

The Archaeology of Wiltshire's Towns
An Extensive Urban Survey

WOOTTON BASSETT

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The Archaeology and History of Wootton Bassett

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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. Wootton Bassett satisfies five criteria: it has evidence for planned streets (*criteria ii*); it has a documented early market (*criteria iii*); it has borough charters (*criteria v*); it has evidence for burgage-type plots and burgesses (*criteria ix*); it possessed a Medieval hospital (*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 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 Wootton Bassett 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 Wootton Bassett, 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. Wootton Bassett is a small town lying near the eastern border of the District of North Wiltshire, some four miles from Swindon.
- 2.2. The historic core of the town is chiefly sited upon Jurassic deposits of Coral Rag, although the mid and later 20th century housing developments have spilled over onto the Oxford Clays to the west and the Kimmeridge Clays to the east (Ordnance Survey 1974). There are no significant drainage features within the Study Area, the nearest watercourse being the Brinkworth Brook some distance to the south. The mean elevation of the town is c.125m AOD (Ordnance Survey 1983).

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.

3.1 Archaeological Work In The Town

- 3.1.1 This section outlines the known archaeological investigations that have taken place in Wootton Bassett. 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	1982	Church Street/Butt Hay	Excavation	Thamesdown Archaeological Unit	Thamesdown Archaeological Unit 1982
002	1986	High Street	Excavation	Wiltshire Rescue Archaeology Project	Wiltshire Archaeology Magazine 1995
003	1990	Wood Street	Evaluation & Excavation	Thamesdown Archaeological Unit	Thamesdown Archaeological Unit 1990
004	1995	High Street	Evaluation	AC Archaeology	AC Archaeology 1995
005	1997	Playing Field Site	Field-walking	J.C. Brown	Brown 1997
006	2002	Red Lodge, Wootton Bassett	Watching Brief	Bernard Phillips	Phillips, 2002

Table 1: Archaeological Investigations in Wootton Bassett.

4 HISTORICAL OUTLINE

- 4.1 This report is not intended to provide a major historical review of the history of Wootton Bassett 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 Wootton Bassett is Volume 9 of the Victoria County History (1970), upon which, unless otherwise stated, the majority of the Historical Outline is based.
- 4.1 Wootton is first mentioned as 'Wdetun' in documents of 680, 745 and 937 purporting to describe a grant of land to Malmesbury Abbey. There is a reference to 'Wudetunningga' in 983, although no descriptions of the nature of the settlement are given in any of these early mentions. Wootton as a place-name is thought to mean 'farm by the wood' (Gover 1939), and the suffix 'Bassett' dates to the early 13th century when the manor was acquired by Alan Basset (Haslam 1976).
- 4.2 The Domesday listing for Wootton suggests that at this time the settlement comprised no more than a group of dispersed farmsteads or perhaps a small village – significantly, no church is mentioned. In the early Norman period, Wootton is believed to have had a single manorial residence at the site now known as Old Court, south-east of the modern town. However, during the 13th century the Bassett family constructed their new stronghold/residence at Vastern, some distance to the south of Wootton. It is believed that for some time afterwards capital messages were maintained at both sites, and references to Old Court continue into the later 14th century.
- 4.3 The first historical evidence for the emerging town is the market grant of 1219, followed by a reference to burgesses in 1236, indicating some form of corporation by this time. There is a reference to a mayor in 1408 and charters of incorporation exist from 1571 and 1679 – the former probably confirming pre-existing rights. Further references to burgesses are known from the 16th century, and Members of Parliament were sent from Wootton Bassett from 1446. Shops are mentioned in account rolls of the late 15th and early 16th centuries.
- 4.4 There is nothing to suggest that the market at Wootton Bassett was ever particularly successful, possibly due to the presence of the larger, well-established one at nearby Swindon. In 1673 Wootton's market was described as 'indifferent'. By the 19th century the market's decline was advanced and the shambles – first known in the earlier 17th century – were put up for sale. An attempt to revive the market in the 1830s achieved temporary success, but by 1938 it had again dwindled and was discontinued.
- 4.5 The Industrial Revolution ushered in the town's relatively recent and rapid growth. Although the Wilts & Berks canal was constructed in 1801, it ran too far south of the town to have an appreciable impact. The railway came in 1841, providing an easy link to Swindon. A line to south Wales was

constructed in 1903. The impact of the railway was not felt primarily in industrial growth, but in housing development, as Wootton Bassett came to serve as a dormitory settlement for the large industries of Swindon. This role has continued to the present time, augmented by the influx of new residents due to the presence, from the 1930s, of the large RAF base in adjacent Lyneham.

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 single site of this period has been identified at the Playing Field, north-west of the historic town core (**WB009**, Brown 1997). Research and fieldwalking resulted in an assemblage of worked flint chiefly of Mesolithic form, although some Neolithic material was also thought to be present. The finds included tools, blades, cores and flakes, with a concentration of artefacts from the limestone ridge forming the central part of the site.

5.3 Roman (Fig. 4)

5.3.1 The only recorded Romano-British find within the Study Area is a group of sherds from a location south of Spratts Barn (**WB001**). These finds, recovered by Swindon Archaeological Society, have not been published in detail.

5.4 Medieval (Fig. 5)

5.4.1 The parish church of St. Bartholomew and All Saints (**WB014**, Pevsner 1975) has two parallel naves dating from the 15th century, a chancel with a c.1300 window and a tower largely rebuilt by G.E. Street in 1869-71. The interior contains a 13th century south arcade, which may be as early as the first known mention of the church in 1200. The church is by far the most substantial surviving structure of the period.

5.4.2 Wootton Bassett's market place (**WB012**) is formed from the unusually wide High Street. This is thought to preserve in plan the shape of the market laid out in the early 13th century following the first market grant of 1219 (Crittall 1970).

- 5.4.3 To the south-east of the historic town core lies the site of Old Court (**WB011**), believed to be the location of the town's post-Conquest manor until the transference of the seat to Vastern in the 13th century. A manorial presence remained at Old Court, however, and in 1334 there were said to be capital messuages at both sites (Crittall 1970). The present house on the site is thought to be of 17th century origin.
- 5.4.4 A site in Wood Street is thought to be that of the Medieval Hospital of St. John, founded in 1266 (**WB002**, *ibid.*). The hospital was never a rich establishment, and was closed early in the 15th century. Excavations to the rear of the present Priory Cottage in Wood Street (**WB003**, Thamesdown Archaeological Unit 1990) did not find evidence for the hospital, although a number of posthole features were recorded in association with pottery of 13th-15th century date, and a fragment of undated masonry was identified.
- 5.4.5 Excavations to the rear of properties fronting onto High Street (**WB010**, Wiltshire Rescue Archaeology Project 1986) found evidence for Medieval occupation in two locations. A small pit yielding 13th century pottery was recorded to the north of High Street and a large rock-cut pit, possibly a cellar, was recorded to the south of the street. This feature contained pottery of 12th to 14th century date. An excavation nearby at The Butthay (**WB013**, Swindon Work Opportunity Project 1982) failed to find *in-situ* Medieval deposits, although 13th/14th century pottery was recovered from later horizons. A salient feature of both the High Street and The Butthay investigations was the significant Post-medieval truncation apparent in the trenches, which may have removed pre-existing Medieval stratigraphy.
- 5.4.6 In the south-east corner of the Study Area, near Brynards Farm, lies a probable windmill mound (**WB004**). Pottery of 13th to 14th century date has been collected from this feature, which today lies beneath a traffic island.
- 5.4.7 A single chance find of a late Medieval copper alloy strap end is known from Library Row (**WB005**).

5.5 Post-medieval (Fig. 6)

- 5.5.1 Wootton Bassett's town hall (**WB015**, AC Archaeology 1995) was probably built c.1700, and conforms to the Medieval pattern of a market house, with a ground floor open on all sides, below an enclosed first floor supported by pillars. The hall was restored in 1889, and a recent archaeological investigation demonstrated that this work had truncated sub-surface remains, making it difficult to determine the true origins of the building.
- 5.5.1 The 1986 High Street investigations (**WB007**, Wiltshire Rescue Archaeology Project 1986) found much evidence for Post-medieval activity, including pits and postholes with large quantities of pottery. Archaeological work at The Butthay (**WB006**, Swindon Work Opportunity Programme 1982) recovered quantities of pottery, but no features.

5.6 Industrial/Recent (Fig. 6)

- 5.6.1 The railway came to Wootton Bassett in 1841 (**WB016**, Crittall 1970), although the only part within the Study Area is a short length of the later 1903 line to south Wales. The railway did not spur industrial growth in the town, and the station closed in 1965.
- 5.6.1 A gas works (**WB017**, *ibid.*) was in existence by 1859, when the town was described as 'well lit'. Most of the site, in Railway Road, has since been redeveloped. Also in Railway Road was the large Beaufort Brewery founded by Howard Horsell in the 1880s (**WB018**). Although now closed, the building survives.

5.7 Undated (Fig. 6)

- 5.7.1 A single site is undated. In 1865 a group of four burials (**WB008**, Grinsell 1957) was unearthed to the west of the Old Vicarage, one of which had a bronze weapon embedded in its hip, and another of which was said to have been 7' 6" tall. Modern examination of these finds – if they can be located – could determine their date of origin and significance.

5.8 Built Heritage

- 5.8.1 This section of the report is intended to provide an introduction to the surviving built heritage of Wootton Bassett, and as such 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 **The Sixteenth Century.** Of the four buildings dating from this period, none are higher than grade II. No. 27 High Street contains only fragmentary evidence; 8, 26 & 26A High Street may be early 17th century. Priory Cottage, 28 Wood Street is said to be on the site of the small hospital of St John, founded in 1266 by Philip Bassett to house 13 men and dissolved prior to 1500. Some early fragments have been reused within the fabric of this cottage.
- 5.8.4 **The Seventeenth Century.** Of nine buildings listed, Little Park Farm is the only grade II*. It is an early 17th century house refurbished and refronted in the early 18th century. The interior retains many panelled rooms and other 18th

century features. A gilded chimney piece that was formerly in the house was removed to Longford Castle. It had the Arms of Moore & Dancastle.

5.8.5 The Eighteenth Century. The Town Hall, one of the most prominently situated buildings in the middle of the south end of the High Street (grade II) dates from c1700. It is an unusual construction of timber framing raised on fifteen stone columns. It was presented to the Borough by Lawrence Hyde, 1st Earl of Rochester as Council Chamber and Court Room. In 1906 it was presented to the town by Lady Meux, when the Blind House was removed from below the stair. Of a similar date is Mr Bevir's Office, 141 High Street (grade II*) which was once the Capital and County Bank. This limestone building dates from 1700-3 and has a good early façade and contemporary internal features including a good stair and fielded panelling. Nineteen buildings are listed from this period. No. 151 High Street is not listed but fieldwork by WBR has found it to be late 18th century and early 19th century.

5.8.6 The Nineteenth Century. Although twenty-six buildings are listed, none have grade II* status. Many of the buildings in the High Street dating from the early 19th century have been listed, five for their group value only. Many new farmhouses and cottages were built by the Meux estate after 1866. The town was not affected by the new canal, but by the railway from the 1840's onwards.

6 PLAN FORM ANALYSIS

6.1 *Introduction*

6.1.1 The town has been divided into components, each representing blocks of activity, and sub-divided by period. Wootton Bassett, 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 7th century, although the complete lack of archaeological evidence prevents a meaningful reconstruction of the Saxon topography. As a minor market town, Wootton Bassett 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 only a limited impact, with but a handful of small industrial enterprises, and although the railway brought growth it did not bring industry. The settlement subsequently developed into a dormitory town for nearby Swindon, and from the 1930s onwards, the large RAF base at Lyneham.

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

6.1.3 Table 2: Plan form components

COMPONENT	COMPONENT TYPE	FIGURE No.
COM1	Parish Church	7
COM2	Market Place	7
COM3	Probable Extent of Planned Settlement	7
COM4	Organic Settlement Area	7
COM5	Possible Hospital	7
COM6	Old Court Manor	7
COM7	Roads	7

6.2 Medieval (Fig. 7)

- 6.2.1 **COM1 – Parish Church.** The church of St. Bartholomew & All Saints is described above (Par. 5.4.1). The position of the church indicates a close relationship with the planned 13th century market place (**COM2**) and settlement (**COM3**), although, as suggested by Haslam (1976), it is possible that the 13th century church replaced an earlier structure associated with the small village of Wootton which existed at Domesday. This was thought by Haslam to be clustered around the site of the church. It is equally possible, however, that the church is contemporary with the planned town and market, and that the market grant of 1219 confirms an existing arrangement (Crittall 1970). It is significant that no church is mentioned in the 1086 survey, and it may be that St. Bartholomew's dates to the first documentary reference to it - at or just before 1200.
- 6.2.2 **COM2 – Market Place.** As seen above, the first reference to a market dates to 1219. The form of the market place (which today is the widened High Street) is of a type recognised within other planned towns of the period, of which there are comparable examples in Wiltshire. Examination of the early to mid 13th century market places at Downton and Hindon (Extensive Urban Survey (EUS) Assessment Reports 2001) reveals a closely similar layout, suggesting that Wootton Bassett conforms to one of a group of recognisable planned market types (Butler 1976). At Wootton Bassett, however, the driving force behind this activity was secular, both Downton and Hindon being sponsored by the Bishops of Winchester (Beresford 1959).
- 6.2.3 The present topography of the market place, although well-preserved in plan, is distinctly Post-medieval, with the 17th/18th century market house, and many commercial frontages of 18th and 19th century date. In some ways it is remarkable that the market area has not suffered encroachment, given the apparent lack of success of this component from the 17th century and possibly earlier (Par. 4.5). The general trend in the later 20th century for the large-scale redevelopment of High Street sites has missed Wootton Bassett, and as a consequence the market place retains its character.
- 6.2.4 **COM3 – Planned Settlement Area.** The regular, linear plan of the core settlement area with long, narrow burgage-type plots fronting on to either side of a rectangular market place strongly suggests the establishment of a planned 'new town'. It is known that the Wootton of 1086 was not of urban character, and two pieces of historical evidence enable us to suggest the date

of origin of this component. As seen above, the parish church (**COM1**) is likely to have been a new foundation of c.1200. There is no Domesday evidence for a church, and St. Bartholomew & All Saints occupies a well-defined, regular plot within the northern group of probable burgages. The church may have been a planned element of the town, designed to minister to the anticipated growth in population. The market place (**COM2**) can be traced to 1219, although it is possible that it is contemporary with the church.

- 6.2.5 These two major events at a location with no known previous urbanism strongly suggest the planting of a new town or borough. Such activity was commonplace in England in the 12th to 14th centuries, part of a widespread speculative urge motivated in part by the need to increase Crown revenues to finance the crusades, and, pertinent to the period at which Wootton Bassett may have been expanded, the war in Normandy (Butler 1976). According to Butler the period of peak activity for new town foundation is between 1191 and 1230, which correlates closely with the suspected date of origin of Wootton's planned expansion. The Medieval and Post-medieval references to a mayor, burgesses and charters of incorporation (Par.s 4.4, 4.5) support the idea of the sudden appearance of a substantial – and for a time prosperous – settlement in a previously obscure agricultural village.
- 6.2.6 The area depicted in Fig. 7 is derived from cartographic evidence, of which the 1773 Estate Map of Lord Hyde was most useful. In common with many small Wiltshire towns, Wootton Bassett experienced little growth in the Post-medieval era, thereby preserving in plan the probable extent of Late Medieval settlement. Many of the burgage-type plots can still be traced on current large-scale maps – indeed many still serve as modern property boundaries, and the disruption by recent developments of these regular plots has not been widespread as in many other Medieval planned towns in the county. The 1773 map shows the southern block of properties as having more extensive rear areas than at current, and it is apparent that over the past two hundred years the growing town has encroached slightly.
- 6.2.7 **COM4 - Organic Settlement Area.** An area to the north of the parish church may be the result of limited, unplanned later Medieval expansion. Church Street and Wood Street today appear if anything more regular in their layout than the planned settlement itself (**COM3**), although this largely due to much more recent activity in the 19th and early 20th century. This area is shown on the 1773 Estate Map, and envelops the possible site of the Medieval hospital (**COM5**). Haslam (1976) considers this area to be the site of the earlier Medieval village, but there is as yet no archaeological evidence to support this theory, and it could be possible that settlement only grew into this area very late in the period. The density and nature of occupation in this component is unclear, and the surviving built heritage unhelpful, most properties displaying 19th century frontages.

- 6.2.8 **COM5 - Possible Hospital.** Wootton Bassett is known to have been the home of a Hospital of St. John. This was founded in 1266, but, never a wealthy institution, is thought to have dissolved long before the Dissolution (Par. 5.4.4). The traditional site in the town for this component is Priory Cottage in Wood Street (Crittall 1970). Excavations to the rear of this property proved inconclusive (Thamesdown Archaeological Unit 1990), but it remains the most likely site, and is certainly the oldest known structure in the vicinity, being of 16th century date (Wiltshire Buildings Record). The area depicted in Fig. 7 is conjectural, but is intended to encompass a small area either side of Priory Cottage and any possible garden that may have been part of the institution.
- 6.2.9 **COM6 – Old Court Manor Site.** The historical and documentary evidence indicates this to be the site of Wootton’s first post-Conquest manor (Par.s 4.3, 5.4.3), and the place-name is suggestive of a formerly important residence. The present building is thought to be of 17th century date, although an intensive survey of its structure may be rewarding. The area shown in Fig. 7 is conjectural in the absence of further evidence.
- 6.2.10 **COM7 – Roads.** The few roads shown in Fig. 7 include the principal NE-SW route through the market place and internal thoroughfares within the town, including a connection to the site at Old Court. Although it is probable that ‘back lanes’ would have served the rear areas of the planned settlement they are not apparent on the detailed 1773 Estate Map.

7 ASSESSMENT

7.1 *Summary of Research*

- 7.1.1 There are tantalising references to Wootton from the 7th century onwards, although as is usual with such early references they shed little light on the nature of the settlement. Domesday lists the assets of a small agricultural community, and the Victoria County History has provided a synthesis of the available historical and documentary evidence from that point onwards. What is clear from that work is that much remains to be learnt about the period of the planned town’s foundation, its apparent rise in the 13th and 14th centuries and its steady decline thereafter. What little industrialisation did come to the town in the 19th century is covered by the work of local researchers, with, as is often the case, the exception of the local gas industry.
- 7.1.2 There have been a number of small-scale archaeological investigations within the historic core of the town. These have largely been to the rear of properties, and in the main have been unfortunate in encountering substantial Post-medieval and recent truncation. What is apparent is that archaeologists have much to do in unravelling the development of the town from the early Medieval village, but it is also clear that the few past opportunities for excavation within the town centre have been due to the relative absence of

those later 20th century redevelopment sites which elsewhere have caused so much damage to the historic topography.

7.2 The Growth of the Town (Fig.8)

7.2.1 Saxon

7.2.1.1 Although it is clear from documentary sources that a settlement existed at Wootton from at least the 7th century, it is not possible given the absence of evidence to comment further. The only record of late Saxon Wootton is the few lines of the Domesday entry, which as mentioned earlier, suggests a small agricultural community.

7.2.2 Late Medieval

7.2.2.1 By the later Medieval period the planned town had replaced the earlier village, with long rows of probable burgages lining each side of a large market place. By the end of the period some limited organic growth had occurred along Church Street and Wood Street, and the ill-fated Hospital of St. John had been dissolved. The documentary record indicates that some form of manorial centre was maintained at Old Court, and this probably passed into other hands late in the period, as evidenced by the continuity of settlement on the site.

7.2.3 Post Medieval & Industrial/Recent

7.2.3.1 Wootton Bassett's great period of expansion began in the mid 19th century following the arrival of the railway. Prior to that time it seems that little growth occurred after the Late Medieval era, a situation seen in several of the small Wiltshire towns following the end of the prolonged Medieval boom. The town slowly evolved from a declining market town into a dormitory and service town for the new industries at Swindon, a process which accelerated after the Great War, continuing through the 1940s to the present day. This substantial residential growth has chiefly been to the north and east of the historic town centre, and the greater part of it has occurred in recent decades, beyond the scope of this report. Fortunately this expansion has not been at the expense of the historic topography centred on the ancient market place – the present High Street.

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 Archaeological investigations within the vicinity of the parish church may be of use in determining the true date of foundation of St. Bartholomew & All Saints,

whether an earlier church existed on the site, and whether this was indeed, as Haslam (1976) suggested, the focus of the early Medieval village. Although it is recognised that a significant development-generated archaeological project at this location 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).

- 7.3.3 The planned settlement area, although subject to some past archaeological research, has yielded little of substance, and further archaeological investigations will be vital in understanding the development of Wootton Bassett. Any opportunity for excavation or evaluation within the area of probable burgages may help to define our understanding of such issues as the chronology of the ascendance and decline of Wootton Bassett as a market centre; the nature, density and type of occupation within the burgages; the true extent of surviving Medieval stratigraphy and whether the extensive Post-medieval truncation seen in earlier work is representative of the overall situation within the historic town core.
- 7.3.4 Further work is required to identify the site of St. John's Hospital. A site in the vicinity of the present Priory Cottage is still considered likely, and any such work may also be useful in determining the extent of any organic later Medieval settlement in this area. It is recognised that the established residential nature of Church Street and Wood Street will permit only small-scale archaeological investigations.
- 7.3.5 A systematic programme of buildings surveys could help to establish the true nature of the surviving built heritage within the town, as it is likely that many older properties lurk behind 18th and 19th century frontages, especially in the High Street, Church Street and Wood Street areas. In addition, a thorough survey of the standing buildings at Old Court may identify pre-17th century elements possibly associated with the manorial use of the site.
- 7.3.6 There are three intriguing sites away from the historic core of the town which warrant further investigation. The discovery of a large Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatter in fields to the north of the town is significant, and should, at least, inform the archaeological response to any planned development in this area. Also to the north of the town, although closer, is the find site of Romano-British pottery sherds. This site is a prime candidate for geophysical survey, which could identify any structural remains which may exist – again, with an eye to future possible developments on the site. The third site, west of the Old Vicarage, is that of four undated burials – one said by the mid 19th century excavator to have a 'bronze weapon' embedded in its hip. It is uncertain whether the whereabouts of these finds is known, but if they could be located a modern scientific examination of the remains would be most revealing. In

terms of the archaeological potential, it is important to try and establish if these were isolated burials, or whether a cemetery exists at this location. The site appears to be within a large garden, and geophysics may be the best way forward in determining the presence or otherwise of further burials.

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9 MAPS

- 1773.** Wiltshire map series, No 14: Andrews & Dury.
- 1773.** Estate Map of Lord Hyde (WSRO)
- 1820.** Map of the county of Wiltshire. Greenwood (Chandler 1998).
- 1840.** 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.
- 1974.** Ordnance Survey, Geological Survey of Great Britain (England & Wales), Sheet 252, Swindon, 1" to 1 mile.
- 1983.** Ordnance Survey, Pathfinder SU08/18, 1:25000 Series.

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	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 II*

Church of St Bartholomew & All Saints, High Street (14C, 15C, 1869-71)

Little Park Farm (early 17C)

Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3)

15th Century

Church of St Bartholomew & All Saints, High Street (14C, 15C, 1869-71)

Appendix 4: Buildings Survival by Century

15th Century

Church of St Bartholomew & All Saints, High Street (14C, 15C, 1869-71)

16th Century

27 High Street (& late 18C)

8 High Street (16C/17C)

26 & 26A High Street (16C/17C)

Priory Cottage, 28 Wood Street (16C-17C)

17th Century

Waggon & Horses, 9 High Street

12 (Five Bells Public House) & 13 Wood Street

149 High Street (& 18C)

Little Park Farm (early)

Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early)

Stafford House, 57 High Street (mid-late)

Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690)

Noremarsch House & gate piers, Noremarsch Road (late 17C/early 18C)

Old Court Barn, Station Road (17C-18C)

18th Century

Lower Greenhill Farm

Angel Hotel, 46 High Street

56 High Street

The Crown, 131 High Street

145A, 150, 156 High Street

Milestone opposite Highgate Farm, Malmesbury Road

Town Hall, High Street (c1700)

Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3)

Walls & gatepiers to front garden of Little Park Farm (early)

18 & 19 High Street (early)

Dudley House, 28 High Street (c1730)

137 High Street (c1740)

Cross Keys Inn, 136 High Street (1742)

118 High Street (mid)
151 High Street (not listed – late 18C & early 19C - WBR)
10 High Street (late 18C/early 19C)
Boundary stone on n.w. boundary of Borough, The Lawns (18C/19C)

19th Century

Stocks below Town Hall, High Street (?19C)
56 High Street (?19C)
Barn on roadside s.w. of Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (1804)
Milestone, Lyneham Road (after 1821)
United Reformed Chapel, Wood Street (1825)
Upper Noremarsh Farmhouse, Noremarsh Road (c1830)
66 High Street (c1835)
Milestone n. of Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (early)
Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (early)
Little Lilacs, 30 High Street (early)
32 & 32A, High Street (early)
Post Office, 33 High Street (early)
34, 35, 36 High Street (early)
138, 139 & 139A, 146 & 146A, 147, 148 High Street (early)
29 High Street (1872 & earlier)
42 High Street (or earlier)
Wincanton Transport Depot, Station Road (1878)
Cemetery Gates, Downs View (c1880)

20th Century

K6 telephone kiosk near 152 High Street (after 1935)

Appendix 5: Individual Architectural Details

16th Century

Stone & timber framing: Priory Cottage, 28 Wood Street (16C-17C)
Stone slate roof: Priory Cottage, 28 Wood Street (16C-17C)
Stone stack: Priory Cottage, 28 Wood Street (16C-17C)
2-storey: 27 High Street (16C & late 18C)
2 bay: 27 High Street (16C & late 18C)
Open hall plan: 27 High Street (16C & late 18C)
Timber lintels: Priory Cottage, 28 Wood Street (16C-17C)
Timber casements:
 With leaded glazing: Priory Cottage, 28 Wood Street (16C-17C)
Chamfered beams: Priory Cottage, 28 Wood Street (16C-17C)
Stone fireplace: Priory Cottage, 28 Wood Street (16C-17C)

Crucks: 27 High Street (16C & late 18C)

17th Century

Limestone Rubble: 12 (Five Bells Public House) & 13 Wood Street

with freestone dressings; Stafford House, 57 High Street (mid-late);

Noremarsh House & gate piers, Noremarsh Road (late 17C/early 18C)

Render or paint over: Stafford House, 57 High Street (mid-late)

Brick faced: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early)

Diaper brick with stone dressings: Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690)

Timber framing: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early)

And stone: 8 High Street (16C/17C); Waggon & Horses, 9 High Street

And weatherboarding: Old Court Barn, Station Road (17C-18C)

Stone slate roof: Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690); 8 High Street

(16C/17C);

Hipped: Noremarsh House & gate piers, Noremarsh Road (late 17C/early 18C)

With tiles: Waggon & Horses, 9 High Street

Thatch:

Hipped: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early)

Gabled: 12 (Five Bells Public House) & 13 Wood Street

Dormers: Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690)

Flush: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early)

Hipped: 8 High Street (16C/17C); Waggon & Horses, 9 High Street; Noremarsh House & gate piers, Noremarsh Road (late 17C/early 18C)

L-plan: Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690)

Double pile plan: Stafford House, 57 High Street (mid-late)

Central hallway plan: Noremarsh House & gate piers, Noremarsh Road (late

Behind axial stack: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early) 17C/early 18C)

2 bays: 8 High Street (16C/17C)

2½ bays: Waggon & Horses, 9 High Street

3 bays: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early); Noremarsh House & gate piers, Noremarsh Road (late 17C/early 18C); Old Court Barn, Station Road (17C-18C); 12 (Five Bells Public House) & 13 Wood Street

5 bays: Stafford House, 57 High Street (mid-late)

9 bays: Little Park Farm

Single storey: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early)

2-storey: Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690); 8 High Street (16C/17C); Waggon & Horses, 9 High Street; Stafford House, 57 High Street (mid-late); Noremarsh House & gate piers, Noremarsh Road (late 17C/early 18C); 12 (Five Bells Public House) & 13 Wood Street

Cross passage plan:

Behind axial stack: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early)

Porch: Noremarsh House & gate piers, Noremarsh Road (late 17C/early 18C)

Pedimented door: Stafford House 57 High Street

Canopied door: 12 (Five Bells Public House) & 13 Wood Street

Moulded architraves: Noremarsh House & gate piers, Noremarsh Road (late 17C/early 18C)

Metal casements: Priory Cottage, 28 Wood Street (16C-

Chamfered beams: Waggon & Horses, 9 High Street; Noremarsch House & gate piers, Noremarsch Road (late 17C/early 18C)

Moulded beams: 26 & 26A High Street (16C/17C)

Beams with moulded stops: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early); 12 (Five Bells Public House) & 13 Wood Street

Dragon beams: 26 & 26A High Street (16C/17C)

Stairs: Stafford House 57 High Street

Bolection moulding: Stafford House 57 High Street

Stone fireplace: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early)

Wattle & Daub: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early)

18th Century

Ashlar: Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3)

Coursed limestone rubble: Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690)

Brick: Cross Keys Inn, 136 High Street (1742)

Brick & stone: 137 High Street (c1740); 145A High Street

Brick and ashlar dressings: Little Park Farm (early 17C); Dudley House, 28 High Street (c1730);

Diaper brick: 10 High Street (late 18C/early 19C); Angel Hotel, 46 High Street (rear wing of stone); 149 High Street (& 18C); 156 High Street

with stone dressings: Lower Greenhill Farm

Rendered brick; 118 High Street (mid); The Crown, 131 High Street

Timber framed:

On stone columns: Town Hall, High Street (c1700)

Moulded bands and blocking courses: Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690)

Moulded cornice: Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3); 145A High Street

Coved cornice: Lower Greenhill Farm, Little Park Farm (early 17C); Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690)

Dentilled eaves: 10 High Street (late 18C/early 19C); 149 High Street (& 18C)

Parapet;

Panelled: Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3)

Dormers: 10 High Street (late 18C/early 19C)

Hipped dormers: Lower Greenhill Farm; The Crown, 131 High Street; 137 High Street (c1740); Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3); 145A High Street; 156 High Street

Gabled dormers: 18 & 19 High Street (early); Dudley House, 28 High Street (c1730)

Stone slate roof: Little Park Farm (early 17C); Cross Keys Inn, 136 High Street (1742); 137 High Street (c1740)

Hipped: Lower Greenhill Farm; Town Hall, High Street (c1700)

Gabled: 118 High Street (mid)

Slate roof: 18 & 19 High Street (early);

Gabled: Dudley House, 28 High Street (c1730)

Tile roof: The Crown, 131 High Street; Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3); 145A High Street

Hipped: 10 High Street (late 18C/early 19C)

Porch:

Two storey: Little Park Farm (early 17C)

Stone stack: Cross Keys Inn, 136 High Street (1742)

2-storey: Lower Greenhill Farm, Little Park Farm (early 17C); 18 & 19 High Street (early); Dudley House, 28 High Street (c1730); Angel Hotel, 46 High Street; 118 High Street (mid); The Crown, 131 High Street; Cross Keys Inn, 136 High Street (1742); 137 High Street (c1740); Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3); 145A High Street; 149 High Street (& 18C); 156 High Street

Cross passage plan: Little Park Farm (early 17C)

Central stair hall plan: 10 High Street (late 18C/early 19C); Dudley House, 28 High Street (c1730); 137 High Street (c1740); Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3)

3 bays: 118 High Street (mid); The Crown, 131 High Street; Cross Keys Inn, 136 High Street (1742); 137 High Street (c1740); Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3); 145A High Street

3½ bays: Town Hall, High Street (c1700)

5 bays: Dudley House, 28 High Street (c1730)

6 bays: Angel Hotel, 46 High Street

Pedimented doors: The Crown, 131 High Street; 137 High Street (c1740)

Bolection-moulded architraves: Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3)

Stone architraves: Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690)
With entablatures: Little Park Farm (early 17C)

Flat door hood on brackets: Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690); 10 High Street (late 18C/early 19C); Angel Hotel, 46 High Street; 118 High Street (mid)

Shell hood: Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3)

4-panel door: 10 High Street (late 18C/early 19C)

5-panel door: 137 High Street (c1740)

6-panel doors: Lower Greenhill Farm; Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690); Town Hall, High Street (c1700); 118 High Street (mid); Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3)

Gauged brick arches: 10 High Street (late 18C/early 19C)
With stone keys: Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690)

Over- and fanlights: Lower Greenhill Farm; The Crown, 131 High Street

Sashes:
In moulded architraves: Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3); 145A High Street

4x4 sashes: Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3)

6x6 sashes: Lower Greenhill Farm, Little Park Farm (early 17C); Lime Kiln Studios, Cricklade Road (c1690); 10 High Street (late 18C/early 19C); 145A High Street

Tripartite sashes: Lower Greenhill Farm

Canted bay: 118 High Street (mid)

Chamfered and stopped beams: Town Hall, High Street (c1700); Cross Keys Inn, 136 High Street (1742 & possibly earlier)

Leaded casements: Town Hall, High Street (c1700)

Fireplace: Little Park Farm (early 17C)
Bolection-moulded fireplace:

Stair: Town Hall, High Street (c1700)

Open-well staircase: Little Park Farm (early 17C); Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3)

Panelling: Little Park Farm (early 17C)

Bolection moulded panelling: Little Park Farm (early 17C); Angel Hotel, 46 High Street

Fielded: Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3)

19th Century

Limestone ashlar: 29 High Street (1872 & earlier); United Reformed Chapel, Wood Street (1825)

Stone: 56 High Street (?19C)

Rendered/ roughcast: 32 & 32A, High Street; Post Office, 33 High Street (early); 42 High Street (or earlier); 146 & 146A High Street (early)

Brick: Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (early); 35, 36 High Street (early)

Flemish: Little Lilacs, 30 High Street (early); 35 High Street (early); 138, High Street

Brick dressings: 34 High Street (early)

With stone dressings: 66 High Street (c1835); 147, 148 High Street (early); Wincanton Transport Depot, Station Road (1878)

Rendered: 139 & 139A High Street; Upper Noremarsh Farmhouse, Noremarsh Road (c1830)

Timber framing: Barn on roadside s.w. of Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (1804)

Weatherboarded: Barn on roadside s.w. of Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (1804)

Central stair hall plan: Upper Noremarsh Farmhouse, Noremarsh Road (c1830)

L-plan: Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (early)

2 bays: Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (early); 35 High Street (early); 42 High Street (or earlier); 138, 139 & 139A High Street; 150 High Street

3 bays: Barn on roadside s.w. of Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (1804); 29 High Street (1872 & earlier); Little Lilacs, 30 High Street (early); 32 & 32A, High Street; 66 High Street (c1835); Upper Noremarsh Farmhouse, Noremarsh Road (c1830)

Cheeseroom: Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (early)

2-storey: 29 High Street (1872 & earlier); Little Lilacs, 30 High Street (early); 32 & 32A, High Street; Post Office, 33 High Street (early); 35, 36 High Street (early); 42 High Street (or earlier); 56 High Street (?19C); 150 High Street; Upper Noremarsh Farmhouse, Noremarsh Road (c1830)

3-storey: 138, 139 & 139A High Street; 147, 148 High Street (early); Wincanton Transport Depot, Station Road (1878)

Slate roofs: Little Lilacs, 30 High Street (early); 138, High Street; 150 High Street

Hipped: Barn on roadside s.w. of Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (1804); Post Office, 33 High Street (early); 42 High Street (or earlier); 147, 148 High Street (early)

Gabled: 34 High Street (early)

Slate & stone slate: 35 High Street (early)

Stone slate roof: 56 High Street (?19C)

Gabled: 29 High Street (1872 & earlier); 34, 36 High Street (early); United Reformed Chapel, Wood Street (1825)

Tiled: 146 & 146A High Street (early)

Dormers: Post Office, 33 High Street (early); 146 & 146A High Street (early)

Hipped dormers: 35, 36 High Street (early); 56 High Street (?19C); 150 High Street

Moulded bargeboards: Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (early)

Brick stack: Wincanton Transport Depot, Station Road (1878)

Porch: United Reformed Chapel, Wood Street (1825)

Parapet: 146 & 146A High Street (early)

Panelled: 29 High Street (1872 & earlier); 137 High Street (c1740)

Cornice: 29 High Street (1872 & earlier); 146 & 146A High Street (early)

Moulded: Little Lilacs, 30 High Street (early); Post Office, 33 High Street (early); 147, 148 High Street (early)

Dentilled: 35, 36 High Street (early); 118 High Street (mid)

Tuscan: 29 High Street (1872 & earlier)

6-panel door: Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (early); 148 High Street (early); 156 High Street; Upper Noremars Farmhouse, Noremars Road (c1830)

5-panel door: Little Lilacs, 30 High Street (early)

4-panel door: Dudley House, 28 High Street (c1730); 35 High Street (early); 150 High Street

3-panel door: 56 High Street (?19C)

Bracketed canopy over door: Little Lilacs, 30 High Street (early); 32 & 32A, High Street; 66 High Street (c1835); 146 & 146A High Street (early); 150 High Street

Pedimented door: Dudley House, 28 High Street (c1730); 148 High Street (early); 156 High Street

Gabled: Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (early)

Over- and Fanlights: Dudley House, 28 High Street (c1730); Little Lilacs, 30 High Street (early); 35 High Street (early); 148 High Street (early); 156 High Street; United Reformed Chapel, Wood Street (1825)

Moulded architraves: 42 High Street (or earlier); 147, 148 High Street (early)

Reeding: 56 High Street (?19C)

Plain mullion windows: 29 High Street (1872 & earlier)

Sashes:

With segmental heads & keystones: 138, 139 & 139A High Street

Margin glazed: Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (early); Little Lilacs, 30 High Street (early); 35 High Street (early); 42 High Street (or earlier); Stafford House 57 High Street; 137 High Street (c1740); 147, 148 High Street (early); 149 High Street (& 18C); Upper Noremars Farmhouse, Noremars Road (c1830); 12 (Five Bells Public House) & 13 Wood Street

Tripartite: Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (early); 150 High Street

1x1 sashes: 150 High Street; 156 High Street

2x2 sashes: 35, 36 High Street (early); The Crown, 131 High Street; 138, 139 & 139A High Street; 156 High Street; Wincanton Transport Depot, Station Road (1878)

4/4 sashes: Stafford House 57 High Street; 118 High Street (mid)

6x6 sashes: Dudley House, 28 High Street (c1730); 32 & 32A, High Street; Angel Hotel, 46 High Street; 56 High Street (?19C); 118 High Street (mid); 146 & 146A High Street (early); United Deformed Chapel, Wood Street (1825)

8x8 sashes: Little Lilacs, 30 High Street (early); 32 & 32A, High Street; 66 High Street (c1835); 138 High Street

Canted bay window: 10 High Street (late 18C/early 19C); Little Lilacs, 30 High Street (early); 35 High Street (early); 42 High Street (or earlier); 56 High Street (?19C); 156 High Street

Casement windows: 8 High Street (16C/17C)

Marble fireplace: Mr Bevirs's Office, 141 High Street (1700-3)

Panelling: 137 High Street (c1740)

Collar and tie truss roof: Barn on roadside s.w. of Wootton Fields Farm, Broad Town Road (1804)

20th Century

Brick:

Colourwashed: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early 17C)

Tiles: 27 High Street (16C & late 18C); 149 High Street (& 18C)

Dormer: 27 High Street (16C & late 18C)

Timber windows: Lower Woodshaw Farm, Bincknoll Lane (early 17C)

Additional Notes

Churchyard monuments not included

From VCH – many buildings dating from 18C-early 19C are in brick with the earlier houses timber framed. Vol. IX, page 189