

The Archaeology of Wiltshire's Towns
An Extensive Urban Survey

MELKSHAM

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August 2004

The Archaeology and History of Melksham

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1. INTRODUCTION

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

planned town in the 13th century, but which did not succeed as an urban centre. The full list of 34 towns included in the survey and the criteria for inclusion are included as Appendix 1. Melksham satisfies three criteria: it has evidence for an historic formal market place (*criteria ii*); it has an early market charter (*criteria iii*); it has through industrialisation a diversified economic base (*criteria viii*).

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

2. LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY

- 2.1. Modern Melksham is an industrial town, the northernmost sizeable settlement within the District of West Wiltshire. It lies on the major A350 north-south route and is situated at the approximate centre of a triangle whose points are formed by the towns of Trowbridge, Chippenham and Devizes, all of which lie c.7 miles distant.
- 2.2. The town lies in the broad, flat valley of the River Avon, which bisects the town, and lies partially upon beds of Oxford and Kellaways Clay and partially upon First Terrace Gravels and Alluvium (Ordnance Survey 1965) at a mean elevation of 35m AOD.

3. PAST WORK AND THE NATURE OF THE EVIDENCE

3.1. Historic Sources

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

3.1.2. The use of primary sources in the Record Office is restricted to maps and sometimes other pictorial material, which are consulted to accurately locate individual sites or buildings and to trace the growth of the settlement.

3.2. Archaeological Work In The Town

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

Event	Year	Site Name/Location	Event Type	Excavator	Reference
001	1994	The Hurn	Bore Hole Survey	Cotswold Archaeological Trust	Cotswold Archaeological Trust 1994
002	1997	Sewage Treatment Works	Watching Brief	Archaeological Site Investigations	Archaeological Site Investigations 1997
003	1998	North of Melksham House	Historic Building Survey	Cooper-Avon Tyres Ltd	Cooper-Avon Tyres Ltd 1998

Table 1: Archaeological Investigations in Melksham.

4. HISTORICAL OUTLINE

4.1. This report is not intended to provide a major historical review of the history of Melksham and the material included here relates mainly to events which might have had some impact on the archaeology of the town, or its survival. The chief source of historical information for Melksham is Volume 7 of the Victoria County

History (1953), upon which, unless otherwise stated, the majority of the Historical Outline is based.

- 4.2. The town is first recorded as 'Melchesa' in the 1086 Domesday Survey. Gover (1939) asserts that this is derived from the Old English 'meoloc', meaning milk, but admits that there is no firm foundation for this and that the ultimate meaning is unclear. The Domesday listing indicates a large, valuable estate with a church and several mills.
- 4.3. In 1200 the church at Melksham was granted by King John to Salisbury Cathedral, and shortly thereafter, in 1220, it passed to the *communa* of the canons of that institution, who founded an agricultural estate – the Rectory Manor or Canonhold. The secular manor was held by the crown in 1086, and remained chiefly in royal hands until the mid 13th century, King John being a regular visitor between 1200 and 1212. Local tradition holds that John had a hunting lodge at Melksham, convenient for the extensive former Melksham Forest. In 1257 the manor passed to Amice, Countess of Devon, who leased it to Amesbury Priory in 1268. The office of prioress held the manor thereafter until the Dissolution. The passing of the manor into secular hands was marked by the construction of an ambitious new manor house, known as Place House and fronting onto the Market Place.
- 4.4. A market and fair grant is first known from 1219, and a second in 1250. The prioress of Amesbury obtained a further fair grant in 1491. These events, however, were waning by the mid 19th century, and by 1888 the fairs had lapsed and the market was alternated fortnightly with that of Trowbridge. The final market – for cattle – was held in 1939.
- 4.5. Weavers are mentioned in Melksham in the mid 14th century, but the first specific reference to the cloth industry was to two fulling mills in 1555. By this time cloth had made the town prosperous and during the 16th and 17th centuries Melksham clothiers are recorded buying wool throughout the West Country and exporting their wares as far as Central Europe. Thereafter, until the advent of the Industrial Revolution, the trade was in decline and in the first half of the 18th century serious riots took place. Although several industrial-scale cloth concerns were active in the town in the late 18th and early 19th centuries, the industry's decline was terminal, and by 1875 only one factory survived. This was to close in 1888 and the same year reopened in rubber production, an industry that rapidly grew to dominate the town, as it does today.
- 4.6. The town grew rapidly following the construction of the Wilts & Berks Canal in 1801, and this growth was accelerated after the Great Western Railway opened in 1848. Several industries flourished during the 19th century, including corn milling, brass and iron founding, feather processing, rope & twine manufacture and milk condensing. Almost all are now gone, although new industries have arisen to take their places, mostly situated beyond the Study Area boundary on the edge of the sprawling modern town.

5. ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ARCHITECTURAL SUMMARY

5.1. Introduction

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

5.2. Prehistory (Fig. 4)

5.2.1. A cluster of prehistoric finds are known from the vicinity of the new Bypass Bridge. The finds were recovered from gravels disturbed during bridge construction, and include a single Palaeolith (**MK001**), whose fresh condition suggests it to have lain *in-situ* prior to disturbance; sherds of Neolithic Peterborough Ware pottery (**MK003**); a remarkable assemblage of metalwork (**MK004**) comprising three bronze *phalerae*, two of which showed evidence of ritual damage, three bronze socketed spearheads and a dirk, and two iron spearheads. The assemblage has been dated to the late Bronze Age or early Iron Age.

5.3. Roman (Fig. 4)

5.3.1. The few finds of this period include discoveries of coins at Shurnhold School (**MK002**) and to the north-west of Melksham Hospital (**MK005**), and finds of pottery from the vicinity of Bypass Bridge (**MK006**) and Church Walk (**MK007**).

5.4. Medieval (Fig. 5)

5.4.1. A number of sites can be identified, of which the best-preserved by far is St. Michael's Church (**MK008**, Pevsner 1975). The earliest surviving elements of this structure date to the 12th century, although the greater part of it is of 14th and 15th century date, with extensive 19th century renovations. Nearby to the church stands the site of the Capital Manor of Melksham (**MK013**). The existence of this estate as an administrative unit can be traced to the Saxon period, although the presence of a manor house on this site is only certain from the mid 16th century (later known as Place House and demolished in the later 19th century). It is thought, however, that this replaced an earlier house on the site (Pugh 1953). To the south-west of the church is the site of Rectory Manor or Canonhold (**MK014**). This is also of Saxon descent, originating as the Domesday holding of Rumbold the Priest. Following the granting of the church and its holdings to Salisbury Cathedral in 1200 the land unit passed to the canons of the cathedral and remained dean and chapter property until the 19th century (*ibid.*). Although nothing is known to remain of a manor house, a tithe barn, of 15th century date, survives on the site. The vicarage of St. Michael's Church (**MK015**) was detached from the Rectory Manor estate in 1220.

Although there is no evidence for a Medieval building on the site, it is known that the present 19th century building replaced a much earlier one.

5.4.2. Melksham's Market Place (**MK016**) probably dates to the 13th century, when in 1219 the first recorded market and fair was granted. The market area today is irregular in plan and probably does not reflect this site as originally laid out. Two bridges in the town have known Medieval origins: Lowbourne Bridge (**MK017**) is mentioned in 1417 as 'Ludborn', although the provenance of the present bridge is unknown. Great or Town Bridge is the main span over the River Avon (**MK018**). This was first referred to in 1415, and is known to have been in poor repair by the mid 17th century. It was swept away by floods in 1809, and it is unknown whether any elements of it survive beneath the present bridge abutments.

5.4.3. A single homestead some distance to the north of the core settlement has been identified at Croft House (**MK009**, Gover 1939). This was the site of the home of Hugh De Crofte in 1272.

5.5. Industrial/Recent (Fig. 6)

5.5.1. Several sites can be identified, reflecting the rapid expansion of the town following the Industrial Revolution. Melksham enjoyed success in the cloth industry, although unlike other former Wiltshire cloth towns there is little of the industrial fabric left standing to testify to this. Two survivors are the former drying-ovens in Church Street – commonly known as the Roundhouse (**MK019**, Rogers 1976), and the octagonal structure in Lowbourne (**MK020**, *ibid.*). The Matravers cloth mill (**MK021**) was a water-powered factory developed from c.1801, although it is possible that it replaced a fulling mill of Post-medieval date. The site enjoyed expansion through the early part of the 19th century and was a substantial concern by the time it finally closed in 1888. The site was obtained by the Avon Rubber Co., whose huge factory grew from the former cloth mill. The building of 1801 survives. To the west of the Matravers site stood a large dye-house (**MK025**) on the north bank of the Avon. This closed in 1888 along with Matravers Mill, and was thereafter occupied by Wiltshire United Dairies until 1900, when it was demolished and a purpose-built condensery built on the site. Another substantial cloth-making site stood just to the south of the Avon, opposite the dye-house. This was the Ark cloth factory (**MK022**), in existence between c.1751 and c.1865, when it was demolished. The site has since been redeveloped for other industrial purposes.

5.5.2. The River Avon immediately north-west of Great Bridge originally flowed in two streams around an 'island'. Sited on this island, from at least 1793, was a large corn mill (**MK023**). The 20th century expansion of the adjacent Avon Rubber factory subsumed and then obliterated both the mill and island. Nothing of these sites is evident today.

- 5.5.3 Avon Rubber (**MK024**) arrived in Melksham in 1888, taking over the former Matravers Mill (MK021). The subsequent rapid rise of the factory has created a huge industrial complex which today dominates the town. The operations of the company have been the subject of numerous papers (ie. Rubber Age 1927, Spencer 1948, Avon Rubber Plc 1985 et al) and are beyond the scope of this report.
- 5.5.4 Other known sites of possible industrial archaeological value include the former Sawtell feather processing factory in Old Broughton Road (**MK026**), now occupied by housing; the former brass foundry in New Broughton Road (**MK027**), now part of the Unigate complex; the former iron foundry in Bath Road (**MK028**); the site of Maggs Rope & Twine works in Spa Road (**MK029**), now occupied by housing; the site of the former Gasworks in Bath Road (**MK032**).
- 5.5.5 The first spur to Melksham's industrial development was the Wilts & Berks Canal (**MK030**, Dalby 1971), which opened to traffic in 1801 and passed through the town south-east of the Market Place, with a wharf opposite the rope and twine works (MK029). During the 19th century this carried considerable traffic, but following the arrival of the railway trade dwindled. It was finally closed in 1910. The length of canal through the town has been completely filled in, and the line of its course, although preserved in place by property boundaries, is disappearing under new developments. The railway (**MK031**) came to Melksham in 1848 and accelerated the industrial growth begun following the arrival of the canal. The railway station, however, was closed during the Beeching cuts and re-opened as a halt in the 1980s. None of the industrial sites within the Study Area are now served by rail.

5.6 Undated (Fig. 6)

- 5.6.1 Three undated finds are recorded, of which the most significant is the single burial (**MK010**) encountered during gravel extraction to the south of St. Michael's Church in the later 19th century. The north-south orientation of this burial suggests a pre-Christian date, and its relative proximity to the present church may imply that St. Michael's lies on or near to a Pagan Saxon or Romano-British sacred site. Unfortunately little else is known the nature of this find, which was not archaeologically recorded.
- 5.6.2 Elsewhere within the Study Area, two undated spearheads were discovered during bridge construction in New Road (**MK011**), and a carved chalk head is known from the garden of No. 7 Severn Road (**MK012**).

5.7 Built Heritage

- 5.7.1 This section of the report is intended to provide an introduction to the surviving built heritage of Melksham, and is not designed to be a comprehensive account of the town's notable structures, but is a selection of the salient architectural features and buildings within the Study Area, including, if present,

significant unlisted structures. This data has been compiled by Wiltshire Buildings Record.

- 5.7.2 Detailed lists of historic buildings and architectural detail are included as Appendices 3, 4 & 5. Although individual Grade II listed buildings may be (where relevant) discussed in this section, they are not included as a comprehensive list in the Appendices, due to the very large quantities of additional data this would involve. Researchers seeking information on Grade II structures are directed to the appropriate Department of Environment or Department of National Heritage schedule lists.
- 5.7.3 Melksham is a modern industrial town of ancient origin, which has undergone major redevelopment in the 20th century. It was known in the Medieval period as an agricultural centre, although weaving had been carried out since 1349. There was some decline in this trade before there was a general revival of the woollen industry during the 18th century throughout the west country. This continued into the 19th century. Stone was used extensively during this period, replacing earlier timber framing of which scattered evidence survives in the town.
- 5.7.4 **Twelfth Century.** The church of St Michael, Church Walk (grade II*) is Norman in origin though mainly late Medieval (15th century). In plan it has a west tower, five-bay aisled nave and chancel with south side chapel, and north porch. The church was extensively remodelled in 1845 by TH Wyatt.
- 5.7.5 **Sixteenth Century.** Of the three 16th century buildings listed, the two together comprising No.s 2, 4 & 6 Canon Square adjoin each other. Both have been altered in the 18th century but contain late cruck trusses and some original internal features. No. 5 Church Walk was also timber-framed at first floor level; a trend prevalent in the area between Trowbridge and Potterne especially in the early 17th century. The Prince of Wales Cottages 27 & 29 Church Street are an unlisted pair containing elaborately moulded beams with mouldings at the junctions. A date of 1677 was found on a beam but the cottages appear to be at least 16th century in origin.
- 5.7.6 **Seventeenth Century.** Four buildings from this century are listed, one of which has timber framing. The later buildings are in rubblestone, which replaced timber after the early 18th century. Mulberry Cottage, 34 Church Street (grade II) may have a late 16th century origin. No.s 12 & 14 Church Walk are an unlisted pair found by WBR to date from the mid 17th century.
- 5.7.7 **Eighteenth Century.** By its listed buildings alone, Melksham is a town that flourished in the 18th century. Sixty-three buildings of all types are listed, reflecting the prosperity of the town at this time. An unlisted building of the 18th century recorded by WBR is 13 Church Street (early). No. 25, Church Street (grade II) is a late 18th century wool drying house associated with the wool industry that flourished in Melksham until the early 19th century. No. 26 Church

Street (grade II) and 32 Church Street (a warehouse) may also have been connected to the industry.

5.7.8 28A, 30 & 32 Lowbourne (grade II) are of mid-18th century date and were once a cloth mill, now converted into three houses. Part of the same industrial complex is 34 Lowbourne, a former wool drying house of similar date.

5.7.9 The gate piers at the entrance to Place Road (grade II) originally stood at the entry to Place House, a mid 16th century rubblestone building demolished when Place Road was laid out in 1864 and re-erected on their present site.

5.7.10 In an area of plentiful stone such as Melksham, timber framing tended to be confined to upper storeys. No. 4 Church Walk (grade II) may be one such building, though the timber-framing is hidden beneath render. The Red Lion, 1 & 3 The City (grade II) has a timber framed gable and represents the only remaining group of early 18th century cottages in The City, the rest having been demolished or altered.

5.7.11 **Nineteenth Century.** The woollen industry flourished during the early 19th century; 4 5 & 6 Union Street (grade II) have been included in the list as a good representative group of artisans' cottages. Most of the thirty listed buildings were constructed in the early part of the century, when Melksham was still prosperous. Dominating the Melksham skyline until 1987 was the unlisted St Ivel's dairy chimney (1903), built for the creamery which opened in 1880. The site has been modified by 20th century buildings.

6. PLAN FORM ANALYSIS

6.1. Introduction

6.1.1. Melksham, in common with all existing Wiltshire towns, has no foundation in the prehistoric or Romano-British periods, although archaeological remains belonging to both periods are present within and nearby to the study area. Historical and documentary archives have clearly identified the presence of a settlement from at least the 11th century, although the absence of archaeological, documentary or historical evidence prevents a meaningful reconstruction of the Saxon topography. As a fairly modest market town, Melksham saw little expansion beyond the Medieval core until the 19th century – a pattern common amongst the smaller Wiltshire towns. The advent of the Industrial Revolution had a huge impact upon the town, and spurred the rapid growth which continues today, although many of the original industrial enterprises have long since closed.

6.1.2. The town has been divided into different plan components (settlement areas, church, market place, etc.) for each relevant period, and these are illustrated in the stated figures.

Table 2: Plan form components

COMPONENT	PERIOD OF ORIGIN	COMPONENT TYPE	FIGURE No.
COM 1	Medieval	Parish Church	7
COM 2	Medieval	Capital Manor	7
COM 3	Medieval	Rectory Manor	7
COM 4	Medieval	Market Place	7
COM5	Medieval	Core Settlement Area	7
COM 6	Medieval	Possible Site of Domesday Mill	7
COM 7	Medieval	Late Medieval Suburb	7
COM8	Medieval	Roads	7
COM9	Industrial	Cloth Industry Sites	8
COM10	Industrial	Rubber Factory	8
COM11	Industrial	Corn Mill	8
COM12	Industrial	Foundry Sites	8
COM13	Industrial	Feather Processing Works	8
COM14	Industrial	Rope & Twine Works	8
COM15	Industrial	Gasworks	8
COM16	Industrial	Canal	8
COM17	Industrial	Railway	8

6.2. Medieval (Fig. 7)

6.2.1. **COM1 – Parish Church.** The church of St. Michael, described above (Par.s 5.4.1 & 5.7.4), is thought to date to the 12th century. However, it was a not uncommon practice in the 11th to 13th centuries to rebuild new, larger churches on the sites of their Saxo-Norman predecessors (Rodwell 1989), and the mention of a priest in the Domesday listing indicates that a church existed here in the late Saxon period. The discovery of a probable pre-Christian burial to the south of the church (Par. 5.6.1) raises the possibility that a sacred or burial site of early Saxon or Romano-British origin lies within the vicinity. The extent of the churchyard depicted in Fig. 7 probably represents its evolved form at the end of the Medieval period.

6.2.2. **COM2 – Capital Manor.** The known history of this site is described above (Par. 5.4.1). The area depicted in Fig. 7 includes the large garden and orchard to the rear of the 16th century manor house, which abutted the east side of the churchyard. The location of this site, adjacent to the parish church, suggests that this may have been the site of the manor from its earliest time, as such a topographical association between the secular and spiritual centres of authority was quite usual in the later Saxon and early Medieval periods (English Heritage 1990). The existence of an earlier manor house or lodging is attested by the fact that King John was a regular visitor to Melksham in the early 12th century (Pugh 1953). Place House, the 16th century manor fronting onto the Market Place, fell into dereliction in the 19th century and was demolished, the site redeveloped and the gardens and orchard to the rear built over. Nothing

remains today to identify the site, and the area shown has been plotted from the 1839 Tithe Map.

- 6.2.3. **COM3 – Rectory Manor.** Formed from the small late Saxon estate of Rumbold the Priest (Par. 5.4.1) this manor evolved into the centre of an agricultural estate, as evidenced by the surviving 15th century tithe barn. The extent of the Medieval manor complex is unknown, and the area depicted in Fig. 7 is intended to include the other Medieval buildings which are likely to have accompanied the tithe barn, which is now a private residence.
- 6.2.4. **COM4 – Market Place.** This component evolved after the granting of market rights in the early 13th century (Par. 5.4.2), and is likely to have originally been laid out on a regular plan, indicating that encroachment has occurred over the centuries. The extent of this encroachment is, however, difficult to estimate, as the present topography of the Market Place offers no clues as to the original form of the area. The surviving built heritage of the Market Place is chiefly later 18th and 19th century commercial buildings and shops, with a small number of modern developments to south and north. The market area itself is dominated by traffic islands and car parking and bears little resemblance to an historic trading area.
- 6.2.5. **COM5 – Core Settlement Area.** This component represents the probable extent of the town by the later Medieval period, and one that roughly concurs with Haslam's (1976) projection of the extent of the town at an earlier stage in the period. This includes an area of occupation centred on the Market Place (**COM4**), of known Medieval origin, and along High Street as far as the River Avon, although it is uncertain whether settlement would have been continuous along this road. The area of Church Street and Church Walk has been included, as these two roads are known to contain some of Melksham's oldest buildings (Wiltshire Buildings Record), and recent research has confirmed a cluster of Medieval houses at this location (Watts 1993). It is postulated that Medieval settlement continued along the southern part of Church Walk to the area of the tithe barn and former Rectory Manor. There are references to Lowbourne in the early 15th century (Pugh 1953), and although the nature of settlement here is unknown, it is likely to have been focussed on the junction with High Street. It must be stressed that much of the proposed settlement area has yet to be confirmed by archaeological means, and that, apart from Church Walk and Canon Square, little remains architecturally that pre-dates the 18th century.
- 6.2.6. **COM6 – Possible Site of Domesday Mills.** Eight mills are listed in Melksham in 1086 (Pugh 1953), and although some of these were probably situated in the hinterland, it is equally likely that others were located upon the Avon just to the north of the core settlement area (**COM5**). At this location the Avon splits into two streams around an 'island', and this piece of land is thought to have been the site of the town mills. Certainly, the fulling mills mentioned in 1555 (*ibid.*) must have been sited here or nearby, and following the Industrial Revolution

large corn and cloth mills were constructed here on pre-existing sites (Par.s 5.5.1 & 5.5.2).

6.2.7. **COM7 – Late Medieval Suburb.** An area north of the River Avon known as The City is thought to have late Medieval origins (Pugh 1953), and to have developed as a subsidiary settlement contemporary with the rise of the Medieval cloth industry. The historic topography of this area is now largely destroyed, following widespread demolition in the later 20th century, although two fine 18th century inns survive along what is thought to have been the northern turnpike route into the town through The City.

6.2.8. **COM8 – Roads.** The routes depicted on Fig. 7 include those roads connecting Melksham with nearby villages and hamlets known to have existed in the Medieval period, internal roads within the town of known antiquity, such as High Street, Church Street and Lowbourne (Pugh 1953), and the traceable part of a suspected 'burying road' connecting St. Michael's Church with the church at Seend (*ibid.*).

6.3. Post-medieval

6.3.1. Melksham, in common with many Wiltshire towns, entered a period of relative stasis in the Post-medieval era. Although some localised changes did occur, such as - within the town centre - the construction of Place House facing the Market Place, Melksham House and gardens south of the church, and the appearance within documentary sources of references to fulling mills. Limited developments are known from beyond the area of Medieval occupation, such as sporadic house building at the hamlets of Shurnhold, Melksham Forest and Snarlton. These events did not significantly alter the form of the town, and therefore a plan form map has not been prepared for this period.

6.4. Industrial (Fig. 8)

6.4.1. **COM9 – Cloth Industry Sites.** These are described individually in Par. 5.5.1, above, and are listed here as a significant component in the development of the Industrial townscape. A low proportion of these sites have survived today. The Ark factory (MK022) and the Matravers dye-house (MK025) have completely disappeared under later industrial developments, while the only surviving part of the Matravers Mill (MK021) is the 1801 building, preserved within the Avon Rubber complex. The two prominent surviving elements of a once prosperous industry are the wool drying-ovens in Church Street (MK019) and Lowbourne (MK020).

6.4.2. **COM10 – Rubber Factory.** The dominant industry in Melksham today, the Avon Rubber complex (MK024) has had a huge impact upon the historic topography north of the river, as well as contributing significantly to the town's ongoing growth. The expansion from the former Matravers cloth mill has engulfed the former island and mill (**COM11**) in the Avon, caused the modification and diversion of the river and recovered acres of former floodplain

for industrial use. These developments, have however chiefly occurred within the past hundred years - much of the expansion within the last fifty, and are not therefore covered in detail here.

- 6.4.3. **COM11 – Corn Mill.** This site, detailed above (Par. 5.5.2) was one of the first large-scale industrial enterprises in the town, although no trace of it remains today, the site being engulfed beneath the Avon factory (**COM10**).
- 6.4.4. **COM12 – Foundry Sites.** Although the locations of both the brass foundry in New Broughton Road (MK028) and the iron foundry in Bath Road (MK027) are known, little is known of their activities or duration as industrial entities.
- 6.4.5. **COM13 – Feather Processing Works.** This is another extensive industrial site of which there is little published history (MK026). The site is now occupied by housing.
- 6.4.6. **COM14 – Rope & Twine Works.** C.W. Maggs & Co., rope-makers, was founded in 1803, and moved to the large site in Spa Road a decade or so later (MK029). The factory was conveniently sited for the adjacent canal which was a major customer, and the business thrived until the later 20th century. The site is now given over to housing.
- 6.4.7. **COM15 – Gasworks.** Like many Wiltshire towns, Melksham had its own Gas, Light & Coke Co. (MK032), sited in Bath Road. The site was cleared following the conversion to natural gas and redeveloped for retail activity. No gas industry remains survive.
- 6.4.8. **COM16 – Canal.** The rise and fall of the Wilts & Berks Canal is detailed above (Par. 5.5.5). It may be seen as ironic that this component, which first stimulated the industrial growth of the town which continues today, has itself almost completely disappeared under modern developments.
- 6.4.9. **COM17 – Railway.** The cause of the canal's decline, this component (MK031) facilitated Melksham's rapid growth in the later 19th and early 20th centuries, although today it is an insignificant factor in the fortunes of the town.

7. ASSESSMENT

7.1. Summary of Research

- 7.1.1. The town has been the subject of a Victoria County History (VCH) survey, which has greatly helped in the identification of the Medieval and Industrial components described in Section 6, above. There is, however, no known documentary evidence pre-dating Domesday, and the nature of any Saxon settlement in Melksham is unknown. It is apparent from the VCH work that much of the town's Medieval and Post-medieval development is unclear, and the industrial development of the town especially deserves further research.,

there being – apart from Rogers’ (1976) work on the woollen industry - little in the way of a synthesis of the major 18th and 19th century industries.

7.1.2. No controlled archaeological investigations are known to have taken place within the area of the historic town, and the few pieces of work conducted beyond that area have had inconclusive results. Most of the sites identified in Section 5, above, have been determined through examination of the historical and documentary evidence. There is a clear need for archaeological research within the town.

7.2. The Growth of the Town (Fig. 9)

7.2.1. Late Medieval

7.2.1.1. Although Melksham’s Saxon origins are unclear, the Domesday listing shows that by the later 11th century an established settlement existed – probably a thriving village based wholly within an agricultural economy. By the time that King John was visiting Melksham in the early 13th century, the settlement probably comprised the church, recently rebuilt from that existing at Domesday, a manor house (or possibly hunting lodge) probably on the site later occupied by Place House, and a prosperous settlement of proto-urban character, on the brink of gaining its first market charter. By the end of the Medieval period the Market Place and High Street were established as the focus of the town, with a secondary concentration of settlement around Church Street and Church Walk, extending across to the new tithe barn at Rectory Manor. The success of the Medieval woollen industry, possibly based on the former ‘island’ in the Avon, had given birth to a new suburb north of the river, at The City.

7.2.2. Post Medieval

7.2.2.1. This was a period of limited growth, with the chief development within the town being the construction of Melksham House and the emparkment of an area of land adjacent to it. On the periphery of the Study Area, small settlements were by this time arising at Shurnhold, Melksham Forest and Snarlton.

7.2.3. Recent

7.2.3.1 Melksham’s rapid growth following the Industrial Revolution resulted in the first significant expansion beyond the Medieval core of the town. In addition to the major industrial sites themselves, areas of new housing arose as the population swelled. The chief areas of industrial growth were to the north and north-east of the historic core, while housing growth during this time was largely south and south-east of the Market Place. The first half of the 20th century saw this growth accelerate, with both social and private housing developments and the expansion or redevelopment of most of the industrial areas. As will be seen from Fig. 9, growth after 1945 became exponential, with many post-war housing developments around the edges of the town, a situation that continues today.

7.3. The Archaeological Potential

- 7.3.1. One of the principal aims of this phase of the Extensive Urban Survey is to examine the archaeological potential of the town to assist with the development of a management strategy in the later phase of the project. Whilst all of the core town may be considered important archaeologically, it is necessary to try to highlight those areas of greater interest, either because of the importance of the remains or because better than average preservation is expected there.
- 7.3.2. The presence of an undated, possibly pre-Christian burial to the south of St. Michael's Church is an intriguing find which may indicate that settlement activity was present within the historic urban area in the early Saxon or Romano-British periods. If this were proven to the case it would be a significant development in the understanding of the genesis of Melksham. Although the find site itself has been destroyed by gravel extraction and was later redeveloped, it would be wise to undertake archaeological investigation in advance of any proposed development within the vicinity. In practice this is more likely to occur on the Cooper-Avon property to the south of Place Road, the areas to the north and east being occupied by the churchyard and an established residential area, respectively.
- 7.3.3. Also of potential in the research of early Melksham is St. Michael's church and churchyard. The earliest parts of the present church date to the 12th century, but it is known that a church existed in 1086, and it is possible that its remains lie beneath or in the immediate vicinity of the present parish church, as Norman churches were often rebuilt directly upon the sites of their predecessors (Rodwell 1989). Given that the church at Melksham held land at Domesday, and that evidence for pre-Christian burials lies nearby, it is possible that the first church here was a minster, constructed on or in the vicinity of an earlier sacred site. Although it is recognised that the prospect of a significant development-generated archaeological project here is low, churches and churchyards are occasionally subject to minor interventions such as underpinning, damp-proofing, drainage and service trenches, all of which offer the opportunity for archaeological observation on this site of local importance.
- 7.3.4. The site of the secular manor, formerly fronting onto the Market Place, was redeveloped in the 19th century when the present Place Road was built, and it is unlikely that an opportunity will arise to investigate this site. The Market Place itself is also unlikely to provide an opportunity for excavation, although archaeological investigation within the properties surrounding the market are may help to define a chronology for the development of the area, and determine the extent of any encroachment onto the Market Place.
- 7.3.5. Archaeological investigations within the area of Medieval settlement – especially to either side of High Street and along Church Street - would be useful in determining the extent, density and nature of occupation in these areas. Although many sites have within the relatively recent past been redeveloped, a number of 'brownfield' sites remain, and may reward investigation.

- 7.3.6. North of the Avon lies the area of historic settlement known as The City. This area is thought to have Medieval origins, and archaeological investigation could determine this. Much of the area was demolished in the later 20th century, and the greater part of it is unused today. This could be considered a convenient place to conduct research and should certainly be investigated prior to any development proceeding.
- 7.3.7. Melksham's industrial past has been instrumental in forming the urban topography of the present. Unfortunately most of the key historic industrial sites have been demolished or redeveloped, leaving little to posterity. It is important, therefore that any surviving early industrial buildings are adequately recorded prior to redevelopment.
- 7.3.8. The built heritage of the town may reward research. Until recently, Melksham was thought to contain little architectural detail pre-dating the 18th century. However, work such that by the Wiltshire Buildings Record and by individuals such as Watts (1993) have identified in-situ architectural features dating from the 14th to 17th centuries. It seems likely that a re-evaluation of the built heritage of the town as a whole is appropriate, and a programme of buildings surveys is required to accurately assess the situation.

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9. MAPS

- 1773.** Wiltshire map series, No. 10: Andrews & Dury.
- 1820.** Map of the county of Wiltshire. Greenwood (Chandler 1998).
- 1839.** Tithe Map
- 1886.** Ordnance Survey, 1st Edition, 1:500 series.
- 1900.** Ordnance Survey, 2nd Edition, 1:2500 Series.
- 1923.** Ordnance Survey, 3rd Edition, 1:2500 Series.
- 1938.** Ordnance Survey, 4th Edition (with revisions), 1:2500 Series.
- 1965.** Ordnance Survey, Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales), Sheet 265, Bath, 1" to 1 mile.

10. APPENDICES

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

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

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

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

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

Grade II*

Church of St Michael, Church Walk (Norman, late medieval, 1845)

Appendix 4: Buildings Survival by Century

11th Century

Church of St Michael, Church Walk (Norman, late medieval, 1845)

15th Century

6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 St Michaels Court, Church Walk (& 1878)

16th Century

2 Canon Square (to mid 18C)

4 & 6 Canon Square (to late 18C)

5 Church Walk (with 17C & early 18C)

17th Century

17 Church Walk

3 Church Walk (17C to 18C)

The Grange, 8 Canon Square (late)

34 & 34A Church Street (late)

18th Century

26 Church Street

24 Church Walk

9 High Street

6 King Street

Gate piers & gates to Melksham House, 27 Market Place

Gate piers at entrance to Place Road, Market Place

The Kings Arms Hotel, Market Place

Gate piers & gates into churchyard of St Michael & All Angels, Place Road

Gate piers to north entrance to Melksham House, Place Road

Quaker Cottage, 10 King Street (1705)

1 Bank Street (early)

The Unicorn Public House, 59 Bath Road (early)

Shurnhold Farmhouse, 65 Bath Road (early)

40 & 42 Bath Road (early)

1, 2 & 3 Halfway Farmhouse, Beanacre Road (early)

Gazebo in garden of 5 Halfway Farmhouse, Beanacre Road (early)

11 Canon Square (early)

3, 19 21 & 23 Church Street (early)

4, 19 & 21, 25, 26 Church Walk (early)

The Red Lion, 1 & 3 The City (early)

11 High Street (early)

53 & 55 High Street (early)

2, 8 King Street (early)
Melksham House, 27 Market Place (early)
Conigre Farm Hotel, Semington Road (early)
West End Public House & garden walls, Semington Road (early)
3, 7 & 9, Canon Square (early-late)
National Spiritualist Church, King Street (1734)
24, 26 & 28 High Street (mid)
28A 30 & 32, 34 Lowbourne (mid)
Rachel Fowler Centre, Market Place (1773)
Baptist Church, Old Broughton Road (1776)
7 & 8, 11 Bank Street (mid-late)
13 & 15 Bank Street (late)
Bridge over River Avon (late)
25, 32 Church Street (late)
2, 6 8 & 10, 11, 13 & 15, 34, 36 Church Walk (late)
16 (The Vine House) & 18, Church Walk (late)
York Guest House, 26A & 28 Church Walk (late)
24A & 24B High Street (late)
39, 49 & 51, 53 & 55, 57, 59, King Street (late)
The Limes, Market Place (late)
The Grove, Church Walk (late 18C/early 19C)
47 King Street (late 18C/early 19C)

19th Century

Melksham Conservative Club, 17 Bank Street (early)
19, 29, Bank Street (early)
Avon House, Bath Road (early)
Gate piers, gates & attached railings to front of Avon House, Bath Road (early)
8 Church Lane (early)
7 & 9 Church Walk (early)
22 Church Walk (early)
4 4A & 6, 12, 14, 16 High Street (early)
13 & 15, 16, 40 King Street (early)
9 11 13 & 15 Market place (early)
8 10 12 & 14, 16, 36 & 38 Spa Road (early)
4 5 & 6 Union Street (early)
Ebenezer Strict Baptist Chapel, Union Street (1835)
Town Hall, Market Place (1847)
31 Market Place (1847)
15 15A & 15B Lowbourne (early-mid)
18 Spa Road (early-mid)
2 & 3 Place Road (c1864)
Melksham United Church, High Street (1872)
Church of St Andrew, Melksham Forest, Church Lane (1876)
23, 25 & 27 Bath Road (late)

20th Century

K6 Telephone Kiosk outside Clare House, Market Place (after 1935)

Appendix 5: Individual Architectural Details

15th Century

Rubblestone: 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 St Michaels Court, Church Walk (& 1878)

Stone slate roof: 6, 7, 8, 9 & 10 St Michaels Court, Church Walk (& 1878)

16th Century

Rubblestone: 2 Canon Square (to mid 18C); 4 & 6 Canon Square (to late 18C); 5 Church Walk (with 17C & early 18C)

With first floor timber framed: 5 Church Walk (with 17C & early 18C)

Stone slate roof: 2 Canon Square (to mid 18C); 5 Church Walk (with 17C & early 18C)

Chamfered Beams with stops: 2 Canon Square (to mid 18C)

Stone fireplace: 2 Canon Square (to mid 18C)

Cruck trusses: 2 Canon Square (to mid 18C); 4 & 6 Canon Square (to late 18C)

17th Century

Rubblestone: The Grange, 8 Canon Square (late); 34 & 34A Church Street (late)

With upper timber framing: 17 Church Walk

Roof:

Stone slate: The Grange, 8 Canon Square (late); 34 & 34A Church Street (late). All roofs are stone slate unless otherwise stated.

Dormers:

Gabled: 3 Church Walk (17C to 18C)

With coped verges: The Grange, 8 Canon Square (late); 34 & 34A Church Street (late)

Ashlar stack: The Grange, 8 Canon Square (late)

Casements: 3 Church Walk (17C to 18C)

Leaded:

Bolection moulded doorway: 34 & 34A Church Street (late)

Hood on brackets: 3 Church Walk (17C to 18C)

Chamfered: 34 & 34A Church Street (late)

Chamfered & stopped: 3 Church Walk (17C to 18C)

18th Century

Ashlar: 1 Bank Street; 24, 26 & 28 High Street (mid); 6 King Street; The Limes, Market Place (late)

With rubble returns: 7 & 8, 11, 13 & 15, Bank Street; The Unicorn Public House, 59 Bath Road (early); 3 Canon Square (early-late); 39, 49 & 51, 57, King Street (late); Rachel Fowler Centre, Market Place (1773)

Dressed stone: 11 Canon Square (early), Quaker Cottage, 10 King Street (1705)

Rubblestone: Shurnhold Farmhouse, 65 Bath Road (early); 40 & 42 Bath Road (early); 1, 2 & 3 Halfway Farmhouse, Beanacre Road (early); 3, 19, 21 & 23, 25, 26, 32, 34 & 34A, Church Street; 3, 5, 7 & 9, 11, 13 & 15 Church Walk (all buildings are rubblestone unless otherwise stated)

With timber-framing: The Red Lion, 1 & 3 The City (early)

With possible timber-framing: 4 Church Walk (early)

Brick: 26 Church Walk (early)

With stone dressings: York Guest House, 26A & 28 Church Walk (late);
Conigre Farm Hotel, Semington Road (early)

With plinth/strings/plat band/cornice: 7 & 8, 11, 13 & 15, Bank Street; Shurnhold Farmhouse, 65 Bath Road (early); 1, 2 & 3 Halfway Farmhouse, Beanacre Road (early); 7 & 9, Canon Square (early-late); 2 Canon Square (to mid 18C); York Guest House, 26A & 28 Church Walk (late); 11 High Street (early); 24, 26 & 28 High Street (mid); 39, 49 & 51, 57 King Street (late); Quaker Cottage, 10 King Street (1705); Conigre Farm Hotel, Semington Road (early)

Rustication/vermiculation: 1, 7 & 9, Bank Street; 24, 26 & 28 High Street (mid); Melksham House, 27 Market Place (early)

Gothick: 3 Canon Square

Roof:

Stone slate: The Unicorn Public House, 59 Bath Road (early); Shurnhold Farmhouse, 65 Bath Road (early); 40 & 42 Bath Road (early); 1, 2 & 3 Halfway Farmhouse, Beanacre Road (early); 3 Canon Square (early-late); 11 Canon Square (early); 26 Church Walk (early) All roofs are stone slate unless otherwise stated.

With coped verges: 1 Bank Street (early), The Unicorn Public House, 59 Bath Road (early); Shurnhold Farmhouse, 65 Bath Road (early); 40 & 42 Bath Road (early); York Guest House, 26A & 28 Church Walk (late); Quaker Cottage, 10, 40, King Street (1705); Rachel Fowler Centre, Market Place (1773); Conigre Farm Hotel, Semington Road (early)

Welsh slate: 11 Bank Street; 24, 26 & 28 High Street (mid); 39, 40, 57, King Street (late); The Limes, Market Place (late); Rachel Fowler Centre, Market Place (1773)

Pantiles: 7 & 8 Bank Street (mid-late); 11 High Street (early)

Saddlestones: 40 & 42 Bath Road (early); Conigre Farm Hotel, Semington Road (early)

Roman tile: 49 & 51 King Street (late)

Dormers:

Gabled: The Unicorn Public House, 59 Bath Road (early)

Hipped: 40 & 42 Bath Road (early); 3 Church Street (early); 6, 8 & 10 Church Street; 11 High Street (early); 40 King Street (early); Melksham House, 27 Market Place (early)

Flat-roofed: 7 & 8, 11 Bank Street; 26 Church Walk (early); 24, 26 & 28 High Street (mid); 39, 49 & 51 King Street (late); 57, King Street (late)

Brick stack: 3 Church Street (early); 19, 21 & 23 Church Street (early); 39 King Street (late)

Ashlar stack: Shurnhold Farmhouse, 65 Bath Road (early); 40 & 42 Bath Road (early); York Guest House, 26A & 28 Church Walk (late); 40 King Street (early); 28A, 30 & 32 Lowbourn (mid); Melksham House, 27 Market Place (early)

Stone stack: 49 & 51, 57 King Street (late); Quaker Cottage, 10 King Street (1705)

Doorway:

Porch:

Pedimented: 26 Church Walk (early); Rachel Fowler Centre, Market Place (1773)

Flat-roofed: Rachel Fowler Centre, Market Place (1773)

With columns: Melksham House, 27 Market Place (early)

With architraves: Shurnhold Farmhouse, 65 Bath Road (early); 2 Canon Square (to mid 18C); York Guest House, 26A & 28 Church Walk (late); 24, 26 & 28 High Street (mid); 40 King Street (early)

Ogee moulded: 6 King Street, Quaker Cottage, 10 King Street (1705)

Plain chamfered: Shurnhold Farmhouse, 65 Bath Road (early); 40 & 42 Bath Road (early); 3 Church Street (early); 19, 21 & 23 Church Street (early); 6, 8 & 10 Church Walk; York Guest House, 26A & 28 Church Walk (late); The Red Lion, 1 & 3 The City (early); 40 King Street (early); 28A, 30 & 32 Lowbourne (mid); Conigre Farm Hotel, Semington Road (early)

Bolection-moulded: 1, 2 & 3 Halfway Farmhouse, Beanacre Road (early)

With pediment: 39, 57 King Street (late); 40 King Street (early)

With cornice: 6 King Street

Fan/overlight: York Guest House, 26A & 28 Church Walk (late); 24, 26 & 28 High Street (mid); 40 King Street (early)

Hood on brackets: 40 & 42 Bath Road (early); 2 Canon Square (to mid 18C); 6, 49 & 51 King Street (late)

Door:

Panelled: 3 Canon Square; 26 Church Walk (early); 39 King Street (late); 40 King Street (early); Rachel Fowler Centre, Market Place (1773)

Window:

With architraves: 7 & 8, 11 Bank Street; 40 King Street (early)

With plain casing: 28A, 30 & 32 Lowbourne (mid)

Beaded: The Grange, 8 Canon Square (late); York Guest House, 26A & 28 Church Walk (late); 6, 39 King Street (late)

Cross: 1, 2 & 3 Halfway Farmhouse, Beanacre Road (early); Melksham House, 27 Market Place (early); Conigre Farm Hotel, Semington Road (early)

Sash: 7 & 8, 11, 13 & 15 Bank Street; The Unicorn Public House, 59 Bath Road (early); 7 & 9 Canon Square; The Grange, 8 Canon Square (late); 24, 26 & 28 High Street (mid); 2, 6, 39, 49 & 51, 57 King Street (late); 40 King Street (early); 28A, 30 & 32 Lowbourne (mid); Melksham House, 27 Market Place (early); Rachel Fowler Centre, Market Place (1773)

Casement: 13 & 15 Bank Street; 40 & 42 Bath Road (early); 2 Canon Square (to mid 18C); 11 High Street (early); 49 & 51 King Street (late); 28A, 30 & 32 Lowbourne (mid); Melksham House, 27 Market Place (early)

Leaded: The Red Lion, 1 & 3 The City (early)

Bow: 11 High Street (early)

Mullions (cyma):

Ogee moulded: 7 & 8 Bank Street (mid-late); The Unicorn Public House, 59 Bath Road (early); Shurnhold Farmhouse, 65 Bath Road (early); 40 & 42 Bath Road (early); 7 & 9, Canon Square (early-late); 2 Canon Square (to mid 18C); 3 Church Street (early); 19, 21 & 23 Church Street (early); 26 Church Street (all mullions are ogee-moulded unless otherwise stated)

Bead moulded: 25 Church Walk (early); 49 & 51 King Street (late); Melksham House, 27 Market Place (early)

Chamfered: 2 Church Walk (early)

Ovolo: The Red Lion, 1 & 3 The City (early)

Hollow moulded: Melksham House, 27 Market Place (early); Rachel Fowler Centre, Market Place (1773)

Beams:

Chamfered/stopped: Conigre Farm Hotel, Semington Road (early)

Stairs:

In stair tower: Conigre Farm Hotel, Semington Road (early)

Fireplaces:

Stone: York Guest House, 26A & 28 Church Walk (late)

Panelling: 2 Canon Square (to mid 18C)

Projecting bread oven: Conigre Farm Hotel, Semington Road (early)

19th Century

Ashlar: Melksham Conservative Club, 17 Bank Street (early), 19 Bank Street (early); 23, 25 & 27 Bath Road (late); Avon House, Bath Road (early); 4, 4A & 6 High Street (early); 15, 15A & 15B Lowbourne (early-mid); 9 11 13 & 15 Market place (early); Town Hall, Market Place (1847); 2 & 3 Place Road (c1864); 8 10 12 & 14 Spa Road (early); 4 5 & 6 Union Street (early)

With brick sides and rear: 8 Church Lane (early)

Rubblestone: 7 & 9 Church Walk (early); 13 & 15 King Street (early)

With plinth/strings/plat band/cornice: Melksham Conservative Club, 17 Bank Street (early); 19 Bank Street (early); Avon House, Bath Road (early); 8 Church Lane (early); 4, 4A & 6 High Street (early); 9 11 13 & 15 Market place (early); Town Hall, Market Place (1847); 8 10 12 & 14 Spa Road (early); 4 5 & 6 Union Street (early)

Pilasters: Town Hall, Market Place (1847)

Eccentric Victorian style: 23, 25 & 27 Bath Road (late); 2 & 3 Place Road (c1864)

Regency: Avon House, Bath Road (early); 8 10 12 & 14 Spa Road (early)

Wrought/cast iron:

Balcony: Avon House, Bath Road (early); 8 10 12 & 14 Spa Road (early)

Porch: 8 Church Lane (early); 13 & 15 King Street (early); 8 10 12 & 14 Spa Road (early)

With good shop fronts: 23, 25 & 27 Bath Road (late)

Roof:

With stone coping: 19 Bank Street (early); 8 Church Lane (early); 7 & 9 Church Walk (early); 4, 4A & 6 High Street (early); 2 & 3 Place Road (c1864)

Stone slate: 19 Bank Street (early)

Welsh slate: 23, 25 & 27 Bath Road (late); Avon House, Bath Road (early); 8 Church Lane (early); 4, 4A & 6 High Street (early); 13 & 15 King Street (early); 15, 15A & 15B Lowbourne (early-mid); 9 11 13 & 15 Market place (early); Town Hall, Market Place (1847); 2 & 3 Place Road (c1864); 8 10 12 & 14 Spa Road (early); 4 5 & 6 Union Street (early)

Roman tiles: 7 & 9 Church Walk (early);

Brick stacks: 8 Church Lane (early); 7 & 9 Church Walk (early)

Ashlar stacks: 4, 4A & 6 High Street (early); 13 & 15 King Street (early); 15, 15A & 15B Lowbourne (early-mid); 9 11 13 & 15 Market place (early); 2 & 3 Place Road (c1864)

Windows:

With cambered heads: Melksham Conservative Club, 17 Bank Street (early)

Bow: Melksham Conservative Club, 17 Bank Street (early); 9 11 13 & 15 Market place (early)

Diocletian: Town Hall, Market Place (1847)

Sash: Avon House, Bath Road (early); 8 Church Lane (early); 7 & 9 Church Walk (early); 4, 4A & 6 High Street (early); 13 & 15 King Street (early); 15, 15A & 15B Lowbourne (early-mid); 9 11 13 & 15 Market place (early); Town Hall, Market Place (1847); 8 10 12 & 14 Spa Road (early); 4 5 & 6 Union Street (early)

Tripartite: 19 Bank Street (early); 15, 15A & 15B Lowbourne (early-mid); 8 10 12 & 14 Spa Road (early)

With plain architraves: 13 & 15 King Street (early)

With moulded architraves: 4, 4A & 6 High Street (early)

With stilted round arches: 1 Bank Street (early)

Casement: 4, 4A & 6 High Street (early); 4 5 & 6 Union Street (early)

Canted bay: 1 Bank Street (early); 8 10 12 & 14 Spa Road (early)

Doorway:

Round-arched: Melksham Conservative Club, 17 Bank Street (early); Avon House, Bath Road (early); 15, 15A & 15B Lowbourne (early-mid)

Rusticated surround: 15, 15A & 15B Lowbourne (early-mid)

Chamfered surround: 7 & 9 Church Walk (early)

Hood on brackets: 7 & 9 Church Walk (early); 9 11 13 & 15 Market place (early)

With fan/overlight: Melksham Conservative Club, 17 Bank Street (early); 15, 15A & 15B Lowbourne (early-mid)

Door:

Panelled door: 8 Church Lane (early); 15, 15A & 15B Lowbourne (early-mid); 9 11 13 & 15 Market place (early);

With round-arched panels: 2 & 3 Place Road (c1864)

Stairs: Town Hall, Market Place (1847)

Notes

Churchyard monuments not included.