

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

# **TISBURY**

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# The Archaeology and History of Tisbury

## CONTENTS

1. Introduction .....	2
2. Location And Topography .....	3
3. Past Work And The Nature Of The Evidence .....	4
3.1. Historic Sources .....	4
3.2. Archaeological Work In The Town.....	4
4. Historical Outline .....	4
5. Archaeological And Architectural Summary .....	5
5.1. Introduction.....	5
5.2. Prehistory .....	5
5.3. Roman.....	6
5.4. Saxon .....	6
5.5. Medieval .....	6
5.6. Post Medieval.....	7
5.7. Industrial/Recent .....	7
5.8. Built Heritage.....	8
6. Plan Form Analysis .....	9
6.1. Introduction.....	9
6.2. Medieval .....	9
7. Assessment.....	11
7.1. Summary of Research.....	11
7.2. Growth of the Town .....	11
7.3. The Archaeological Potential.....	12
8. Sources .....	14
9. Maps .....	16
10. Appendices.....	17

## LIST OF FIGURES

*Fig. 1. Extensive Urban Survey of Wiltshire; Areas Covered*

*Fig 2. Overview of Study Area*

*Fig 3. Archaeological Investigations*

*Fig 4. SMR Entries – Prehistoric and Romano-British*

*Fig 5. SMR Entries – Saxon and Medieval*

*Fig 6. SMR Entries - Post-medieval & Industrial/Recent*

*Fig 7. Plan Form - Medieval*

*Fig 8. Growth of the Town*

## **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 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. Tisbury satisfies three criteria: it is the possible location of a Saxon *burh* (*criteria* i); it is the central place within a populous rural valley (*criteria* vi); it was the probable site of a Saxon monastery (*criteria* xi).

- 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 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 Tisbury 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 Tisbury, 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 Tisbury is a small town located c.20km to the west of Salisbury, within the valley of the River Nadder in the south-west corner of the county. The town lies at the centre of a large, dispersed yet populous parish – part of the District of Salisbury - set within broken, wooded terrain.
- 2.2. The underlying geology of the core settlement area is chiefly Jurassic deposits of Upper Portland and Lower Portland limestones. The town is flanked by high ground to north and south, where the Greensand and Chalk downlands typical of Cranborne Chase predominate. No major road passes through the settlement, which lies at a mean elevation of 110m 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.

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 locate accurately 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 Tisbury. 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).

<b>Event</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Site Name/Location</b>	<b>Event Type</b>	<b>Excavator</b>	<b>Reference</b>
001	1963	Wick Earthworks	Excavation	P.J. Fowler	Fowler 1963
002	1983	NW of Tisbury Lodge	Fieldwalking	Gingell, C. & Harding, P.	Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine 77, 16
003	1994	Wick Farm	Fieldwalking	AC Archaeology	AC Archaeology 1994
004	2003	Allotment Gardens, Church Street	Evaluation	Wessex Archaeology	Wessex Archaeology, 2003

**Table 1:** Archaeological Investigations in Tisbury.

### **4. HISTORICAL OUTLINE**

4.1. This report is not intended to provide a major historical review of the history of Tisbury and the material included here relates mainly to events which might have had some impact on the archaeology of the town. The chief source of historical information for Tisbury is Volume XIII of the Victoria County History (1987), upon which, unless otherwise stated, the majority of the Historical Outline is based.

- 4.2. Tisbury is first mentioned as 'Tissebiri' (meaning the stronghold of a person named Tissa) in 759, but the existence of a monastery or abbey in this location is known from at least 705, when the Synod of the Nadder was held. Tisbury may be one of the places named in the Burghal Hideage, a 9<sup>th</sup> century document detailing the forts King Alfred had prepared against Danish incursions, although there are some doubts about the accuracy of the translation and whether a suitable *burh* site exists within the immediate vicinity of the present settlement.
- 4.3. Tisbury belonged to Shaftesbury Abbey from the later 10<sup>th</sup> century, when references to Tisbury Abbey cease. It is thought that the abbey may have perished during the Danish campaign preceding Alfred's victory at Edington in 879. A record survives from 984 confirming the abbey's right to twenty *mansae* at Tisbury, an assessment reflected in the settlement's Domesday Assessment at twenty *Hides*. Domesday listed four mills in the parish, at least one of which may have been in or near the settlement. The 1086 listing depicts a fertile agricultural estate, and Tisbury at this time is likely to have comprised a fairly prosperous village, but with no urban attributes.
- 4.4. There are no known Medieval market or fair grants for Tisbury, which may account for the slow development of the settlement during this period. The village appears to have been hit badly by the Black Death, as in 1349 the deaths of seventy-five customary tenants of the manor is recorded. Although not of truly urban form at this time, Tisbury, by virtue of the high proportion of dispersed settlement within its parish, had one of the highest Poll Tax returns in the county in 1377. This situation was repeated in a high tax assessment for the parish in the 16<sup>th</sup> century, but by that time Tisbury village itself – still with no market or fair and with little industry to speak of – was not highly rated. Tisbury's parish church – probably of early origin – belonged to Shaftesbury Abbey from the 14<sup>th</sup> century until the Dissolution, and in the 14<sup>th</sup> century the abbey built a large grange complex to the east of the village at Place Farm, just beyond the Study Area boundary.
- 4.5. Little of Tisbury's development is known during the Post-medieval period. In the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and early 19<sup>th</sup> century, however, there was a period of new building concentrated in the northern part of the village, although substantial growth did not occur until the arrival of the railway in 1859, which spurred industrial, commercial and residential development to the south of the core settlement and effectively transformed the topography of Tisbury into that recognisable today.

## **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 number of artefacts have been recovered during fieldwalking surveys on the northern and southern fringes of the settlement. These include an assemblage of Neolithic worked flint from the vicinity of Tisbury Lodge (**TS001**, Gingell & Harding 1983), Bronze Age pottery (**TS002**, AC Archaeology 1994) and groups of worked flint from two areas to the north-west of Wick Farm (**TS014**, **TS015**, *ibid.*).

## **5.3. Roman (Fig. 4)**

5.3.1. A cluster of Romano-British finds are known from the southern part of the Study Area, the most significant of which is a high-status burial in a sandstone coffin (**TS003**, Salisbury Museum 1953) from Chantry Field. The burial was accompanied by c.80 hobnails, dogs teeth and 'bone attachments'. Elsewhere, residual coins and pottery were recovered during investigations at the Wick Medieval village earthworks (**TS004**, Fowler 1963), and pottery was recovered from two areas during fieldwalking (**TS005**, **TS006**, AC Archaeology 1994).

## **5.4. Saxon (Fig. 5)**

5.4.1. A single, yet significant site of this period may lie to the north of Church Street (**TS007**). This is a possible site for the abbey known to have existed from at least the early 8<sup>th</sup> century until the later 9<sup>th</sup> century. Although no structural remains have been identified, local tradition suggests that the area called 'from time immemorial' (Elrington 1987) Paradise Field may be its location. Anecdotal evidence relates the discovery of human bones within the gardens to the rear of Church Street, although it should be stressed that these have not been archaeologically recorded.

5.4.2. A factor which may be detrimental to the survival of this possible early abbey site is the 19<sup>th</sup> century development of the southern High Street extension. Several of the buildings erected at this time were constructed with bricks made in a temporary kiln apparently sited in Paradise Field (Miles 1920). The bricks were made of clay dug in the immediate vicinity, and there is the possibility that some truncation may have occurred to any archaeological remains which may exist here.

## **5.5. Medieval (Fig. 5)**

5.5.1. The most significant site of this period is the parish church of St. John the Baptist (**TS016**, Pevsner 1975), whose earliest surviving elements date to the 12<sup>th</sup> century (Par. 5.8.2.1). It would not be unusual if the 12<sup>th</sup> century structure were found to stand on the site of an earlier church, especially considering Tisbury's early ecclesiastical links.

- 5.5.2. To the west of the church, from at least the 16<sup>th</sup> century and probably much earlier, stood a church house (**TS017**). The present structure, however, is thought to be of later origin, with a first floor added in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This has served as an almshouse since at least the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Documentary records indicate the former presence of a vicarage (**TS018**), from at least 1380, on the site of the present 19<sup>th</sup> century vicarage in Vicarage Road. This is thought to have been a substantial building, with eleven rooms plus a stable and barn.
- 5.5.3. Just outside the eastern edge of the Study Area, and beyond the scope of this report, is Place Farm (SMR Ref: ST92NE457) – a well-preserved Medieval monastic grange complex with gatehouses and an immense tithe barn, evidence of the continuing role of Shaftesbury Abbey in the area during this period.
- 5.5.4. Earthwork remains to the south-west of Tisbury are thought to be the site of the Medieval hamlet of Wick (**TS008**, Fowler 1963). At least five building platforms were recognised during limited excavations and earthwork survey, which recovered pottery dating to the 13<sup>th</sup> century, although the few documentary references indicate an earlier, 12<sup>th</sup> century origin for the hamlet.
- 5.5.5. Finds of Medieval pottery are known from fieldwalking to the north-west of Wick Farm (**TS009**, AC Archaeology 1994), and a coin of Charles I of Spain was retrieved from the garden of 108 Malthouse Cottages (**TS010**).

## **5.6. Post Medieval (Fig. 6)**

- 5.6.1. A substantial rectangular earthwork near Wick Farm (**TS013**, Fowler 1963) at first thought to be part of the Medieval settlement (**TS008**) is now recognised as an unfinished formal garden of the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> centuries (M. Corney, pers. comm.).
- 5.6.2. The suburb of Tuckingmill was originally the site of a fulling mill on the Oddford Brook (**TS019**), known from at least the 1590s until the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, when a farmstead – called Tuckingmill Farm - was founded on the site.
- 5.6.3. Fieldwalking to the north-west of Wick Farm produced pottery and roofing tile of the period from two areas (**TS011**, **TS012**, AC Archaeology 1994).

## **5.7. Industrial/Recent (Fig. 6)**

- 5.7.1. The railway came to Tisbury in 1859 (**TS020**), spurring modest growth in the southern part of the settlement. Just to the east of the railway station was the site of Tisbury Gasworks (**TS024**), in production from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century until 1921, when it closed and the site was taken over by the adjacent Parmiter agricultural machinery factory (**TS025**). This factory's origins lie in the 19<sup>th</sup> century elsewhere in the parish, but it has occupied the railway station site since c.1901.

- 5.7.2. On the northern edge of the Study Area is the probable site of a former tannery (**TS023**), active from 1720 or earlier to between 1820 and 1838. No trace of it appears to remain on the maps used to compile this survey.
- 5.7.3. Tisbury had two workhouses: the first was on a site in Church Street now occupied by the former Wiltshire Brewery (**TS021**). This closed in 1868 with construction of the large Union Workhouse to the west of the settlement (**TS022**). This itself closed in the first half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and the building was demolished in 1969.

## **5.8. Built Heritage**

- 5.8.1. This section of the report is intended to provide an introduction to the surviving built heritage of Tisbury, and is not designed to be a comprehensive account of the town's notable structures, but is a selection of the salient architectural features and buildings within the Study Area, including, if present, significant unlisted structures. This data has been compiled by Wiltshire Buildings Record.
- 5.8.2. Detailed lists of historic buildings and architectural detail are included as Appendices 3, 4 & 5. Although individual Grade II listed buildings may be (where relevant) discussed in this section, they are not included as a comprehensive list in the Appendices, due to the very large quantities of additional data this would involve. Researchers seeking information on Grade II structures are directed to the appropriate Governmental lists of protected buildings.
- 5.8.3. Tisbury is a town divided architecturally into two halves. The earlier, stone origins are centred north on the top of the sloping High Street, with Medieval sites elsewhere in the parish. Some of the grey facades at this end of the town hide Medieval timber framing. The smaller 19<sup>th</sup> century brick rebuilding to the south was stimulated by the advent of the railway, and grew around the bottom of the street. It is dominated by the Old Brewery in Church Street. The centre has been somewhat rebuilt in the 20<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.8.4. **Twelfth Century.** The Church of St John the Baptist, Church Street (grade I) is of local dressed limestone with origins in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. It retains a 13<sup>th</sup> century 2-storey porch and additions of the 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> centuries. The 13<sup>th</sup> century tower was rebuilt in 1762, replacing a spire. It was restored in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century.
- 5.8.5. **Fourteenth Century.** Gaston Manor, High Street (grade II\*) is a detached house with origins in the late 14C, when it had a 3-bay open hall. It was rebuilt in the 16C and has 17C rear wings enclosing a courtyard on 3 sides. The interior retains some late medieval features such as a hall fireplace and arched-braced collar trusses to the former hall.
- 5.8.6. **Seventeenth Century.** Court Street Farmhouse, Court Street (grade II) is an altered 17<sup>th</sup> century building with possible late mediaeval features including a small two-light pointed window. Malthouse Cottage, High Street is said to be a good representation of the local vernacular tradition. WBR fieldwork has found

that the unlisted former almshouses in Church Street, a rubble limestone ground floor build with a brick upper floor, was a glove factory in 1649. 23 buildings from this century, many in the town centre are listed, none particularly outstanding.

5.8.7. **Nineteenth Century.** No.s 2 & 3, 4 and 5 & 6 High Street (grade II) are ashlar faced town houses typical of the relatively prosperous era in Tisbury, dating from c1840. Following the opening of the railway to Tisbury in 1859 a number of new villa-type houses departing from the local tradition were built. Canonbury House, Hindon Lane (grade II) was built in 1870 in an Italianate style. Ashley Wood Farmhouse (grade II) was built in 1861 in a 17<sup>th</sup> century style for Alfred Morrison of Fonthill House.

## 6. PLAN FORM ANALYSIS

### 6.1. *Introduction*

6.1.1. Tisbury, in common with all existing Wiltshire towns, has no known foundation in the prehistoric or Romano-British periods, although archaeological remains belonging to both periods are present within and near to the Study Area. Historical and documentary archives have clearly identified the presence of a religious foundation and settlement from at least the 8<sup>th</sup> century, although the absence of archaeological evidence and a complete lack of locational references prevents a meaningful reconstruction of the Saxon topography. As a minor agricultural town, Tisbury 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 a limited impact, with a handful of small industrial, commercial and residential developments spurred by the new railway link.

6.1.2. Owing to the lack of Saxon evidence, the absence of significant Post-medieval developments within the Study Area, and the limited nature of industrialisation, only the Medieval phase of Tisbury's plan form is explored within this report.

### 6.2. *Medieval (Fig. 7)*

6.2.1. **Table 2:** Plan form components

COMPONENT	COMPONENT TYPE	FIGURE No.
COM1	Parish Church & Church House	7
COM2	Vicarage	7
COM3	Core Settlement Area	7
COM4	Wick Hamlet – Subsidiary Settlement	7
COM5	Roads	7

6.2.2. **COM1 – Parish Church & Church House.** The architectural composition of St. John's Church is recorded above (Par. 5.8.2.1), and shows the current structure to have originated in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. However, it was a not uncommon practice in the 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> centuries to rebuild new, larger churches

on the sites of their Saxo-Norman predecessors (Rodwell 1989), and given that Tisbury may have been home to an early monastery or abbey (Par.s 4.2, 4.3 & Section 5.4, above) it is likely that it also had a church for the lay congregation from an early date. The extent of the churchyard depicted in Fig. 7 probably represents its evolved form by the end of the Medieval period. The church house, to the west of the church (Par. 5.5.2) can be traced to the end of the period, but may have existed from an earlier time.

6.2.3. **COM2 – Vicarage.** This can be traced to the late 14<sup>th</sup> century (Par. 5.5.2), and may have replaced the Church House as home to the priest and retinue.

Although the site was radically redeveloped in the 19<sup>th</sup> century (Elrington 1987), some archaeological remains may survive, if Miles' (1920) statement that the old vicarage stood much nearer the road than its replacement is accurate.

6.2.4. **COM3 – Core Settlement Area.** It is known that Tisbury was not a significant settlement in the Medieval era (Par.s 4.3, 4.4), and it has been suggested (Elrington 1987) that in the 12<sup>th</sup> century the village consisted of a series of homesteads lining either side of what is now the northern part of High Street. Given that the village was at the heart of a large, populous and prosperous parish, it is possible that settlement was more extensive within the Study Area than depicted, although somewhat dispersed. It is difficult, however, in the absence of solid evidence, to attempt to plot such activity.

6.2.5. A further issue in the development of Medieval Tisbury is the isolation of the present parish church (**COM1**) from the known core of contemporary settlement. An analysis of the growth of the settlement has established that little development took place below the area depicted in Fig. 7 until the advent of the railway in the 1840s, and that the space between the church and settlement core was largely occupied by open fields prior to this time. It is possible that this situation is a result of the church continuing to use a long-established sacred site (ie. the abbey), combined with the absence of a developed urban core until relatively late in the Medieval period, which if it had existed, may have attracted the church away from its riverside site. It is possible, however, that an undiscovered Medieval chapel-of-ease site exists within the main settlement block to the north.

6.2.6. **COM4 – Wick Hamlet (Subsidiary Settlement).** One area of outlying settlement is known from the well-preserved earthworks north-west of Wick Farm (Par. 5.5.4). A survey of the earthworks suggests that it was in decline by the end of the Medieval period, as a large rectangular enclosure of 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century date overlies much of the site. It is thought, though (Elrington 1987) that the site was never entirely deserted and that the present Wick Farm is the last vestige of this former hamlet.

6.2.7. **COM5 – Roads.** The roads depicted in Fig. 7 are those comprising the historic routes within the settlement, including The Causeway, replaced in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by the southern part of High Street, and those linking Tisbury with other settlements and farmsteads known to have existed in the Medieval period. A number of major thoroughfares within the heart of the modern settlement can

be demonstrated to be of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century date, and have been omitted from the depicted network.

## **7. ASSESSMENT**

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

7.1.1. The modern historical survey of Tisbury parish by the Victoria County History has been of great value in pulling together the various strands of previous research and in interpreting the available documentary evidence. This has been of particular use in attempting to plot the development of the Medieval settlement, and in detailing the expansion of Tisbury over the past two centuries. Grey areas remain, inevitably, and this particularly true of the Saxon and early Medieval periods.

7.1.2. The few archaeological investigations have all been on the periphery of the core settlement area, and the genesis of Tisbury has yet to be explored by such means. However, the discovery of a high status Romano-British burial south of the town and a scatter of contemporary pottery near Wick Farm may point to the presence of a villa within the vicinity, the implications of which are explored below (Par. 7.3.7). There is a clear need for archaeological research within the core settlement area.

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

#### **7.2.1. Saxon**

7.2.1.1. It is possible that Tisbury evolved from an early Saxon estate centre, granted to the church in the later 7<sup>th</sup> century, who certainly by 705 had established a monastery in the vicinity. Thereafter a settlement may have existed serving the ecclesiastical estate and gaining some prosperity through the passing trade and pilgrims that such an institution would have attracted. The disappearance of Tisbury Abbey after the 9<sup>th</sup> century suggests that it fell victim to Danish attack, and in 984 Shaftesbury Abbey took over the estate. It is likely that the settlement's fortunes faded somewhat without the presence of such a major site within its midst, and the matching assessments of the worth of the parish in the rates of 984 and 1086 suggest that this was so.

#### **7.2.2. Late Medieval**

7.2.2.1. Little is known of the extent of the settlement in the Medieval period, although it has been suggested (Par. 6.1.6) that the core of occupation was along the northern part of High Street, with, from at least the 12<sup>th</sup> century, a subsidiary settlement at Wick. Between these two sites lay the parish church, church house and vicarage.

#### **7.2.3. Recent**

7.2.3.1. Like many of Wiltshire's smaller towns, Tisbury appears to have entered a period of stasis in the Post-medieval period. The first notable growth occurred in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, when small groups of houses were built to the west of High Street and along Hindon Lane, Duck Lane and Cuffs Lane. The

significant period of growth was, however, spurred by the arrival of the railway in 1859. Thereafter, industrial, commercial and residential developments occurred to the south of the Medieval portion of High Street. This included a southern extension of High Street, the creation of Park Road, New Road and Union Road, the construction of a large workhouse at the end of Union Road, and hotels and a gas works to either side of the railway station. The early part of the 20<sup>th</sup> century saw the arrival of the Parmiter factory – a major local employer – and small infill developments arose along the recently created roads. In addition, modest social housing schemes appeared on the edges of the settlement, a pattern which expanded after 1945.

### **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. Tisbury is thought to be a possible location for the Burghal Hideage fort of 'Cissanbyrig', although the hillfort of Chisbury in Kennet District also has a claim to this site. However, the location of the reference in the Alfredian list – between Wilton and Shaftesbury (Elrington 1987) – may suggest that Tisbury is a more likely location. Having said that, there is no obvious site within the Study Area, no record of town defences and largely inappropriate topography. The most likely site in terms of historic occupation is probably the northern part of High Street, which is thought to have been the nucleus of settlement activity in the 12<sup>th</sup> century, and which is located on higher ground than most of the rest of Tisbury – although it is itself overlooked by higher ground to the west. In the circumstances, therefore, it is not possible to suggest an area of potential for this site. Further research in terms of landscape archaeology and aerial photographic survey may help to resolve this issue.
- 7.3.3. Another site strongly inferred by documentary and historical sources is that of the Saxon abbey, a possible site for which may be the area historically called 'Paradise'. In this area there are unconfirmed reports of human bone being discovered within rear gardens to the north of Church Street. Although most of this area has now been developed, there remain two or three 'greenfield' sites. Any opportunity to conduct archaeological research in this area should be undertaken, possibly in the first instance to locate the extent of truncation due to 19<sup>th</sup> century clay extraction within the vicinity (Par. 5.4.2), in order to more accurately define this area of potential.
- 7.3.4. With no recorded market or fair and no evidence for burgages, the development of Medieval Tisbury remains hazy. Archaeological research would be useful anywhere within the postulated area of Medieval core settlement (Par. 6.1.6), in order to establish a genesis and chronology of settlement activity in this location. It is realised that the potential for large-scale

redevelopment in this area is minimal, but even smaller-scale works such as individual plot developments or the regeneration of the handful of 'brownfield' sites may prove rewarding.

- 7.3.5. Archaeological investigation at the site of St. John's Church could help to determine whether the present church stands on the site of an earlier, Saxon building or is a new Norman foundation. Although it is recognised that a significant development-generated archaeological project here is unlikely, churches and churchyards are occasionally subject to minor interventions such as underpinning, damp-proofing, and the cutting of drainage and service trenches, all of which offer the opportunity for archaeological observation on this site of local importance. The opportunity to observe any excavation within the church itself would be of particular interest, given the common Medieval practice of rebuilding a church directly upon the site of its predecessor (Rodwell 1989). One of the intriguing questions posed by the site of St. John's is its remoteness from the known late Medieval settlement core. The discovery of an early church – or perhaps even the monastery – on the site would go some way to explaining this.
- 7.3.6. Further research at the Medieval hamlet site of Wick could be of use in establishing the earliest use of the site and its former extent. Although the surviving earthworks are designated a Scheduled Monument under the care of English Heritage, geophysical survey of adjacent areas could define further remains. The small-scale 1963 excavations could usefully be augmented (within a research framework) by modern trial excavation utilising today's refined forensic and environmental analysis techniques. The place-name alone suggests some continuity with the Saxon period.
- 7.3.7. There is tantalising evidence of Romano-British activity within the southern part of the Study Area. The high-status burial from Chantry Field in particular suggests that an occupation site – possibly a villa - lies nearby. The number of recorded villa sites within the Vale of Wardour and upper Nadder Valley areas is low, and the discovery of such a site near Tisbury would be a significant development. Here, the techniques of landscape archaeology and aerial photographic interpretation may be the key to discovering this site. Given that Tisbury probably existed as an early Saxon estate centre, it is possible that a situation pertained as at Great Bedwyn in Kennet District (McMahon 2001), where there is evidence for the continuity of estate boundaries and occupation of the area from the early Roman period onwards. Such a development at Tisbury would greatly enrich the archaeological story of the Nadder Valley.

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## **9. MAPS**

**1773.** Wiltshire map series, No 4: Andrews & Dury.

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

**1839.** 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.

**1976.** Ordnance Survey, Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales), Sheet 298, 1:50000 Series.

## 10. APPENDICES

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Grade I**

Church of St John the Baptist, Church Street (late 12C, 13C, 14C, 15C, 16C, 18C, 19C)

#### **Grade II\***

Gaston Manor, High Street (late 14C, 16C & 17C)

### **Appendix 4: Buildings Survival by Century**

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

Church of St John the Baptist, Church Street (late 12C, 13C, 14C, 15C, 16C, 18C, 19C)

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

Gaston Manor, High Street (late 14C, 16C & 17C)

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

Blundells, Church Street  
Court Street Farmhouse, Court Street (& early 18C)  
Quince Cottage, Duck Street  
Robin Cottage, High Street  
The Boot Inn, High Street (c1600)  
Overhouse, The Avenue (mid)  
Duck Street Farmhouse, Duck Street (mid)  
The Old House, High Street (mid)  
Totterdale Farmhouse, Jobbers Lane (mid)  
No.s 51 & 52; 53; 54 & 55 Church Street (late)  
Malthouse Cottage, High Street (late)  
Tudor Cottage, High Street (late)  
Old School House, High Street (late)  
The Academy, Hindon Lane (late)  
Hill Street Cottage, Hindon Lane (late)  
The Chantry, Vicarage Road (late)  
The Knapp, Vicarage Road (late)

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

Tahoa, Hindon Lane  
Hill Street Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (c1700)  
Orchard Cottage, Hindon Lane (c1700)  
Greystones, Vicarage Road (c1700)  
Sunnyside, Cuff's Lane (early)  
Old Carrier's Cottage, Cuff's Lane (early)  
The Old Mill, Tisbury Row (early)  
Mill Farmhouse, Tisbury Row (early)

Zion Hill Chapel & Schoolroom, Zion Hill (1726)  
Cromwell House & Cromwell Cottage, Court Street (mid)

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

High Street Villa, High Street (early)  
Rose Cottage, High Street (early)  
Bridge over River Nadder, High Street (early)  
Round Windows; Cuff's lane (c1800)  
Tisbury House with former carriage house & garden wall, Hindon Lane (c1800)  
No.s 2 & 3; 4 High Street (c1840)  
Tisbury Lodge, Hindon Lane (c1840)  
Zion Hill Chapel, Cuff's Lane (1842)  
The Crown Inn, Church Street (mid)  
Ashley Wood Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (1861)  
74 Fonthill Gifford, Hindon Lane (1862)  
Canonbury House, Hindon Lane (1870)  
Old Brewery, Church Street (1885)

### **Appendix 5: Individual Architectural Details**

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

**Dressed limestone:** Gaston Manor, High Street (late 14C, 16C & 17C)  
**Arch braced collar trusses:** Gaston Manor, High Street (late 14C, 16C & 17C);  
**Curved windbraces:** Gaston Manor, High Street (late 14C, 16C & 17C)

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

**Round-headed casements:** Gaston Manor, High Street (late 14C, 16C & 17C)  
**Mullions:** Gaston Manor, High Street (late 14C, 16C & 17C)  
**Reserved chamfer:** The Boot Inn, High Street (c1600)  
**Timber framed partitions:** The Boot Inn, High Street (c1600)

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

**Dressed Limestone:** Overhouse, The Avenue (mid); 51 & 52 Church Street (late); 54 & 55 Church Street (late); Duck Street Farmhouse, Duck Street (mid); Malthouse Cottage, High Street (late); Tudor Cottage, High Street (late); Old School House, High Street (late); The Old House, High Street (mid); The Academy, Hindon Lane (late)  
**Rubblestone:** Quince Cottage, Duck Street; Robin Cottage, High Street; Totterdale Farmhouse, Jobbers Lane (mid); The Knapp, Vicarage Road (late)  
**Timber framing:** The Boot Inn, High Street (c1600)  
**Tile roof:** 51 & 52 Church Street (late); 54 & 55 Church Street (late)  
**Thatch:** Duck Street Farmhouse, Duck Street (mid); Malthouse Cottage, High Street (late); The Old House, High Street (mid); Robin Cottage, High Street; The Academy, Hindon Lane (late); Totterdale Farmhouse, Jobbers Lane (mid); The Knapp, Vicarage Road (late)  
**Formerly thatch:** Tudor Cottage, High Street (late); Old School House, High Street (late)  
**With coped verge:** 51 & 52 Church Street (late); 54 & 55 Church Street (late); Duck Street Farmhouse, Duck Street (mid); Quince Cottage, Duck

Street; Old School House, High Street (late); The Old House, High Street (mid); The Academy, Hindon Lane (late); Totterdale Farmhouse, Jobbers Lane (mid); The Knapp, Vicarage Road (late)

**Dormers:** Malthouse Cottage, High Street (late)

**Gabled:** Overhouse, The Avenue (mid); 54 & 55 Church Street (late)

**Hipped:** 51 & 52 Church Street (late)

**Eyebrow:** Robin Cottage, High Street (and others); The Academy, Hindon Lane (late)

**Brick Stack:** Overhouse, The Avenue (mid); 51 & 52 Church Street (late); 54 & 55 Church Street (late). All houses have brick stacks unless stated otherwise.

**Stone stack:** 54 & 55 Church Street (late); The Academy, Hindon Lane (late)

**Porch:** Overhouse, The Avenue (mid); Tudor Cottage, High Street (late)

**Doorways:**

**Depressed 4-centred arch:** Robin Cottage, High Street

**Chamfered:** 54 & 55 Church Street (late); Blundells, Church Street; Robin Cottage, High Street; Overhouse, The Avenue (mid); The Old House, High Street (mid); The Knapp, Vicarage Cottage (late)

**Ovolo-moulded:** Gaston Manor, High Street (late 14C, 16C & 17C)

**Windows:**

**Bay:** 54 & 55 Church Street (late);

**Mullions:**

**With hoodmoulds:** Overhouse, The Avenue (mid)

**Reserved chamfer:** Overhouse, The Avenue (mid); 51 & 52 Church Street (late); Blundells, Church Street; Duck Street Farmhouse, Duck Street (mid); Quince Cottage, Duck Street; Malthouse Cottage, High Street (late); Old School House, High Street (late); The Old House, High Street (mid); Robin Cottage, High Street; The Academy, Hindon Lane (late); Totterdale Farmhouse, Jobbers Lane (mid); The Knapp, Vicarage Cottage (late)

**Hollow chamfer:** Overhouse, The Avenue (mid); 54 & 55 Church Street (late); Duck Street Farmhouse, Duck Street (mid)

**Ovolo moulded:** Gaston Manor, High Street (late 14C, 16C & 17C)

**Casement:** Overhouse, The Avenue (mid); Quince Cottage, Duck Street; The Boot Inn, High Street (c1600); Old School House, High Street (late); The Old House, High Street (mid); Robin Cottage, High Street; The Knapp, Vicarage Cottage (late)

**Leaded:** Tudor Cottage, High Street (late); The Academy, Hindon Lane (late)

**Chamfered beams:** Overhouse, The Avenue (mid); Robin Cottage, High Street; The Academy, Hindon Lane (late)

**And stopped:** 54 & 55 Church Street (late); The Old House, High Street (mid); The Knapp, Vicarage Cottage (late)

**Fireplace:** Overhouse, The Avenue (mid)

**With timber lintel over stone jambs:** 53 Church Street (late); Blundells, Church Street; The Old House, High Street (mid); Robin Cottage, High Street; The Academy, Hindon Lane (late); The Knapp, Vicarage Cottage (late)

**Stone:** 54 & 55 Church Street (late); Gaston Manor, High Street (late 14C, 16C & 17C)

**Former smoke hood:** The Boot Inn, High Street (c1600)

**Winder stairs:** Malthouse Cottage, High Street (late)

**Dog-leg stair:** Gaston Manor, High Street (late 14C, 16C & 17C)

**Fielded panel doors:** Malthouse Cottage, High Street (late)  
**Plank & muntin partitions:** 54 & 55 Church Street (late); The Academy, Hindon Lane (late)  
**Collar & tie trusses:** The Old House, High Street (mid)

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

**Dressed limestone:** Sunnyside, Cuff's Lane (early); Orchard Cottage, Hindon Lane (c1700); Greystones, Vicarage Road (c1700);

**With rubblestone:** Old Carrier's Cottage, Cuff's Lane (early)

**Ashlar:** Cromwell House & Cromwell Cottage, Court Street (mid) e)

**With rubblestone:** Hill Street Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (c1700)

### Roof:

**With coped verges:** Cromwell House & Cromwell Cottage, Court Street (mid); Sunnyside, Cuff's Lane (early); Hill Street Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (c1700); Orchard Cottage, Hindon Lane (c1700); Greystones, Vicarage Road (c1700)

**Thatch:** Sunnyside, Cuff's Lane (early); Old Carrier's Cottage, Cuff's Lane (early); Orchard Cottage, Hindon Lane (c1700)

**Tile:** Cromwell House & Cromwell Cottage, Court Street (mid); Hill Street Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (c1700)

### Dormers:

**Eye-brow:** Orchard Cottage, Hindon Lane (c1700)

**Brick stacks:** Greystones, Vicarage Road (c1700)

**Stone & brick stacks:** Sunnyside, Cuff's Lane (early)

**Porch:** Sunnyside, Cuff's Lane (early)

### Windows:

**Casements:** Old Carrier's Cottage, Cuff's Lane (early); Hill Street Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (c1700); Orchard Cottage, Hindon Lane (c1700)

**Leaded;** Orchard Cottage, Hindon Lane (c1700)

**Canted bay:** The Boot Inn, High Street (c1600); Old School House, High Street (late)

**Sash:** The Boot Inn, High Street (c1600); Hill Street Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (c1700)

### Mullions:

**Reserved chamfer:** Cromwell House & Cromwell Cottage, Court Street (mid); Sunnyside, Cuff's Lane (early); Old Carrier's Cottage, Cuff's Lane (early); Greystones, Vicarage Road (c1700)

**Chamfered beams:** Hill Street Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (c1700)

**With timber lintel over stone jambs:** Hill Street Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (c1700)

**Fielded panelling:** The Old House, High Street (mid)

**Open string stairs:** The Old House, High Street (mid)

**Open well stairs;** Hill Street Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (c1700)

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

**Dressed limestone:** The Crown Inn, Church Street (mid); Ashley Wood Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (1861)

**Ashlar:** Round Windows; Cuff's lane (c1800); Zion Hill Chapel, Cuff's Lane (1842); Ham Cross Farmhouse, Ham Cross (c1830); 2 & 3, 4, 5 & 6 High Street (c1840); Rose Cottage, High Street (early); Tisbury House, Hindon Lane (c1800)

**With plat band, cornice or plinth:** Tisbury House, Hindon Lane (c1800)

**Chilmark stone:**

**With brick dressings:** Old Brewery, Church Street (1885)

**Polychrome brick:** Canonbury House, Hindon Lane (1870)

**Roof:**

**With coped verges:** Ashley Wood Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (1861)

**Tile:** The Crown Inn, Church Street (mid); Rose Cottage, High Street (early)

**Tile & slate:** Old Brewery, Church Street (1885)

**Thatch:** Round Windows; Cuff's lane (c1800)

**Slate:** Zion Hill Chapel, Cuff's Lane (1842); 2 & 3, 4, 5 & 6 High Street (c1840); Canonbury House, Hindon Lane (1870); Ashley Wood Farmhouse, Hindon Lane (1861); Tisbury House, Hindon Lane (c1800)

**Brick stacks:** The Crown Inn, Church Street (mid); Round Windows; Cuff's lane (c1800)

**Ashlar stacks:** Rose Cottage, High Street (early)

**Windows:**

**With hoodmould:** The Crown Inn, Church Street (mid)

**Casements:** The Crown Inn, Church Street (mid); Tisbury House, Hindon Lane (c1800)

**Sash:** 2 & 3 High Street (c1840); Rose Cottage, High Street (early); Tisbury House, Hindon Lane (c1800)

**2-storey bays:** The Crown Inn, Church Street (mid)

**Oculus:** Round Windows; Cuff's lane (c1800)

**Doorways:**

**Porch:** Tisbury House, Hindon Lane (c1800)

**Cart entry:** The Crown Inn, Church Street (mid)

**With fan/over lights:** Round Windows; Cuff's lane (c1800); Tisbury House, Hindon Lane (c1800)

**With keystone:** Round Windows; Cuff's lane (c1800)

**Shop window:** 2 & 3 High Street (c1840)

**Doors:**

**Louvered:** Old Brewery, Church Street (1885)

**Panelled:** Tisbury House, Hindon Lane (c1800)

**Fireplace:**

**With timber lintel & stone jambs:** Round Windows; Cuff's lane (c1800)

**Stair:**

**With stick balusters:** Round Windows; Cuff's lane (c1800)

**With turned balusters:** Tisbury House, Hindon Lane (c1800)

**King post roof:** Old Brewery, Church Street (1885)

## **Additional Notes**

Churchyard monuments not included