

**The Archaeology of Wiltshire's Towns**  
*An Extensive Urban Survey*

# **TILSHEAD**

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July 2004

# The Archaeology and History of Tilshead

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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 such 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 13<sup>th</sup> 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 and 2 and are shown on Fig. 1. Tilshead satisfies at least two of the criteria: it has medieval market (*criteria iii*) and it had a borough charter (*criteria v*).

- 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 20<sup>th</sup> century development are covered here only briefly. Although more detailed than Haslam's report, in most cases each study remains 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 Tilshead 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 Tilshead, 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 Building 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 DoE schedule of listed buildings.

## **2. LOCATION AND TOPOGRAPHY**

- 2.1. Tilshead stands in a chalk valley on Salisbury Plain north-west of Amesbury, at the head of the river Till. This seasonal stream, which is named after the town, flows south into the Wylde. There was extensive woodland in the valley in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, but what little remains today probably dates from the Napoleonic era.
- 2.2. The town sat astride the old road from Market Lavington to Shrewton and Maddington, which has now become one of the main roads from Devizes to Salisbury. At Tilshead the road turns almost 90° to the south. A lane runs north from the bend, forming a T-junction which is marked by a triangular open space, possibly the old market place. The church stands on a rise to the north of the open space. The settlement runs along the main road either side of the junction and extends some distance up the lane, which is now the approach to Westdown Camp, a modern military establishment situated on the ridge to the east of the original town.

### **3. PAST WORK AND THE NATURE OF THE EVIDENCE**

#### **3.1 *Introduction***

- 3.1.1. This is a desk-based study, using material available within the County Council research facilities in Trowbridge: the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR); The Wiltshire Reference Library; the Wiltshire & Swindon Record Office (WRSO); and the Wiltshire Buildings Record (WBR). 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 events and their results are drawn directly from the original reports or publications wherever these are available.
- 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 entities and to trace the growth of the settlement.

#### **3.2. *Historic Sources***

- 3.2.1. Secondary sources relating to Tilshead are few and far between, and those containing information with archaeological relevance are even rarer. Most of the data presented here came from the Victoria County History (Freeman 1995), Haslam (1976) and the maps consulted. The V.C.H. entry is up to date and provides a good overview of the historical background and development (or in this case, lack of development) of the settlement. Of the maps used, Andrews and Dury as usual provided the oldest reliable representation of the village whilst later detail came in particular from the 1886 and 1938 editions of the Ordnance Survey maps.

#### **3.3 *Archaeological Work In The Town***

- 3.3.1. No excavations have taken place within the boundaries of the study area for Tilshead, although several surveys and evaluations are recorded from nearby military tracks outside the study area (Wessex Archaeology 1996a, b, & c).
- 3.3.2. The search was based on the County Sites and Monuments Record, Excavations Register, and the Fieldwork reports kept in the County Archaeology Section in Trowbridge.

### **4. HISTORICAL OUTLINE**

- 4.1. This report is not intended to provide a major historical review of the history of Tilshead, and the material included here relates mainly to events which might have had some impact on the archaeology of the town, or its survival.
- 4.2. Tilshead was a significant late Saxon borough, and one of only two in Wiltshire not to have expanded since the Medieval period (Haslam 1976). The town was part of a much larger Royal estate, and may have been a planted settlement as a collection centre for wool in the early Medieval period (Freeman

1995). There were nine mills in the parish in 1086 and the Domesday entry for the settlement records 66 Burgesses, the highest number in the county at the time (*ibid.*).

- 4.3. In the 12<sup>th</sup> century the northern part of Tilshead estate was granted to Holy Trinity Abbey, Caen, although it returned to Royal keeping during the wars with France in the 14<sup>th</sup> century. In 1442 the northern manor was granted to King's College, Cambridge and by 1462 it was conceded to Syon Abbey until the dissolution (Freeman 1995).
- 4.4. The south was held by Romsey Abbey in 1206, and presumably remained with the abbey until 1539, when it was owned by Thomas Seymour, passing back to the crown for a while ten years later. Both manors were in private hands in the 17<sup>th</sup> century (*ibid.*).
- 4.5. The population in 1801 was 327, climbing in mid century to around 500 before slumping again. After the war in 1945 it reached a peak of just under 1000, but soon dropped back to the 300s again.
- 4.6. Lands in the east of the parish were bought by the army in 1897, and in the 20<sup>th</sup> century large areas of the old parish were incorporated into military ranges. Westdown North Camp had been established by 1903, but was replaced by the present Westdown Camp in 1925.

## **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 entity location maps in Figs. 3 - 5, which were created from the database and the SMR.

### **5.2. Prehistory (Fig. 3)**

- 5.2.1. There are various barrows and prehistoric ditches in the surrounding countryside, one of which, known as the 'Old Ditch' still forms part of the parish boundary. Earlier this century the village Sexton discovered a ring of six human skulls buried together (**TL001**), and a crouched burial and Bronze Age pottery (**TL002**) have been found in another part of the graveyard. The church stands on a slight rise and it is conceivable that this is the remains of a Bronze Age Barrow (Underwood 1948).

### 5.3. **Roman**

- 5.3.1. There are no recorded sites or finds of Roman-British date from within the Study Area, although significant remains of the period are known from the surrounding area.

### 5.4. **Medieval (Fig. 4)**

- 5.4.1. Despite the known Saxon origin of the settlement, no definite pre-Conquest remains are recorded. There are several remnant lynchets to the east of the main settlement at the base of West Down (**TL003**) and an undated L-shaped earthwork (**TL004**) on the northern edge of the village. Both are apparently associated with the Medieval settlement but not necessarily with the Saxon period. Two Medieval roof tile fragments (**TL005**) are the only recorded finds from the village.
- 5.4.2. At the western end of the main street is a triangular area where the street gradually widens until it reaches the junction with a second, north-south street. Although there is no documentary evidence for it, this triangle is almost certainly the remains of the Medieval market place (**TL006**).
- 5.4.3. The parish church of St Thomas a Becket (**TL007**) is a grade I listed building and the only surviving Medieval structure in the village. Its nave and arcades date from c.1100 (RCHME 1987), and the foundations of a Norman south transept were recorded in 1846. The chancel dates from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. The porch is 14<sup>th</sup> century, the clerestory 16<sup>th</sup> century, and the structure was extensively repaired in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries.
- 5.4.4. To the north of the church lies North Manor (**TL008**), one of the settlement's twin manors. This is the site held by the abbey in Caen in the 13<sup>th</sup> century. A farmhouse existed on the site in the 14<sup>th</sup> century, of which records survive for repairs (Freeman 1995).
- 5.4.5. Directly south of the church is South Manor, held by Romsey Abbey in the 13<sup>th</sup> century (**TL011**). The two manors probably represent the break-up of an earlier – possibly Saxon – estate by land grant to these ecclesiastical bodies.

### 5.5. **Post Medieval**

- 5.5.1. There are no records of Post-medieval finds or features from within the Study area.
- 5.5.2. Between 1773 and 1785 a post mill with a thatched roof was built on the south-western edge of the village. It was demolished c1904 and the timbers used to repair the church. The exact location of the mill is not recorded in any of our sources.

## 5.6. **Undated (Fig. 5)**

5.6.1. There are numerous earthworks associated with the military presence on West Down, and the town is surrounded by a dense scatter of trenches and revetments. Two undated circular earthworks (**TL009**, RCHME archive) immediately to the south of Tilshead may be attributable to 20<sup>th</sup> century military activity, although on topographical and morphological grounds a prehistoric origin for these features cannot be dismissed without evaluation. A similar entrenchment adjacent to Westdown Camp (**TL010**, *ibid.*) can be ascribed to the military with more certainty. This feature is one of a ring of similar features around the perimeter of the camp, and may be the site of an anti-aircraft emplacement.

## 5.7. **Built heritage**

5.7.1. This section of the report is intended to provide an introduction to the surviving built heritage of Tilshead, 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 Governmental lists of protected buildings.

5.7.3. **Twelfth Century.** The single surviving building earlier than the 16<sup>th</sup> century and of grade I importance is the parish church of St Thomas a Becket. Its nave and arcades date from the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and the chancel from the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It is situated north of a triangular open space in the High Street, where it meets Candown Road, perhaps once the heart of the village

5.7.4. **Sixteenth Century.** The Rose & Crown Inn, and Bell Cottage, both 16<sup>th</sup> century, are situated not far from the church, in the centre of the present village. VCH vol.15 suggests that the unlisted Black Horse, at the west end of the village may also be of 16<sup>th</sup> century origin.

5.7.5. **Seventeenth Century.** Nine buildings survive from the 17<sup>th</sup> century mostly concentrated along the east end of the High Street, with an outlier, Lower Farmhouse, in Candown Road. These are either timber-framed, or in a mixture of limestone, chalk or flint bands and chequers.

5.7.6. **Eighteenth Century.** Rather fewer 18<sup>th</sup> century buildings survive. These are Sunnyside c1700, and Westbarrow Cottage at the west end of the village, and North Manor c1800, north of the church.



5.7.7. **Nineteenth Century.** The VCH states that in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century many cottages were mud-walled and thus vulnerable to flooding. In 1841 nine were destroyed. Flood cottages on the south side of the High Street were built in 1842 by national subscription. The three other listed 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings are Tilshead House, the Old Vicarage, and Church House, all dating from the first half of the century. Altogether there are over thirty 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings, mostly in brick scattered throughout the village though there are many more of 20<sup>th</sup> century date, mostly towards the west end.

## **6. PLAN FORM ANALYSIS**

### ***6.1. Introduction***

6.1.1. The town has been divided into components, each representing blocks of activity, and divided by period. Historical and documentary archives have clearly identified the presence of a settlement at Tilshead from at least the 11<sup>th</sup> century, although the complete lack of archaeological, documentary or historical evidence prevents a reconstruction of the Saxon topography. As a minor market town, Tilshead saw little expansion beyond the Medieval core until the 19<sup>th</sup> century – a pattern common amongst the smaller Wiltshire towns. The advent of the Industrial Revolution had only a negligible impact, with no industrial enterprises, canal or railway to feed growth. Although Tilshead enjoyed some prosperity as a coaching stop, it was by the 19<sup>th</sup> century no more than a village.

6.1.2. Owing to the lack of Saxon evidence, the very limited Post-medieval growth and the absence of industrialisation, only the Medieval phase of Tilshead's plan form is explored within this report.

**Table 2:** Plan form components

| <b>COMPONENT</b> | <b>PERIOD</b> | <b>COMPONENT TYPE</b> | <b>FIGURE No.</b> |
|------------------|---------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| COM1             | Medieval      | Settlement area       | 6                 |
| COM2             | Medieval      | Market Place          | 6                 |
| COM3             | Medieval      | North Manor           | 6                 |
| COM4             | Medieval      | South Manor           | 6                 |
| COM5             | Medieval      | Church                | 6                 |
| COM6             | Medieval      | Roads                 | 6                 |

### ***6.2. Medieval (Fig. 6)***

6.2.1. Tilshead is a typical example of a chalkland valley village. It has been classified as a constricted riverine row settlement in which "contiguous tofts were arranged as a row... extending perpendicular to an axial street" (Lewis 1994:173). Along with other such settlements, it shows evidence of a planned layout, although it is possible that the visible signs belong to a later plan superimposed on the original Saxon settlement. The lack of industrial

development has meant that the Medieval town plan remains well preserved and clearly visible.

- 6.2.2. **COM1 – Medieval Settlement.** The settlement developed around a T-junction, really a bend in the main Devizes to Salisbury road with a minor street (Candown Road) leading north from the bend. The western shaft of the T forms the High Street, with Shrewton Road forming the southward arm. The irregular curvature of the north and south back lanes that give Tilshead its distinctive outline suggests that they developed around a settlement with a variety of plot shapes, probably the result of organic growth rather than a planted town with a formal layout. It is likely that this pattern is a relict of the Saxon origins of the town. The same may also be true of the relative locations of North Manor, South Manor, the churchyard, and the market place, although this cannot be substantiated on the present evidence.
- 6.2.3. Some of the earthworks recorded along the northern edge of the settlement may be remnants of Medieval burgage boundaries, indicating that in this period at least the village filled the whole of the area delineated by the back lanes.
- 6.2.4. **COM2 – The Market Place.** The presumed market place occupies the eastern end of the High St. and incorporates the area of the T-junction itself. The area of settlement is bounded to the north and south by curving lanes which give the village a roughly oval shape. It is possible, but by no means certain, that Drax House and the Church House and Hall represent market place infill; if so, then the original market space would have been considerably larger than the small triangle that remains. The prosperity suggested by this and by the settlement size indicated in the Domesday entry appear to have disappeared by the 14<sup>th</sup> century (Freeman 1995), perhaps due to the proximity of more successful markets such as the one at Market Lavington (Haslam 1976). The division of the estate into two manors in the 12<sup>th</sup> century may even be indicative of the effective failure of the market at a much earlier date.
- 6.2.5. **COM3 – North Manor.** It is perhaps significant that earthworks are absent from that part of the village that is occupied by the manor house, and it is reasonable to suggest that the manorial seat for North Manor at least has remained in much the same location since Medieval times. Indeed, the easternmost earthwork in this area appears to be more substantial than the others, and it is tempting to see this as the boundary to the manorial compound. Alternatively, the western boundary might have run along the line of the narrow cross-lane that cuts through past the church to the market place.
- 6.2.6. **COM4 – South Manor.** The other tenurial unit in Tilshead, South Manor, can be traced to at least the early 13<sup>th</sup> century, when it was held by Romsey Abbey. It is likely that this component has its origins in the Saxon period, based upon the fact that Tilshead estate at the time of Domesday had two large tithings – North Tithing and South Tithing, which probably evolved into the Medieval tenurial units of North and South Manors (Freeman 1995).

6.2.7. **COM4 – The Parish Church.** St Thomas a Becket church is situated in an ancient churchyard north of a triangular open space in the High Street, where it meets Candown Road, perhaps once the market place (**COM2**) and the heart of the village. The church is well-recorded, and its development described in para.s 5.4.3 and 5.7.3.

6.2.8. **COM5 – Roads.** There are no early references to High Street and Back Lane, but certainly they must originate with the development of the plots in the Medieval settlement, and may have a Saxon origin.

## **7. ASSESSMENT**

### **7.1. *Summary of Research***

7.1.1. Despite its obvious antiquity and reputed historic importance, Tilshead has seen little archaeological work and, until recently, a minimum of historical research. As a result the data available for this assessment report are extremely sparse. There may be a prehistoric as well as a Norman presence in the churchyard and the proximity of lynchets and other earthworks demonstrate the constancy of the town's form and limits. The study of the built heritage by the WBR indicates the existence of several interesting, if not exceptional, historic buildings within the village, although most of the houses were built within the last two hundred years. Among the cottages and inns there are several farmhouses, blurring the boundary between urban and rural settlement.

### **7.2. *The Growth of the Town (Fig. 7)***

7.2.1. *Saxon & Medieval.* The documentary evidence shows that Tilshead was an important market centre in the late Saxon period and that this prosperity continued at least twenty years after the Norman conquest. Earthworks at the southern end of the village indicate that it once extended a little beyond its present limits but there is nothing to suggest that it was ever significantly larger than it is today. By the late 12<sup>th</sup> century the parish had been split and the town was clearly of diminished importance, a position from which it has never recovered.

7.2.2. *Post-medieval.* Although there is some Post-medieval rebuilding and regeneration in the settlement this is no more than should be expected in any village, and the evidence supports a scenario of late Medieval – early Post-Medieval shrinkage followed by a period of stagnation until at least the beginning of the Victorian era

7.2.3. *Recent.* There may have been a slight expansion in the 19<sup>th</sup> century along the principle roads, but most of the growth has occurred in the last century, principally as outward growth rather than increased density within the old limits. The military training camp on the down has no doubt added to the commercial viability of the village in recent years, but with only a small resident population will have provided little incentive to any long term growth, and may in its way

have helped to preserve the rural character that the village has maintained in Post-medieval times.

### **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. Tilshead is somewhat unusual in this survey in that it has experienced only minimal growth in the thousand years of its existence, with no commercial centre or industrialisation to speak of. This means that the potential for archaeological survival is very good indeed, even in the very heart of the historic settlement.
- 7.3.2. The primary aims for archaeological research are to confirm the boundaries of the town and manorial and church property. It would also be useful to establish the extent of the market place. Some insight into the economic development of the town might indicate how it compared to other more successful Wiltshire settlements which went on to become towns in a real sense. Building plans, artefacts and ecofacts from excavations would all contribute towards a more complete picture.
- 7.3.3. There is also the question of the true importance of the Saxon borough. Dating evidence alone would be valuable, but indications such as the ancestry of property boundaries and determining the possible presence of a Saxon church may lay a foundation for the investigation of early Tilshead.

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## **9. MAPS**

**1773.** A Map of Wiltshire. Andrews & Dury. Wiltshire map series, No 8.

**1820.** Map of the county of Wiltshire. Greenwood (Chandler 1998:125).

**1853.** Tithe Map

**1886.** Ordnance Survey, 1<sup>st</sup> Edition, 1:500 series.

**1900.** Ordnance Survey, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, 1:2500 Series.

**1923.** Ordnance Survey, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition, 1:2500 Series.

**1938.** Ordnance Survey, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition (with revisions), 1:2500 Series.

## **10 APPENDICES**

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

|    | <b>Town</b>      | <b>Criteria</b>                               |
|----|------------------|---|
| 1  | Amesbury         | ii, iii, xi, xi                               |
| 2  | Bradford-on-Avon | iii,vi viii, xi                               |
| 3  | Calne            | ii, iii, ix                                   |
| 4  | Chippenham       | i, iii, iv, viii, ix, x, xii<br>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  | DUROCORNIVM      | 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,<br>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**

### **Breakdown of Listed Building Information**

#### **Grade I**

Church of St. Thomas a Becket, High Street

#### **12<sup>th</sup> Century**

Church of St. Thomas a Becket, High Street

#### **16<sup>th</sup> Century**

Rose & Crown Inn, High Street

Bell Cottage, High Street

#### **17<sup>th</sup> Century**

South Manor, High Street (early)

Elm Cottage, High Street (early)

Collinwood Cottage & 903, High Street (mid)

Hoopers Farmhouse, High Street (late)

3 Eastside, Candown Road (late)

Lower Farmhouse, Candown Road

Dean & Chapter House, High Street

36 Primrose Cottage, High Street

The Elms, High Street

#### **18<sup>th</sup> Century**

Sunnyside, High Street (1700)

North Manor, High Street (late)

Westbarrow Cottage, High Street

#### **19<sup>th</sup> Century**

Tilshead House, High Street (early)

Old Vicarage, High Street (1818)

Church House, High Street (c1830)

Flood Cottages, 1 & 2 High Street (1842)