four Seasons, Kennedy Way, Yate* © Yate and District Heritage Centre

The **Abbotswood Inn** was built at the same time as the Abbotswood shopping centre, on the edge of Yate, where it is located. In its early years it was known as the **Double-O-Two**. The **Four Seasons**, formerly the **Sandridge**, was also built in 1965, at the same time as Yate's main shopping centre nearby. The brewery or breweries are not known. In the 1980s the **Four Seasons** was closed and revamped in view of its then bad reputation. It reopened in 1985 as **Daniels** and was finally demolished in 1995. Lidl now occupies the site. The **Abbotswood Inn** was for sale but still trading in June 2014.

A mile or two away, on the fringes of Chipping Sodbury in Dodington Parish, another settlement was developed at around the same time as Yate. This became known as the Birds area because all the new roads were named after birds. The houses were typically larger than in the main Yate town, presumably to serve more middle-class residents. It was part of the developments taking place in and around South Yate during the 1960s and 1970s, largely as a result of the expansion of local modern industry at this time, including Rolls-Royce and Concorde.⁶⁶⁰ One new pub served the Birds, the **Tern Inn** on Heron Way. This pub is still trading. Two further pubs have been built at Yate since this time. The **Brimsham Park** was built in the 1990s in Lark Rise. The **Fox Inn** is a twenty-first-century pub located on Broad Lane, and is owned by Marston's Brewery.

As reported in 1963, Mr N. E. Morley, Properties Technical Director for Courage, Barclay and Simonds saw these new settings as an opportunity:

The new towns and housing estates provide the opportunity for the re-establishment of the public house as a social centre, a communal

⁶⁶⁰ We are grateful to David Hardill of Yate and District Heritage Centre for this information.

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meeting ground where new inhabitants can get to know their neighbours. Although still not accepting the bar as being the place for all members of the family, garden facilities, good catering and rooms for private functions and parties take the English public house a stage nearer the ideal of being a centre providing for all the needs of a medium sized community rather than a mere drinking house.⁶⁶¹

The report now focuses on the design of postwar public houses that were built across the city and looks at their building and style, plan form, interiors and exteriors.

Bristol's Postwar Licensed Houses: Building Types and Styles

In addition to showing how Bristol's wartime experiences and plans for postwar reconstruction shaped the development of the city's pubs, the preceding section has introduced some of the new communities that developed after the Second World War and the ways in which these were shaped in response to emerging planning practices and contemporary attitudes to community needs. Taking examples from across the city, the survey will now focus more closely on the design of Bristol's pubs in the period 1939-1985.

1945–1985: Architecture and Design

Two principal styles of postwar pub can be found in Bristol's suburban and outlying districts. The first is exemplified by **The Pegasus** at Southmead (1959). The cottage or chalet-style pub was described soon after its completion:

Pleasantly sited, with lawns and rose-beds in front and in close proximity to B.A.C., the first impression one gets of the Pegasus is of a friendly-looking pub characterised by steeply-pitched roofs, dormers and gables. The gable-end which is the central feature of the front of the house is in Cotswold stone, whilst the rest of the frontage is of brick rendered, and colour-washed.⁶⁶²

⁶⁶¹ 'Launching a Public House', *Golden Cockerel*, Spring 1963, 13. First published in the Brewery Industry Supplement to the *Financial Times*, October 1962.

⁶⁶² *What's Brewing*, 1960–61, 7.

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The Pegasus, Greystoke Avenue, Southmead. © Copyright Jaggery and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence

Among other examples of similar style are **Bourne End** at Okebourne Road, Henbury (1959) and **Red Hart** at Hartcliffe (1960).



Left to right: the Bourne End, Okebourne Road, Henbury (1959) and the Red Hart, Bishport Avenue, Hartcliffe (1960) © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Contemporary descriptions of the **Red Hart** suggest the brewery's careful approach to the use of materials:

This is a country-style inn, with steeply pitched and gabled roofs, dormer windows, white stucco walls and Cotswold stone. In fact, two types of Cotswold stone were used in the construction – natural and reconstructed, the latter being stone-dust set in cement to resist

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“weathering” and forming blocks rectangular and square. The use of Cotswold stone on the slopes of Dundry might seem an anomaly to purists who favour the use of local materials only. Actually, Dundry is not, as one might suppose, part of the Mendips, but an outlier (as geologists term it) of the Cotswold.⁶⁶³

The second principal type was usually of two-storey design, with a shallow pitched roof and was often in brick rather than stone as can be seen at **The Blue Boy** (1958), **The Giant Goram** (c.1959) and the **Gatcombe House** (1959).



The Blue Boy (later the Gainsborough) at Gainsborough Square, Lockleaze © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)



Gatcombe House, Gatcombe Road, Hartcliffe and The Giant Goram, Barrowmead Drive, Lawrence Weston © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Another feature of the architectural design of Bristol’s pubs of the 1950s is the use of mixed materials. The stone chimney, front wall and side entrances of **Gatcombe House** at Hartcliffe, contrasted with the brickwork and an area of

⁶⁶³ *What’s Brewing*, 1960–61, 8.

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timber cladding to the front elevation. The front elevation of **The Giant Goram** at Lawrence Weston incorporated a rendered ground floor projection, giving access to the off sales department and the public bar. Below, a detail of **The Blue Boy** at Lockleaze shows a similar use of mixed materials: a rough cut stone plinth in blue Pennant stone with natural Bathstone to the front elevation and an upper storey of Ibstock facing-bricks.



The Blue Boy (and latterly Gainsborough) at Gainsborough Square, Lockleaze. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, August 2014

Brewery publications suggest a greater emphasis on the outlook from the interior in this period, which is consistent with general patterns of architectural development after the Second World War and is also a reflection of the particular ideals of respectability and openness that informed public house design at the time.

The Pegasus at Southmead had ‘a very large bay-window’ that looked out onto Greystoke Avenue.⁶⁶⁴ **Harriers** at Hartcliffe had ‘large picture-windows’⁶⁶⁵ and an ‘unusual feature’ of the **Maytree** at Headley Park (1963) was its ‘generous window-space (one wall in each bar is almost entirely glazed) which makes it light and bright’.⁶⁶⁶ **The Treble Chance** at Southmead – so-called because it was ‘synonymous with the twentieth century’s yearning for good fortune and easy money’ – was described as being of ‘attractive and interesting design with bowed

⁶⁶⁴ *What’s Brewing*, 1960–61, 7.

⁶⁶⁵ *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1964, 25.

⁶⁶⁶ *Golden Cockerel*, Spring 1964, 14–15.

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Georgian-style windows in the Public Bar and French-doors and circular windows in the Lounge Bar'.⁶⁶⁷



Treble Chance, Greystoke Avenue, Southmead. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, August 2014

Careful attention to the siting of buildings in the landscape can be seen in the location and representation of other pubs of this period. **The Glass Cutter** at Hengrove was designed 'to fit into its environment, pleasantly and unostentatiously, with facing brickwork of "Autumn Tint" colour, white fascias and barge-boards and buff-coloured panels below the windows'.⁶⁶⁸ **The Penpole Inn** at Lawrence Weston, the fifth Georges pub to be completed after the War, was designed to harmonise with the landscape rather than the surrounding buildings:

Although the land leased to the Company could not be considered an ideal building site, what it lacked in size and levels was certainly compensated for by its natural beauty. The soft mellow tone of Cotswold stone was considered the ideal material to contrast with the leafy green back-cloth provided by a group of tall plane trees to the north of the house. This feature was commented on by Mr. J. Nelson

⁶⁶⁷ *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1962, 19.

⁶⁶⁸ *Golden Cockerel*, August 1967, 3.

Meredith, until recently the City Architect of Bristol, who, in opening the Penpole Inn, said: "I should like to congratulate your architect. He has good manners in architecture, and it is certainly manifest in this house".⁶⁶⁹

Another way in which buildings were related to their settings was through the incorporation of balconies. An example can be found in the **Golden Cockerel** at Highridge (1961), described at the time of its opening: 'With its first-floor balcony and random-stone insets in oyster-pink rendered brickwork, this is a striking and out-of-the ordinary licensed house of considerable architectural interest. The North-West gable, which faces the green, is hung with vertical tiles between stone piers, and the inn-sign is the work of Mr. M. R. S. Ripley of Aylesbury.'⁶⁷⁰

Georges introduced a new approach to their signage after the War, not only using local artists, but also incorporating decorative plaques and mosaics to the exterior of their pubs in conjunction with more traditional signs. In doing so, the brewery's architects and designers showed their awareness of contemporary trends and interest in the use of art in architecture that was a feature of British design in the postwar years. This can be seen at **The Blue Boy** (Gainsborough), the second pub to be built on the Corporation housing estate at Lockleaze.⁶⁷¹ The pub's name was chosen in:

an attempt to establish some sort of cultural connection (admittedly tenuous) in an otherwise typical housing-estate. From the names of the roads hereabout, the Corporation of Bristol decided to use the names of the great English painters. There is, for instance, Landseer Avenue, Constable Road, Hogarth Walk and Turner Gardens. The central pivot of this complex of roads is Gainsborough Square, and we have tried to give the name some meaning in our treatment of The Blue Boy.⁶⁷²

That treatment included a striking wall plaque, described in *What's Brewing: The Georges Group Gazette*:

⁶⁶⁹ *What's Brewing*, 1957–8, 8.

⁶⁷⁰ *What's Brewing*, Winter 1961–2, 8.

⁶⁷¹ 'The Blue Boy, Lockleaze', *What's Brewing*, Summer 1959, 22–4. Courtesy of Ry George.

⁶⁷² *Ibid.*

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Above the door to the lounge-bar is a very colourful and attractive wall-plaque which has already been widely publicised in the trade press. Elliptical in shape it is a hand-painted reproduction on glazed frost-proof tiles of Gainsborough's painting of Master Buttall, better known as "The Blue Boy". It is framed in painted hardwood which effectively separates it from the surrounding brickwork, giving it the appearance from street-level of a large pendant miniature.⁶⁷³



The Blue Boy plaque soon after its completion and on the facade of the derelict Gainsborough, Gainsborough Square, Lockleaze in 2014. What's Brewing, Summer 1959 © Ry George; and Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, August 2014

A similar plaque was incorporated into the design of **The Pegasus** at Southmead:



Detail. The Pegasus, Greystoke Avenue, Southmead. What's Brewing, Summer 1959 © Ry George

⁶⁷³ *Ibid.*

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A Pegasus in ceramic mosaic is another feature of the gable-end at the front of the house. It is circular in shape, with a mahogany frame which gives it the appearance of a medallion. This is, of course, the mythical Pegasus who, according to Greek lore, sprang from the blood of the dying Medusa ... It was not, however, the mythical Pegasus which inspired the name of this pub but the famous Pegasus aero-engine produced by the B.A.C. in vast quantities (about 20,000 altogether) between 1932 and 1944.⁶⁷⁴

At the **Mail Coach** on Bond Street, in the city centre, a mail-coach was represented in a 'colourful mosaic'.⁶⁷⁵

While pubs of slightly later design bear a resemblance to those of the 1950s and early 1960s – for example, **The Magpie** (now **Stokers**), which was close to the Bristol Siddeley factory at Gypsy Patch Lane, Little Stoke (Courage, 1967) – there is also evidence of new, and extended influences on design. This can be seen, for example, in the more widespread use of picture windows, such as those at **The Magpie** and in the asymmetrical roofline of **The Charlton** (Courage, 1969):



The Magpie, Gypsy Patch Lane (Courage, 1967), Golden Cockerel, August 1967 © (Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK))

⁶⁷⁴ 'The Pegasus, Southmead', *What's Brewing*, 1960–61, 7.

⁶⁷⁵ *Golden Cockerel*, Summer 1964, 22–3.



The Charlton, Longmeadow Road, Keynsham. Golden Cockerel, February 1969 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

As already indicated, the aircraft industry was an important local employer and several pubs were given aviation-inspired names, including the **Wayfarer** (1946); **The Pegasus** (1959); **Concorde** (1965) and **Man in Space** (1965). At its opening in 1964, Courage announced that **The Trident** was 'always known as the Trident, but now that it is fully licensed, it has a pictorial inn sign. This depicts a three-pronged trident on one side and the famous airline made by Hawker Siddeley on the other'.⁶⁷⁶ Some pubs, including **The Jolly Cobbler** (1966) and **Glass Cutter** (1967), were named for local trades; **The Robins** was named for Bristol City Football Club. Other names and their signs were associated with their location. Others again were named after historic Bristol inns, like the **Antelope** (1964), which had stood on Broadmead before that part of the city was rebuilt, or referenced sports that were associated with ancient inns, like the **Fighting Cocks** (1963).

The new influences can also be seen in the design of city pubs, as well as in those in outlying areas like **The Magpie** and **The Charlton**. The **Merchant Venturer** (now the **Colosseum**) was the fortieth pub to be built by Courage (Western) after the Second World War. The land on which the pub was built was acquired by Courage, Barclay and Simonds in return for surrender of the **Ship Inn**, Redcliff Hill for demolition. Plans for the new pub were approved on 26 June 1968 and the business opened on 6 August 1969. The opening of the pub was recorded by the BBC for Points West.

⁶⁷⁶ *Golden Cockerel*, June 1964, 8.

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The name of the pub was chosen in response to its location and the strong connections between the Society of Merchant Venturers and the church of St. Mary Redcliffe. The pub was sited to give views of the church from a large picture window to the front of the building and from its adjoining terrace (front and side). The north elevation of the building featured a no longer extant 'life-size illuminated mural of William Canynge with the Church of St. Mary Redcliffe, the "Rudde House", and a ship of the 15th century in the background'.⁶⁷⁷



Colosseum, Redcliff Hill (previously Merchant Venturer), June 2014. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

⁶⁷⁷ *Golden Cockerel*, October 1969, 9

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Merchant Venturer, Redcliff Hill (now Colosseum) 1969, Golden Cockerel, October 1969, 9 © Bristol Central Library

Another pub to depart from the standard designs favoured in this period was **The Robins** at Winterstoke Road, Ashton Gate (Courage, 1966):



The Robins, Winterstoke Road, Ashton Gate, 1966 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

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Granted its license in 1965, this new style of pub was built on what would now be called a brown-field site. It was erected on the land where a 1940s' fire station had stood, and was at the edge of a 1930s' estate. However, comparable designs were also sometimes to be found in Courage pubs on new housing estates in the late 1960s, as at Withywood in South Bristol. According to a former drayman who worked for the brewery in the 1980s, **The Withywood**, known later as **The Woods** or **Woods**, was similar to **The Robins**.⁶⁷⁸

As can be seen in the contemporary and present day photographs, **The Robins** lies in the shadow of the Wills' factory, now Imperial Tobacco offices, at Ashton Gate. A stone's throw from the Bristol City football ground, **The Robins** was named 'in honour' of the club, and was formally opened by its chairman in late 1966.⁶⁷⁹ The football theme continued inside and was doubtless also inspired by England's success at the World Cup that year. There is no real garden, except for some sparsely planted conifers in a border. In addition to car parking, staff and customers at the pub recall that the open concrete areas at the front and sides were used in the 1970s and '80s for skittles, using portable runners.



The Robins, Winterstoke Road, Ashton Gate, 2014. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

⁶⁷⁸ Personal communication with the authors, June 2014. After numerous local complaints about its management, Woods had its licence removed and was demolished in 2010.

⁶⁷⁹ *Golden Cockerel*, February 1967, 3.

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Another Courage pub to be built on what might be called a brownfield site was **The Cock O' the North**, which opened in October 1967. Courage described its style as 'strikingly original'.⁶⁸⁰



The Cock O' the North, Northumbria Drive, Henleaze © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

The name **The Cock O' the North** comes from the Courage trademark of a cockerel and possibly also refers to its location on Northumbria Drive in Henleaze in the northern part of Bristol. The pub was opened by Piper Milne of the Gordon Highlanders, which were also known as the Cock o' the North. The original inn sign depicting a piper of the Gordon Highlanders was unveiled at the opening by Mrs E. Boucher, wife of the Chairman of Courage (Western).⁶⁸¹ The pub originally had two bars named the Highland and the Lowland. The pub is still trading as **The Westbury Park Tavern**, but both the interior and exterior have been altered:



The Westbury Park Tavern (formerly The Cock O' the North), Northumbria Drive, Henleaze in 2012: <http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki>

⁶⁸⁰ *Golden Cockerel*, December 1967, 8.

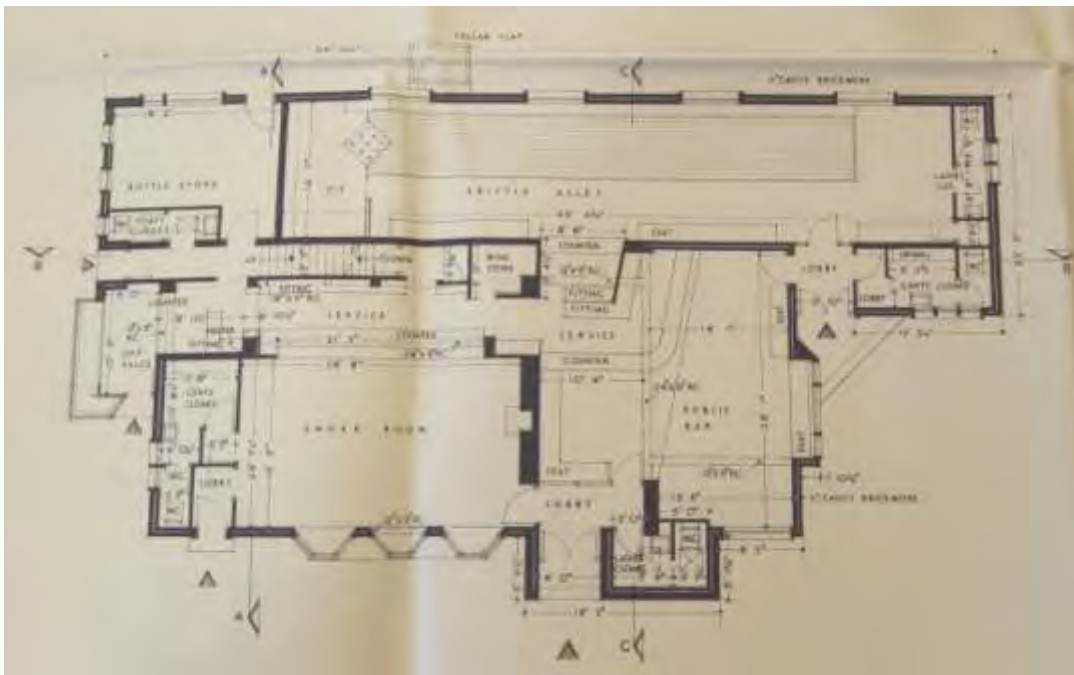
⁶⁸¹ *Ibid.*

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The alterations to **The Cock O' the North** may suggest that the more 'modern' style of pubs were considered unpopular with customers in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Other examples of Courage's 'strikingly original' pubs of the late 1960s, including **The Withywood** (formerly **Woods**, until closure in 2010), have been demolished. The only survivals, in relatively unmodified form, are thus **The Robins** of 1966 and the **Merchant Venturer (Colosseum)** of 1969. Doubtless reputation and location as well as architectural style contributed to the pattern of losses. However, with the growing appreciation of modern architecture including, increasingly, that of the mid-century period, these later twentieth-century pubs may become more valued by local communities.

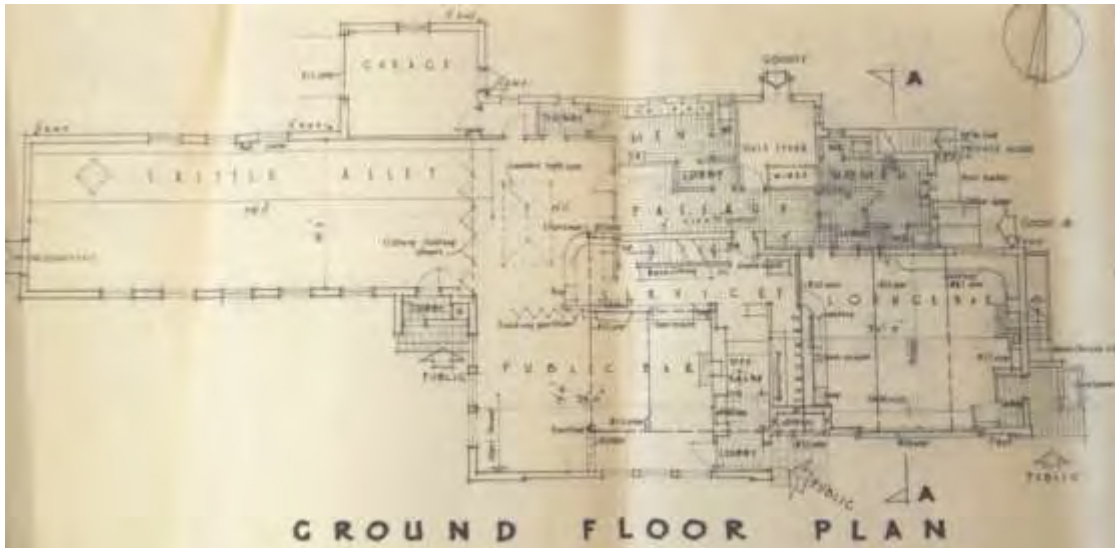
1945–1985: Plan Forms

Bristol's public house plans of the 1950s and first half of the 1960s, particularly those for pubs built on the city's new estates, vary significantly from those for pubs built in expanding suburban locations in the interwar period. Most Bristol plans from the 1950s show the interior arranged with two principal drinking spaces, either a public bar and a smoke room (**Bourne End**), a public bar and a lounge (**The Giant Goram**), or a public bar and a saloon, the term saloon being far less frequently used.



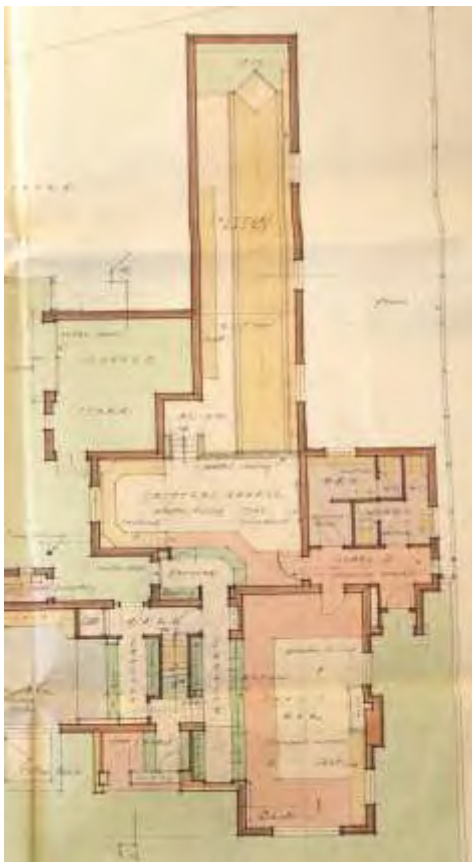
Bourne End, Okebourne Road, Henbury, 1959. Detail of ground floor plan, June 1958 © Bristol Record Office BRO – 29053/3c

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The Giant Goram, Barrowmead Drive, Lawrence Weston Estate. Detail from ground floor plan, 1958. Detail. Architect: Reginald E. Southall, Chief Architect, H. and G. Simonds Ltd., Reading © Bristol Record Office – BRO 29053/2c

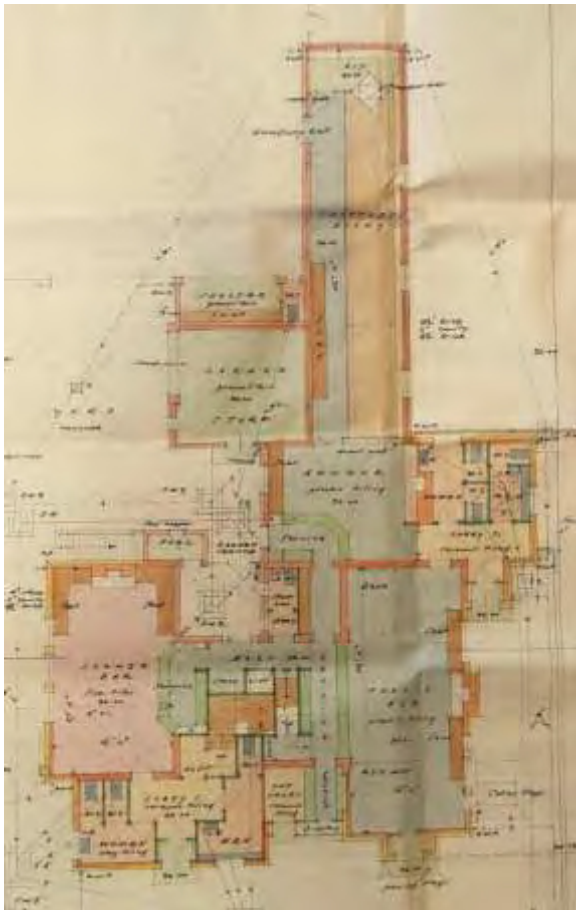
In addition to the main ground floor drinking spaces, several plans, among them those for **Fulford House** at Hartcliffe, indicate a skittles annexe, a small seating area adjacent to the alley itself.



Fulford House, Fulford Road, Hartcliffe. Detail from a plan of 1958 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 29053/4c

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In *The Renaissance of the English Public House* (1947), Basil Oliver set out certain principles of public house design: that service should be continuous from room to room and should include the jug and bottle or outdoor department; that the publican should be able to supervise the interior from the bar, or from an office with observation windows; and that bars should be arranged so that customers could not see from bar to bar.⁶⁸² Bristol plans largely conformed to this ideal of continuous service, but plans of the 1950s and 1960s also show that the organisation of the service area was often more complex than it had been in the 1930s. In striking contrast to the long bars and curved and horseshoe forms shown on Bristol plans of the interwar period, multiple bar counters were often incorporated to allow direct service to all parts of the interior. Arrangements of this type can be seen on plans for the **Hartcliffe Inn** and in staggered form on plans for the **Red Hart** at Hartcliffe.



Hartcliffe Inn, Brocks Road, Hartcliffe. Detail of ground floor plan, 1959 and Red Hart, Bishport Avenue, Hartcliffe. Detail of ground floor plan showing diagonal staggered service space. © Bristol Record Office – BRO 29053/4c

⁶⁸² B. Oliver, *The Renaissance of the English Public House*, London: Faber and Faber, 1947, 27–40.

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The extension of counter service to skittles alleys reflects a more relaxed attitude to the promotion of alcohol in those spaces. In the interwar period, Bristol's licensing magistrates had regarded skittles alleys as local amenities and had preferred that people be free to play without obligation to buy alcoholic refreshments.

There is little evidence of a continuation of the gendered division of interior space that had been characteristic of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century public house design. Although many of Bristol's new postwar pubs retained the multiple entrances that had been a characteristic of earlier periods, there was no obvious 'public' or 'private' side to most, and male and female toilet facilities were sometimes placed side by side in contrast to their earlier alignment with spaces used by male or female customers.

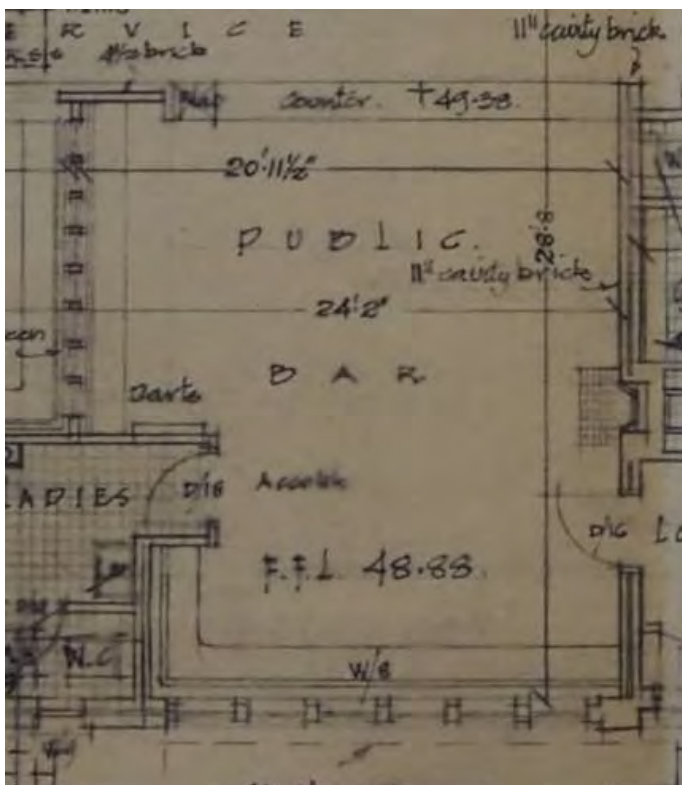


The Pegasus, Greystoke Road, Southmead. Detail from a plan of 1959 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 29053/1c

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Writing in 1963, on the subject of the launch of new public houses, Mr N. E. Morley, Properties Technical Director for Courage, Barclay and Simonds observed, 'Proper washing facilities with adequate toilets are an expensive necessity though careful planning can, however, help to keep the cost of lavatories down if these can be grouped to serve both Saloon and Public bars, which now appears to be acceptable to the public with the general levelling out of the social status of the population'.⁶⁸³

Darts grew in popularity as a pub sport in the interwar years and the dart board became a regular feature of many, if not most public houses. They are often indicated on Bristol plans of the 1950s and 1960s and sited to ensure the safety of other drinkers.



An alcove planned for darts at Golden Cockerel, Lakemead Grove, Highridge. Detail from plan dated 1960 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 29053/6

The licensee's accommodation was usually located on the first floor and if there were also public rooms on that floor, generally given separate access. Assembly rooms were a feature of a number of pubs built on Bristol's new estates, including the **Long Cross** at Lawrence Weston, the **Hartcliffe Inn** at Hartcliffe, which had its own first floor bar which could be completely closed off by means of folding

⁶⁸³ 'Launching a Public House', *Golden Cockerel*, Spring 1963, 13.

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doors, depending on how the room was being used. The room opened onto a central roof terrace to the rear of the building, which separated the assembly room from the private accommodation. Such rooms were used for wedding and other receptions. One entertainer with a Figaro act, who toured Bristol's pubs and other venues during the 1950s and '60s, remembered that he 'did a show at [a] Hartcliffe pub party, for a wedding reception'.⁶⁸⁴



Hartcliffe Inn, Brocks Road, Hartcliffe. Detail of first floor plan, 1959 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 29053/4c

Kitchens were located to allow the efficient service of food to the bar areas. At **The Blue Boy** at Gainsborough Square the kitchen was located close to the Assembly Room: 'Upstairs on the first floor, the Assembly Room is an all-purpose room for social occasions. Intended to be the centre of much of the community life, the room has no strong character of its own since it will have to adapt itself to

⁶⁸⁴ N. Parsons, 'Bristol's Amateur and Professional Entertainments of the 50s and 60s', c.1980s. Bristol Central Library Press Clippings. The turntable was plugged into the socket for the beer pumps, with the result that the electricity shorted every time a pint was pulled.

all kinds of events. Behind it, the tenant's kitchen is conveniently placed for the service of cooked meals, and a lift from kitchen to downstairs service area is intended to encourage and assist in a rapid and efficient supply of sandwiches and snacks'.⁶⁸⁵ An emphasis on efficiency of service can also be seen in descriptions of the technology that underpinned these new drinking environments in brewery publications and general descriptions of new public houses. At **The Penpole Inn**, for example, draught beer was served direct from the cellar using equipment supplied by Eddie Cox and Co. 'despite a vertical pull of some 21 feet'.⁶⁸⁶

The Penpole Inn at Lawrence Weston was similarly arranged to **The Blue Boy** with a first-floor Assembly Room to be used 'for a variety of functions – meetings, parties, dinners, wedding receptions, etc. – as well as an overflow Lounge Bar to cater for the increased trade at week-ends, Bank Holidays, etc'.⁶⁸⁷ Adjacent was the tenant's kitchen which had a lift to the ground floor service area to allow the efficient service of food.⁶⁸⁸

The practice of locating off sales to the front of the public house, of which some early examples can be found in the interwar period, continued in the 1950s. After the War the terms 'shop', 'off sales shop' and 'off licence' appear in place of the older terms 'jug and bottle', 'bottle and jug' and 'outdoor department' on plans for new pubs, among them, the **Fulford House**, **The Giant Goram** and **The Pegasus**. The role of the public house as an amenity was also considered, along with its location in relation to other businesses. An article on the **Harriers** that appeared in the *Courage* magazine the *Golden Cockerel* observed, 'An off-sales shop occupying the corner of the building has been specially provided for the convenience of shoppers in an adjoining shopping precinct'.⁶⁸⁹ Where off sales spaces of this period survive they have generally been incorporated into the ground floor accommodation or converted for other uses. A similar description of **The Pegasus** at Southmead related it to the surrounding retail environment: 'Apart from the two large and pleasant bars, there is an Off Sales shop which continues the line of the other shops in Greystoke Avenue and will, no doubt, be a useful local amenity'.⁶⁹⁰

⁶⁸⁵ *What's Brewing*, Summer 1959, 22–4. Courtesy of Ry George.

⁶⁸⁶ "Penpole Inn", *What's Brewing*, 1957–8, 8.

⁶⁸⁷ *What's Brewing*, 1957–8, 8.

⁶⁸⁸ *Ibid.*

⁶⁸⁹ *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1964 25.

⁶⁹⁰ 'The Pegasus, Southmead', *What's Brewing*, 1960–61, 7.

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In *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses* (1949), Francis Yorke suggested that off sales areas should be planned to allow their 'direct supervision' by the police from the street, but it seems likely that social and commercial drivers – increased competition from other retailers and a more relaxed attitude to the purchase of alcohol – were equally important influences on this new approach to planning, particularly in the case of Bristol, where pubs were already well regulated.⁶⁹¹



The Pegasus, Greystoke Avenue, Southmead, showing the original off sales area, What's Brewing, 1960-61 © Ry George



The Pegasus, Greystoke Avenue, Southmead, showing old off sales department and adjacent shopping parade today © Copyright Jaggery and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence

⁶⁹¹ Yorke, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses*, 116.

1945–1985: Interior

As plans of the 1950s and 1960s indicate, many of Bristol's newly built pubs were arranged with two principal drinking spaces and a skittles alley, which in some cases doubled as a function room. Others incorporated first-floor function or assembly rooms.

Although the range of materials that could be found in Bristol's postwar public house interiors was wider than that of the interwar period, timber remained a significant element. Oak, which was favoured in the interwar years, was selected for its traditional values and was the natural choice for the interiors of cottage-style pubs, such as the **Red Hart**:

A great deal of oak has gone into this inn. For, besides doors and windows, the bar panelling, wall panelling, dados and plaque rails are all of dark oak, and these, with the textured ceilings and settle-type fixed seating in the Lounge Bar, give an impression of the strong and solid comfort which is traditionally associated with the English Inn.⁶⁹²

In other contexts timbers such as African mahogany, birch, sycamore, gum wood, Parana pine, ash, oak and Canadian maple were employed, some to create a luxurious ambience and others, such as birch and maple, within interiors that reflect the significant influence of Scandinavian design in Britain at this time.

The Public Bar

The public bar was designed for heavier use than other parts of the interior. This was reflected in the use of materials in that part of the interior as well as the design interior elements such as the bar counter. At the **Golden Cockerel** at Highridge, for example, the same materials – mahogany and Parana – were used for the bar counters in the Saloon Bar and the Public Bar, but the bar counter in the Public Bar was of 'a more robust design to cope with the "gusto" of public-bar types'.⁶⁹³ Public Bars were often decorated in a more lively style than Lounge Bars, with colour used liberally on the walls, floors and ceilings. Most public bars incorporated a range of seating, including bar stools, side chairs or arm chairs and fixed bench seating. Particular care was taken to ensure the durability of the

⁶⁹² *Golden Cockerel*, 1960–61, 8. Authors' collection.

⁶⁹³ *What's Brewing*, Winter 1961–2, 8.

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floor coverings adjacent to the bar where traffic was heaviest. Coloured ceramic tiles were, for example, sometimes used in a strip around the bar, as at **The Blue Boy** at Lockleaze.⁶⁹⁴

In contrast to Bristol public house plans of the interwar period, which suggest that skittles alleys were often planned in conjunction with gardens and sometimes located alongside refreshment rooms or lounges, those of the postwar period appear to be more consistently located alongside the public bar or other games rooms. As the following photographs of the striking chequerboard flooring used in the public bar and the skittles alley at **The Penpole Inn** at Lawrence Weston indicate, this sometimes extended to the decoration of the two spaces.



Public Bar, The Penpole Inn, Kings Weston Lane, Lawrence Weston, What's Brewing, 1957–8 © Ry George

⁶⁹⁴ *What's Brewing*, Summer 1959, 22–4. Courtesy of Ry George.

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Skittles Alley, The Penpole Inn, Kings Weston Lane, Lawrence Weston, What's Brewing, 1957-8 © Ry George

Photographs of the public bars at **Bourne End** at Henbury, **The Pegasus** at Southmead and **Harriers** at Hartcliffe also indicate greater use of patterned wall and floor coverings. In conjunction with the incorporation of a wider range of natural and industrially produced materials this contributed to a new ambience in these spaces.

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Public Bar, Bourne End, Okebourne Road, Henbury. What's Brewing 1959–60 © Ry George



Public Bar, The Pegasus, Greystoke Avenue, Southmead, What's Brewing, 1960–1 © Ry George



Public Bar, Harriers, Bishport Avenue, Hartcliffe © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Most public bars continued to have a fireplace, even when central heating was provided. These varied with the style of interior decoration and employed a variety of materials, some of local origin. The **Golden Cockerel** at Highridge had ‘A large briquette fireplace’ with a cantilevered mahogany sill and a Westmorland green-slate panel with a stainless steel trim.⁶⁹⁵ The fireplace in the public bar of **The Pegasus** at Southmead was made of local Winterbourne stone.⁶⁹⁶ Natural stone fireplaces also featured within the interiors of **The Penpole Inn** and the **Glass Cutter**.⁶⁹⁷ At **The Blue Boy** at Lockleaze the fire place was decorated with ‘egg-shell black tiles with brass-studs and mahogany surround’ and it is of interest to note that although centrally heated, the fireplace was considered an essential feature of the public house interior at that time ‘not only as a secondary source of heat but also for its psychological effect. On cold, bleak winter nights there are few things so welcoming and relaxing as a blazing fire’.⁶⁹⁸

⁶⁹⁵ *What’s Brewing*, Winter 1961–2, 8.

⁶⁹⁶ *What’s Brewing*, 1960–61, 7.

⁶⁹⁷ *What’s Brewing*, 1957–8, 8 and *Golden Cockerel*, August 1967, 3.

⁶⁹⁸ ‘The Blue Boy, Lockleaze’, *What’s Brewing*, Summer 1959, 22–4. Courtesy of Ry George.

Public bars were not only more richly textured than the heavily timbered interiors of the interwar years, but also of more colourful design, reflecting the optimistic outlook of the post-austerity years. The colourful design of public bars of this period also reflected contemporary attitudes toward the status of the space and its custom. More restrained and sophisticated tones were generally favoured for the less boisterous environment and custom of the lounge bar.

An article on **The Blue Boy** gives an indication of contemporary views on the decoration and furnishing of the interior:

The use of colour in public rooms is a subject of particular interest to the Chief Surveyor and his staff, who believe that the colour-scheme can play a great part in creating a distinctive "atmosphere". Naturally enough, the basic colour of the two principal bars at The Blue Boy is blue. In the public bar, for instance, the focal point is the bar itself. The bar-front is of recessed oak-slats with the recesses painted Alice-blue, a *motif* which is echoed by the fabric of the bar furniture. The floor-area immediately in front of the bar, which receives very heavy wear, is of coloured ceramic tiles, and the dartboard (that very necessary feature of the "local") is sited so as not to interfere with the ordinary business of the bar.⁶⁹⁹

Lounge Bars, Smoking Rooms and Saloons

While the lounge bar was designed to appeal to a drinker of more sophisticated taste, contemporary photographs show that certain fashionable design features appeared in both public bars and lounge bars. Quilted elements, for example, were incorporated into the counter front of the public bar at the **Bourne End** at Henbury and the lounge bar at **The Jolly Cobbler** at Kingswood.

The lounge of **The Jolly Cobbler** was described on its opening:

A special feature of the attractive lounge bar is a quilted counter-front with a central panel on which shoe-profiles appear in bold relief. The bar is partially panelled and has shaped wall-seating and is furnished

⁶⁹⁹ *Ibid.*

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in the modern manner with emphasis on comfort and up-to-date styling. The colour scheme is red and black.⁷⁰⁰



Lounge Bar, *The Jolly Cobbler*, Chiphouse Road, Kingswood, *Golden Cockerel*, August 1966 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

The lounge bar of the **Glass Cutter** at Hengrove was panelled in Birch with 'sycamore panels in the counter-front and a natural-stone fireplace' and featured 'plum-coloured fixed-seating', 'unusual but very comfortable chairs' and 'centre-lights of crystal in mauve-coloured glass spheres'.⁷⁰¹ That of **The Charlton** at Keynsham featured a colour scheme gold, blue and green 'with richly patterned fitted carpet in shades of blue-and-green upholstery on the fixed seating which runs the entire length of the bar, and also on the movable "show-wood" armchairs'.⁷⁰² At the **Harriers** at Hartcliffe the 'luxuriously carpeted' lounge was in gold, blue and grey.⁷⁰³ **The Blue Boy** at Lockleaze had a pleasant lounge with a 'large

⁷⁰⁰ *Golden Cockerel*, August 1966, 1.

⁷⁰¹ *Golden Cockerel*, August 1967, 3.

⁷⁰² *Golden Cockerel*, February 1969, 4

⁷⁰³ *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1964, 25.

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bow-window' and a fireplace of egg-shell black tiles with brass-studs and mahogany surround'.⁷⁰⁴

As the description of **The Jolly Cobbler** at Kingswood indicates, examples of visual references to the name of a pub can be found in the interiors of Bristol's postwar public houses. The Lounge of **The Blue Boy** was decorated with a 'frieze of stylised Blue-Boys in silhouette, white against blue – a charming feature which adds greatly to the attractiveness of the room.'⁷⁰⁵ The **Fighting Cocks** had a bar-front with 'a large illuminated glass panel depicting cock-fighting'.⁷⁰⁶ One of the external windows of the **Glass Cutter** at Hengrove incorporated a glass mural depicting 'the use of glass in industry, business, and the church'.⁷⁰⁷ A major feature of the Lounge Bar of **Concorde** at Stockwood was 'a large coloured mural of the Concorde airliner'.⁷⁰⁸ Local connections were also reflected in the interior of the **Merchant Venturer** (now the **Colosseum**), opposite St Mary Redcliffe church, on Redcliff Hill, which opened in 1969. The interior commemorated the life of William Canynge (1402–1474), a notable Bristol merchant who gave generously to the church.



Lounge Bar, Fighting Cocks, Bamfield Road, Whitchurch, Golden Cockerel, December 1968 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

⁷⁰⁴ 'The Blue Boy, Lockleaze', *What's Brewing*, Summer 1959, 22–4. Courtesy of Ry George.

⁷⁰⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷⁰⁶ *Golden Cockerel*, Spring 1963 no. 4, 6.

⁷⁰⁷ *Golden Cockerel*, August 1967, 3.

⁷⁰⁸ *Golden Cockerel*, February 1966, 4–5.

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Recessed bars were sometimes favoured for lounge areas, where they were less obtrusive and more in keeping with the general ambience desired. Examples can be seen in photographs of the **Fighting Cocks**, which was unusual in being framed with an upholstered, arched canopy,⁷⁰⁹ and **The Penpole Inn**. At **The Penpole Inn**, 'as befits the best room in the house' the lounge was fitted with 'upholstered fixed seating, "Korkoid" flooring, wall-lights, and a beautiful natural stone open fireplace'.⁷¹⁰ Another feature of this lounge was its adjoining 'Lounge Court, constructed in Cotswold stone and crazy-paving' with its own service counter, 'which should be very popular during the summer months'.⁷¹¹ As the following examples indicate, modern furniture was generally favoured, usually low armchairs and tables with some built-in seating.



Lounge, The Penpole Inn, Kings Weston Lane, *What's Brewing*, 1957–8 © Ry George

⁷⁰⁹ *Golden Cockerel*, December 1968, 6.

⁷¹⁰ *What's Brewing*, 1957–8, 8.

⁷¹¹ *Ibid.*

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Lounge Bar, The Blue Boy (now Gainsborough), Gainsborough Square, Lockleaze © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)



Lounge Bar, Fulford House, Fulford Road, Hartcliffe, What's Brewing 1959-60 © Ry George

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In 1963, Courage described their approach to the furnishing and decoration of the interiors of new and established businesses:

In both new and existing houses the constant problem exists in the standards expected by the general public in search of relaxation. In Victorian times the public house offered escapism from the dismal surroundings of overcrowded industrial housing by means of light, warmth and noise. These elementary necessities were sufficient in those days but the change of outlook brought about by better education and an improvement of living conditions has meant that the garishness must be replaced by comfort, the raucousness by an atmosphere of genial conviviality and the complete surroundings being as good or better than the modern furnishings and fittings in the customers' own home.⁷¹²

The pub was, therefore, to be improved to meet the requirements of a more sophisticated public, with greater knowledge and appreciation of design. As it indicated: 'During the past few years the general standard of industrial design has improved beyond all recognition and the drab interiors of many public houses have undergone radical changes with the use of new and colourful decorative materials as well as more attractive, furniture, glassware and trade fittings'.⁷¹³



Lounge, Treble Chance, Greystoke Avenue, Southmead, Golden Cockerel, Winter 1962 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

⁷¹² 'Launching a Public House', *Golden Cockerel*, Spring 1963.

⁷¹³ 'Launching a Public House', *Golden Cockerel*, Spring 1963.

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Lounge Bar, Antelope, Sturminster Road, Stockwood, Golden Cockerel, Winter 1964 © Bristol Central Library



Lounge Bar at the Maytree, Headley Park, Golden Cockerel, Spring 1964 © Bristol Central Library

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Other spaces, such as smoking rooms and saloon bars, appear less frequently on plans of this period, but examples can be found. **Bourne End** had a smoking room at the time of its construction and the **Golden Cockerel** had a saloon, which was described as follows:

In the Saloon Bar, the architect has striven to create a restful atmosphere and to establish friendly intimacy by the separation of the room into smaller areas. Colour is concentrated in floor design and fittings. Seating is latex upholstered in blue moquette, reflecting the colour used in the floor design. Both ceiling and seating are panelled in Parana pine, varnished to a high gloss. Indeed, Parana pine is a feature of this house, where it has been used to create the traditional “inn-side” atmosphere with a contemporary material. The counter in the Saloon bar is of mahogany and Parana pine, with a copper-faced timber toe-board. The counter-top is supported on polished copper tubes.⁷¹⁴



Smoking Room, Bourne End, Okebourne Road, Henbury, What's Brewing 1959–60, 18 © Ry George

⁷¹⁴ 'The Golden Cockerel, Highridge', *What's Brewing*, Winter 1961–2, 8.

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Another bar, depicted in the *Golden Cockerel*, suggests that the spaces of the new city pubs were also modelled along different lines to those in the suburbs. The **Mail Coach** was located on a corner site on Bond Street in the Broadmead shopping centre. The building was designed to allow customers a view of city life from 'an open-air paved terrace on the first floor', which was described as 'unique' in having its own service area, separate entrance and 'access through French-doors to the luxurious Lounge Bar'.⁷¹⁵ It also incorporated four bars, among them the 'Dive Bar', depicted below.



The Dive Bar at the Mail Coach, Broadmead, Golden Cockerel, summer 1964, 23 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Assembly Room

Another important space in the postwar suburban pub was the assembly room. Few photographic examples have been found, but the Assembly Room at **The**

⁷¹⁵ *Golden Cockerel*, Summer 1964, no. 8, 22–3.

Penpole Inn is perhaps indicative of the arrangement and furnishing of these spaces to accommodate a variety of social functions.



Assembly Room, The Penpole Inn, Kings Weston Lane, Lawrence Weston, What's Brewing, 1957–8 © Ry George

There are also signs of an emerging concern with the flexibility of the interior. Plans for **The Giant Goram** show that it incorporated folding partitions and sliding doors to allow the division of the continuous space of the public bar and skittles alley into three rooms. A skylight in the central area brought natural daylight to the windowless space when it was in separate use. At the **Fighting Cocks** at Whitchurch the Skittles Alley was 'designed as a dual-purpose room. The alley fits flush with the floor so that it can also be used as a functions or assembly room for parties of all kinds'.⁷¹⁶ And at **The Blue Boy** at Lockleaze, the brewery reported that, 'A folding screen can be used to turn the service-area of the skittles alley into an additional "overflow" bar when skittles are not in progress'.⁷¹⁷

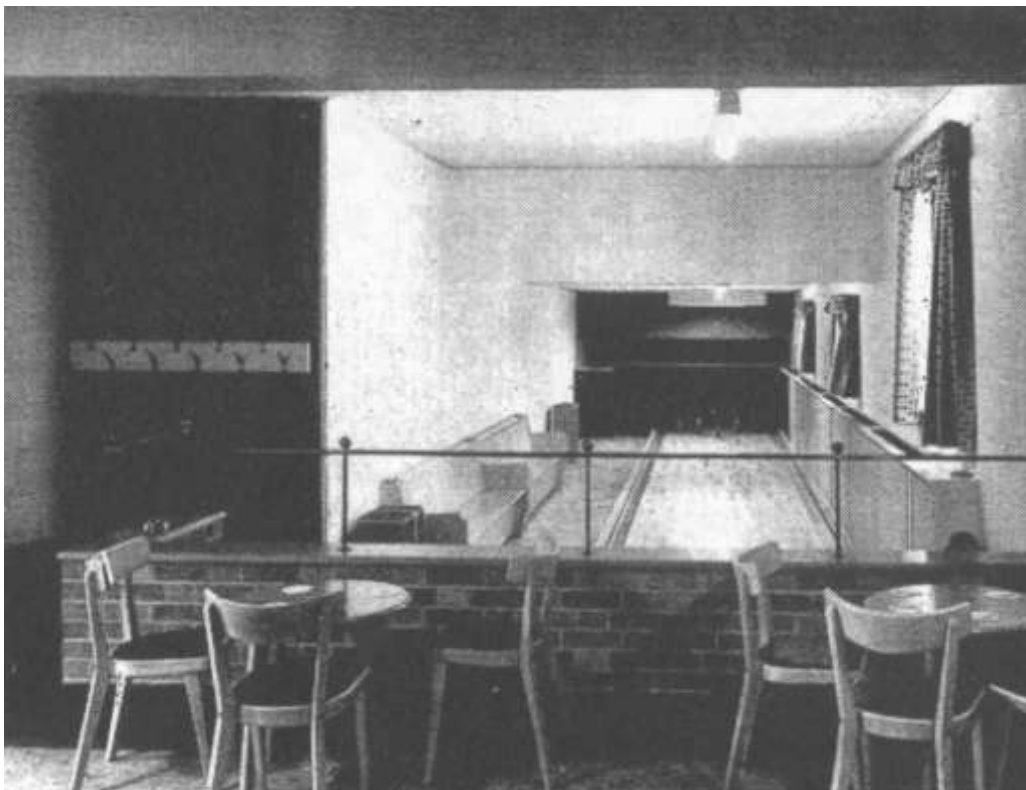
⁷¹⁶ *Golden Cockerel*, Spring 1963 no. 4, 6.

⁷¹⁷ 'The Blue Boy, Lockleaze', *What's Brewing*, Summer 1959, 22–4. Courtesy of Ry George.

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This aspect of the interior design of Bristol's public houses is characteristic of a broader emphasis on interior flexibility and is reflected in the extensive range of folding and movable wall products that were available to architects for use in public buildings of all types in this period.

Other novel interior features helped to create a distinction between more open and intimate zones within the interior, such as the 'dwarf wall' that separated the skittles alley at the **Hartcliffe Inn** from a small annexe to its rear. A similar feature could be found at the **Fulford House**, also at Hartcliffe. At the **White Lion** (a seventeenth-century pub) in Yate, the public bar and games rooms were designed as a suite of rooms aimed at recreational use: 'The large Public Bar leads directly to the Games Room, which has its darts and separate bar, and leads in turn to the Skittles Alley. The Skittles Alley is convertible into a dance floor when necessary'.⁷¹⁸



Skittles Alley, Fulford House, Fulford Road, Hartcliffe, What's Brewing 1959–60 © Ry George

⁷¹⁸ *Golden Cockerel*, August 1967, 6.



Skittles Alley, *The Penpole Inn*, Kings Weston Lane, Lawrence Weston, *What's Brewing*, 1957–8 © Ry George

Georges regarded a number of its skittles alleys as being of 'experimental' design. The alley at **The Blue Boy** was 'tapered from the delivery-end (which is wide to allow for the congestion of players around the bar) to the skittle-end (which is narrow to assist concentration on the pins)'.⁷¹⁹ The alley at **The Penpole Inn** was 'dropped to take advantage of the slope of the ground and afford spectators and players alike a better view of the proceedings' and had a new style of return-ball box that was 'something of an innovation'.⁷²⁰ Enclosed return-ball chutes also featured in the designs for the **Fulford House** and the **Inns of Court**, which had its own bar and a playing pitch in Canadian maple with an oak surround.⁷²¹

Darts remained popular as a pub sport after the Second World War and began to inform the arrangement of public house interiors. A small alcove or annexe was often set aside to separate players from other customers and reduce the risk from stray arrows. Examples can be found on plans and descriptions of the **Golden Cockerel** at Highridge, **The Charlton** at Keynsham, **Harriers** at Hartcliffe, **The Penpole Inn** at Lawrence Weston and at **The Pegasus**, Southmead,

⁷¹⁹ 'The Blue Boy, Lockleaze', *What's Brewing*, Summer 1959, 22–4. Courtesy Ry George.

⁷²⁰ 'Penpole Inn', *What's Brewing*, 1957–8, 8.

⁷²¹ *Golden Cockerel*, June 1967, 4.

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where the public bar was 'panelled in mahogany' at one end and had a 'darts alcove' at the other.⁷²²



The darts annexe at the Prince of Wales, Stoke Lane, Westbury-on-Trym © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)



The darts annexe at the Inns of Court, Knowle West, Golden Cockerel, June 1967 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

⁷²² *What's Brewing*, 1960–61, 7.

A report on the opening of **The Penpole Inn** that appeared in Georges' magazine, *What's Brewing*, commented: 'We are fully aware of the hazards from flying darts experienced by visitors to some pubs, and congratulate ourselves that the risk has been considerably reduced in this house by the provision of a special darts recess adjoining the Public Bar'.⁷²³ A description of **The Pegasus** at Southmead also commented on the incorporation of a 'darts alcove' a feature that the brewery felt was 'surely appreciated as much by those who don't as by those who do play darts'.⁷²⁴ New space for darts was incorporated in established pubs, such as the **Prince of Wales** (1906), as well as newly-built houses.

New directions for Bristol's City Centre Pubs, 1965–1980

Aimed at a city trade of workers and shoppers, the **Prince Rupert**, in Fairfax Street, which opened in December 1965, was arranged on quite a different model to that of the new estate pubs, with a lounge bar on the ground floor and on the first floor a 45 foot long, highly-glazed, 'luxurious ash-panelled Restaurant-Bar' opening onto a long first floor balcony.⁷²⁵

Changes in licensing legislation in 1964 permitted the licensing of single bar pubs, such as the **Isambard Brunel**. Planning records show that between 1966 and 1969, a series of applications were made for the erection of an office complex and multi-storey carpark, with licensed premises on the ground floor.⁷²⁶ Located directly opposite Temple Meads railway station, the present **Isambard Brunel** (now the **Reckless Engineer**) was designed as a single bar pub with seating for 80 people. The pub opened in c.1972. The long bar was arranged for food service at one end and drinks service at the other. It was only the third pub in the country to open all day from 9am until 10.30pm and had a grille behind the bar, which was closed outside of licensing hours. Clearly aimed at tourists and visitors to the city, it also sold 'a selection of paperbacks, maps, Bristol guides and books on Brunel'.⁷²⁷ A photograph of the interior in 1979, shortly after it was taken over and refurbished by Ind Coope, reflects a completely different vision for the interior, with traditional buttoned leather armchairs and carpeting. Today (as of September 2014), the interior is somewhat eclectic,

⁷²³ 'Penpole Inn', *What's Brewing*, 1957–8, 8.

⁷²⁴ 'The Pegasus, Southmead', *What's Brewing*, 1960–61, 7.

⁷²⁵ *Golden Cockerel*, February 1966, 4–5.

⁷²⁶ See Bristol Planning Portal: <http://planningonline.bristol.gov.uk/online-applications/search>.

⁷²⁷ *Golden Cockerel*, c.1972.

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combining the industrial aesthetic of scaffolding pole railings with 'traditional' public house furniture, including barrels for tables.



The bar at the Isambard Brunel, Golden Cockerel, c.1972 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)



The Isambard Brunel in 1979, as refurbished by Ind Coope, shortly after their takeover, Evening Post 19 May 1979 © Bristol Central Library

Contemporary descriptions of Bristol's public houses indicate a move away from the generic labelling of interior spaces – and their long association with class distinctions – in the 1960s. The Canynges Bar at the **Merchant Venturer** was

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named for the Merchant Venturer William Canynges the Younger. The interior played on local historical connections and featured an 'enlarged colour transparency of Edward Board's well-known painting of William Canynges entertaining Edward IV at the "Rudde House", Redcliffe'.⁷²⁸ The Redcliffe Bar featured photographs of the Redcliffe caves above which it was built and depicted the construction work that was entailed in building above a cavern.



Canynges Bar at the Merchant Venturer, Redcliff Hill, Golden Cockerel, 1969 © Bristol Central Library

The Cock O' the North, described as 'strikingly original' by Courage, incorporated 'Highland' and 'Lowland' bars which were 'luxuriously furnished' and 'fully carpeted in a design based on the Gordon tartan'.⁷²⁹ A similar approach was taken to the refurbishment of older suburban pubs, such as **The Welcome Inn** at Southmead, which was altered in 1979 and renamed the **Bear and Rugged Staff**. The alterations created two new bars, a back bar, named The Warwick Saloon, and a 'plush new lounge' in the place of the old 'entertainments bar'.⁷³⁰

⁷²⁸ *Golden Cockerel*, October 1969, 9.

⁷²⁹ *Golden Cockerel*, December 1967, 8.

⁷³⁰ *Evening Post*, 26 May 1979.

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An integrated approach to the design of the building and the fitting out of its interior can be seen in the case of **The Robins**, which also eschewed conventional names for its bars. The City Bar and Grill combined fixed seating in each window bay with loose furniture and bar stools: 'Spacious and elegantly furnished with red carpet and deep purple upholstery, the City Bar is something new. There are, in fact, two separate bars – one for drinks and another for food. Catering is to be emphasised in the house, which is equipped with a special Courage Grill'.⁷³¹



The City Bar at The Robins, with fitted booths in each window bay. Source: Golden Cockerel, February 1967, 3 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

A second bar, 'The sportsman's bar, to be known as the Stag Bar (although women are admitted)' incorporated 'giant footballs patterned on the front of the bar, and a football net ... over the serving area'.⁷³² A relationship between structural elements and interior furnishings can also be seen in the design for the **Inns of Court**, at Knowle West, where the spacious lounge bar was panelled in 'dark-flame gum wood' and incorporated 'fixed seating between structural piers and access to a small public terrace'.⁷³³

At the **Crown and Cushion**, a city centre pub in Penn Street: 'The two bars, The Crown Bar and the Sceptre Bar are both richly furnished. Fitted carpet in a pattern of blue, gold and black is common to both, but apart from that they differ in furnishings and colour scheme'.⁷³⁴ 'The Crown Bar has turquoise fixed seating

⁷³¹ *Golden Cockerel*, February 1967, 3.

⁷³² *Ibid.*

⁷³³ *Golden Cockerel*, June 1967, 4.

⁷³⁴ *Golden Cockerel*, December 1966, 3.

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and beige-covered armchairs and stools. Suspended light globes and a thistle-down-patterned wallpaper in tangerine are also features of this bar. Subdued lighting contributes to an atmosphere of restful luxury'.⁷³⁵

New additions to recently completed public houses were similarly named. The **Fighting Cocks** at Whitchurch was given a £50,000 extension in 1968, adding 'Shapes bar' in anticipation of increased trade from the new Wills factory at Hartcliffe.⁷³⁶ Also evident, is a more relaxed approach to the service of alcohol in skittles alleys. The **Inns of Court** had its own bar in the alley.⁷³⁷ Another notable feature of interiors of this period is the integration of lighting into the bar counter and elsewhere. The interior of the **Inns of Court** for example, incorporated patterned ceiling panels which complemented the wall coverings and were used to conceal lighting and ventilation.⁷³⁸



Public Bar, Inns of Court, Knowle West, Golden Cockerel, June 1967 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Breweries continued to update the interiors of their interwar pubs with new facilities according to the pattern of local trade. A new music room was

⁷³⁵ *Ibid.*

⁷³⁶ *Golden Cockerel*, December 1968, 6.

⁷³⁷ *Golden Cockerel*, June 1967, 4.

⁷³⁸ *Ibid.*

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introduced at the **Good Intent** (1939) at Brislington in the late 1960s; replacing separate small rooms, the music room was described as a 'very long, beautifully furnished, panelled in oak, with a central dance floor and orchestra stage dividing Lounge from Dining Room'.⁷³⁹ Busts of 'Tchaikovski [sic], Bach, Schubert and Brahms and other famous composers' featured in the new decorative scheme, although the music, a nightly event, was 'of a more popular kind, suitable for modern dancing'.⁷⁴⁰

Other significant changes included the provision of additional dining facilities at the **White Lion** at Yate, the **Good Intent** at Brislington and **The Swan** at Almondsbury, reflecting Courage's growing emphasis on food sales.⁷⁴¹



The Music Room at the Good Intent, Broomhill Road, Brislington. Golden Cockerel, August 1967 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

1945–1985: Exterior

Descriptions which emphasised the local and traditional materials and features of the building design on the one hand and, on the other, the pubs' modern facilities and technology, were some of the ways in which Georges, and later, Courage attempted to convey the mixture of 'ancient and modern' that they hoped characterised 'the new locals' of the late 1950s and early 1960s.

The focus on local, traditional materials and reference to historical styles also helped root the new locals in their landscape settings. Thus a 'great deal of oak' went into the **Red Hart**, at Hartcliffe' (Georges, 1960), which gave 'an

⁷³⁹ *Golden Cockerel*, August 1967, 6.

⁷⁴⁰ *Ibid.*

⁷⁴¹ *Ibid.*

impression of the strong and solid comfort which is traditionally associated with the English Inn'.⁷⁴² **The Pegasus** (Georges, 1959) was 'characterised by steeply-pitched roofs, dormers and gables'.⁷⁴³ Neo-Georgian references, such as 'bowed, Georgian-style windows', were also a feature of some early 1960s pubs, as at the **Treble Chance** (Courage, 1962).⁷⁴⁴ At **The Penpole Inn** (Georges, 1958), the pub's Cotswold stone was said to make a good contrast with the 'leafy green backcloth provided by a group of tall plane trees to the north of the house'.⁷⁴⁵

The design of the pubs' exterior spaces, including courtyards and gardens, also helped to establish the new pubs as part of the landscape of the estates they served. Although there were exceptions, the gardens and other exterior spaces tended to be smaller than in the interwar period; partly because of this, the grounds were arguably more integrated into the overall plan and the accommodation of tricky back extensions and the ever-awkward skittles alley was more carefully thought through.

Despite the greater attention that architects put into uniting the buildings with their landscape setting, there is surprisingly little visual information to survive about the postwar gardens compared with their interwar counterparts. With the exception of those resulting from gardening competitions, no photographs appear to have been taken by Georges or Courage of beer gardens belonging to pubs built in the postwar period, unless none survive. Publicity photographs and the images in brewery magazines were now focused on pubs' front elevations and, increasingly, their interiors.

There is also little information given on gardens in postwar plans – especially in comparison with the carefully designed outdoor environments indicated on those for suburban pubs of the 1930s, such as those for the **Beehive** at Henleaze. Tellingly, perhaps, plans for **Bourne End** at Okebourne Road in Henbury, dated 1958, are annotated with a reference to the removal of an area of brambles, rather than the laying out of a garden. Most surviving plans for pubs built from the mid-1950s reveal only outline garden designs, with little if any information on planting and so on. However a few do include enough detail to suggest that,

⁷⁴² 'The Red Hart', *What's Brewing*, 1960/61, 8.

⁷⁴³ 'The Pegasus, Southmead', *What's Brewing*, 1960/61, 7.

⁷⁴⁴ *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1962, 19.

⁷⁴⁵ 'Penpole Inn', *What's Brewing*, 1957/58, 8.

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where there was more space, freeform designs, generally favoured by architects and landscape designers at this date, were a preferred option. This can be seen in the 1959 plans for **The Pegasus** at Southmead, below.

Gardens and outdoor service remained a feature of many public houses in the 1950s and '60s. In addition to the general shape of the garden, plans for **The Pegasus** indicate counter service to the garden; they also represent elements of the exterior landscaping, including a stone wall cutting diagonally across the plot that remains in place today. Another feature of the original plan was an outdoor area for children was provided with its own W.C.; this area, along with that to the immediate rear of the garden service counter, has since been enclosed.



The Pegasus, Greystoke Road, Southmead. Detail from a plan of 1959 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 29053/1c. Detail of boundary wall and bisecting stone wall, Source: Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

While there were evidently many changes in plan, including the greater integration of the skittles alley within the building, which, in turn made an impact upon the layout of the garden, the general arrangement of the pub on its site was roughly the same as in the previous decade: the separation of staff gardens and yards from the public areas continued but the former were, usually, far less generous than in the interwar pubs. At the front, forecourts and carparks led to yards, usually through a door or opening in a wall, which in turn led to courtyards and gardens at the back and/or sides. Because of this, and because many the

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pubs were located on corners, the siting of 1950s and '60s pubs is often similar to those dating from the late 1930s.



The Lamb, Newton Road, Cadbury Heath © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

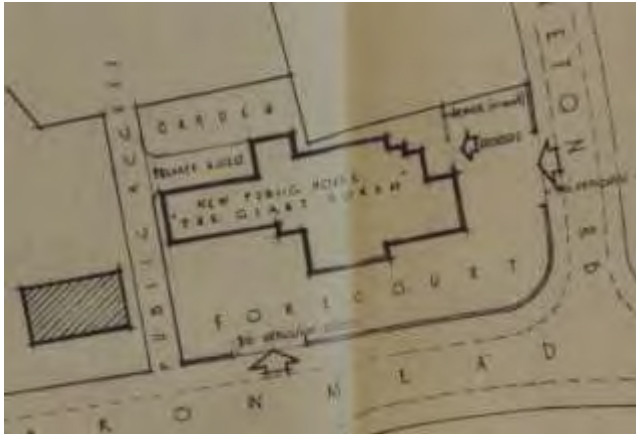
For instance, with its open, drive-through forecourt and low curved walls, the **Lamb** at Cadbury Heath, built for Georges in about 1960, bears more than a passing resemblance to two of the brewery's pubs of 1938: the **Merchants Arms** and the **Star Inn** (below):



The Star Inn, Soundwell Road, Soundwell of 1938, photographed in the 1950s © Ry George

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As noted, the functioning of the exterior areas of the public house was more carefully considered in the postwar period and plans show that attention was given to the location of goods entrances, yards and forecourts in relation to movement of cars and pedestrians, as indicated in the plan of **The Giant Goram**, Lawrence Weston, of 1958.



The Giant Goram, Barrowmead Drive, Lawrence Weston Estate, 1958. Detail from site plan of 1958 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 29053/2c

As this might suggest, part of the reason for the trend for smaller gardens was that more space was now usually allotted to drive-through and parking space at the front and sides. Thus the majority were pushed back into what would have otherwise been garden space. Doubtless breweries, influenced by the writings of Yorke and others in the 1940s, were catering more for cars. But the provision of on-site car-parking space was also part of postwar replanning. Thus it was reported in 1941 that 'in considering the plans of new cinemas or public-houses the licensing justices are to insist upon adequate car parking facilities being provided for the patrons of the establishment'.⁷⁴⁶ Although much depended on local conditions and topography, the exceptions to this rule, such as **The Pegasus**, which faced almost directly onto a (side) road, tended to be near shopping areas where there was designated parking space – another recommendation of the city's planning committee in 1941.⁷⁴⁷

Smaller gardens meant that paved areas and patios were more in evidence than traditionally planted gardens and a correlation can be drawn between this aspect of public house design and the general preference for courtyards and patios that emerged in the domestic work of British architects after the Second World War.

⁷⁴⁶ 'Car parks and replanning', *WDP*, 20 October 1941, 3.

⁷⁴⁷ *Ibid.*

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Notwithstanding the lack of evidence of garden design from photographs and plans, some conclusions can be drawn from the latter source, the main one being that the architects took inspiration from the surrounding landscape; some drawings even suggested that adjoining areas might be considered as part of the pubs' wider setting – although drinking beyond the designated areas was discouraged. Others indicated that a view of surrounding countryside or designed landscapes such as 'village greens' might be obtained via the pub's windows. Good examples of this borrowed landscape idea include the plan for the **Old Crow**, at Henbury, described above, which included the roundabout in front. The landscape setting was shown more obviously in a site plan for the **Golden Cockerel**.

The **Golden Cockerel** was designed by Burrough and Hannam for Georges' subsidiary, the Bristol United Breweries in 1960, but was the first pub to be opened in the Bristol area by Courage Barclay and Simonds. The plan of the building did not include any of the exterior ground other than as negative space. The site plan however indicated that although the garden was small, and most of the ground was given over to car parking (all surrounded by an 'unclimbable fence'), the pub fronted a village green, and had a sports ground at the back; like most of the public houses built on Bristol's estates at this date, it was zoned together with the shops:



Plan of the Golden Cockerel, Lakemead Grove, Highridge © Bristol Record Office – BRO 29053/6

A tracing of the conveyance of 1963, in the Courage archive, also shows a sports pavilion, just out of the area covered in the plan shown above. This plan did not just indicate the landscape setting, then, it illustrated a potential clientele. Georges' in house 'gazette', *What's Brewing* and, from 1961, Courage's magazine the *Golden Cockerel*, also emphasised the pub's landscape settings within the Corporation-planned estates. Thus the **Golden Cockerel** at Highridge was described as having its West gable 'facing the green'.⁷⁴⁸

At pubs where there was not much of a garden, brewery magazines invoked the surrounding landscape and also stressed the excellence of the outdoor facilities. For example **The Penpole Inn** (1958) had only a 'Lounge Court', adjoining the Lounge Bar, constructed in Cotswold Stone and crazy-paving; this Court was provided with a service counter 'which should be very popular during the summer months'. When the city architect opened **The Penpole Inn** he remarked that the land leased to the company 'could hardly be called an ideal building site' but 'what it lacked in size and levels was certainly compensated for by its natural beauty'; meanwhile the 'leafy green backcloth provided by a group of tall plane trees to the north of the house', was a good contrast with the 'ideal material' of Cotswold stone.⁷⁴⁹

As these examples suggest, brewery trade magazines are among the only sources to have been located that contain detailed written descriptions of the Bristol's postwar pub gardens. These accounts obviously need to be treated with caution as they tended to exaggerate the gardens' charms. Nevertheless they are useful indicators of plan, give some information on materials and planting, and are especially interesting in how the courtyards and gardens related to the interior drinking areas. At **The Blue Boy**, Lockleaze (opened December 1958), where there was more room outside than at many pubs, there was 'garden-service, from a special bar which commands a wide view of playground and garden through plate-glass doors. The garden itself contains a large shelter and a special toilet for children'.⁷⁵⁰ At Lawrence Weston, the **Long Cross** had a children's shelter facing the garden, which is marked on the 1956 plan, by N. G. Brice for Georges.

⁷⁴⁸ 'The Golden Cockerel', *What's Brewing*, 1961/62 Winter, 8. Authors' collection.

⁷⁴⁹ *What's Brewing*, 1957-8, 8.

⁷⁵⁰ *What's Brewing*, Summer 1959, 22-4. Courtesy of Ry George.

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Plan of the Long Cross, Long Cross, Lawrence Weston, 1956 © Bristol Record Office – BRO 29053/2c

The Treble Chance, opened in 1962, had ‘an enclosed public garden at the rear (part of which is paved with coloured flag stones and part turfed)’.⁷⁵¹ At the **Antelope** (Courage 1964), ‘there was ‘a special garden-bar for those who like to take their Courage in the open-air’.⁷⁵² Courage also emphasised the ‘Garden Service’ at the **Harriers** (1964), Hartcliffe, that year.⁷⁵³ The two bars at **The Jolly Cobbler** at Kingswood each had access to a paved terrace and on its opening in July 1966 the brewery reported that it planned to plant a ‘screen of shrubs’ along the boundaries of the property.⁷⁵⁴

⁷⁵¹ *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1962 no. 3, 19.

⁷⁵² Courage Newsletter to Licensees, September 1964, Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK); and ‘The Harriers, Hartcliffe, Bristol’, *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1964, 7.

⁷⁵³ *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1964, 25.

⁷⁵⁴ *Golden Cockerel*, August 1966, 1.



The Jolly Cobbler, Chiphouse Road, Kingswood: Golden Cockerel, August 1966 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Descriptions in the *Golden Cockerel* magazine sometimes also indicate that where larger or more decorative gardens were provided, this was due to a pub's location near a factory or other employer. **The Pegasus** at Southmead was 'pleasantly sited, with lawns and rose-beds in front and in close proximity to BAC';⁷⁵⁵ while **The Magpie**, Gypsy Patch Lane (1967), was 'close to the Siddeley factory at Patchway', and had 'an unusually large car park, and extensive lawns and gardens'.⁷⁵⁶

The planting or preserving of trees in or near pub gardens could play a particularly symbolic role in creating continuity in modern settings. At the **Antelope** (1964), 'the first house to be built for a huge new development south of the city', 'an old elm tree on the side of the house has been retained and an octagonal seat fitted round the base'.⁷⁵⁷ 'To plant a tree is to show faith in the future', said the *Golden Cockerel* magazine: 'That is what we did when the **Maytree**, a new Courage house, was opened at Headley Park, Bristol, on 2 December 1963'. The tree was planted by the Chief Superintendent of Bristol's

⁷⁵⁵ 'The Pegasus, Southmead', *What's Brewing*, 1960/61, 6–7.

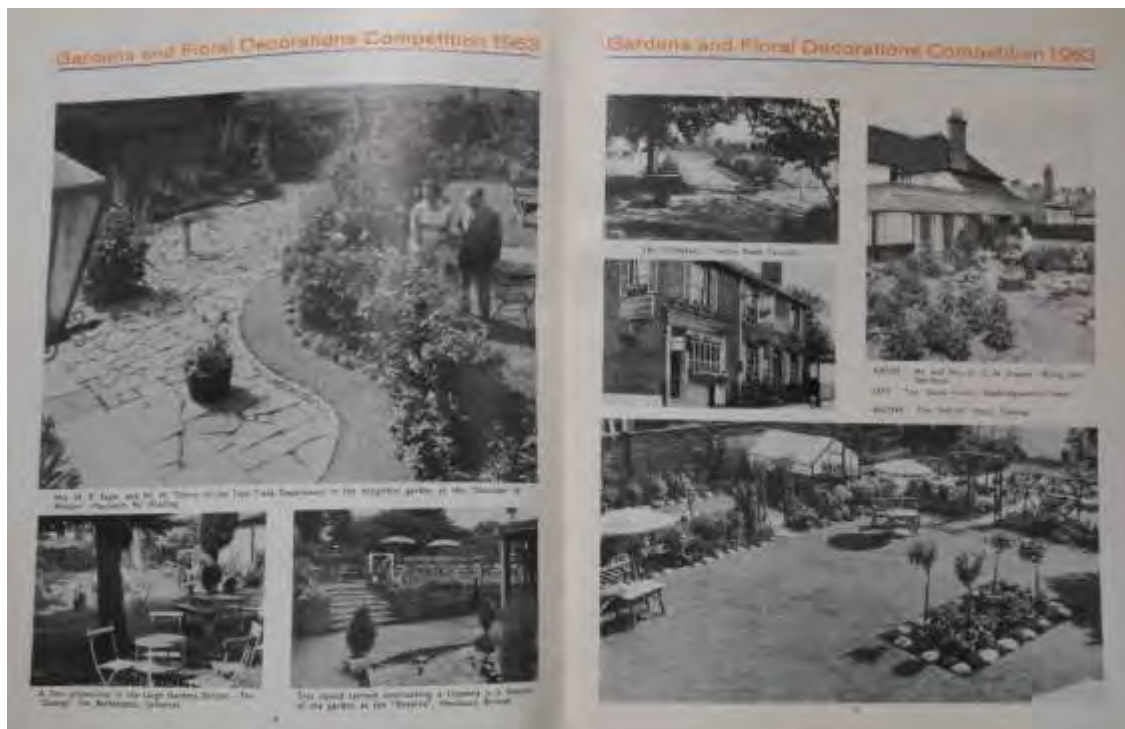
⁷⁵⁶ *Golden Cockerel*, August 1967, 6.

⁷⁵⁷ Courage Newsletter to Licensees, September 1964, Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK); and 'The Harriers, Hartcliffe, Bristol', *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1964, 7.

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Parks and Gardens, who also judged Courage Western's pub garden competition that year.⁷⁵⁸

The *Golden Cockerel* and other Courage in-house magazines show that this gardening competition was very popular. Organised as a series of regional branch competitions, which continued until at least the late 1970s, photographs of winning gardens, and sometimes the managers responsible, appeared regularly in Courage publications.



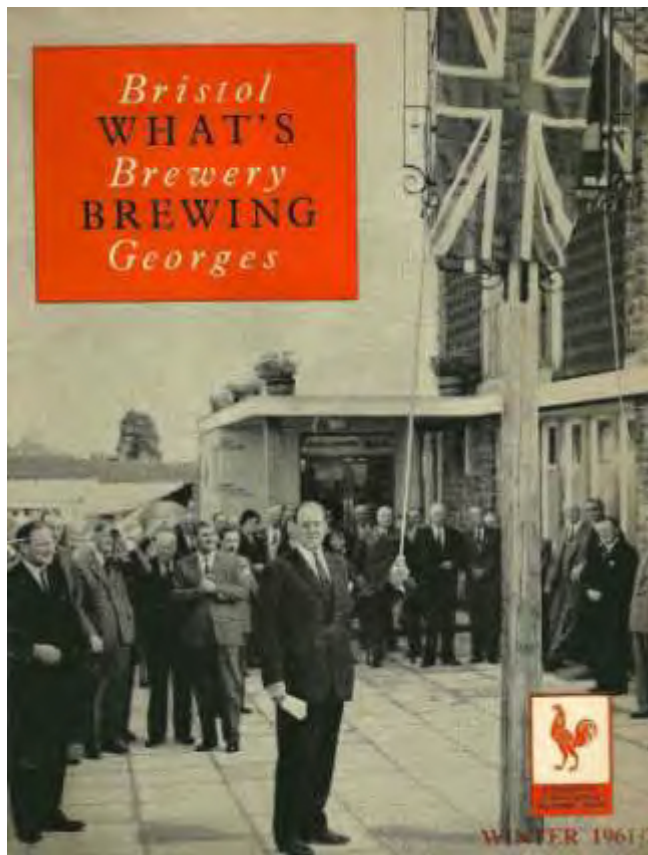
The Golden Cockerel Newsletter, 9 November 1963, the Beehive, Wellington Hill West, Henleaze is the right-hand image at the bottom left © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Unfortunately, the **Beehive** (the Georges' pub of 1935 seen in the image above), appears to have been one of the few pubs in Bristol to win an award for its gardens; none of the gardens belonging to the area's postwar pubs were illustrated in Courage's reports of the competition.

The 'ancient and modern' aspects of the new pubs were also highlighted at their opening ceremonies. Where Georges' publicity of the interwar period marked the opening of their pubs with a glass of beer and a game of skittles by the directors and the manager, new traditions were introduced in the 1950s.

⁷⁵⁸ *Golden Cockerel*, Spring 1964, 14–15.

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Cover of *Georges' What's Brewing*, Winter 1961/2, showing the opening of the Golden Cockerel; authors' collection



The hoisting of the ale garland at the Maytree, Headley Park, in 1964 © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Flags were raised on the pub signs and the apparently revived practices of 'ale conning and hoisting an ale garland' would now mark the opening of each new pub. Thus, at the opening of the **Harriers** in 1964, the master of the Clifton Foot Harriers remarked that, 'What I like about Courages is the way that they combine ancient and modern. Today, for instance, we have re-enacted the centuries old ceremony of ale conning and hoisting an ale garland, and we have opened a bright new licensed house with all that is comfortable, efficient and hygienic in the way of furniture, fittings and amenities'.⁷⁵⁹

Gardens continued to be laid out for all the pubs that Courage built to serve Bristol's suburban estates through to the end of the 1960s. Those built in more urban areas, such as **The Robins** (1966) and **The Cock O' the North** (1967), were served by forecourt areas, with a small amount of planting. The **Merchant Venturer** (1969) had a terrace, but was also designed to be part of the local historic landscape setting. In front of magistrates at Bristol's transfer licensing session in October 1968, Mr J. Littler, representing Courage, stated that the architects of the new building were 'at pains to design a public house in keeping with the area. It will be properly landscaped'.⁷⁶⁰ The pub was built over natural caves and had picture windows with views of the church of St Mary Redcliffe and the former Quaker burial ground (as illustrated on p. 388), which had been donated by the Quakers to the City Council after the Second World War. As might be expected, the pubs built for the commercial heart of the city at Broadmead had no gardens at all, but were provided with large windows and balconies facing the street.

⁷⁵⁹ *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1964, 25.

⁷⁶⁰ *Bristol Evening Post*, 1 October 1968.

Exterior Changes Since 1945

In addition to the new public houses that were built in the years following the Second World War, many older pubs were modified in response to commercial and legislative change. In recent years, interwar pubs have, in particular, become vulnerable to such modifications. The exterior design features that Francis Yorke had recommended in his book of 1949, *The Planning and Equipment of Public Houses* – ample drive-through and car parking space and gardens at the rear and sides – which Georges had, for the most part, already implemented in its interwar designs, created islands of valuable land in residential areas. Such areas were, according to Yorke, in part intended to provide a flexible space into which the pub or its facilities could extend over time. One case in which this has operated is that of the **Eastfield Inn**, where an area to the side of the original pub now accommodates a conservatory for dining.



The Eastfield Inn, Henleaze Road, Henleaze, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, 2014

Because they were generally provided with larger gardens as well as forecourts and car parking areas, interwar pubs are probably at a greatest risk from encroachments, including car park extensions and the sale of off portions of land for other use. For example, the once large garden at the **Engineers Arms** (now the **Brunel**) is almost completely taken up with car parking, other than a small outdoor drinking space and children's play area.

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The rear of the Brunel (formerly the Engineers Arms), St John's Lane, Bedminster, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, June 2014

The gradual selling off of exterior ground means that the original footprint often becomes lost, as at the **Bear and Rugged Staff** (originally **The Welcome Inn**), where part of the garden at the rear is now a used-car business and a carpet warehouse stands on its former drive to the left-hand or West side:



The Bear & Rugged Staff, Southmead Road, Southmead © Geolocation <https://geolocation.ws>

However this process appears to have begun relatively early in the pub's life as the area now occupied by the carpet warehouse had been allocated in 1959 for a supermarket, according to plans signed by the City Engineer, Surveyor and Planning Officer, held in Courage estate records.

Interwar public houses, particularly those in the more densely populated areas, such as the **Bear and Rugged Staff** are thus particularly under threat of development. Many similar pubs have already been converted to supermarkets

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and residential use, their grounds and gardens becoming car parks and delivery spaces; in other cases, both interwar and postwar, the whole site, including the original building, has been lost to new flats. One of the more imaginative interwar conversions is that of the **Progress Inn**, Sea Mills / Coombe Dingle, which is now a children's nursery. This has made good use of the large amount of exterior space: new gardens have been created on what had once been solely a concrete forecourt and in the former pub garden there are now story-telling areas, play equipment and raised beds for growing vegetables.⁷⁶¹



The Progress Inn, Westbury Lane, Sea Mills, from One Hundred and Fifty Years, 38; the forecourt has now been landscaped

In more rural areas, the large grounds of interwar pubs continue to provide the parking space required for drivers, while often also retaining ample gardens, and consequently make the sites particularly appealing to chains. Thus **The Black Lion** (now the **Maes Knoll**, part of the Toby Carvery Chain), serves a wide catchment area on the southern fringe of the city.

⁷⁶¹ 'Tots Take Over as Landmark Proves to be Ideal Spot', *Bristol Post*, 6 January 2012.

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The Maes Knoll (formerly The Black Lion), Whitchurch, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, September 2014

In the case of the **Maes Knoll**, the large forecourt means that there has been less encroachment at the rear than in some of the more urban areas; consequently the footprint of the large garden ground, which was originally divided between the public and staff areas and is now arranged to provide both enclosed and open garden areas for customers, remains little changed.



The garden immediately adjoining the Maes Knoll (formerly The Black Lion), Whitchurch, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston, September 2014

From the introduction of the 2007 smoking ban, many pubs with gardens started to house smoking shelters, such as that shown in the garden of the **Maes Knoll**. These come in all shapes and sizes and degrees of permanency and are located with varying degrees of sensitivity to the architectural context. At pubs built from the 1950s, which, as we have seen, tended to have smaller gardens than their

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interwar counterparts because of greater space allocated to cars, smoking shelters are often located on forecourts. Some, such as that at the **Oldbury Court Inn** at Fishponds (unknown brewery, c. late 1950s) and **The Robins** at Ashton Gate (Courage, 1966), are prominently located to the front of the building (as shown below), rather than in gardens or yards to the rear or sides.



The Oldbury Court Inn, Gill Avenue, Fishponds, showing the shelter to the front, in September 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston



The Robins, Winterstoke Drive, Ashton Gate, in June 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston

The **Colosseum**, formerly the **Merchant Venturer** (Courage, 1969), has awnings to the front and sides; that at the front of the building partially obscures the view from the interior to St Mary Redcliffe, which informed the siting and orientation of the building.

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The Colosseum, Redcliffe Parade, Redcliffe in June 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston



The Colosseum, viewed from the former Quaker graveyard, off Redcliff Hill, in June 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston

CONCLUSIONS

About thirty new pubs were built in the interwar period in Bristol and surrounding areas. Of these, around twenty-five were on the routes out of town, in suburbs or villages that were becoming part of greater Bristol, or were in and near the new suburban estates, reflecting licensing policy and population dispersal. Of these twenty-five, sixteen are still trading as pubs. Of those not trading, three have become branches of Tesco and another has planning permission for conversion to retail with residential over. One is in use as a children's nursery. The rest are closed or demolished.

Not counting partial reconstructions like the **Mauretania**, three new pubs are known to have been built in the city centre in the 1930s: the **Horse and Jockey**; the **Leopard** and the **Spread Eagle**. Of these, only the **Spread Eagle** still stands, presently trading as the **Queenshilling**. Another new inter-war pub, **The Foresters Arms**, to the north of the city on the Gloucester Road, was closed at the time of the fieldwork. Thus out of a total of around thirty, seventeen are still pubs.

The picture is possibly worse for Bristol's postwar pubs. Around fifty-five new pubs were built in Bristol and the surrounding area between 1945 and 1970. It is difficult to arrive at a more precise number as so many have already been lost. Some pubs, especially those in more rural areas, were apparently built by breweries other than those that form the main part of this report (i.e. Georges and its contemporaries and, from 1961, Courage). For example, the **Salutation**, Mangotsfield (late 1950s), is attributed to the Stroud Brewery Company.⁷⁶² Without consulting the archives of this and other brewery companies, assuming they survive, it is not possible to estimate how many more pubs may have been built that no longer stand. Nevertheless, the numbers of known demolitions, closures and, to a lesser extent, changes of use are striking.

In January 2015, of the fifty-five public houses that are known to have been built between 1945 and 1970, only twenty-four were still trading as pubs – and the future of several of these looks uncertain. Two of those that are no longer pubs have been converted to supermarkets. The rest are closed or demolished.

⁷⁶² Gloucestershire Pubs Database:

<http://www.gloucestershirepubs.co.uk/AllGlosPubsDatabase/RAIGConnection.php?pubid1=2525>: accessed 14 January 2015.

Protection

A number of Bristol's public houses are already afforded statutory protection and for that reason have not been subject to greater analysis as part of this study. Eighteen of Bristol's nineteenth-century public houses are currently afforded statutory protection. These range in date from c.1800 to c.1870. One of those, the **George Railway Hotel** (c.1870), which is in a poor state of repair and is situated in a prominent location close to Temple Meads railway station, is on Bristol City Council's Register of Listed Buildings at Risk (2011). Only one twentieth-century public house, the **Richmond Spring** at Clifton, is currently protected.⁷⁶³

CAMRA has identified one seventeenth-century city centre pub, the **King's Head** (c.1660), as having a nineteenth-century interior of national importance, with fittings dating from c.1865. The building is currently Grade II listed. CAMRA has identified a further five pubs as having interiors of regional importance. Of those, the **Nova Scotia**, (Hotwells, an early nineteenth-century house, converted to a public house in the late nineteenth century, original bar back and bar counter) and the former **Palace Hotel** (St Philip's, 1870 with surviving fittings) are Grade II listed. The **Air Balloon Tavern** (St George, early twentieth century with some original fittings); **Highbury Vaults** (Kingsdown, mid-nineteenth century, little altered bars with 1930s hand pumps); and the **White Horse** (Westbury-on-Trym, 1906) have no statutory protection. The **Air Balloon Tavern** (early twentieth century) is at risk of conversion to residential use. A local campaign has begun in conjunction with the Bristol Pubs Group to have the pub listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV). CAMRA has identified one further pub, The **Shakespeare**, Redland (1903), as having an interior of regional historic interest.⁷⁶⁴ Neither **Air Balloon** or **The Shakespeare** has statutory protection. The **Mauretania**, on Park Street, is a public house of 1870 by Henry Masters, with a rear extension in 'plain "moderne" style' of 1938 by W. H. Watkins. This has 'exceptionally fine' interiors retained from HMS Mauretania (launched 1907; scrapped 1934); trading as the **Mauretania Bar and Lounge**, the building was listed Grade II in 1994.⁷⁶⁵

⁷⁶³ Listed as c.1910, but described in Georges' 150th year anniversary brochure of 1938 as having been 'entirely rebuilt in 1932', in *One Hundred and Fifty Years*, 64.

⁷⁶⁴ As previously indicated, CAMRA currently dates this public house to c.1920s.

⁷⁶⁵ English Heritage List entry Number: 1208102.

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Bristol City Council is creating a Local List of buildings that are not currently listed but are deemed of value and worth preserving. The Council has developed a free web resource – Bristol – Know Your Place (<http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/knowyourplace>) to collate local historic information and operate as a resource and mechanism through which members of the public can nominate buildings for inclusion. This report includes a number of pubs nominated for local listing through the Know Your Place website: **The Cambridge Arms**, Redland (1900); **The Shakespeare**, Redland (1903); **Beehive**, Henleaze (1935); **Eastfield Inn**, Henleaze (1935), details of which are included in the Appendix.

Already on Bristol City Council's list of Assets of Community Value (published December 2014), are four public houses: the **Bull Inn** at Crews Hole Road, (closed in c.2012, reopened January 2015); the **Greenbank Hotel** at Belle View Road, Easton; the **Air Balloon Tavern**, Air Balloon Road, St George; and **Chequers**, Lodge Road, Kingswood.

The Impact of Pubcos

While Bristol's pubs of all ages have been bought by national chains, those built in the twentieth century seem particularly attractive to national operators. Sizzling Pubs is particularly active in the Bristol area in this respect. Like Toby Carvery and Harvester, Sizzling Pubs is a Mitchells and Butlers brand. The firm's portfolio of Sizzling Pubs includes at least two Edwardian pubs: the **Miles Arms Hotel**, Avonmouth and the **Lamb** at Mangotsfield. At least five suburban pubs of the 1930s trade under a house brand: **Brunel**, Bedminster (Hungry Horse, Greene King); **Lord Nelson**, Cleve (Hungry Horse); **Maes Knoll**, Whitchurch (Toby Carvery); **Merchants Arms**, (Hungry Horse); and the **Turnpike** (Sizzling Pubs). Of the postwar pubs, the **Shield and Dagger**, East Dundry (late 1960s, unknown brewery, perhaps Worthingtons (Bass) which had a shield and dagger trademark) is trading as a Sizzling Pub:

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Shield and Dagger, East Dundry Road, East Dundry, in September 2014, Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston

The **Yeoman**, Whitchurch (unknown brewery, late 1960s) is also now a Sizzling Pub:



The Yeoman, Wells Road, Whitchurch, in September 2014. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston 2014

The **Huntsman**, Downend (unknown brewery, opened by 1966 and rebuilt after a fire in 2007), is trading as a Taverners, Marston's Carvery, part of Marston's PLC:



The Huntsman, Westerleigh Road, Downend © Alice Hall: Huntsman Pub Fire, 2007; geograph.org.uk, licensed under Creative Commons

Change of Use

As this report has indicated, many of Bristol's nineteenth- and twentieth-century public houses have already been converted for other uses. Since 2010 several have been converted as supermarkets, some in the face of local opposition.⁷⁶⁶ Examples by Tesco, such as the **Foresters** at Westbury-on-Trym and **The Fellowship** at Horfield, have been sensitive to the fabric of the building and its appearance within the street. Other conversions by Tesco include **The Friendship**, Knowle (2010), the **Standard of England**, Southmead (2011), the **Bell**, St George (2012 with residential above) and **Chequers** at Kingswood (planning consent for alterations granted to Tesco in October 2014). Other examples, such as the conversion of the **Wingrove** at Keynsham, have been less successful at retaining the character of the original building. The former **Standard of England** became a Tesco Express in 2011 and, like the **Wingrove**, bears little resemblance to the pub that was originally built for Southmead in 1954:

⁷⁶⁶ Local performer, Peter Rayland, wrote a song in protest. *Bristol Observer*, 20 September 2012. Bristol Central Library, press cuttings.

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The Standard of England, Greystoke Avenue, Southmead, in a detail from the Bristol Evening Post of 1954 © Bristol Central Library



Tesco Express, Greystoke Avenue, Southmead, in 2013 © Copyright Jaggery and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence

Pubs have also been demolished to make way for supermarkets that have not materialised; the **Wayfarer** at Brentry has been mentioned locally in this respect.

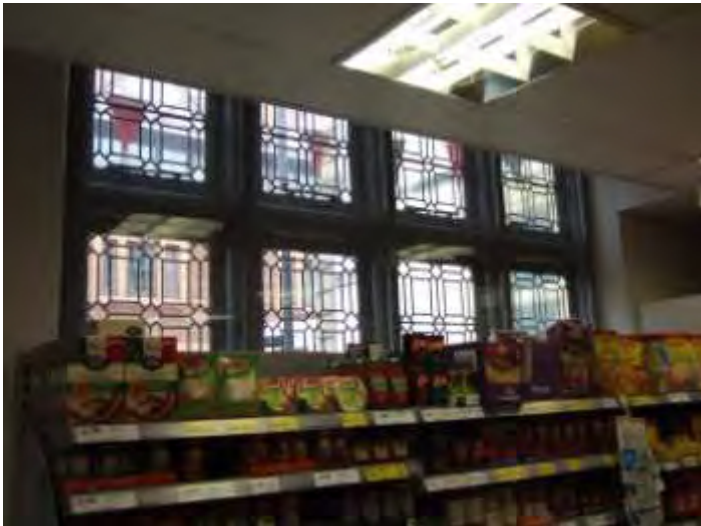
This pattern of development has also affected public houses of older origin, such as the **Farriers Arms** at Fishponds, a mid-Georgian building that has been trading as a public house since 1872, but has stood empty since 2010. The pub is currently owned by Morrisons and faces an uncertain future.

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Top to bottom, the Foresters Arms Westbury-on-Trym (© Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum; Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston July 2014), The Fellowship, Horfield (One Hundred and Fifty Years; Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston August 2014), and The Friendship, Knowle (One Hundred and Fifty Years and © Copyright Jaggery and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence), all now branches of Tesco Express; and the Wingrove, Keynsham (Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK) and <http://www.keynsham.co.uk/news/>, now a branch of The Co-operative Food

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Windows at the converted *Foresters*, Westbury-on-Trym (left) and *The Fellowship*, Horfield (right).
Source: Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston July 2014

Pubs continue to be converted to residential use. Among those recently converted or in the process of conversion are the **White Horse** (undergoing conversion to flats with a cafe/bar below), the **Fox Inn** (converted) and the **Plough** (converted), all at Bedminster, an area of the city that has already lost a number of pubs and is still experiencing closures.



White Horse, Bedminster, undergoing conversion to residential in June 2014 © Bristol Museum, Hartley Collection; and Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston 2014

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Fox Inn, Bedminster, converted to residential. Source: Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston June 2014

One public house with an historic interior identified by CAMRA as being of regional significance, which is also on Bristol City Council's list of Assets of Community Value – The **Air Balloon Tavern** at Air Balloon Road – has very recently closed (January 2015) with plans for conversion to residential use:



The Air Balloon Tavern, Air Balloon Road, St George in the late twentieth century © Barton Hill History Group: <http://www.bhhg.co.uk>

Another significant category of conversions is from public house to restaurant or retail use. Examples include the **General Elliott** at Bedminster, converted to Smiley's Plaice, a take away and restaurant that remains legible as a former pub

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within the streetscape, and the Mezzé chain of restaurants (<http://www.mezzerestaurants.com>) which has a number of restaurants in former pubs of various dates of construction (**Warwick Arms**, Clutton; **Ship & Castle**, Congresbury; **Green Dragon**, Downend; **Royal George**, Thornbury; **White Lion**, Portishead). The chain is in growth phase and is pursuing a strategy of public house reuse. As noted on the firm's website, 'While 28 pubs across the country are closing their doors every week, we at Mezze are trying to buck this trend and guarantee the future of these great old community pubs. With our significant investment into failing pubs we are helping to turn around their futures and secure their place as the social hub of their local community.'



Smiley's Plaice, Bedminster, June 2014. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston 2014

The team behind two successful Bristol cafés, Zazu's Kitchen in Gloucester Road, Bishopston and North Street, Bedminster, has also begun to expand into the gastropub market, with 'community-minded, family-friendly' pubs. Its first acquisition, the former Georges' pub, the **Greenbank** (listed as an Asset of Community Value), was under threat and is now thriving. The group recently acquired and refurbished **Robin Hood's Retreat** on Gloucester Road, which now trades as **The Grace**.

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Greenbank Hotel, Bellevue Road, Easton © Hartley Collection, Bristol Museum and © the Greenbank Easton: <http://thegreenbankbristol.co.uk>

The **King George VI** at Filton has a planning application pending, for conversion to flats and retail use. Bristol Pubs Group has formally objected.



King George VI, corner of Filton Avenue and Station Road, Filton © Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

Other examples of change of use include the **Sportsmans Arms** at Wade Street, St Jude's, now a mosque, the **Al Baseera Bristol Centre**; the **Old Fox Inn** at Baptist Mills also held a mosque for a period in recent years but is now closed; and the **Progress Inn**, Sea Mills, is now the Red Bus children's nursery.

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The Bush, Wells Road, Totterdown © Copyright Roger Cornfoot and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence

The Bush at Totterdown was built in the mid-1980s to serve the Three Lamps Estate at Totterdown, a new estate built after a wave of demolition in anticipation of a new ring road that was never completed. The huge edifice on Wells Road opened as a children's nursery and pre-school in 2014. Of striking design, described on one website as 'A grotesque architectural horror without reason or sense of cultural heritage', some would perhaps have favoured demolition.⁷⁶⁷

One of the more creative recent examples of re-use can be found at Cadbury Heath, where the **Lamb** was spared total conversion to a Co-op after pressure from the Bristol Pubs Group and local MP Chris Skidmore. A compromise was reached with the result that a branch of the store (with residential above) was built on one of the pub's two gardens, allowing the pub to continue to trade as a community pub.⁷⁶⁸

⁷⁶⁷ <http://www.knowhere.co.uk/Totterdown/Bristol/South-West-England/info/demolish>, accessed 7 January 2015.

⁷⁶⁸ *Pints West*, 99, Autumn 2013, 12.



*The Lamb, Newton Road, Cadbury Heath showing the new flats and supermarket to the rear.
Source © Pints West 99, Autumn 2013*

Demolitions

Recent losses include the **Long Cross** at Lawrence Weston and **Bourne End** at Brentry (May 2014), which Charlotte Leslie MP and Councillor Mark Weston had been campaigning to save and Weston described as ‘a cold and calculated step to stop local campaigners from saving the pub for future use’.⁷⁶⁹ Leslie has been an active campaigner for pubs and was the main sponsor of an Early Day Motion on the Demolition and Change of Use of Pub Buildings (July 2014).⁷⁷⁰ At the time of our site visit to Stockwood in September 2014, **The Man in Space** had evidently just been demolished.

⁷⁶⁹ <http://www.henburyandbrentryconservatives.com/news/>, accessed 7 January 2015.

⁷⁷⁰ ‘That this House believes that permitted development rights are leaving pubs in England vulnerable to demolition or conversion to a range of retail uses without planning permission; further believes, in light of evidence from the Campaign for Real Ale, that two pubs a week are converted to supermarkets, and that these planning loopholes are contributing to the loss of valued community amenities; is concerned that local people are being denied a say in the future of their neighbourhoods; and so urges the Government to bring forward amendments to the General Permitted Development Order 1995 so that any demolition or change of use involving the loss of a pub would require planning permission’: <http://www.parliament.uk/edm/2014-15/208>, accessed 7 January 2015.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol



The Long Cross, Lawrence Weston: Mike Jackson, Bristol Pubs Group:
http://www.camrabristol.org.uk/pubsgroup/Pubs_Update



The Man in Space, Stockwood, September 2014. Fiona Fisher and Rebecca Preston 2014

The future of some other contemporary pubs remains uncertain. The **Royal Archer**, Kingswood – another postwar example (Georges, c.1960) – was boarded up and for sale in 2014.

Current Status

The current picture in Bristol is fluid. It is difficult to be specific about the level of risk, as pubs close for a variety of reasons. On the basis of recent patterns of demolition and conversion, Bristol's pubs of the 1950s and 1960s, built to serve the city's new postwar housing estates, are particularly vulnerable. Demolitions are not always opposed, particularly in cases where the pub has a poor local reputation; a new supermarket is often preferable to a troublesome pub. There is also an understanding that housing continues to be required.

Large suburban pubs of the interwar period are also at risk as many were built on substantial plots, with large gardens. Some, such as the **Beehive** at Henleaze, have survived by selling land for development, as well as by extending their customer base. For example, the **Eastfield Inn** has an indoor soft play area for small children in order to maximise use during the day.

Certain areas of the city, Bedminster and Totterdown, for example, have already suffered significant losses. Others, such as Fishponds, appear to be vulnerable to further losses.

While the pace of change in Bristol has undoubtedly been rapid in the early years of the twenty-first century, it seems important, also, to recognise that the longer history of Bristol's nineteenth- and twentieth-century pubs is a story of reuse and adaptation, with examples of conversion to and from residential and retail use across the period, conversions which are sometimes indicated in their names. For example, the **Old Post Office Tavern**, Westbury-on-Trym, was trading under this name from at least 1878.⁷⁷¹ In 1903, the **Live and Let Live** in Greenbank Road, Ashton Gate, was converted to use as a Baptist Mission.⁷⁷² Such changes of use also occurred in the later twentieth century. While the 1970s was generally a difficult time for the city's pubs, from the early 1980s companies began to create new pubs in historic buildings. Examples include the first Firkin pub, the **Fleece and Firkin**, which opened in the Old Wool Hall in St Thomas Street in March 1982 and the **Pump House**, a new pub in a former pumping station at Merchants Road, Hotwells, which opened in 1984.⁷⁷³

⁷⁷¹ *Bristol Mercury*, 27 September 1878, 3.

⁷⁷² *WDP*, 6 January 1903, 5.

⁷⁷³ *WDP*, 11 March 1982, loose cutting, Bristol Central Library; *Evening Post* 15 March 1984, loose cutting, Bristol Central Library.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol



Left: *The Fleece (formerly Fleece and Firkin), St Thomas Street* © Copyright Neil Owen and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence. Right: *The Pump House, Hotwells* © Copyright Anthony O'Neil and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence

In 1997, the English Heritage Conservation award for best conversion to pub use was the **Commercial Rooms**, Corn Street, Bristol – an 1810–1811 gentlemen's club designed by C. A. Busby, converted by Tuffin Ferraby & Taylor.⁷⁷⁴ This is now a Wetherspoons.

Meanwhile in recent years new pubs and bars have opened in a variety of industrial and other buildings, especially near the waterfront. Some of these are branches of the major chains (e.g. Pitcher and Piano, V Shed, a former transit shed on the Harbourside). Others are run by local breweries, including the Bristol-based Butcombe Brewery's **Cottage Inn** (Baltic Wharf, Cumberland Road) and Bristol Beer Factory's **Grain Barge** (Mardyke Wharf, Hotwell Road). Bath Ales has opened a number of food and craft beer orientated pubs in former shops and other premises in and near the city centre. Butcombe Brewery owns eighteen 'high quality' freehold pubs in the West Country, with four in Bristol. These include pubs in converted buildings as well as ones that were purpose built as public houses, such as the Victorian **Bell Inn**, Stokes Croft, and the Edwardian **Prince of Wales**, Westbury on Trym.

There are also many examples of renovation and investment in public houses in and around the city. The **Bull Inn** at Crews Hole Road (listed as an Asset of Community Value) had been closed for over two years before re-opening following renovations as this report was being finalised in January 2015.

⁷⁷⁴ D. Taylor, 'Dismal Design of New English Pubs Fails to Raise Spirits', *Architects Journal*, Vol. 205, 9, 6 March 1997, 16.

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APPENDIX

The Appendix provides further information in gazetteer form on thirty-seven important surviving examples of Bristol's nineteenth- and twentieth-century public houses. These were chosen as typical, rather than exceptional examples – architecturally and socially – of their type, following the methodology outlined in the introduction to this report.

The Appendix does not include public houses that have statutory protection as listed buildings, but does include a number of pubs that have been added to Bristol City Council's list of Assets of Community Value, or have been recently nominated for addition to the list by members of the public. It also includes a number of public houses that CAMRA has designated as having historic interiors of regional importance.

The abbreviation KYP, in the map field of each Appendix entry, indicates that the image derives from Bristol City Council's interactive website, Know Your Place:

<http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/planning-and-building-regulations/know-your-place>.

Current Name:	AIR BALLOON
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	Crown and Anchor
Address: 	11 Air Balloon Road St George Bristol BS5 8LB
Architect and/or Builder:	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.
Date of Construction and/or Alteration:	Early twentieth century with later alterations
Brewery:	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.
Garden and Outbuildings: Parking, outdoor seating and a smoking shelter to the front of the building. Rear garden grassed and paved.	
Designation Status: Not Listed. Not in a conservation area. Identified as having a regionally important historic interior. Nominated as an Asset of Community Value by Friends of the Air Balloon Tavern on 19 August 2014. Added to the Assets of Community Value list on 6 October 2014.	
Risk: Planning application 14/03076/F. Change of use to residential (nine dwellings with parking, a rear extension to the existing building and demolition of the existing side	

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extension). Submitted by Griffon Homes (Air Balloon) Ltd. A Viability Report completed by Stuart Parsons BSc MRICS FAVLP in June 2014 concluded that the pub is not viable and that closure would not represent a loss of local amenity. Bristol Pubs Group lodged an objection in August 2014. The pub closed on 5th January 2015 for conversion to residential use.

Current and Past Image:



Type:

c.1900 purpose-built public house on an open, elevated site in an area of mainly twentieth century housing, close to a nature reserve and allotments. Two storey. Red brick with pitched roof. Stone window surrounds.

Details:

The Air Balloon tavern has been Identified by CAMRA as having an historic interior of regional importance: "Early 1900s pub of brick and stone still retaining original bar fittings. The vestibule entrance has three doors which may have originally led to an off sales in the middle and bars to the left and right - a partition remains with the lower part being old but the top section looks modern. The splendid original mirrored bar back remains with shelves held up by columns with capitals and decorative brackets on the lower part. The bar counter looks to be the original with its brown stain removed and a modern elaborate pot shelf on top. Both bar areas have a parquet floor, and on the left is a small 1930s brick fireplace. Originally there was a third small room on the right but this was absorbed some time ago. On the door to the room upstairs are the words 'Club Room' but this is no longer in public use."

Some original interior features were reportedly removed in 2014.

Frank Osborne became landlord of the Air Balloon Tavern in 1937. His daughter, who lived in the pub as a child, remembers the ground floor arranged as a public bar, a smoke room and a bottle and jug compartment. The large clubroom on the first floor had a weak floor making it unsuitable for dancing. Beer came on a "dray cart pulled by one

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of George's famous grey horses" and in later years by steam lorry. Barton Hill History Group (<http://www.bhhg.co.uk/showfiles.php?files=Air%20Balloon%20Tavern>)

The ground floor was, prior to its closure in January 2015, arranged as a single zoned bar.

Maps:



KYP 1900s



KYP Aerial 2012



KYP OS 2014

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<p>Current Name:</p>	<p>ALBERT INN</p>
<p>Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):</p>	<p>Spotted Horse to 1889</p>
<p>Address:</p> 	<p>1 West Street Bedminster BS3 3NN</p>
<p>Architect and/or Builder:</p>	<p>Unknown</p>
<p>Date of Construction and/or Alteration:</p>	<p>Re-built in 1889 Re-opened as the Albert Hotel</p>
<p>Brewery:</p>	<p>Maurice Reynolds of the Imperial Brewery in Bedminster purchased the business in 1888</p>
<p>Garden and Outbuildings:</p>  <p>The pub has limited outdoor space to the rear.</p>	

Designation Status

Not Listed. Located within Bedminster conservation area. Not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.

Risk

Was recently only trading from Thursday to Sunday. Stopped trading in summer 2014. Resumed trading December 2014. Current risk unclear.

Current and Past Image:



Type:

Trading as the Spotted Horse from the mid-nineteenth century. Late nineteenth-century corner pub. Red brick. Pitched roof.

Details

At the adjourned licensing session of 24 September 1889 application was made to remove an ale license from the Gloucester Hotel Tap at Hotwells (which had already been pulled down) to the Spotted Horse at West Street, where improvements were taking place. At the same licensing sessions petition was made to change the name of the business to the Albert Hotel. Mr Clifton, who made the application on behalf of the licensee, Mark Gould, 'humorously remarked that the wish was to dignify the house' (*Western Daily Press*, 25 September 1889). This first attempt failed. Clifton represented Gould at the licensing sessions the following year. On that occasion Gould petitioned to exchange the beerhouse held by the Albert Hotel for an alehouse license held by the Star at Redcliff Hill. Clifton stated that the Albert had been 'materially enlarged' and was suited to a spirit license and the application was granted (*Bristol Mercury*, 24 September 1890). The business was in the hands of Bristol United Breweries by 1899 and became

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part of the portfolio of The Bristol Brewery Georges and Company Limited when they took over the firm. From 1984 it was renamed the Albert Inn. The Albert was run by Ian Storrer from 1979. From 1983 he developed it as a music venue. It established a reputation for jazz. Radio programmes were broadcast from the pub (BBC Radio 2) and a TV series of programmes "Live at the Albert" was made for HTV television and screened nationally. It was also host to "Giants of Jazz" for BBC Radio Bristol and to touring Arts Council of England groups.

Maps:



KYP 1900s





**KYP showing edge of conservation
Area 2013**

Archive Reference:

Estate Records and Photographs Collection, Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

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<p>Current Name:</p>	<p>BAR BS3</p>
<p>Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):</p>	<p>Rising Sun</p>
<p>Address:</p> 	<p>21 Ashton Road Ashton Bristol BS3 2EA</p>
<p>Architect and/or Builder:</p>	<p>Original architect unknown.</p>
<p>Date of Construction and/or Alteration:</p>  <p>Bristol Record Office – BRO Building plan/Volume 35/26a.</p> <p>Detail of plans for the enlargement of the Rising Sun in 1898, showing the two storey extension to the right.</p>	<p>Construction c.1850s. The original portion of the current public house building is indicated on a map of 1855. The business was well-established and trading as a fully licensed house by 1865.</p> <p>Additions 1879. Plans by Henry Williams show a central entrance to a bar (right), unmarked space (left) and a kitchen and two parlours to the rear.</p> <p>Additions July 1898. John A. Wright for the Ashton Gate Brewery Co. Ltd. 7 Baldwin Street Bristol. Extension incorporating an enlarged ground floor bar and club room above.</p> <p>Alterations (un-documented). Between 1898 and 1904. A small extension was made to the ground floor. The kitchen was</p>

	<p>moved into a new addition to create a parlour.</p> <p>Additions June 1904. J. A. Wright, architect and surveyor, 6 Unity Street, Bristol, for the Ashton Gate Brewery. Enlargement of ground and first floors to create a ground floor sitting room and an enlarged and relocated smoke room with the addition of a w.c. off the smoke room and a w.c. adjoining the stable. First floor reconfigured as a billiard room with w.c. (front) and large club room (rear).</p>
<p>Brewery:</p>	<p>Ashton Gate Brewery from 1865.</p>
<p>Garden and Outbuildings:</p> <p>Originally part of a cluster of brewery buildings that belonged to Baynton’s Somerset Brewery, later the Ashton Gate Brewery. On the history of the site, which included dwellings and malthouses, see: <i>Strategy for the Historic Industrial Environment. The Brewing Industry</i>. A report by the Brewery History Society for English Heritage (February 2010). When the site was auctioned in 1865, after Thomas Baynton’s death, it was listed as: “Valuable freehold brewery, malthouses and proprietor’s dwelling-house, with extensive garden, a public-house, 34 dwelling-houses, and other premises adjoining.” The Rising Sun was put up for sale as a single lot and was described at that time as: “The Full-licensed and old-established roadside public-house, known as “The Rising Sun,” with the extensive stables, cart-house, sheds, blacksmith’s shop, covered skittle alley, and large yard, thereto respectively belonging, adjoining Baynton’s Buildings aforesaid, and in the occupation of Mr. Pincott, at the very low yearly rent of £30.” (<i>Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette</i>, 27 July 1865)</p>	
<p>Designation Status:</p> <p>Not listed. Not in a conservation area. Not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.</p>	

Risk:

No specific risk identified.

Current and Past Image:



The shop adjoining the pub (shown left) was owned by the brewery until 1969.

Type:

A mid-nineteenth century roadside public house. Originally part of a complex of brewery buildings.

Two storey, brick and stone walls, timber and tile pitched roof. The Rising Sun was described in 1865 as the “first licensed public house in the city on the West of England Turnpike Road” and as “very compact, and admirably adapted for an extensive and economical business” with “an excellent well of spring water on the premises” (*Bath Chronicle and Weekly Gazette*, 27 July 1865). It served the travelling public and local residents.

From the early twentieth century the Rising Sun began to develop recreational and sporting connections, when land opposite, belonging to Sir Greville Smyth, was gifted by Lady Smyth to extend the existing public park in Bedminster (*Western Daily Press*, 9 and 18 July 1902). Along with many sporting clubs and societies, the Bristol Beer, Spirit and Wine Trade Protection and Benevolent Association met there regularly in the 1920s.

The pub currently trades as Bar BS3. It has three function rooms and a large garden and the focus of its marketing is on sport and live entertainment. It is used by Bristol City home fans on match days.

Archive Reference:


Bristol Record Office - BRO Building plan/Volume 16/25a, additions by Henry Williams, 1879

Bristol Record Office – BRO, Building plan/Volume 35/26a, additions by John Wright, 1898-1899

Bristol Record Office – BRO, Building plan/Volume 46/76b, additions by John Wright, 1904.

Estate records and photograph - Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name:	BEEHIVE
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	On the site of an earlier beer house with the same name. A photograph of the old Beehive can be viewed on Flickr: https://www.flickr.com/photos/brizzlebornandbred/2043192197/in/set-72157604879260199
Address: 	112 Wellington Hill West Henleaze Bristol BS9 4QY
Architect:	Mr R. B. Edwards of The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd. Surveying Department
Builder:	Mr Frank Wilkins (Bristol)
Date of Construction and/or Alteration:	1934: original plans (June 1934) 1935: opened to the public (5 Feb 1935) 1936: new lavatories (plans, April 1936) 1936: skittle alley (plans, Dec 1936)
Brewery:	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.

Garden and Outbuildings:



The loggia and fishpond (left) from One Hundred and Fifty Years of Brewing, 1788-1938. The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.

Designation Status:

Not Listed. Not in a conservation area. Proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value by Victoria Bowerman via Bristol: Know Your Place:

<http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/knowyourplace/>.

Risk:

No specific risk identified.

Current and Past Image:



The exterior from One Hundred and Fifty Years of Brewing, 1788-1938. The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.

Type:

A suburban public house of the 1930s, built on an open site.

Details:

From: Ron Tippetts, *Journey Into Yesterday: A Personal Memory of Bristol* (1992).
Memory of the old Beehive Inn: "The Beehive Inn is now a modern building but the old Beehive Inn was a large cottage, well built with walls 18 inches thick! It had the reputation of being the first Inn in Bristol to have a beer garden. It was run by Emma Hunt who apart from good ale, was well known for her lovely flower garden, and also rhubarb which could be seen growing mostly from old chimney pots in the garden. On Sunday morning it was the custom for quite a few gentlemen to ask Emma Hunt to pick a bunch of flowers for them to take home to 'the wife'. A couple of pence would provide a good peace offering for arriving home late for dinner!"

From *One Hundred and Fifty Years of Brewing, 1788-1938. Souvenir Book of The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.*: "This house, situated in one of the suburbs of the City, is typical of the many new houses being erected in and around Bristol by the Company. The old Beehive was of the country cottage type which stood for many years as a landmark to people in the district. The new Beehive has large ornamental grounds and gardens, with a service bar in the garden and a separate lawn for adults with children. There is parking accommodation for 70 cars, and a skittle alley attached to the house."

Maps:



KYP 1900s

Archive Reference:


Bristol Record Office, Building plan/Volume 131/74e and 131/75g, new public house. Plan dated 6 June 1934.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Bristol Record Office, Building plan/Volume 131/74a and 131/75b, addition of lavatory accommodation. Plan dated 23 April 1936.

Bristol Record Office, Building plan/Volume 155/5x, addition of skittle alley. Plan dated 16 December 1936.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name:	BRUNEL
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	Engineers Arms. Named for the Bristol Engineers, whose rifle range was nearby.
Address:	315 St John's Lane Bedminster Bristol BS3 5AZ
	
Architect and/or Builder:	Henry Williams (architect) for the Ashton Gate Brewery
Date of Construction and/or Alteration:	<p>1899: Plans approved 8 June 1899.</p> <p>1932: Substantially enlarged by The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.</p>
Brewery:	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.

Garden and Outbuildings:



The original lawned garden has now been turned over to parking and a small play area for children.

Designation Status:

Not Listed. Not in a conservation area. Not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.

Risk:

No specific risk identified.

Current and Past Image:



The past image shows the building after its enlargement in the 1930s

Type:

Main road. Open site. Currently trading as a food-oriented Greene King "Hungry Horse" pub.

Details:

The c.1900 Building: Ground Floor: Double bays. Two front entrances with lobbies. **Entrance 1:** leading to a private bar and a bar parlour (in the bay) with separate side access, adjoining ground floor urinal and w.c. and stairs to the billiard room. To the rear a smoking room. **Entrance 2:** leading to the main public bar, also with fixed seating. Separate side entrance with lobby to a bottle and jug department. Long bar serving all areas except the smoking room and bar parlour, which may have had waiter service. Private accommodation to the rear: kitchen, larder, hall, scullery, parlour. Cellar below. **1st Floor:** five bedrooms, one box room, two w.c. and a large billiard room with balcony.

Notice to the Bristol Urban Sanitary Department, 31 May 1899, signed by Henry Williams, notes the original building materials as: "Brick and stone, wood floors, with iron columns and steel girders where required. The gables pargetry in front of brick walls to be plain toned between framework"


The building was more than doubled in size in 1932 due to the rapid growth of the surrounding population, making it one of the largest in that part of the city. A skittle alley was added, probably at this time.

Archive Reference:

Building Plan/Volume 36/65d, St John's Lane, Bedminster – "Engineers Arms" Public House – Henry Williams for Ashton Gate Brewery Co [and footprint of new pub on the old one – new one dated June 1901], 1899.

Building Plan/Volume 129/6a, St John's Lane, Bedminster – "Engineer's Arms" Public House, alterations – Georges & Co., Ltd. [unable to locate this plan at BRO]. 1934 Jan 17.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name:	THE CAMBRIDGE ARMS
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	Replaced an earlier pub on the same site.
<p data-bbox="188 497 327 528">Address:</p> 	Coldharbour Road Redland Bristol BS6 7JS
Architect and/or Builder:	Edward Gabriel of Edmeston and Gabriel, 42 Old Broad Street, London, EC (architects). John Perkins, 62 Lower Redland Road, Bristol (builder).
Date of Construction and/or Alterations:	1900: original plans dated January 1900 1931: alterations: public bar and smoking room incorporated into a large bar to the front of the building. Ground floor urinals and w.c. reduced in size to create a store room. Addition of ladies' w.c. to the rear of the building.
Brewery:	Currently Fullers. No brewery interest indicated on the original plans of 1900 or those of 1931.
<p data-bbox="188 1917 587 1948">Garden and Outbuildings</p> <p data-bbox="188 2002 1337 2033">A garden is indicated to one side of the 1930s plans. This area is now used for parking.</p>	

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

There is now a garden to the rear of the pub.

Designation Status:

Not listed. Not in a conservation area. Nominated for listing as an Asset of Community Value by Jeff Bishop, who describes it as: "A very early arts and crafts style pub on Coldharbour Road. The original, a 'brewhouse' for the houses of Cambridge Park, was built in the 1800s". Nominated via Bristol Know Your Place, <http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/knowyourplace/>

Risk:

No specific risk identified

Current and Past Image:



Type:

Early twentieth century purpose-built public house on the site of an earlier alehouse.

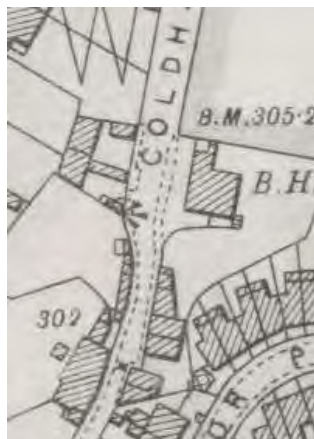
Details:

The pub is adjacent to three Grade II listed houses (3,4 and 5 Coldharbour Road). The current building, dating from 1900, replaced a three-roomed public house (bar, parlour, smoking room) on the same site, which had previously been extended from a two-roomed

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

house (parlour and smoking room) in around 1880. The application to the Sanitary Authority notes the building materials as “brick and stone, timber and tiles” and Edward Gabriel’s original elevations show a building of red brick to first floor level, with ‘roughcast’ render above, a column and pediment in Portland stone supporting the first floor projection over the main entrance, and decorative mouldings to the front and gable ends. The decoration to the side elevation above the main entrance has been altered. The rear elevation combines rock-faced sandstone to the lower ground floor, red brick to the first floor and rendered brickwork, painted in white to the first floor. As rebuilt in 1900, The Cambridge Arms had a ground floor smoking room, a public bar, a private bar and a jug and bottle compartment, and five bedrooms, a bathroom and a w.c. on the first floor. By 1931 the interior had been altered to integrate the smoking room and the public bar into a large ground floor bar. The other ground floor public rooms - a private bar with a separate entrance lobby and a bottle and jug department with counter service and its own side entrance – remained as indicated on the original plans of 1900. To the rear of the servery, private accommodation – a sitting room, living room, scullery, larder and pantry - also remained as indicated on the original plans for the building. Further alterations of 1931 included the conversion of a large ground floor men’s w.c. into a smaller men’s w.c. and store room and the addition of a ladies’ w.c. with side access from the exterior and interior access from the private quarters, but not directly from the bars.

Maps:



KYP 1900s and aerial 2012

Archive Reference:


Bristol Record Office, Building plan/Volume 17/64f, Cold Harbour Road - Cambridge Arms Public House alterations - Humphrey – Plans dated 1880, Geo Humphreys, 1879-1881.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Bristol Record Office, Building plan/Volume 37/71b, Coldharbour Road "Cambridge Arms" Public House - Gabriel for Perkins [Edward Gabriel arch, 42 Old Broad St London and John Perkins 62 Lower Redmond Road, Builder]

Bristol Record Office, Building plan/Volume 108/30j, Coldharbour Road, Cambridge Arms – alterations – Bristol Brewery (Georges) Limited, 1931 Apr 16.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

<p>Current Name:</p>	<p>CLYDE ARMS</p>
<p>Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):</p>	
<p>Address:</p> 	<p>129 Hampton Road Redland Bristol BS6 6JE</p>
<p>Architect and/or Builder:</p>	<p>Unknown</p>
<p>Date of Construction and/or Alterations:</p>	<p>Built between 1855 and 1874.</p> <p>1934: The freehold of Clyde House, Clyde Road and 30 Redland Park (formerly 3 Clyde Cottages) purchased by The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd. for R. W. Miller on 23 November 1934.</p> <p>1935: alterations to the building were reportedly underway in conjunction with an application to extend the license.</p>
<p>Brewery:</p>	<p>The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd. from the mid-1930s.</p>
<p>Garden and Outbuildings:</p> <p>Courtyard garden</p>	

Designation Status:

Not listed. In a conservation area. Not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.

Risk:

No specific risk identified.

Current Image:



Type:

Victorian, suburban corner house

Details:

The Clyde Arms is not indicated as a public house on maps of the 1920s and was probably originally residential. Until 1935 the Clyde Arms did not hold a wine and spirit license. As reported in the *Western Daily Press* of 12 March 1935: George Henry Grey applied to give up his license for the Brandy Cask in Bond Street in order to extend his license for the Clyde Arms to allow the sale of wines and spirits.

“Mr Robinson, who appeared for the applicant, explained that the Clyde Arms was in a good class residential district, and the people frequently required to be supplied with wines and spirits. No additional licence would be created, but on the other hand a beer-house license would be extinguished.”

The application was supported by a petition in favour of granting a full license, signed by 200 people. One of George’s surveyors gave evidence that “alterations and improvements already approved by the justices were being carried out to the extent of £1,500 to £1,600” and permission was granted.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Maps:



1855 Ashmead (before building).



1874 Ashmead (showing building). KYP

Archive Reference:

Estate Records, Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name:	THE CHARLTON
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	
<p>Address:</p> 	<p>Longmeadow Road Keynsham BS31 2SD</p>
Architect/Builder:	Courage
Date of Construction/Alterations:	<p>1968: Opened 9 December 2002: Plans approved for conversion of dry bottle store kitchen 2008: Refitted 2013: External renovations, signage and lighting</p>
Brewery:	Courage
<p>Garden and Outbuildings:</p>  <p>Garden and seating to the front of the building. Smoking shelter.</p>	

Designation Status:

Not listed. Not in a conservation area. Not nominated for listing as an Asset of Community Value.

Risk:

No specific threat identified. Currently for lease with Star Pubs and advertised for proposed refurbishment.

Current and Past Image:



Type:

Neighbourhood local, situated in a prominent position at the head of a junction within a 1960s housing estate.

Details:

The size of Keynsham increased significantly in the twentieth century as new estates were built on the southern and western sides of the town. The Charlton was built to serve the new suburban community to the south of Keynsham that developed in the 1960s.

Designed as a “local” which fitted into the neighbourhood pattern’ and with two bars, a large lounge and a smaller public bar with a darts annexe.

Externally there has been a recent refurbishment which included an overhaul of the signage and a new lighting scheme; this was carried out in summer 2013.

Currently operating with one large bar and an l-shaped servery.

Archive Reference:

Golden Cockerel, February 1969, 4

Bath and North East Somerset Council Planning:

04/00489/AR: Retention of one 'Corex' holder and three poster cases as shown on drawings received on 2 April 2004 (17/02/2004)

02/00509/FUL: Alterations to public house including conversion of dry bottle store to kitchen (27/02/2002)

Current Name:	COLOSSEUM
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	Merchant Venturer
Address: 	Redcliff Parade East Redcliffe Bristol BS1 6SJ
Architect and/or Builder:	Courage
Date of Construction and/or Alteration:	1968: the land on which the Merchant Venturer was built was acquired by Courage, Barclay and Simonds in return for surrender of the Ship Inn, Redcliff Hill for demolition. Plans for the new pub were approved on 26 June 1968 1969: the new pub opened on 6 August 1969.
Brewery	Courage, Barclay and Simonds
Garden and Outbuildings: Canopied outdoor seating to the front, looking over public green space and to the side, overlooking the Quaker Burial Ground. In front of magistrates at Bristol's transfer licensing session in October 1968, Mr J. Littler, representing Courage, stated that the architects of the new building were "at pains to design a public house in keeping with the area. It will be properly landscaped" (<i>Bristol Evening Post</i> , 1 October 1968).	

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol



Designation Status:

Not Listed. In a conservation area. Not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.

Risk:

Trading but at risk. According to the Bristol Local Plan – Central Area Plan (February 2014) Statement of Consultation, the Colosseum site (CFS163) is proposed to be “allocated as part of site KS10 for a mix of uses including offices, community infrastructure, leisure uses and culture/tourism uses, which may include hotel uses, in accordance with proposed policy BCAP40: Redcliffe Way”

Current and Past Image:



Type:

Postwar city centre public house on an open site.

Details:

The 40th new public house completed by Courage (Western) after the Second World War. The opening of the pub was recorded by the BBC for Points West. The name of

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

the pub was chosen in response to its location and the strong connection between the Society of Merchant Venturers and the church of St. Mary Redcliffe. The house was sited to give views of the church from a large picture window to the front of the building and from its adjoining terrace (front and side). These local connections were also reflected in the interior, which commemorated the life of William Canynges (1402–1474) a notable Bristol merchant who gave generously to the church.

Maps:





2013 OS and 2012 aerial. KYP.

Archive Reference:

Courage Estate Records, Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name:	CONCORDE
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	
<p>Address:</p> 	<p>Stockwood Lane Stockwood Bristol BS14 8NE</p>
Architect and/or Builder:	Courage (Western)
Date of Construction and/or Alteration:	<p>1965: Opened 7 December 1965</p> <p>2000: skittle alley added</p>
Brewery:	Courage
<p>Garden and Outbuildings:</p> 	

Designation Status:

Not listed. Not in a conservation area. Not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.

Current and Past Image



Type:

Corner site in Stockwood, a 1960s satellite development to the south of the city. Courage (Western) built three pubs for the area: Concorde (1965), Man in Space (1965) and Harvesters (1967).

Risk:

The pub has benefitted from recent investment and was advertising for skittles teams to use its new skittles alley in 2010. No specific risk has been identified, but another of the estate's pubs, the Man in Space, was demolished in 2014.

Details:

Named for Concorde before the plane was built. The original interior of the Lounge Bar featured a large coloured mural of the Concorde airliner.

Archive Reference:

Golden Cockerel, February 1966, 4-5.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

<p>Current Name:</p>	<p>DUKE OF YORK</p>
<p>Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):</p>	
<p>Address:</p> 	<p>635 Gloucester Road Horfield Bristol BS7 0BJ</p>
<p>Architect and/or Builder:</p>	<p>Unknown</p>
<p>Date of Construction and/or Alteration:</p>	<p>Marked as a beerhouse to the south of Horfield Barracks in the 1880s and as a public house 1900s</p>
<p>Brewery:</p>	<p>Signage on inter-war photographs suggests that it was a Bristol United Brewery property.</p>
<p>Garden and Outbuildings:</p> 	
<p>Designation Status:</p> <p>Not listed. Not in a conservation area. Not proposed for listing as an Asset of</p>	

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Community Value.

Risk:

No specific risk identified

Current and Past Image:



Type:

Large pub on corner site. Opposite Horfield Common.

Details:

Established beerhouse on a large site to the south of Horfield Barracks. Shown on maps of 1880s. Application for a wine license refused in 1937. As reported in the *Western Daily Press* on 2 March 1937:

Joseph Arbery, licensee of the Duke of York beer house Gloucester Road, had his application for an on wine licence refused. His legal representative claimed that the owners would begin "extensions costing £6,000 as soon as the application was granted" and argued a case of local need with reference to building development in the area and the fact that the new Wessex Avenue would run by the house. A petition in support (500 residents/250 non-residents) was handed to the Bench with the application. The application was refused on the grounds that it would "would enable drivers to consume alcohol in a concentrated form" which was "highly undesirable" and that the business was near to Horfield Barracks and "might be a temptation to young recruits".

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Maps:



KYP 1900s.

Archive Reference

Courage Estate Records, Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name:	EASTFIELD INN
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	On the site of an earlier business
Address: 	219 Henleaze Road Henleaze Bristol BS9 4NQ
Architect and/or Builder:	Builder: Frank Wilkins
Date of Construction and/or Alterations:	Rebuilt 1934
Brewery:	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.
Garden and Outbuildings: As early photographs indicate, the original garden was extensive, but was much reduced in size in 1958, when around half of the total plot was sold to F.P. Radford for £200. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 20px;">   </div>	

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Designation Status:

Not Listed. Not in a conservation area. Proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value by Veronica Bowerman via Bristol – Know Your Place, <http://maps.bristol.gov.uk/knowyourplace/>

Risk:

No specific risk identified.

Current and Past Image:



Type:

1930s purpose built public house on the site of an earlier business.

Details:

Currently owned by Star Pubs and Bars. Winner of Best Pub Transformation in the Star Pub Awards in 2013.

As built: Cellarage: wine and spirits store, beer cellar, boiler, fuel store. **Ground Floor:** Front: slit lobby to public and private bars. Long bar serving: public bar with direct access to w.c (men), private bar and smoking room. Side Entrance 1: to outdoor department with its own lobby and counter and w.c. (women). Side Entrance 2: to smoking room (also accessed through the private bar) and refreshment room opening to the loggia and garden. Private accommodation to the rear of the bar counter - store, sitting room and lobby - and to the rear of the outdoor department – kitchen, scullery, larder, w.c. and coals. Publican's garden and coal scuttle. **First Floor:** Seven bedrooms and a box room, one sitting room and one bathroom and w.c.

From *One Hundred and Fifty Years of Brewing, 1788-1938. Souvenir Book of The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd.*: "This house was built on the site of the old inn of that name, which for many years formed a rendezvous for many of the inhabitants of Bristol North and was famous for its flagstone floors and beers from the wood. The new house has an imposing frontage and beautifully designed well furnished interior. A car park is provided in the front of the house for about 50 cars, while the gardens in the rear are ideal for summer use."

Victoria Bowerman, *The Henleaze Book, Henleaze Neighbourhood Society, 1991*

"The inn, located in Henleaze Road, used to be a private gentlemen's club dating back to the early 1800s. It was then a much smaller building set nearer the road with a lean-to grocer's shop at the side. Close to the inn was a pump and letterbox. At this point the road became a lane with a stream running down one side. From the 1870s to the 1880s the inn and the shop were kept by the Misses Harriet and Elizabeth Williams and their brother, Fred. Harriet was also a schoolteacher and Fred worked as an undertaker in Waters Lane, Westbury-on-Trym."


Bowerman indicates that in the 1940s the ARP (Air Raid Precaution) had their headquarters in the skittle alley.

Archive:

Building Plan/Vol 133/15n – BRO archive reference says Building Plan/Vol 13/15 (same date), Henleaze Road,

Erect New Inn (Eastfield Inn) – Bristol Brewery Georges Company Limited, 1934 Apr 18.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name:	FORESTERS
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	
Address: 	99 Gloucester Road Bishopston Bristol BS7 8AT
Architect and/or Builder:	L. F. Webb
Date of Construction and/or Alteration:	1935: Rebuilt
Brewery:	Unknown
Garden and Outbuildings:	
Designation Status:	Not Listed. Not in a conservation area. Not nominated for listing as an Asset of Community Value.
Risk:	Closed at the time of the fieldwork.

Current and Past Image:



Type:

Main road pub in a retail area

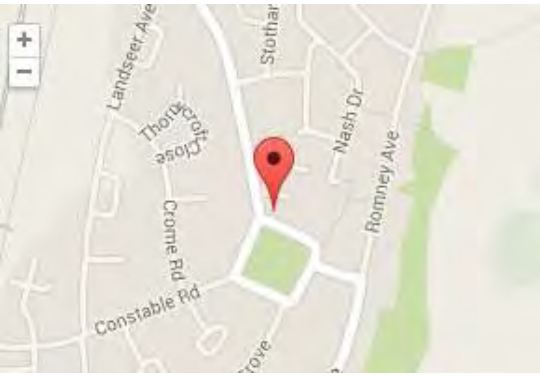

Details:

Recently sold and currently closed for refurbishment.

Archive Reference:

BRO Building plan/Volume 141/19n, Gloucester Road, Bishopston "Foresters Arms" Public House, rebuild – L F Webb 1935 Jul 17.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name:	GAINSBOROUGH
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	Originally The Blue Boy
<p>Address:</p> 	<p>Gainsborough Square Lockleaze Bristol BS7 9XA</p>
Architect and/or Builder:	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co, Ltd.
Date of Construction and/or Alteration:	1958: Opened on 1 December 1958 (along with the Hartcliffe Inn at Hartcliffe).
Brewery:	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.
<p>Garden and Outbuildings:</p>  <p>Originally had a playground and garden with a shelter and toilet for children and</p>	

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

garden service from a bar with plate glass doors to allow the supervision of the garden from the interior

Designation Status:

Not Listed. Not in a conservation area. Not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.

Risk:

At risk. The pub is closed and in a poor state of repair. It is located in Gainsborough Square, part of a regeneration area. The regeneration document of 2012 indicates plans to 'provide a medium size food store on the Gainsborough pub site' (Gainsborough Square Regeneration Report, Bristol City Council / City Design Group, 2012). April 2014: Pub deteriorating. Lockleaze Liberal Democrat councillor Sean Emmett challenged the owner of the pub to advance plans to redevelop it or sell it on.

Current and Past Image:



The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Type:

The second public house built on the Corporation housing estate at Lockleaze

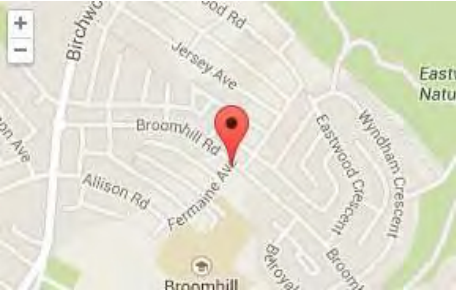
Details:

To serve the local residents of Lockleaze. Named The Blue Boy for Gainsborough's painting and in conjunction with the surrounding roads, which bear the names of painters. Originally designed with two main bars and a skittles alley on the ground floor and an assembly room above. The architect used the slope of the land to create a loading deck for direct transfer of stock to the cellar.

Archive:

Golden Cockerel Summer 1959

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name:	GOOD INTENT
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	
<p>Address:</p> 	<p>Broomhill Road Brislington Bristol BS4 4SA</p>
Architect and/or Builder:	The Bristol Brewery George and Co. Ltd.
Date of Construction and/or Alterations:	<p>1939: Opened Easter Saturday 1939</p> <p>1967: Internal alterations, creation of a music room</p> <p>2010: Refurbished</p>
Brewery:	The Bristol Brewery George and Co. Ltd.
<p>Garden and Outbuildings:</p> <p>Originally a rear walled garden set to lawn with car parking to the front and side of the building. Now set out as a family garden.</p>	
<p>Designation Status:</p> <p>Not listed. Not in a conservation area. Not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.</p>	

Risk:

No specific risk identified.

Current and Past Image:



Type:

At the time of construction, the pub was situated on the edge of a housing estate that had begun to develop to the south of the Great Western Railway line from the late 1920s. Housing and the railway line to the north. Open fields toward Brislington to the South.

Details:

The *Western Daily Press* reported the opening of the pub on 6 May 1939:

“In Broomhill Road, Brislington, Bristol, at the top of the rise of Jersey Avenue, stands an imposing red-brick building, whose windows, at night time, gleam cosily and invitingly. Neon letters spell out in blue the name of this house, the Good Intent, with below, the significant phrase “Georges’ Beers” For this is, in fact, the latest of the Bristol Brewery, Georges and Co., Ltd., luxury houses – and it is one of the finest of them. It is an attractive and pleasant building, with pleasing lines and plenty of window space, and is surrounded by plenty of car-parking room. At the rear is a walled garden and a wide lawn, now being turfed in readiness for the summer season, when drinks may be taken out of doors.

Up-to-date Skittle Alley

The spacious main bar, 50 feet long, is panelled in light oak. There is a blue tiled grate, although the main heating is central. At each end of the main bar is a dart board. The skittle alley is one of the largest and most up-to-date in Bristol, and has plenty of accommodation for players and spectators. Opposite the door of the skittle alley is a

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

serving hatch into the kitchen, so that hot meals can be served direct into the alley when required. Comfort is the key-note in the smoking room and lounge bar, which have an adequate "servery" between them, enabling both rooms to be served from one spot. There is a separate off-licence department. The installation of every possible labour-saving device ensures highly efficient service. The Good Intent is now open – it was opened on Easter Saturday – and, with its commanding position, is easily found.

Licensee From Severn Beach

The licensee, Mr W. R. Entwistle, has been connected with the trade for more than a quarter of a century and has spent the last two years at the new Severn Beach Hotel. Before that he was at Southampton and previously in London. He is a past president of the Southampton Licensed Victuallers' Association and a life governor of the Licensed Victuallers' Benevolent School at Slough. The Good Intent, for comfort and good cheer, is certainly a house to be visited, and reflects great credit on the enterprise of Messrs Georges."

Maps:



KYP 1949 Plan

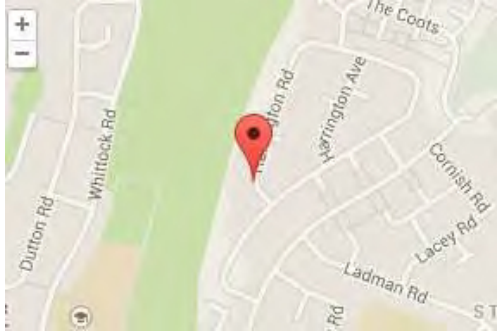



KYP 2012 Aerial

Archive:

Golden Cockerel, August 1967, 6

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

<p>Current Name:</p>	<p>HARVESTERS</p>
<p>Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):</p>	
<p>Address:</p> 	<p>232 Harrington Road Stockwood Bristol BS14 8JZ</p>
<p>Architect and/or Builder:</p>	<p>Courage</p>
<p>Date of Construction and/or alteration:</p> 	<p>1966: Freehold purchased 1967: Pub opened</p>
<p>Brewery:</p>	<p>Courage</p>
<p>Garden and Outbuildings:</p>	

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol



Patio seating area and lawned garden to the rear. Skittles alley still in operation.

Designation Status:

Not listed. Not in a conservation area. Not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.

Risk:

No specific risk identified. Man in Space, nearby, recently demolished (2014).

Current and Past Image:



Type:

Neighbourhood local, open plot, side road location.

Details:

Stockwood was developed as a private estate, on a neighbourhood plan, in the same way as Bristol's local authority estates.

Courage (Western) built three pubs for the area: Concorde (1965), Man in Space (1965) and Harvesters (1967). Concorde and Harvesters survive. Harvesters was designed by Courage as a "new local" and described as a pub that "fits admirably into the neighbourhood pattern, yet contrives to be different" (*Golden Cockerel*, February 1967).

Archive:

Golden Cockerel, Feb 1967, 3
Courage Archive, Conveyance, 1966

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name:	HOPE AND ANCHOR
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	
Address: 	75 Lower High Street Shirehampton Bristol BS11 0AW
Architect and/or Builder:	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.
Date of Construction and/or Alteration:	c. 1880s/90s
Brewery:	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.
Garden and Outbuildings:  <p>Currently arranged with an outdoor drinking area and parking to the front of the building and a rear garden, paved and laid to lawn.</p>	

Designation Status:

Not Listed. Not in a conservation area. Not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.

Risk:

No specific risk identified. Enterprise Inns were marketing it in 2014 as a Managed Tenancy

Current Image:



Type:

Large, red-brick Georges house. Open site. Main road.

Details:

Trade directories suggest that it was licensed in 1881 to Elizabeth Pretty and further reference to Pretty as a beerhouse keeper at Shirehampton can be found in the *Western Daily Press*, 17 April 1894.

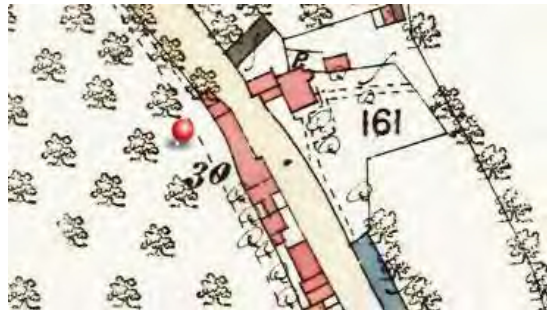
The pub is of very similar design to the Beaufort Hunt at Downend of around the same date.

Described by Enterprise Inns as a busy and successful business in 2014: "The pub has a large L shaped lounge with two bar serveries, accommodating 35 covers. The lounge has a softer, more comfortable feel which is appropriate for its loyal customer base who enjoy cask ales, cider and discussing the issues of the day. The bar area is more suited to pub games and includes a pool table, darts area and flat screen TV's, providing a further 10 covers. At weekends, this is where a regular DJ and live music plays and is the main

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

source of trade for the bar area”.


Maps:



1880s and 1900s KYP



The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name:	GOLDEN BOTTLE
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub):	
Address:	Constable Road Lockleaze Bristol BS7 9YF
	
Architect and/or Builder:	
Date of Construction and/or Alteration:	c.1958. Probably the first of the two permitted houses on the Lockleaze Estate. Refurbished in 2011
Brewery:	Unknown
Garden and Outbuildings	
Designation Status:	
Not listed. Not in a conservation area. Not nominated for listing as an Asset of Community Value.	
Risk:	
No specific risk identified. In good order decoratively and close to the Gainsborough Square regeneration area.	

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Image:



Type: Neighbourhood pub to serve the residents of the Corporation housing estate at Lockleaze

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	THE JOLLY COBBLER
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	
Address 	Chiphouse Road Kingswood South Gloucestershire BS15 4TS
Architect and/or Builder	Courage (Western) Architects Department
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	1966; 1990: 'erection of pergola to side of lounge bar & erection of canopy over public bar entrance', approved; 'erection of single storey rear extension', agreed Dec 2002.
Brewery	Courage (Western)
Garden and Outbuildings Originally both bars had paved terraces, there was a car park for 22 cars; a screen of shrubs was planted on the boundaries with adjoining properties.	
Designation Status: Not listed; not in a conservation area; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.	
Risk: Reopened in February 2014 after a spell closed; no specific risk identified	

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built public house on a corner site, at the crest of the road within a suburb of interwar and earlier housing at the heart of Kingswood; there is a also small area of 1960s housing, and a small shopping parade of that date nearby. It was originally described as a 'Neighbourhood-type local, with two bars and an off-license shop'.

Details:

Local residents opposed its license, according to the report in the *Golden Cockerel*. It was named, after a competition organised by a local newspaper, for the boot and shoe trade, with which Kingswood was associated (*Golden Cockerel*, August 1966, 3).

Maps:



KYP 1949 Plan



KYP 2012 aerial



KYP OS 2013

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	KINGS ARMS
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	Kings Arms; Bohemia; Stark; Babushka; The Black Bear; Kings Arms again from 2009; The King's Arms was rebuilt 1891 on the site of an older 'family hotel' of same name; this part of Whiteladies Road is/was sometimes called Blackboy Hill, which it joins.
Address 	168 Whiteladies Road Redland BS8 2XZ
Architect and/or Builder	Unknown architect for the Bristol Corporation
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	1891 (probably at the same time as shopping parade on the other side of York Street)
Brewery	Acquired by the Bristol Brewery Georges, probably in the early twentieth century
Garden and Outbuildings Small outside raised drinking area at the rear of the site; skittle alley until at least the 1980s; yards and outside space have been gradually built over	
Designation Status: Not listed; in the Whiteladies Road Conservation Area; not proposed for listing as a community asset	

Risk:

No specific risk identified

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built, late nineteenth-century pub, over several floors, finished red brickwork with dressed stone friezes, features and window surrounds. On a main road, near to residential areas and the Durdham Down open space, the pub was originally near a tram terminus.

Details:

Acquired by Bristol Corporation c.1889 for £4,600 with existing license: house ... purchased under statutory powers for public purposes ... the licenses of those still existing will in most cases be allowed to expire. (other 19th century pubs included The Old Globe, East St, Bedminster, which the Corporation bought for £650, sold for £1250 – ref below). 'The once famous Montague Hotel at Kingsdown was sold by auction in October, 1897, for £6,000. A few weeks later the King's Head Inn, Redland, was disposed of by the Corporation and brought £10,600' (J. Latimer, *The Annals of Bristol in the Nineteenth Century Concluded*, 1903, 66).

Bristol Mercury 28 July 1890, 8: Plaintiff claimed £703 damages alleged to have been caused by [Mayor and Corporation's] failure to effect certain alterations to the King's Arms Public house, Whiteladies road ... the house was an old fashioned family hotel, selling home-brewed ale...Mrs Butson's contract with the Corporation was that the latter should take down the front of the house for the purpose of a street improvement, rebuild it with a magnificent frontage by 25 March, give her a cottage garden adjoining, which was at the time a separate property, and charge her no rent until the 25 March 1890. It

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

was, therefore, contemplated that the works would occupy nine months...a great many of the customers had migrated from the Kings Arms to the Beaufort Arms ... foreman of the works at the King's Arms, stated that the front of the house was not given over to them for setting back until the 13 July 1890, and the work was proceeded with as quickly as possible. Mr Josiah Thomas, city surveyor, stated that the premises in which Mrs Butson carried on business were not interfered with to the slightest extent until Nov 12, when there was a little interference with the bar. There was no further interference with the trade portion of the premises until the next July, and then when the new bar and billiard room were finished and ready for business, they first took possession of the old part of the premises. That was at the end of July, and by the 5 August the old front was down'. *Bristol Mercury*, 11 April 1892, 3.

Before and after 1891, the King's Arms was used for Coroner's inquests and property auctions. Many local associations and sports clubs also met there, e.g. in 1891, the 32nd anniversary dinner of the Loyal Blaize Castle Lodge of Oddfellows (*Bristol Mercury*, 27 Nov 1891, 6) and, in 1895, the quarterly meeting of the Bristol and District Beer and Wine Trade Association (WDP, 24 Aug 1895, 3); in the 1860s, the local cricket club had a clubroom in the hotel.

WDP, 18 March 1930, 5: The King's Arms Hotel, Blackboy Hill, was the scene of a destructive fire in the early hours of yesterday morning. Mr Ponting, who has only recently acquired the hotel, told a Press representative that he estimated the damage at £60. A number of people staying at the hotel dashed out in their night attire. ... Considerable damage was done in one of the bars, to which the fire was practically confined, before the fire could be subdued... [started under the floor in the taproom]

Maps:



KYP 1844




KYP 1900



KYP 2013

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	LANGTON COURT HOTEL
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	
Address 	37 Langton Court Road St Anne's Park New Brislington / Knowle BS4 4EG
Architect and/or Builder	Unknown architect for The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd. Possibly Mr [Edward] Gabriel Of Edmeston and Gabriel
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	1903; Granted 1987: Link between main building & skittle alley to house toilet accommodation
Brewery	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd.
Garden and Outbuildings Garden, with decked area; skittle alley; forecourt with tables; parking	
Designation Status: Not listed; not in conservation area; not proposed for listing as a community asset; Old Langton Court, Highworth Road, on whose land the Langton Court was originally built, was listed Grade II in 1994. The garden of the pub adjoins Old Langton Court, the address of which is parallel with Langton Court Road. English Heritage List entry Number: 1202298	
Risk: No specific risk identified	

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built two storey Edwardian public house in residential area

Details:

'A well attended meeting was on Monday night at the Langton Court Hotel [of the New Brislington Ratepayers' Association], *Bristol Mercury*, 26 October 1898, 5;

'To Let, the Langton Court Hotel, New Brislington, apply on premises, Georges Beers', *WDP*, 26 June 1901 [??], 3;

Mr MacMorran applied, on behalf of Mr Herbert James Board, to be allowed, in respect to the Langton Court Hotel, New Brislington, to rebuild the house, which was fully licensed. He remarked that the neighbourhood would become improved in the future, the place being not far from St Anne's Railway Station. A license had originally been granted by the county authorities. Supt. Turner criticized the plans which has been explained by **Mr Gabriel**, and thought the accommodation for the class of people likely to use the house rather limited. Subject to modification of the plans to meet the police requirements, the application was granted.,Two licenses to be surrendered in consideration: *WDP*, 7 March 1903, 11.

Bristol Licensing Session—transfer of licenses: Alehouses: 'license granted to Herbert James Board (for final order), granted, to issue', *WDP*, 15 Dec 1903, 9.

The pub has always been popular with local Clubs and Associations; in its early years, newspapers recorded that such groups included the St Anne's Conservative and Unionist Association, St Anne's Park Football Club. New Brislington Ratepayers Association met at the old pub in 1898, where they campaigned on local issues. For example a

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

resolution was unanimously passed requesting the Sanitary Committee to take immediate steps for lighting this neglected neighbourhood: *Bristol Mercury*, 16 October 1888, 5.

In 2012, a correspondent in the *Bristol Post* claimed the pub had the last bagatelle table in Bristol.

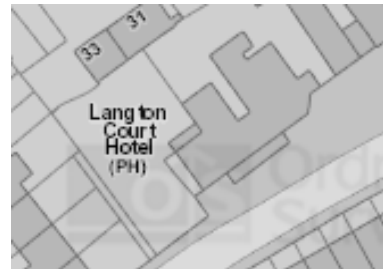
Maps:



KYP OS 1900




KYP 1949 Plan



KYP OS 2014

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	LONDON INN
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	Rebuilt with new building line during street improvements of 1890 on site of earlier pub of same name
Address 	1 Cannon Street Bedminster BS3 1BH
Architect and/or Builder	Unknown architect for the Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.; builder was possibly A. J. Bevan, or Beavan, of Bedminster
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	1890; Granted 1997: single storey extension in rear yard
Brewery	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.
Garden and Outbuildings Small rear outdoor area	
Designation Status: Not listed; not proposed for listing as a community asset; in the Bedminster West Conservation Area	
Risk: Reopened in 2012 after a difficult period; no specific risk identified	

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built late nineteenth-century public house on corner site near main thoroughfare; two storeys, red brick with stone dressings

Details:

6 July 1889: conveyance to the Bristol Brewery Georges (Courage Archive estate records);

1890: East Street Bedminster Improvements: '... called attention to the delay in completing the improvements in East Street, Bedminster ... also asked who was responsible for the London Inn having been rebuilt so as to project 7ft or 8 ft beyond the line of the houses in Canon Street'. (*Bristol Mercury*, 26 Nov 1890, 3);

WDP, 27 October 1890, 5: 'it was roof height and the old pub was pulled down. It was however already trading at this date, as the landlord was tried for permitting drunkenness only days before' (*Bristol Mercury*, 23 Oct 1890, 2);

1892: the street improvements at Bedminster are sufficiently near completion to admit of our at once constructing the authorised [tramway] extension to the London Inn at the end of East Street (*WDP*, 11 August 1892, 3);

'To Let, large, convenient clubroom, Saturdays excepted. Apply London Inn, Bedminster', (*WDP*, 17 December 1904, 3);

In 1904, when the lease was transferred, the London Inn also had a music license (*WDP*, 12 April 1904, 3); auctions were also held here at this date

Political meetings for the Bedminster West Ward were held here in 1907, in support of the Socialist candidate for the City Council (*WDP*, 14 October 1907, 6).

Maps:



KYP 1855 Ashmead

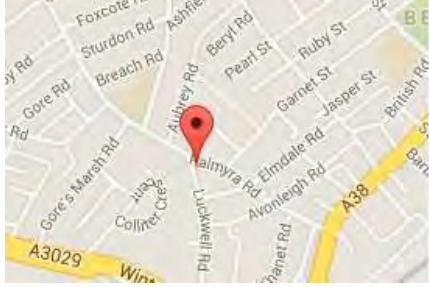


KYP OS 1900



KYP OS 2013

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	THE LUCKWELL
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	The Luckwell Hotel
Address 	147 Luckwell Road Ashton BS3 3HB
Architect and/or Builder	John A. Wright, Civil Engineer and Surveyor, Unity Street, College Green, Bristol, for the Ashton Gate Brewery Co. Ltd.
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	1903/4; new stables added 1911; private garage granted 1960; new external signs granted 1977; internal alterations and extensions to sanitary accommodation and renewal of fire escape', granted 1984
Brewery	Ashton Gate Brewery Co. Ltd.
Garden and Outbuildings Small enclosed drinking area at the rear, called a yard on the original plans	
Designation Status: Not listed; not in conservation area; not proposed for listing as a community asset	
Risk: No specific risk identified	

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built Edwardian public house on corner site near residential areas; two storey with brick and stone walls, timber and tiled roof.

Details:

1903: 'Undignified Bargainings': The application of Charles Attwell, junction of Palmyra Road, and Luckwell Lane, Bedminster ... Mr Weatherely described the estate which was being laid out for building in the vicinity of the house of his client, and he said a large number of houses were being erected, and the applicant's premises were advantageously situated for serving the houses on the estate. Another estate would also be served by the houses. It was proposed to give up an alehouse, three beerhouses, with licenses before 1869, and an off license. It was a very undignified position for the applicant and the bench to have bargainings of that nature, but they were driven to them... Mr Wright described the plan of the present hotel, and described the character of the building operations going forward. Mr H J Rossitor, builder, said he was the owner of the Luckwell Estate, and it was laid out for building 360 houses. There was only one plot upon the estate where it would be allowed to build a licensed house. Mr E G Bishop stated in the last two years he had built 27 houses on the estate, and was negotiating for twenty plots in Palmyra Road. Mr Kingston's estate was also being rapidly developed, and he thought a hotel was required upon the road. [rejected], *WDP*, 7 March 1903, 11.

WDP 1904: provisional license granted, in return for the surrender of five houses: 'the alterations in the house at Luckwell Lane would be finished in a month', *WDP*, 12 April 1904, 3.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

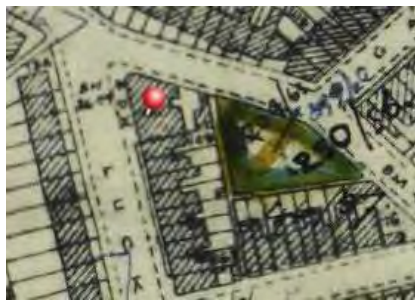
1903: Licenses at Bedminster: The Chairman of the Bench, in granting the license of a house offered to be surrendered by the Ashton Gate Brewery Company when making an application for a new license at Luckwell Lane, said they had received several application for new licence in the Bedminster district, and it might be well if they gave some indication as to which of the applications they would think of with the most favour, the object being to prevent numerous application in one district being repeated each session. They felt that the application for the Luckwell and Palmyra Roads site was the one which they favoured most, and they were unable to make any statement beyond that in view of the fact that there was no certainly that the bench would be constituted another year as at present. Mr Harvey, on behalf of the Ashton Gate Brewery Company, said he would bear in mind what had been said, and would endeavour to make a successful application next year. *WDP*, 10 Mar 1903, 9.

1926: 'the motor and draymen of the Ashton Gate Brewery Co., Ltd on the Saturday evening held their annual dinner at the Luckwell Hotel', *WDP*, 23 Feb 1926, 7.

Maps:



KYP OS 1900

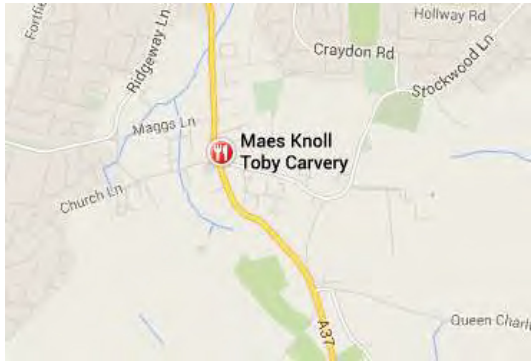


KYP 1949 Plan



KYP OS 2013

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	MAES KNOLL
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	The Black Lion; the new pub replaced an older pub and off-license (The Black Lion and White Hart, respectively) on this site
Address	42 Bristol Road Whitchurch BS14 0PF
	
Architect and/or Builder	Architect for the Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd., Meredith and James; building contractor: Messrs T. Weeks & Sons
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	1935; 1962; 1974; 1972: internal & structural alterations made for Courage Western
Brewery	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd.
Garden and Outbuildings	
Parking, outdoor seating to the front of the building. Rear garden grassed and paved; smoking shelter and more car parking to the rear and side.	
Designation Status:	
Not Listed. Not in a conservation area. Not proposed for listing as a community asset.	

Risk:

No specific risk identified

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose-built public house of 1935, on a main road and junction and within an established village. Two storey. Red brick with pitched roof.

Details:

Trading as a Toby Carvery

December 1934: Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd., submitted plans to the Keynsham Justices yesterday for the rebuilding of The Black Lion, Whitchurch, incorporating the off-license premises adjoining, *WDP*, 22 Dec 1934, 5.

1935: Is it a subterranean cave used by monks; a secret tunnel made by some religious sect; a passage leading to the grounds of a church or a underground railway ...? These were just a few of the questions to be heard in the yard of the Black Lion Hotel, Whitchurch, near Bristol, yesterday, writes a *Press and Mirror* reporter. The cause of all the excitement was a mysterious gaping hole, studded with various coloured stalactites and leading into the bowels of the earth. Excavations are being carried out behind the hotel by Messrs T Weeks & Sons, buildings contractors, as a new hotel is to be erected there for Messrs Georges Brewery. The workmen were digging a deep pit for the cellars when they accidentally discovered the secret tunnel. *WDP*, 4 June 1935, 7;

1938: 'Rebuilt on the site of the old country inn of that name and of the White Hart the new house has been considerably set back off the road, thus providing good accommodation for cars and improving the corner position it now occupies. The architecture of this house is quite distinct from the usual style of the new houses. A very

pleasing aspect is the light coloured rough-cast walls with dark red tiled roof. The low arched windows on either side of the entrance to the main bar form a striking frontage. At the side is a separate off license department for outdoor service'. *Georges, 150 Years of Brewing in Bristol*, 48–49.

The pub was then a bus-stop, and, by 1939, advertised as the West Rambling Club's starting place for weekend rambles, e.g. to Guy's Hill and Sutton Hill (the time taken by the bus from Centre to the pub was seven minutes for those who weren't locals). The Easy Riders' Section of the Cyclists' Touring Club, also met here by July 1937, 9am start.

Property and other auctions were held regularly in both the old pub and the new.

Archive Reference:

Somerset RO D\R\ba/22/1/479 – 1962: Plan of internal alterations to public house, Black Lion, Whitchurch, Bristol. For Bristol Brewery Georges & Co, Bristol; (FA Chapman) [5178] 1 bundle.


Somerset RO D\R\ba/22/1/570 – 1964: Plan of internal alterations, The Black Lion, Whitchurch. For Courage Western Lts, Bristol; (H S Stavey) [5806].

Somerset RO D\R\ba/22/1/1273 – 1971 Plan of display of advertisement panel, rear of Black Lion car park, Whitchurch. For Courage Western Ltd, Bristol; (Tower Advertising Ltd, Bristol) [9038].

Somerset RO D\R\ba/22/1/1511 – 1972 Plan of structural alterations, The Black Lion, Whitchurch.

For Courage (Western) Ltd; (I P Stevenson, Courage Architects Department, Bristol) [9962].

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	MAYTREE
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	Land purchased by Bristol United Breweries in 1940
Address 	145 St Peter's Rise Headley Park Bishopsworth BS14 8QT
Architect and/or Builder	Courage (Western) Architects Department; C. H. Pearce & Sons (Contractors Ltd), assisted by 20 subcontractors.
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	Opened Dec 1963; planning permission for licensed premises & dwelling for licensee granted 1962; Granted 1972: Extension of public bar into off-sales shop; granted 2001: Erection of rear conservatory extension to the southeast facing elevation, new windows and doors to existing building, new flat roofed storage area to infill existing yard at rear. Erection of extract ventilation flue.
Brewery	Courage (Western)
Garden and Outbuildings Skittle alley; forecourt; garden	

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Designation Status:

Not listed; not in conservation area; not proposed for listing as a community asset

Risk:

No specific risk identified

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built two storey postwar pub in residential area

Details:

Brewing Review, vol 78, issue 1, 1964, 46–7: 'A new Courage House opened at Headley Park, Bristol, on 2nd December 1963 by Mr A. R. Boucher, OBE, chairman of Courage/Western Ltd. ... It has been called the Maytree after neighbouring Maytree Close and Maytree Avenue. As far as is known, the name is unique as the title of a public-house'.

Maps:



KYP 1949 Plan



Courage Archive 1960s




KYP OS 2013

Archive Reference:

Estate Records and Photographs Collection, Courage Archive, Bristol (Heineken UK)

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	MERCHANTS ARMS
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	
Address 	Bell Hill Stapleton Road Eastville BS16 1BQ
Architect and/or Builder	Architects: Richard C. James of R. C. James & H. E. Meredith for the Bristol Brewery Georges and Co.; building contractor: Messrs Stone, builders, HQ & works on Redland Rd, decorating dept at Queen's Rd, Clifton; landscape contractor: Messrs Luke Rogers & Sons, florists, Nurserymen & Seedsmen, 101 Whiteladies Road.
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	Opened May 1938; Granted 1979: new lounge extn; granted 2012: New signage - fascia sign, logo sign, 2 replacement flags, 3 welcome door signs, 4 brass lanterns, post sign & wall panel. Existing post mounted correx signs to be refurbished.
Brewery	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd.

Garden and Outbuildings

Large garden, partly paved; forecourt drinking areas; parking area

Designation Status:

Not listed; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value; in Stapleton and Frome Valley Conservation Area

Risk:

No specific risk identified

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built pub on new site, land belonging to the Merchant Venturers, hence name. Near main roads, residential areas and also allotments and Eastville Park.

Details:

The pub belongs to the Hungry Horse chain.

R. C. James and H. E. Meredith, Merchants Arms, Stapleton, Bristol, *A&BN*, 17 June 1938; *AJ*, 23 June 1938;

1937: In addition to other amenities, Bristol Magistrates suggested that in a new public house which is to be built at the cost of £14,000 in Stapleton, shower baths should be provided, *WDP*, 3 April 1937, 9;

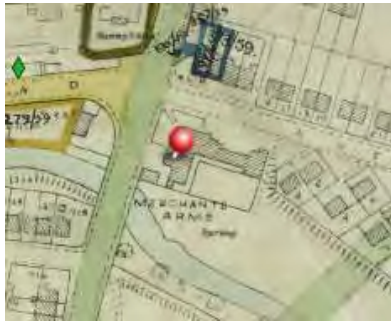
Georges 'opened the "Merchants' Arms" at Stapleton, another super-house, on Monday, and for that again they were called upon to surrender three licenses; for the one recently granted at Brislington had to offer five licenses. That meant three new houses they would

have reduced the number of licenses in Bristol by eight. They were not posing altogether as philanthropists. "Our policy," continued Mr Hadley, "fewer and better houses" is exemplified by these practical examples. New houses for old is good for everyone, not least is it good for the Chancellor of the Exchequer. ... "After all, more space, with its accompaniment of light and air, with better seating accommodation, is the cardinal factor in what is best in making for the uplift of the public house. Good beer is worthy of good surroundings. *WDP* 1 June 1938, 8.

New luxury licensed house for the Stapleton and Eastville districts, was opened yesterday by Mr H Sommerville Gunn, Master of the Society of Merchant Venturers. The Society is linked with his latest enterprise of the Bristol Brewery Georges and Co Ltd, because the Colston Building Estate, on which the premises stand at the bottom of Bell Hill, belongs to the Merchant Venturers... The house itself is a combination of road house, club, and inn, and its attractive structure, with well laid-out garden has been designed in the best modern style. The flat roof and concrete strings under the window heads give a striking effect of spaciousness, and a subdued but distinctive colour note is provided by the Coleford facing bricks in two colours, red and Cotswold grey. Outstanding Amenities: The lounge is decorated and furnished in green, with light oak panelling, the smoke-room is in rust, and the bar has a colour scheme of blue and oak. Outstanding amenities offered to the public include a skittle alley, with a restaurant above, changing and washing accommodation for sports teams playing at Eastville Park; cloakrooms and lovely sunken garden and terraces which overlook the River Frome. ... Mr H Sommerville Gunn, ... declared these "beautiful buildings" open ... Mr Richard James, the architect, of the Bristol firm of Messrs Richard C James & Meredith, was unable to be present. "He has built several others of our houses," Mr George said, "but I think this is his masterpiece." Mr Meredith, however, was present. "I think this house will be an asset to the neighbourhood. I hope it will cater for the needs for any class of customer.... Messrs Stone ... 'are also the builders of the modern shops which face the Merchants Arms'. These provide the only convenient shopping centre for a large and rapidly growing estate: *WDP*, 31 May 1938, 4.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Maps:




KYP 1949 Plan



KYP Aerial 2012 (note the M32, which passes almost overhead)

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	OLDBURY COURT INN
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	
Address 	Gill Avenue Fishponds BS16 2PY
Architect and/or Builder	Unknown
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	c. late 1950s Planning consent granted 1955
Brewery	Unknown brewery
Garden and Outbuildings Skittle alley; small garden; facing central green and near public open space	
Designation Status: Not listed; not in a conservation area; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value	
Risk: No specific risk identified	

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built two storey postwar public house in residential area

Maps:

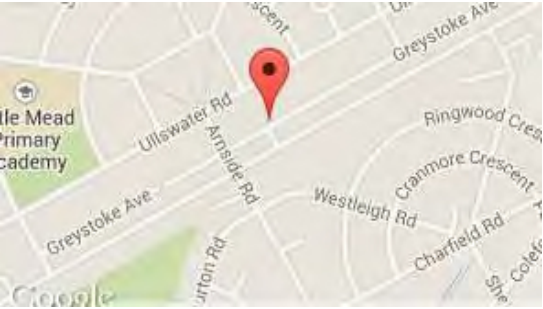


KYP 1949 Plan



KYP 2013 OS

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	THE PEGASUS
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	
<p>Address</p> 	<p>Greystoke Avenue Southmead BS10 6BA</p>
Architect and/or Builder	W. G. Brice, Chief Surveyor, AIAS, of the Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	1960; 'erection of new licensed premises with living accommodation over' granted 1959
Brewery	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd.
<p>Garden and Outbuildings</p> <p>Skittle alley; small garden</p>	
<p>Designation Status:</p> <p>Not listed; not in a conservation area; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value</p>	
<p>Risk:</p> <p>No specific risk identified</p>	

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built two storey postwar public house in residential area near main shopping centre

Details:

'Pleasantly sited, with lawns and rose-beds in front and in close proximity to B.A.C., the first impression one gets of the Pegasus is of a friendly-looking pub characterised by steeply-pitched roofs, dormers and gables. The gable-end which is the central feature of the front of the house is in Cotswold stone, whilst the rest of the frontage is of brick rendered, and colour-washed': *What's Brewing*, 1960–61, 7.

Archive Reference:

Bristol Record Office: BRO Building Plans **29053/1c**

Maps:




KYP 1949 Plan



KYP 2013 OS

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	PIED HORSE
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	Replaced older pub of the same name on the site
Address 	94 Summerhill Road Hanham BS5 8JS
Architect and/or Builder	Walter S. Paul & James, 31 Baldwin Street, Bristol, for the Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	1906
Brewery	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd.
Garden and Outbuildings Small rear garden	
Designation Status: Not listed; not in conservation area; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value	
Risk: No specific risk identified	

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built late nineteenth-century roadside public house; red brick with stone dressings

Details:

Friend in Need Society, St Georges, met here in the old pub in 1898; complimentary dinner given to St George FC the same year;

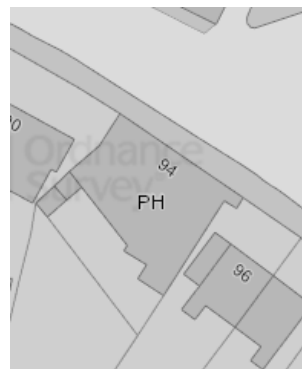
Maps:



KYP OS 1900



KYP 1949 Plan




KYP OS 2013

Archive Reference:

Bristol Record Office BRO Building Plan/Volume 50/41e and f

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	PLOUGH AND WINDMILL
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	Initially known as Plough and Windmill Hotel; replaced inn of the same name on the same site
Address 	194 West Street Bedminster BS3 3NB
Architect and/or Builder	Henry Williams, Architect, Clare Street, Bedminster, Bristol, for the Ashton Gate Brewery Company
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	1893 1981: 'sealing of 2 pairs of front doors with 2 half-glazed window units and removal of 1 window to form 1 pair of doors granted; 1994: 'toilet extension to existing skittle alley' granted
Brewery	Ashton Gate Brewery Company
Garden and Outbuildings Large walled rear area (not called garden on plan) and skittle alley shown on 1898 plan; skittle alley survives, and garden.	
Designation Status: Not listed; not in a conservation area; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value	

Risk:

Reopened after a spell closed in 2012; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built late nineteenth-century public house on roadside and corner; two storey, red brick with stone dressings

Details:

Used for coroner's inquests very soon after opening;

Bristol Mercury, 3 March 1898, 8: 'With reference to the Horfield road improvement scheme, which has hung fire so long, it was stated that another step in advance had been made by the purchase of several properties. In another case arrangements had been made with the Ashton Gate Brewery Company for setting back the Plough & Windmill inn, West-street, Bedminster, for the improvement of that thoroughfare'.

WDP, 25 July 1892, 5: [Mr A J Beavan was the contractor laying a new main sewer through the original pub's yard, causing a dynamite explosion];

The earlier pub also had a skittle alley, where in 1866, 1874, political meetings were held.

Archive Reference:

Bristol Record Office BRO Building plan/Volume 34/64e

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Maps:



KYP 1874 Ashmead

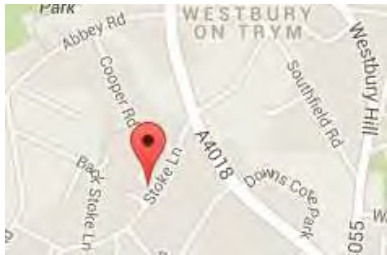


KYP OS 1900



KYP OS 2013

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	PRINCE OF WALES
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	The new pub replaced an older public house on the same site
Address 	84 Stoke Lane Westbury-on-Trym BS9 3SP
Architect and/or Builder	Walter S Paul and James, Architects & Surveyors, Eagle Insurance Buildings, Baldwin Street (and 33 Nicholas St), Bristol, for the Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	1906
Brewery	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd.
Garden and Outbuildings Small yard/garden; partly decked, with smoking shelter; tables on small forecourt	
Designation Status: Not listed; not in conservation area; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value	
Risk: No specific risk identified	

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built two-storey tile hung Edwardian roadside pub in village

Details:

Acquired by Butcombe Brewery, 2005.

Late 20th century application to 'use garden as a beer garden' withdrawn and then refused, presumably because of neighbours.

Archive Reference:

Bristol Record Office BRO Building Plan/Vol 50/4c

Maps:



KYP OS 1880s




KYP 2012 Aerial



KYP OS 2013

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	RISING SUN
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	A Rising Sun, Windmill Hill, was trading near this site by at least 1860, but with an entrance on Windmill Hill Road
Address 	Alfred Road Windmill Hill BS3 4LE
Architect and/or Builder	William Cowlin & Son [builder], Stratton Street, Bristol and 25 & 29 Victoria Street, Clifton, for the Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd; no architect was apparently involved
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	1900
Brewery	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd.
Garden and Outbuildings Small rear garden	
Designation Status: Not listed; not in a conservation area; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.	

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Risk:

Not specific risk identified

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built pub, built in growing residential area in 1900; two storey red brick pub with stone dressings. Close to Victorian public park and railway station, the pub is now near a small postwar estate.

Details:

Licensed as a beer house in 1872 & 1888 (*WDP*, 5 Jul 1888, 7). The new pub was built on the back garden of the old Rising Sun and opened on the parallel Alfred Road. Station opened nearby 1870, moved closer to pub in 1881; Windmill Hill open space laid out as a park 1888-91.
c.2003: upper floors converted to four bedsits; metal grills now on front windows and doors.

Archive Reference:

Bristol Record Office, BRO 38/35A

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Maps:



KYP OS 1900




KYP Aerial 2012



KYP OS 2013

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	THE ROBINS (BS3)
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	
Address 	Ashton Drive Ashton BS3 2PW
Architect and/or Builder	Courage (Western)
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	Opened December 1966
Brewery	Courage (Western)
Garden and Outbuildings	
	Large forecourt with parking spaces; smoking shelter
Designation Status:	
	Not listed; not in conservation area
Risk:	
	Reopened in 2009 by the owners of nearby pub BS3; no specific risk identified

Current and Past Image



Type:

New public house of 1966 built on site of former fire station, close to factory and large residential area; Bristol City Football Ground nearby, for which the pub is named.

Details:

Built on site of c.1940s fire station on edge of a 1930s estate in South Bristol; granted 1964: 'demolish existing buildings, erect 10 ft chain link fence around perimeter & use land as a temporary store'; 'demolish existing outbuildings on site & erect licensed premises', granted 1965.

Archive Reference:

Maps:



KYP 1949 Plan



KYP Aerial 2012



KYP OS 2013

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

<p>Current Name</p>	<p>THE SHAKESPEARE</p>
<p>Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)</p>	<p>Initially known as the Shakespeare Hotel; the new pub was built on the site of an earlier hostelry of the same name, dating from the 1860s.</p>
<p>Address</p> 	<p>Lower Redland Road Redland BS6 6SS</p>
<p>Architect and/or Builder</p>	<p>Walter S. Paul & James, Eagle Insurance Buildings, Baldwin Street, Bristol, for the Bristol Brewery Georges and Co Ltd</p>
<p>Date of Construction and/or Alteration</p>	<p>1903</p>
<p>Brewery</p>	<p>The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd.</p>
<p>Garden and Outbuildings</p> <p>Small enclosed rear space called 'garden' on 1903 plan, which survives as an enclosed patio area, with smaller raised drinking area to the front of the premises</p>	
<p>Designation Status:</p> <p>Not listed; nominated for local list; CAMRA historic pub interior of local importance; lies with Cotham, Redland & Gloucester Road Conservation Area, whose character appraisal lists the pub as a 'community & cultural landmark'.</p>	

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Risk:

The pub was advertised to let in 2013; no specific risk identified

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built Edwardian two-bar public house; two storey, brick built with stone dressings in residential area with local businesses nearby

Details:

For sale in 2013; from 2014 owned by Marstons

No alterations listed on planning portal.

Archive Reference:

Bristol Record Office BRO 43/41a

Maps:



KYP OS 1900




KYP Aerial 2012



KYP OS 2013

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	TREBLE CHANCE
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	
Address 	<p>Greystoke Avenue Southmead BS10 6AG</p>
Architect and/or Builder	Courage (Western)
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	<p>1962; consent for 'erection of licensed premises' granted 1961; Granted 1988: extension of existing lounge bar; granted 2007: erection of smoking shelter to front elevation</p>
Brewery	Courage (Western)
Garden and Outbuildings <p>Small garden; forecourt with parking and benches</p>	
Designation Status: <p>Not listed; not in conservation area; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.</p>	
Risk: <p>No specific risk identified</p>	

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built postwar pub in residential area; two storey, stone faced with pitched roofs.

Details:

'Attractive and interesting design with bowed Georgian-style windows in the Public Bar and French-doors and circular windows in the Lounge Bar': *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1962, 19;

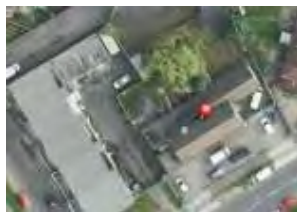
So-called because it was 'synonymous with the twentieth century's yearning for good fortune and easy money': *Golden Cockerel*, Winter 1962, 19.

Archive Reference:

Maps:



KYP 1949 Plan




KYP Aerial 2012



KYP OS 2013

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	TRIDENT
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	The Leap; has returned to its original name; the Trident was originally an off license
Address 	Badminton Road Downend South Gloucestershire BS16 6NY
Architect and/or Builder	Courage (Western)
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	Opened 3 June 1965; 1975: alterations to provide additional lounge area, granted; erection of single-storey side extension to form smoking shelter, granted 2008; material alterations to ground floor layout, pending consideration 2013;
Brewery	Courage (Western)
Garden and Outbuildings Garden; carpark and forecourt; roadside green area to the front	
Designation Status: Not listed; not in a conservation area; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.	
Risk: Refurbished in 2013; no specific risk identified	

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built postwar pub built near main road and residential areas

Details:

Golden Cockerel, August 1965, 2: 'The Trident Gets its Wings': For more than twenty years before its transformation into a fully licensed "neighbourhood" local, the Trident was an off-license. Mr Ray Warren, a former Captain of Bristol Rovers, who took over the off license on his retirement from professional football ten years ago, retains the license and will make a popular Mine Host. It is a two-bar pub, the Lounge and Public Bars occupying "wings" of the building with an off-license shop between them. It was always known as the Trident, but now that it is fully licensed, it has a pictorial inn sign. This depicts a three-pronged trident on one side and the famous airline made by Hawker Siddeley on the other. One of the features of the Trident is its setting, near open countryside soon to be traversed by the M4'.

On the badminton road near Downend, an off-license is being converted to a fully licensed house. it is about half- a mile from the route of the M4 to which there will be an access road. The new pub will probably be ready in July. *Golden Cockerel*, June 1964, 8.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Maps:



KYP 1949 Plan




KYP Aerial 2012



KYP OS 2013

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	TURNPIKE
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	The Star Inn; the new Star Inn replaced an older pub of the same name on the same site
Address 	167 Soundwell Road Soundwell South Gloucestershire BS16 4RP
Architect and/or Builder	Meredith and James, Bristol, for the Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	Opened February 1938
Brewery	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd.
Garden and Outbuildings Skittle alley 'one of the best'; gardens; car park;	
Designation Status: Not listed; not in conservation area; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value.	
Risk: No specific risk identified	

Current and Past Image



Type:

Purpose built interwar public house, on main road and near residential areas;

Details:

Currently part of the Sizzling pub chain

1929: application for structural alterations approved (*WDP*, 31 May 1929 11);

1936: headquarters of the Bristol Marathon Wheelers' Cycling Club, which start from the Star Inn (*WDP*, 22 October 1936, 4);

1938: 'Directors of the Bristol Brewery Georges and Co. Ltd, yesterday visited the Star Inn, Soundwell, which has recently been rebuilt' (*WDP*, 24 Feb 1938, 7);

1938: 'Soundwell Star Inn Re-built: New Skittle Alley opened by Mr C George: Directors of the Bristol Brewery (Georges and Co. Ltd.,) visited the re-built Star Inn, Soundwell, yesterday and, after inspecting the premises officially opened the new skittle alley. The new house stands on the site of the old Star Inn, but considerably exceeds it in size. There are spacious bars and lounges, car parks, gardens, and other amenities – all excellently appointed. Money has not been spared to ensure that customers shall be comfortable and efficiently served with refreshments. Blue and Gold: Blue and gold is the colour scheme and the woodwork is polished oak, while the skittle alley is probably one of the best in the Bristol. The inn is brick-built, with a low-wall marking the drive-in. Mr C George paid compliments to the excellent work done by the architects Messrs Meredith and James. The new premises would be of great benefit to the district and especially to the people on the vast new housing estate just below it. (*WDP*, 24 Feb 1938, 5);

1939, Silver Dace Fishing Club meet there; regular property auctions held here during and after the war.

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

R. C. James and H. E. Meredith (*A&BN* 17 June 1938)

Maps:



KYP OS 1900




KYP 1949 Plan



KYP 2012 Aerial

The Nineteenth- and Twentieth-Century Public House in Bristol

Current Name	WHITE LION
Past Names (including whether on site of older pub)	Replaced earlier pub of the same name on this site
Address 	Quarry Road Frenchay Common South Gloucestershire BS16 1LZ
Architect and/or Builder	Unknown architect for The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd.
Date of Construction and/or Alteration	1899
Brewery	The Bristol Brewery Georges and Co., Ltd.
Garden and Outbuildings Garden and forecourt with seating; opposite village green	
Designation Status: Not listed; not proposed for listing as an Asset of Community Value; within the Frenchay Conservation Area	
Risk: Reopened in 2014 after a complete refurbishment; no specific risk identified	

Current and Past Image



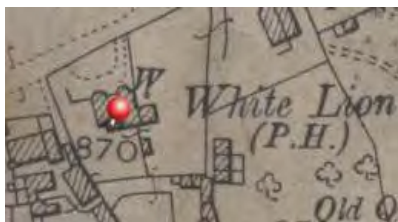
Type:

Purpose built late nineteenth-century public house, two storey, with Jacobean style strapwork to the centre bay; on the village green, Frenchay is a short distance from main routes through north Bristol

Details:

Part of the John Barras / Spirit Pub Company. Owner in 1891: Georges & Co., Bristol Brewery, Old Porter Brewery, Bath Street; Type of licence in 1891: Alehouse; 1901: To let, immediate possession, White Lion Inn, Frenchay, comprises public bar, smokeroom, taproom, two private rooms, four bedrooms, and storerooms, outbuildings and cellars. No agents (WDP, 4 Oct 1901, 3); owner in 1903: Georges & Co., Bristol Brewery. Frenchay Cricket and Football Clubs used the old and new pub

Maps:



KYP OS 1900



KYP 1949 Plan



KYP Aerial 2012