



Gloucestershire

COUNTY COUNCIL

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# GLOUCESTERSHIRE HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY

## STROUD DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENTS

### DURSLEY

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### A note about the maps

The SMR maps in the original Historic Towns Survey (i.e Maps 24-26) are now out of date and have not been included within this revision although references to SMR numbers remain in the text. For up to date SMR information readers can contact the SMR on 01452 425705 or via email at [archaeology.smr@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:archaeology.smr@gloucestershire.gov.uk). The other maps have been refreshed using current software and retain their original numbering as referred to in the text.

### Original description of SMR maps

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

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



## ABBREVIATIONS AND CONVENTIONS USED IN THE TEXT

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

## PERIODS REFERRED TO IN THE TEXT

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

## POPULATION FIGURES

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

The figures recorded in these surveys could be for communicants (i.e. anyone over the age of 16), men and women over 16, men, women and children, men over sixteen only, householders, households or families. In the case of Gloucestershire the figures generally relate to households, families and communicants. In order to gain a better indication of the true size



of the population of a parish, calculations need to be made to convert communicants and households into men, women and children of all ages. It has generally been accepted that to convert households into individuals the given figure should be multiplied by 4.25, while to add children under 16 to the number of communicants the figure should be multiplied by 1.5, based on the assumption that children made up approximately 33% of the general population.

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



## THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE HISTORIC TOWNS SURVEY

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

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

### 1 Introduction

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

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

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



## 2 The concept of urbanism

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

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

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

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

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



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

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



### 3 Urbanism in Gloucestershire

#### 3.1 The Roman period

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

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

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

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

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



### **3.2 The Early Medieval period**

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

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

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

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

### **3.3 The Medieval period**

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

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

In addition to the foundation of a market, many landlords attempted to promote existing villages to borough status. The grant of a borough charter conferred a number of privileges of administrative, teneurial and legal character, the most important of which was the right to burgage or freehold tenure, for a rent and without labour services. In the period from 1199-1350 c.370 new boroughs were created by the king, lords and bishops. One of the most



characteristic features of towns of this period is the burgage plot - long, thin strips of land extending back from the main street which allowed as many burgesses as possible access to the street frontage and the trade which it afforded. In Gloucestershire at least 22 small towns acquired borough status during the Medieval period, with most charters being granted during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries (see Table 2).

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

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

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

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

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



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

**Table 3 Gloucestershire Historic Towns Survey: market charters by date**

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

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

The Stroud valleys, which would become such an important area of settlement during the Post-medieval period, show little evidence for urban development during the Medieval period, apart from areas at the edge of the Cotswold Scarp such as Dursley, Bisley and Painswick, where the settlement pattern is similar to that found



elsewhere on the Cotswolds. The main reason for this is likely to have been the nature of the terrain, which was mostly unsuitable for Medieval industries and agricultural exploitation, but which was ideally suited to Post-medieval advances in manufacturing techniques.

### **3.4 The Post-medieval period**

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

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

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

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

From the mid-seventeenth century the conglomeration of buildings and social classes which had characterised so many Medieval towns was superseded by the introduction of new urban styles from the continent, which reflected the growing prosperity of the period. The concept of large open circuses, squares and terraces of elegant town houses dominated the urban scene for the next two centuries, exemplified in the Gloucestershire context by the development of Regency Cheltenham, with its pump rooms, promenades, elegant terraces and town houses. Elsewhere the picture was not quite so pleasant, the industrial towns also had terraces, but these were usually



'blind-backed' or 'tunnel-backed' with inadequate sanitation for the large families who occupied them. This form of dwelling can still be seen at Lydney and in the Oldbury development at Tewkesbury (although the houses have been modernised for modern use). Innovations in methods of transport also played an important role in the development of settlements, encouraging the separation of commercial, residential and industrial areas, as people no longer had to live in the same area that they worked. Most of the Gloucestershire small towns show some evidence of nineteenth century redevelopment, and most also have examples of Victorian civic pride in the form of public buildings such as libraries (Stroud) and town halls (Bisley, Stow-on-the-Wold, Nailsworth and Painswick).

## 4 Conclusions

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

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

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

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## HISTORIC TOWNS IN THE STROUD DISTRICT (Map 1)

	Definition	Market	Borough charter	Burgages/ burgage tenure	Legal autonomy
Berkeley	Medium-sized market town	1086		✓	
Bisley	Small market town	1687			
Chalford	Industrial town				
Dursley	Small market town	1471/2	C12	✓	
Frampton-on-Severn	Small market town	1245			
Kings Stanley	Small market town	1253	C13/14	✓	
Leonard Stanley	Small market town	1307-1327			
Minchinhampton	Small market town	1269		✓	
Nailsworth	Small market town; Industrial town	C18			
Painswick	Small market town	1253		✓	
Stroud	Small market town; Industrial town	1570-1607			
Wotton-under-Edge	Small market town	1252	1253	✓	

The area defined as Stroud District today was created by local government reorganisation during the 1970s. Most of the District is within the geographical area of the Cotswolds. It includes the steep western scarp slope, dissected by streams flowing west into the Severn estuary through steep sided valleys, as well as the high, flat land of the top of the escarpment. Between the Cotswold hills and the Severn estuary is the low-lying Severn Vale.

Of the twelve towns studied in this area a number – such as Bisley and King’s Stanley – may have developed from Roman settlements. However, the majority of settlements on the Cotswold plateau and Severn Vale, such as Berkeley, Frampton-on-Severn and Leonard Stanley, developed as small market centres during the period after the Norman Conquest, and some of them acquired urban status during the twelfth and thirteenth centuries. During the Medieval and Post-medieval periods the economy of the area came to be dominated by the woollen industry, first the production and sale of raw wool, and later, from the sixteenth century onwards, the production of woollen cloth. The steep escarpment in the Stroud area had many natural resources which supported the development of this industry – the fast flowing streams of the Frome and its tributary valleys, deposits of fuller’s earth for fulling the woven cloth, woad for dyeing and teasels for raising the nap on the finished cloth. The area had a further advantage in its proximity to Bristol, developed as one of the main ports in the wool trade during the later Middle Ages.

Stroud, originally a small hamlet and chapelry dependent upon Bisley, gradually developed to become the most important town in the whole district – to which it gave its name. As well as Stroud itself, other settlements in the valleys, such as Chalford and Nailsworth, developed as centres of this industry during the Post-medieval period. The importance of the area originated during the reign of Henry VI (1422-1462), when cloth manufacturers, realising the advantages of the valleys, began to take leases of the millstreams for three or four lifetimes. In 1577 an act of parliament was passed which attempted to confine the manufacture of woollen cloth to towns, although a few districts were specified as exceptions, including *any towns and villages near the river Stroud in Gloucestershire where cloths have been made for twenty years past*. In a second act, issued 1585/6 this grace was again extended to the *parts of Gloucestershire about Frome water, Kingswood water and Stroud water*. Further government assistance was given to the area in 1585 when acts were passed regulating the production of Gloucestershire ‘whites and reds’, and protecting the local industries of woollen-card making and card-wire drawing. By the early eighteenth century, the manufacture of woollen cloth was *so eminent in this county that no other manufacture deserves a mention* (Atkyns 1712).

Despite a slump in the industry during the early part of the seventeenth century, the period between 1690 and 1760 saw the greatest prosperity of the business, illustrated by the large numbers of mills, houses and cottages which were constructed at this time, many of which still line the valley sides. Mechanisation was gradually introduced to Gloucestershire, during this period (c.1830-1860) the number of people employed in all branches of the woollen industry gradually increased from about 4000 to 7050. However, during the next twenty years, the numbers fell, and in 1881, only 4958 were still employed in the manufacture of cloth. At this time the main products of the area were smooth, highly finished cloths including hunting and military scarlets, white buckskins, doeskins, liveries, riding cords, beavers, meltons, vicuñas, llamas and chevots, along with cloths for pianos, carriages and billiard tables. As the market for even these goods decreased, many



Gloucestershire

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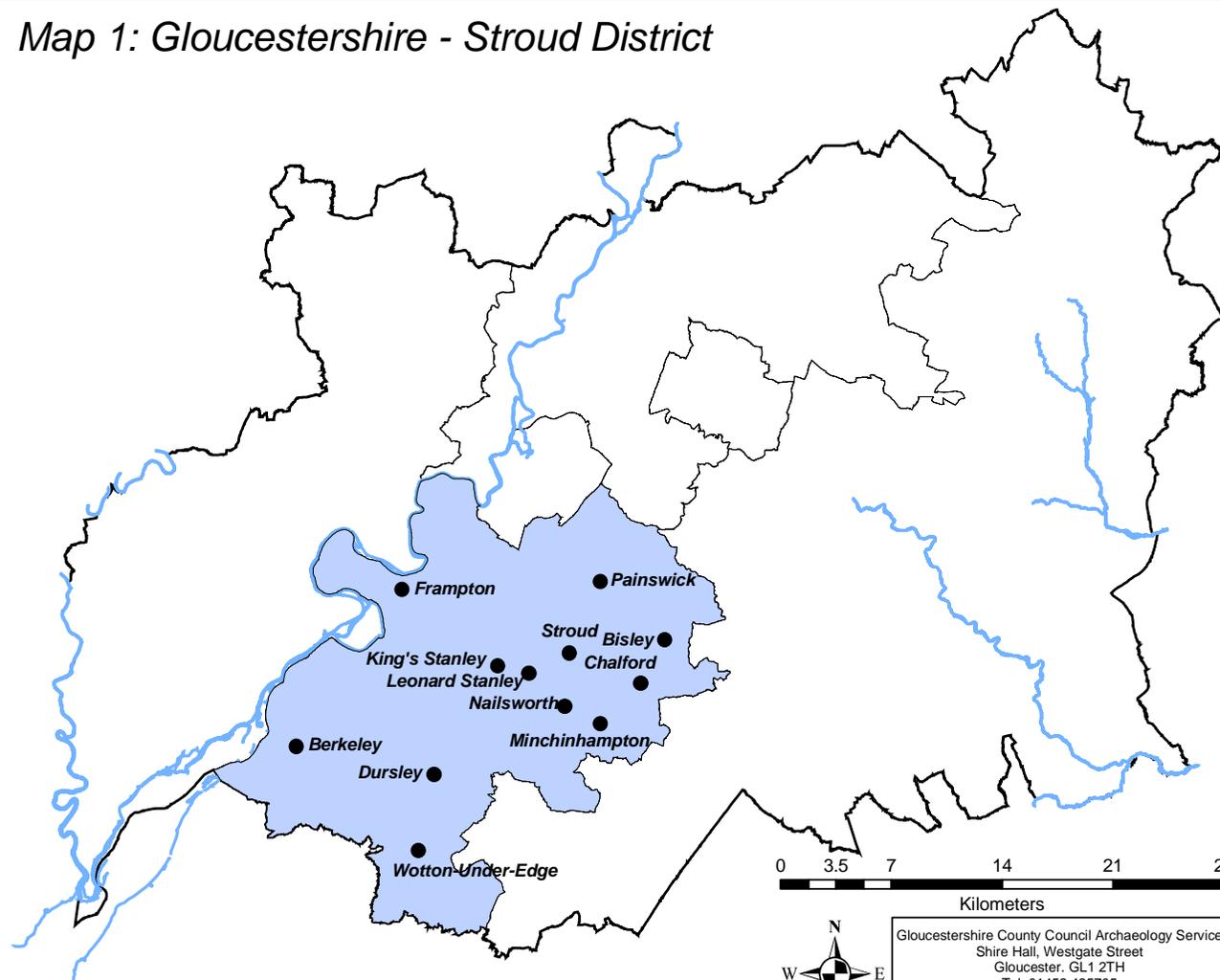
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mill owners were forced to sell their factories or to adapt them to the production of other goods, such as walking sticks, paper or industrial components.

Atkyns R 1712, *The Ancient and Present State of Gloucestershire*.



Map 1: Gloucestershire - Stroud District



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## DURSLEY

### 1 Introduction

Dursley (ST 757981) lies on a relatively flat site on the southern side of a deep valley cut into the Cotswold escarpment by the River Ewelme. To the south of the settlement the land rises steeply to c.180m O.D. at Hermitage Wood, while on the north the land rises more gently to c.110m O.D. The town lies on bands of Middle and Upper Lias, which include deposits of tufa and fullers earth.

Dursley developed during the Medieval period, acting as a market centre for the surrounding communities, but it rose to prominence during the sixteenth century when it developed as one of the principal cloth manufacturing centres along the Cotswold scarp.

### 2 The Prehistoric period

There is no direct evidence for any prehistoric activity in Dursley, although worked flints have been found in Hermitage Wood (SMR 6411) indicating that there was some human activity in the area around the later settlement.

### 3 The Roman period

There is no evidence for Roman activity in Dursley, although there is significant evidence for activity of this date in the surrounding area. The Romano-British temple at Uley and the possible Roman small town at Kingscote lie within 6 km of the town. Closer to Dursley, a Roman building has been found just to the north-east of the town, at Chestals Farm (ST 761984). Walls and a concrete floor nine inches thick were exposed when drains were dug in 1971. Finds included pottery, an imbrex and sandstone tiles (RCHM 1976, 49; SMR 6416). In 1968 a coin of Constantine II (c. A.D.337) was found at ST 761984 (SMR 6422).

### 4 The Early Medieval period

There are no documentary records relating to Dursley dating from the Anglo-Saxon period, and no archaeological or historical evidence for this period has yet been discovered.

### 5 The Medieval period

#### 5.1 Domesday Book

Dursley appears in the Domesday Survey among the lands of the king, as an outlier of Berkeley hundred, and there is no direct mention of a settlement or church there (Moore 1982).

#### 5.2 The placename

The name is first recorded in Domesday Book (1086) as *Dersilege*. During the twelfth and thirteenth centuries the name came to be written *Dereslege*, *Derselega* or *Duresleg*. By the fifteenth century it had become *Dorsseley* and in 1536 it had developed into *Doursley* (Smith 1964, 222).

According to Smith, the name means *Deorsige's clearing*, and is not derived from the OE '*deor*' meaning a deer (ibid).

#### 5.3 The status of the settlement

It has been suggested that there was no occupation in the area until the twelfth century when Roger de Berkeley III built a castle at Dursley (Leech 1981, 26). A burgage grant of 1164, which was confirmed in 1189, indicates that there was a settlement of some standing at Dursley by the mid-twelfth century which may be directly related to the choice of Dursley as the site of a castle (see section 5.5, below). In 1287 reference is made to the rent of the freemen and burgesses of Dursley (Beresford and Finberg 1973, 112).

It is possible that one or more of the eight mills recorded in Domesday Book, standing in the outlying areas of Berkeley Hundred, may have been at Dursley, since numerous fulling mills were operating there in the later post-Conquest period and the settlement at Dursley was renowned as a centre of cloth manufacture by the sixteenth century.



Both Rudder (1779, 424) and Blunt (1877, 18) describe Dursley as one of the five ancient boroughs of Gloucestershire. Rudder adds that the town was returned as a borough *by the sheriff of the county in the ninth year of Edward I* (i.e. 1469/70).

### 5.4 The church (SMR 8173)

The earliest surviving stonework in Dursley church dates from the thirteenth century with fourteenth to sixteenth century additions. Although there is no specific evidence for an earlier chapel or church in the town, it is possible that one may have existed, perhaps connected with the foundation of the castle in the mid-twelfth century.

The church is dedicated to St. James and belonged to the Abbey of Gloucester until 1475 when John Carpenter, Bishop of Worcester, appropriated the rectory of Dursley to the archdeaconry of Gloucester (Atkyns 1712, 411; Rudder 1779, 426).

### 5.5 The castle (SMR 3436)

It is generally thought that Dursley castle was built by Roger de Berkeley III in 1153 after he lost his rights over the manor of Berkeley. However, it is also recorded that Henry, Duc d'Anjou, spent a night at the castle of *Durslea* in 1149. Renn (1973, 180) has suggested that this earlier reference may be to the site of Drakestone earthwork, approximately 2km to the west of the town (ST 737980), rather than to a castle in Dursley itself. The earthworks at Drakestone Point do not, however, appear consistent, either in form or location, with those of a Medieval castle. On the basis of present evidence it is not possible to know to which site *Durslea* really refers.

In 1546, Leland remarked that: *This Towne has a castle in it sumtyme longinge to the Berkeleys syns to the Wiks, sens fell to Decay, and is cleane taken downe. It had metly good Dyche about it, and was for the most parte made of towfe stone full of Pores and Holes lyke a Pumice* (Latimer 1889/90, 259).

Rudder in 1779 wrote that the foundations of the castle were still visible *In a garden not a quarter of a mile north-westward of the town*, thought to have been at Castle Farm, shown on the 1844 tithe map. He also reports that the structure was taken down due to decay and that the materials were subsequently used in the construction of the manor house at Doddington (Rudder 1779, 424). Bigland (1791, 532) stated that it was a *baronial residence only* as he considered the site would have been ineffectual for any military purpose.

According to the Gloucestershire Chronicle for March 1867, the castle was rediscovered in 1778: *...the outside wall of the castle fronting due north presented itself to view, which appears to be thirteen feet thick, but as only ten or twelve yards in length are yet dug it is not known how far the wall extends; there is a buttress of amazing strength at the distance of each yard as far as already dug.....The workmen have found many curious old coins in digging round the foundation walls of the castle.....but I have not been able to learn what coins they were...* (Leech 1981, 26-27).

In 1978 attempts to plant trees in the lawns of the Tabernacle church (SMR 8175) on the western side of the town were partially foiled by the presence of large, dressed stones below turf level which seemed to have no relevance to the Tabernacle itself which was built in 1808, and which may thus indicate the site of Dursley castle (Best 1985, 80).

### 5.6 The nunnery (SMR 2824)

Smith - the historian of the Berkeley estate - wrote in 1639 that *heere [in Dursley] also is a place which to this day is called the Nunnery*. Lett has taken this passage to refer to 'the Broadwell House' which stood to the east of the parish church, since *no other building in Dursley is at all likely to have been a nunnery* (Lett 1888/9, 16). It should also be noted that in a document of 1417 the prioress of Dursley is mentioned. However, the tradition appears to have originated with Smith, and as he did not actually locate the nunnery and as there is no other substantive evidence, it is hard to draw any firm conclusions about the presence of a religious institution in Dursley.

Nos. 5-6 The Broadwell (SMR 17453) are thought to correspond with the location of Lett's Broadwell House. The buildings date from the fifteenth century with considerable later additions and alterations, and thus indicate the location of an early structure, although its exact nature is uncertain. In addition, during the nineteenth century a house known as The Priory (SMR 14976), built for a wealthy clothier during the mid-sixteenth century, was found to incorporate the remains of a fifteenth century or earlier vaulted crypt, which also suggests a possible religious function.



## 5.7 Markets and fairs

*Anno 11 Edward IV (1471/72)*, the Marquess of Berkeley was granted a weekly market at Dursley to be held on a Thursday. This is the earliest surviving reference to a market in the town, although it is possible that this charter may have served to formalise an event which had been taking place for some time. It appears that this grant was confirmed by Henry VIII, as according to Leland, Dursley was *privilegid a 9 yers sens with a market* (Latimer 1889/90, 259).

Two fairs were also granted 1471/2, and by the eighteenth century they were being held on St. Mark's Day (25 April) and St. Clement's Day (23/25 November) (Bigland 1791, 530; Atkyns 1712, 412).

## 5.8 Trade and industry

The manufacture of woollen cloth was established in Dursley during the Medieval period, and became a significant part of the town's economy. Springs which still rise to the south-east of the church are recorded in the eighteenth century as having such a copious flow that *they drive fulling mills at about a hundred yards distance below* (Rudder 1779, 425), and it is considered likely that they would have driven similar mills in the Medieval period.

Leland in 1546 described Dursley as *a praty clothinge Towne...*, and in 1608 Smith's *Men and Armour for Gloucestershire* listed 57 men involved in the cloth trade (out of a male population of 103). Of these, 11 were fullers and 29 were weavers, while there were 15 clothiers and 2 tailors, indicating the continuing importance of the industry.

## 6 The Post-medieval period

*A good clothing and market-town governed by a bailiff and four constables...* (Defoe 1724).

### 6.1 The status of the settlement

From the sixteenth to late eighteenth or nineteenth centuries Dursley acted as a centre for the production of woollen cloth. In later periods, brewing, engineering and printing came to play an important role in the settlement's economy, while the weekly markets and annual fairs also flourished and added to the town's prosperity.

### 6.2 Ecclesiastical history

#### 6.2.1 The established church

On 7 January 1698/9 the spire and much of the Medieval tower of the church of St. James (**SMR 8173**) collapsed *by which accident several lives were lost* (Bigland 1799, 532). Rebuilding was completed between 1707 and 1709 to the design of Thomas Sumison, one of the last master masons to carry on with Medieval traditions unaffected by either Renaissance or Gothic revivalist influences. The church was again restored in 1867 (Verey 1979, 225).

In 1844 the church of St. Mark in Woodmancote (**SMR 8174**) was erected and consecrated as a chapel of ease to the parish church of St. James. The churchyard surrounding St. Mark's is said to have been over an acre in extent and became the principal burial place for the parish until the cemetery was opened (Archer 1982, 47).

#### 6.2.2 Nonconformity

Meetings of Presbyterians and Independents are recorded to have begun in Dursley c.1702, and a meeting house was built in Water Street c.1718 (**SMR 8176**). After George Whitefield preached in Dursley in the mid-eighteenth century a separate Calvinistic Methodist Society was formed, for which a Tabernacle was built c.1760. The new cause prospered at the expense of the older societies, and eventually the Presbyterian and Independent meetings ceased and their meeting house was used for a school. The success of the Methodist meeting continued and in 1808 a new, larger Tabernacle (**SMR 8175**) was built on the western side of the town, which is still in use today (HMSO 1986, 81).

### 6.3 Markets and fairs

At the end of the eighteenth century, Rudder recorded that the weekly Thursday market was *pretty well frequented* and that the fairs were now held on 6 May and 4 December (Rudder 1779, 425), the latter being the larger of the two (Archer 1982, 41). Bigland recorded that the *Old Cross which was an open arcade, falling into decay, the present very commodious market house was erected in 1738 at the sole expense of the Lord of the Manor* (1791,



530). The ground floor of the building (**SMR 263**) has an open arcade with stone columns, while a statue of Queen Anne sits in a niche on the first floor (Verey 1979, 226). In the ground floor area were stalls on which boots, shoes, muslin, caps and other small items were displayed, while the butter market was held every Thursday on the first floor, which also doubled as the Town Hall. A pig market was held on Thursdays in a yard opposite the King's Head public house (Best et al 1985, 28). On the day of the monthly produce market (established 1869) cattle were ranged along the streets, while the whole distance from the Turnpike Hotel to the Bell and Castle was occupied by sheep until the livestock market was transferred to the Bull Pitch in a slightly later period (Archer 1982, 41).

## 6.4 Trade and industry

*The manufacture of cloth was established in this town....and has enriched many families. It still employs the poorer inhabitants and is conducted with reputation and success (Bigland 1791, 532).*

The cloth industry continued to play an important role in the economy of the town through the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, as described by Rudder and Bigland. However, during the early nineteenth century, the importance of the trade began to decline and alternative industrial activities began to develop in its stead. Evidence for the cloth trade has survived in the buildings of the town: two of the Post-medieval cloth mills have survived outside the core of the modern settlement, one of which, known as Townsend's or Phelp's Mill (**SMR 2828**), stands at the top of Long Street; the other, New Mills, lies to the south-east at ST 76189801 (**SMR 14977**). Three further mills are shown on the Ordnance Survey first edition map of the town, in the area now occupied by RA Lister and Co. (**SMR 20416, 20417 and 20527**). Some of the houses in the town also show evidence that they were built for workers in the cloth trade, including Nos. 1 and 19 Long Street (**SMR 17458 and 17464**), both of which were built in the eighteenth century for weavers.

Brewing played an important role in the local economy for a while with the town supporting five or six breweries at any one time, each of which was producing its own distinctive beer (Archer 1982, 15). The sites of one of these breweries and a malthouse are shown on the 1844 tithe map (**SMR 20418 and SMR 20419**).

More recently engineering and printing works were founded on the edge of the town, providing local employment in the production of goods for national consumption and maintaining the importance of Dursley as a manufacturing centre.

## 7 The modern settlement

*...the old town is fairly compact (though its face has lost some teeth).. (Verey 1979, 227).*

There has been considerable Post-medieval and modern redevelopment in and around Dursley, including the laying out of new roads in the town centre to the west of the church and adjacent to the site of the castle, the provision of modern amenities, such as the swimming pool and public car parks and the expansion of the Lister's complex. The site of the Medieval castle has been considerably built over and the whole of the Medieval core of the town has been completely enclosed by modern housing estates. Woodmancote has been less severely affected by these developments and retains the appearance of a wealthy Georgian suburban development.

A few buildings of fifteenth and sixteenth century date have survived, either in part or intact, within the modern settlement, including Nos. 5-6 Broadwell (**SMR 17453**), 'The Priory' in Long Street (**SMR 17470**) and No. 20 Long Street (**SMR 17473**). However, the vast majority of buildings along the High Street, Long Street and Parsonage Street date to the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and many of these were associated with the clothing industry (see 6.4 above). Some building work also took place during the Victorian period, but the form of the Medieval town has been significantly altered during the post-World War II years.



## 8 Population figures

Date	Communicants	Households	Families	Nonconformists	Inhabitants	Source
1551	460				c.690	Percival
1563		192			c.816	Percival
1603	523				c.785	Percival
1650			244		c.1037	Survey of Church Livings
1676	800			4	c.1204	Compton Census
1712		600			2500	Atkyns
1779					2000	Rudder
1801					2379	
1831					3226	
1901					2372	
1997					5913	

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

## 9 Plan analysis (Maps 27-29)

### 9.1 Discussion

*It is a little town, not much frequented by travellers, consisting of two narrow streets, forming something like the figure of the letter T (Rudder 1779, 425).*

Dursley appears to have been founded by Roger III de Berkeley during the mid-twelfth century as a borough attached to his castle. His choice of site may have been influenced by the existence of a small hamlet there, focused around the church. The church (**Area 1**) stands at the corner of Long Street and Silver Street. The buildings to the west and south of the church (**Area 2**), which include the structures identified by Lett as “the Nunnery”, appear as an area of irregular development compared with the rest of the settlement, and may indicate the location of a pre-borough hamlet. Alternatively, if the borough was founded on a new site in the twelfth century, this same area of irregular plan may represent an original, larger churchyard, incorporating all the land between Long Street on the west to Water Lane on the east, and from Silver Street north to the present boundary, which was gradually encroached upon as the settlement developed.

The twelfth century borough developed between the castle on the west (**Area 4**) and the church and market on the east (**Areas 1 and 3**). The three main streets of the town were Parsonage Street, Silver Street and Long Street, along all of which are preserved the long, narrow property boundaries typical of Medieval burgages (**Areas 5 - 10**). Despite subsequent subdivision, the original extent of the plots to the east of Long Street and to the south of Parsonage Street and Silver Street are defined by the presence of back lanes – Water Street which runs parallel to Long Street, and The Slade which lies parallel to Parsonage Street and Silver Street, both of which are likely to have formed an integral part of the Medieval town plan.

The junction of the three main streets forms a triangular area in which the market would have been held (**Area 3**). A market cross stood in the centre of the area until it was replaced by the present market house in 1738.

The tithe map of 1844 shows Castle Farm, and it is thought that the Medieval castle may have stood somewhere in the vicinity of the farm buildings on the higher ground to the west of the settlement (**Area 4**), or in the area where the Tabernacle was later built (see section 5.5 above).

The group of tenements on either side of Woodmancote Road and along the Bull Pitch (**Areas 22 and 23**) may be the eighteenth century development described by Rudder (1779, 425): ... *there is a large hamlet without the borough*. It was to serve this hamlet that St. Mark’s church was built as a chapel of ease to Dursley parish church in the mid-nineteenth century (**Area 13**), and which is labelled New Church on the 1844 tithe map. The hamlet is likely to have developed as a wealthy suburb to the town, housing those who had made their fortunes in the clothing industry.



According to Archer (1982, 24-25) there was a town green (**Area 11**) at the northern end of the Bull Pitch during the mid-eighteenth century, which was the site of the annual fairs, where travelling entertainers performed and which was used as a parade ground by troops stationed in the town. At the top end of the green were the stocks and pillory for the punishment of offenders from Woodmancote, while Dursley town had its own stocks and pillory to the left of Water Lane. The area of the green was being built up by the time of the tithe survey of the parish and is illustrated by the tithe map (**Area 24**). The union workhouse lay to the south-west of the centre of the town (**Area 28**), also shown on the 1844 tithe map, and which has since been demolished to make way for a school playing field.

The Post-medieval mills and other works lay outside the core of the settlement, concentrated to the north-east (**Areas 29, 30 and 31**). Weaver's houses would have been dotted throughout the town, as working from home was common until the industrial developments of the nineteenth century encouraged mill owners and clothiers to concentrate their workforces in one place.

The western side of the town was not developed until the early nineteenth century (**Areas 26 and 27**), since which time the site of the castle has been developed, the plan of the town centre has been altered and much development has taken place around the Medieval core of the settlement (see section 7 above).

## 9.2 Plan components

### 9.2.1 Medieval (Map 27)

1. The church of St. James and the surrounding churchyard
2. Possible extent of the pre-borough hamlet
3. The market place.
4. Area in which Dursley castle may have stood.
5. Group of tenements or possible burgage plots fronting on to the north-west side of Long Street.
6. Group of tenements fronting on to the south-east side of Long Street.
7. Group of tenements fronting on to the south side of Parsonage Street and Silver Street.
8. Group of tenements fronting on to the north side of Parsonage Street.
9. Group of tenements fronting on to the south side of Silver Street and the Bull Pitch shown on the map of 1846.
10. Group of tenements fronting on to the south-west side of Parsonage Street
11. Area of town green before the mid-eighteenth century developments.

### 9.2.2 Post-medieval (Map 28)

12. The church of St. James, showing the present extent of the churchyard
13. The church of St. Mark in Woodmancote
14. Area of Post-medieval infilling to the north of the churchyard
15. Area of Post-medieval infilling of the eastern side of the churchyard
16. Area of Post-medieval infilling to the south and east of the churchyard
17. Post-medieval settlement to the north-west of Long Street
18. Post-medieval settlement to the south-east of Long Street



19. Post-medieval settlement to the south-west of the Bull Pitch
20. Post-medieval settlement to the south of Parsonage Street
21. Post-medieval settlement to the north of Parsonage Street
22. Group of tenements in Woodmancote, possibly part of the hamlet mentioned by Rudder in 1779.
23. Group of tenements to the west of Woodmancote, possibly part of the hamlet mentioned by Rudder in 1779.
24. Post-medieval development to the east of the church
25. Site of the woollen mill
26. Post-medieval development to the west of the town
27. Area of Post-medieval development to the east of Parsonage Street
28. Site of the nineteenth century workhouse
29. Mill shown on 1<sup>st</sup> edition O.S. map, later part of RA Lister and Co.
30. Mill shown on 1<sup>st</sup> edition O.S. map, later part of RA Lister and Co.
31. Mill shown on 1<sup>st</sup> edition O.S. map, later part of RA Lister and Co.

## 10 Future Research

The main priorities for future work are:

1. The origins of the Medieval settlement: there is a possibility that the Medieval borough may have been attached to an earlier settlement, focused on the church of St. James. If this is the case, evidence relating to this early hamlet may have been preserved within the area of the churchyard or Broadwell, and the fifteenth century buildings to the east of the church may also be on the site of the hamlet.
2. The location and extent of the Medieval castle: it has been suggested that it stood on the north-western side of the town, in the area of the modern Tabernacle church where large masonry pieces were discovered in 1978.
3. The Medieval borough: its extent, character and economy.
4. The site of the "Nunnery": several antiquarian writers and local historians have made mention of the foundation. There is at present little documentary and no archaeological evidence for the existence of such a foundation within the settlement, but the early origin of Nos. 5-6 Broadwell and the vaulted cellar at The Priory in Long Street indicate that the suggestion may not be entirely without basis.
5. Medieval and Post-medieval mills: the locations of only a few mills are known. It has been suggested that many of the fulling mills may have stood on the site of what are now the R.A. Lister engineering works, but it is also likely that others stood elsewhere around the settlement.
6. The origin of the settlement at Woodmancote: it has been suggested by Leech (1981, 28) that there is evidence for Medieval occupation in the area to the east of the road. No other evidence is available to corroborate this theory.



## 11 Sources

### 11.1 Primary historical sources

There are very few original documents relating to Dursley, apart from the Domesday Book entry, a twelfth century burgage grant and a thirteenth century rental. Where these sources are quoted in the text they have been drawn from secondary, published sources.

### 11.2 Secondary historical sources

Very little research into the history of the settlement at Dursley has been undertaken. The town appears in the volumes of the eighteenth century antiquarians, mainly because of its role in the cloth industry. A few local histories have also been written some in the later nineteenth century (Blunt 1877 and Lett 1888) and some more recently (Archer 1982 and Best 1985). These tend to be concerned with the Post-medieval rather than the Medieval development of the town, for which there is considerably more information available. The vexed question of the existence of a religious house in Dursley has also been touched on in occasional late nineteenth century articles, but no conclusions have been drawn as to its location.

### 11.3 Archaeological information

There have been few investigations of the archaeology of Dursley, and apart from occasional chance finds relating to the castle, very little is known about the below-ground remains in the town. Several watching briefs have been undertaken within the area of the Medieval settlement, but no archaeological features were discovered.

### 11.4 Maps

The earliest available map for Dursley is the tithe map of 1844, which along with the 1880 Ordnance Survey 25": 1 mile first edition map, illustrates the nature of the settlement before any twentieth century development took place.

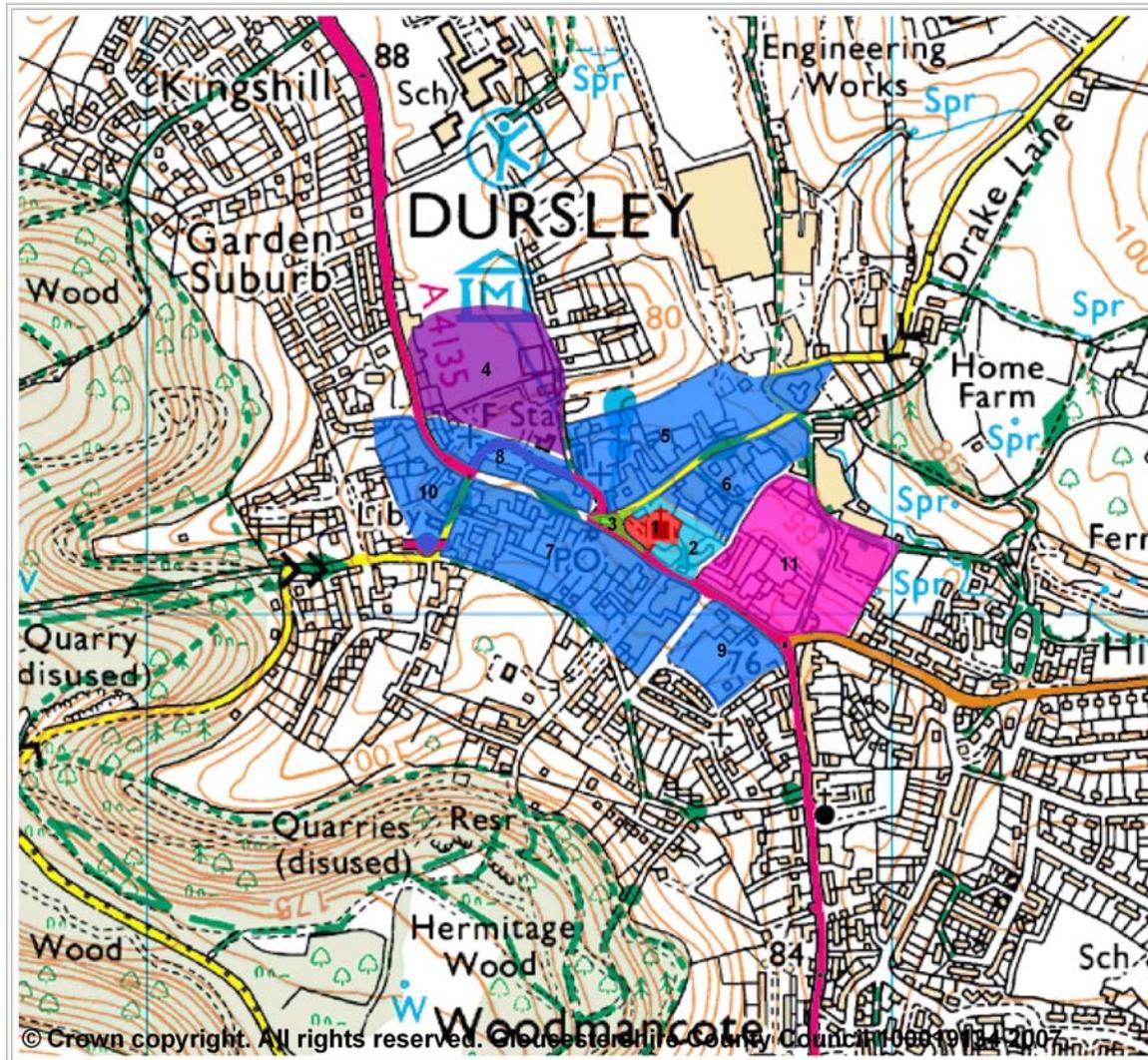
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### 12.2 Maps

- Tithe map, 1844  
Ordnance Survey first edition 25": 1 mile, 1880



MAP 27  
Dursley  
Medieval Plan Components

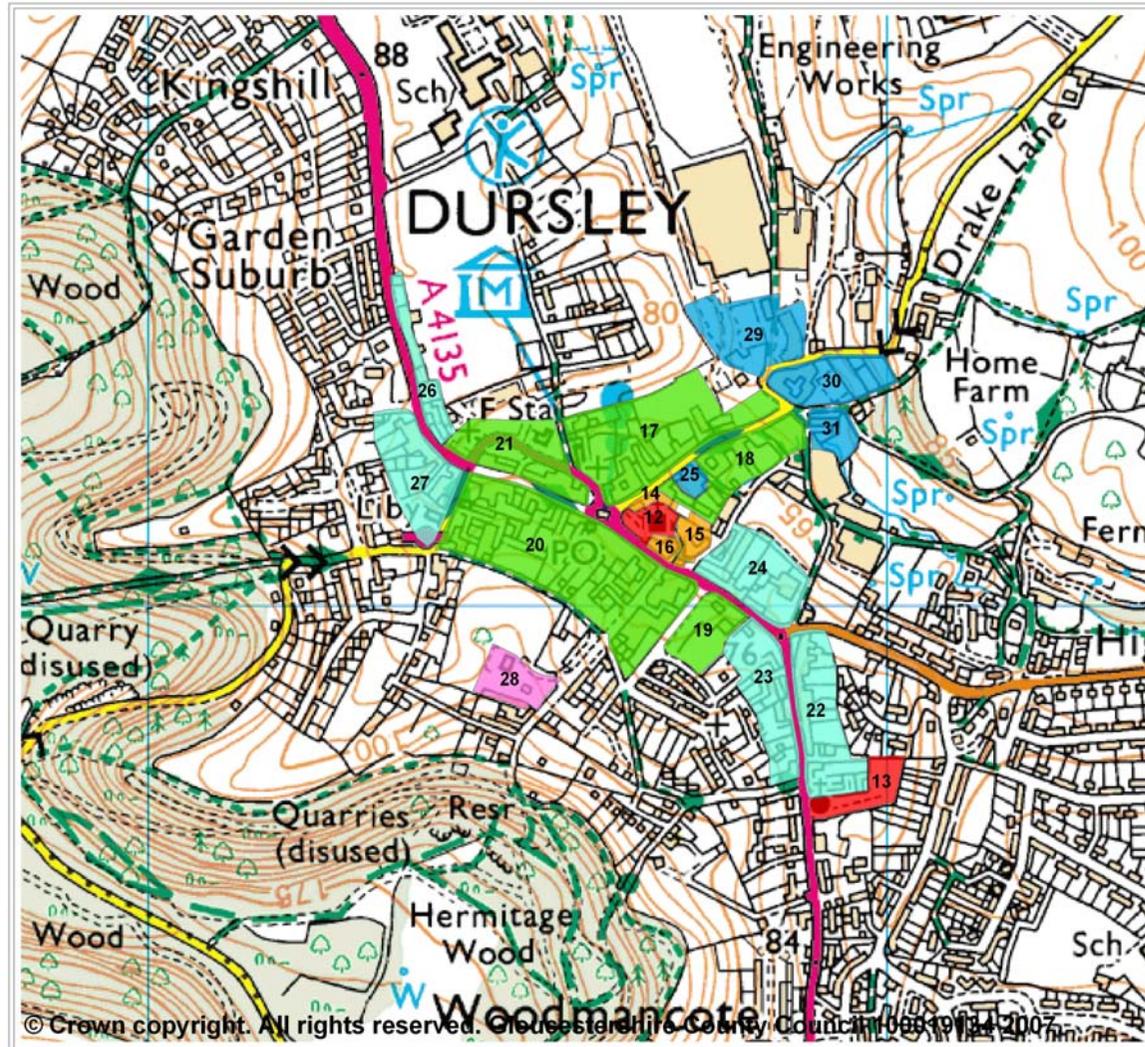
**Legend**

- Burgage plots
- Church & churchyard
- Market place
- Possible area of early hamlet
- Possible area of town green
- Site of castle

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**SCALE: 1:7,209**  
**DATE: 11 October 2007**  
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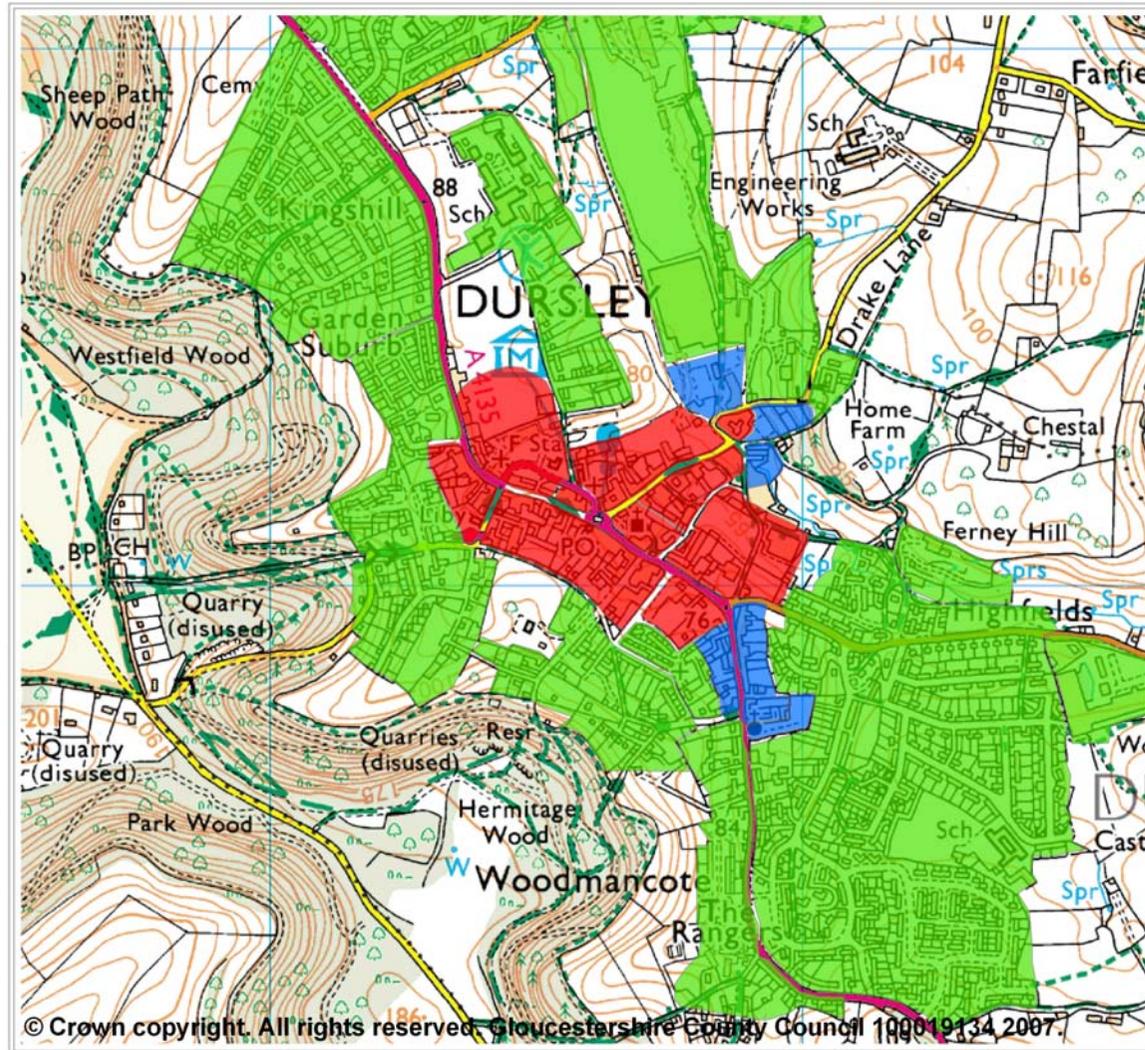
MAP 28  
Dursley  
Post-Medieval  
Plan Components

### Legend

- Churches
- Churchyard infill
- Mill Sites
- Post-medieval development
- Post-medieval settlement
- Site of Workhouse

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MAP 29  
Dursley  
Development By Period

**Legend**

- Medieval
- Post Medieval
- Modern

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