

**AVON EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**WICKWAR**

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## CONTENTS

1.0	<b>Introduction</b>	1
1.1	The aims of the report	1
1.2	Major sources of evidence	1
1.3	A brief history of Wickwar	2
1.4	Population	5
2.0	<b>Prehistoric Archaeology</b>	6
2.1	Sources of evidence	6
2.2	Local settlement pattern	6
2.3	Regional context	6
3.0	<b>Romano-British Archaeology</b>	7
3.1	Sources of evidence	7
3.2	Local settlement pattern	7
3.3	Regional context	7
4.0	<b>Post-Roman and Saxon Archaeology</b>	8
4.1	Sources of evidence	8
4.2	Local settlement pattern	8
4.3	Regional context	8
5.0	<b>Medieval Archaeology</b>	9
5.1	Sources of evidence	9
5.2	Watercourses, roads and routeways	9
5.3	Commercial core	10
5.4	Religious sites and cemeteries	11
5.5	Industrial areas and sites	11
5.6	Private estates	11
5.7	Standing buildings	12
5.8	Local context	12
6.0	<b>Post-medieval Archaeology</b>	14
6.1	Sources of evidence	14
6.2	Watercourses, roads and routeways	14
6.3	Commercial core	15
6.4	Civic buildings	15
6.5	Religious sites and cemeteries	16
6.6	Industrial areas and sites	16
6.7	Private estates	17
6.8	Standing buildings	17
6.9	Local context	18
7.0	<b>Early modern (19th century) Archaeology</b>	19
7.1	Sources of evidence	19
7.2	Watercourses, roads and railways	19
7.3	Commercial core	20
7.4	Civic buildings	20
7.5	Religious sites and cemeteries	21
7.6	Extractive industrial areas and sites	22
7.7	Non-extractive industrial areas and sites	22
7.8	Private estates	23
7.9	Standing buildings	23

8.0	<b>20th century development</b>	24
8.1	Sources of evidence	24
8.2	Watercourses, roads and routeways	24
8.3	Redevelopment within the town centre	24
8.4	Settlement growth	25
8.5	Civic buildings	25
8.6	Religious sites and cemeteries	25
8.7	Extractive industrial areas and sites	26
8.8	Non-extractive industrial areas and sites	26
9.0	<b>Further research</b>	27
9.1	Research interests	27
9.2	Recommendations for further research work	27
10.0	<b>References</b>	28
10.1	Bibliography	28
10.2	Map sources	30
10.3	Aerial photographs	30
10.4	Archaeological evaluations	31
11.0	<b>Acknowledgments</b>	32

### **Maps**

Map A: Saxon period

Map B: Medieval period

Map C: Post-medieval period

Map D: 19th century

Map E: 20th century

## AVON EXTENSIVE URBAN SURVEY ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT REPORT

### WICKWAR

#### 1.0 INTRODUCTION

##### 1.1 The aims of the report

The Extensive Urban Areas Survey was commissioned by English Heritage in October 1995. Wickwar is one of seven areas surveyed within South Gloucestershire.

This document is a desk-based study of the archaeological resource surviving in the town and its immediate environs. It includes an assessment of below ground archaeological remains, standing buildings and the historic plan form of the town. It considers the development of the town within a standard chronological framework and where possible, the site areas mentioned in the text are identified on a modern map base of the town. The maps are contained at the end of this report.

The archaeological assessment report provides the basis for new planning guidance for the historic environment of Wickwar, as set out in the strategy document for South Gloucestershire.

##### 1.2 Major sources of evidence

There is very little historical and archaeological information available from published sources. No major archaeological work has occurred within the town apart from a basic topographical survey by Leech (1975). This is largely because of the low level of development in the town core, which is protected by a Conservation Area and a reasonably extensive list of buildings of special architectural and historical importance. There have been a number of proposals to develop land in the town (SMR 9573, 10718, 10510), but only one watching brief has been carried out, when a car park was constructed adjacent to the parish church (SMR 11047).

A brief survey of local government records was made by Finberg and Beresford (Finberg 1957: 87; Beresford & Finberg 1973), but national fiscal records and ecclesiastical records have yet to be examined for specific references to the town. There is considerable scope for historical research into a large group of private estate and family records belonging to the Earl of Ducie, which were deposited with Gloucester record office in the early 1950s. The records comprise over 2,650 documents including deeds and court rolls; 137 of the deeds are earlier than 1500 and Gray has stated that the most interesting group relate to the Le Warr family and the town of Wickwar (Gray 1951: 108). These papers do not appear to have been the subject of any study to date.

Wickwar has not been covered by the Victoria County History and there has not been any other comparable local history. As a result, the account of the history of the town is based on 18th century antiquarian accounts (Atkyns 1712; Rudder 1779) and sources referenced in the South Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record.

The map coverage for the town is good. The earliest map of the town is an estate map of 1759, which clearly shows the property boundaries and houses of the town. The Tithe map for the town dates to 1838 and is of particular importance because it shows the

town before the construction of the 19th century railway tunnel. The Ordnance Survey map of 1882 shows the town after the tunnel was built. The Ordnance Survey maps were updated throughout the 20th century. A list of all the maps consulted can be found at the end of the report in section 10.0.

### 1.3 A brief history of Wickwar

Wickwar lies on the south-west edge of the Cotswold scarp, about 77m above sea level (250 feet). The town is situated on a flat spur of land running north-south, with the High Street parallel to it. The ground on the west and east sides of the town drops substantially to about 50m above sea level. The church and probable Saxon village lie on a second high area of ground to the north of the town. The Little Avon river runs northwards, parallel with the town on its east side; one of its small tributaries also runs northwards on the west side of the town. Like Chipping Sodbury to the south, Wickwar lies on the edge of an area of carboniferous limestone. The stone outcrops to the north of the town where it has been extensively quarried.

There have been very few prehistoric finds in the surrounding parish, since the area has traditionally been pasture land. There is no evidence for a Romano-British settlement on the site of the present town, however, there have been numerous finds found associated with a Roman road running parallel to the Cotswold scarp, about 1km to the west of Wickwar.

The town was preceded by a Saxon settlement almost certainly located in an area to the north of the medieval town. The account given at Domesday in 1086 indicates that there was a village at Wickwar:

'Wichen. 4 hides. Three men of Brictric son of Algar held it as three manors before 1066 and could go where they would. In lordship there were 3 ploughs; 9 villagers and 14 smallholders with 9 ploughs. 5 slaves; meadow, 20 acres; woodland, 6 furlongs. The value was and is £12. The Queen gave these two villages of (Iron) Acton and Wickwar to Humphrey.' (Morris 1982: 169, 7).

The reference to the parish as *Wichen*, raises interesting questions over the precise meaning of *wíc*, from which it is derived. Smith states that it is derived from an old English word meaning 'at the dwellings' (Smith 1964: 42). He suggested that the term was an appellative, that is, a ready-made term for a known type of early Anglo-Saxon settlement. This implies that there was a village dating back to these times, probably centred around the church (Leech 1975: 33).

In her discussion of the compound *wíchám*, Gelling explores the use of this term in more detail (Gelling 1967: 96). She states that it is important to establish whether or not the term was an appellative rather than an *ad hoc* compound, because it may have implications for the archaeological remains at a settlement. She made a survey of 28 English place-names derived from the compound *wíchám*, and found that 24 were located on or not more than 2km from a known Roman road. Wickwar was not included in her original survey, but it would fit this pattern of association, with a Roman road less than 1km to the west of the church.

Gelling suggests that the earliest English settlers used the term *wíchám* to describe a certain type of settlement, which occurred close to Roman roads and usually near small Romano-British settlements. They derived their name from a connection with the *vici* of Roman Britain (Gelling 1967: 97). Gelling's arguments are convincing and suggest an early date for settlement preceding the town of Wickwar.

The name *Wykewarre* is first documented in 1274 (Smith 1964: 42). The affix *-war* is that of the Norman John la Warre who was granted the manor by King John; his family continued to hold the manor until the 15th century. The town is thought to have been founded in the 13th century and the characteristic burgage layout almost certainly dates from its inception; the Calendar of Charter Rolls records a market and fair granted to Wickwar in 1285. The grantee was Roger de la Warre and the market was to be held on a Tuesday and the fair on three days at Whitsun (Finberg 1957: 87).

The success of the market town, however, is far from certain. The assumption that the grant of a market charter in the 13th and 14th century normally resulted in the development of a functioning market is a faulty one (Masschaele 1994: 255). There is no evidence that confirms the development of a flourishing new town here, and it may be that, at least in part, its effectiveness as a market centre was inhibited by the proximity of Wotton-under-Edge 5km to the north-east, and Chipping Sodbury 6km to the south.

Finberg compared Wickwar to Minchinhampton which acquired a market and fair in 1269, but in 1300 had only three dwellings which could be described as burgages. He stated that:

‘Wickwar, with a market dating from 1285, took even longer to assume the air of a little town’ (Finberg 1975: 76).

But he goes on to say:

‘Wickwar ... hitherto merely a rural market centre with an inconsiderable number of burgage tenements, developed into a busy little manufacturing town’ (ibid.: 87).

Russett has suggested that Wickwar may one of a group of medieval market towns in Avon which were possibly laid out and given an early charter, but only became successful later on; other examples may include Pensford and Wrington (Russett 1996).

The earliest known reference to the borough of Wickwar is in 1545 (Beresford & Finberg 1973: 116; Gloucestershire Record Office D340). The relative success of Wickwar as a town in the late medieval and early post-medieval periods rests on the importance of the cloth industry. In the 16th century Leland referred to Wickwar as a ‘pretty little clothing town’ (Verey 1970: 58). A survey made by Smith in 1608 showed that over half of the able bodied men were engaged in the cloth trade, predominantly as weavers, with a small number of clothiers and one knitter (Smith 1608).

Naturalised examples of the woad plant, cultivated for its use as a dye, were recorded as recently as 1908 in the fields by the Little Avon and around Wickwar - a testimony to its extensive cultivation in the medieval period (Brill 1968: 79). Dyers are known to have occupied Wotton-under-Edge, to the north of Wickwar and it is possible that the trade was also carried out in the town. Large distinctive vats are associated with this industry, and it is possible that some examples may still survive.

Aside from the cloth trade, the range of other occupations recorded by Smith within the town is low; only 14 different occupations were recorded at Wickwar compared to over 20 for the other market towns at Chipping Sodbury, Marshfield and Thornbury. There were less wealthy members of community living here: no mercers or gentlemen were recorded in the town. Other clues may suggest a limited urban status - the use of the term ‘cobbler’ to describe the craftsperson who made shoes in Wickwar is in contrast to

the more numerous and presumably more specialised 'shoemakers' noted in the other market towns.

In 1638 Wickwar had a mayor and aldermen (Finberg 1957: 68n.), a school was founded in 1684 and a Town Hall was built in c.1795. Despite these symbols of civic status, there was a marked decrease in the cloth trade towards the end of the 18th century, as the hand weaver was superseded by Hargreaves' Spinning Jenny (1775) and Crompton's Mule (1797)(Perry 1986: 12). In 1779 Rudder describes Wickwar as:

'a small market town of one street' (Rudder 1779: 818).

He goes on to describe the cloth industry as being:

'in a very languishing condition, there being only one master, who does but little in it. However, the women and children have usually full employment in spinning for the clothiers about Stroud and Chalford' (ibid.: 819).

One industry does appear to have met with success in the post-medieval period, the clay pipe industry. At least three kiln sites have been identified in the town, and the wasters collected from these indicate that pipemaking began in the late 17th century and was practiced by a succession of makers down to the early 19th century (Peacey 1979: 74). Its success could not, however, compensate for the eventual demise of the cloth industry since the clay pipe industry traditionally employed only one or two people per kiln. In 1883 the town's borough status was removed. One of the ancient charities states that a clothier, William Hobbs, left some money in 1747 for poor clothworkers in the parish; it continued to be paid up to the early 1820s by which time there were no clothworkers in Wickwar (Perry 1986: 12).

Industrial development in the town appears to be restricted to commercial malting and brewing, which began in 1800 when Mr. Thomas Arnold opened a brewery in the High Street. A second larger brewery was subsequently built to the north of the town, close to Wickwar railway station. It is interesting to note that despite the success of this industry, only one pub is recorded on the Tithe map of 1838 and by 1882 the Ordnance Survey records only three. Russett has suggested that this may be because the lord of the manor retained control of the land in the town and could block developments of which he did not approve; the late appearance of non-conformist chapels in the town may be another example of seigneurial control over the planning process (Russett pers comm).

Although the industrial revolution barely touched Wickwar, the railways reached it in the first half of the century. It lay on an important route which was the final link between Bristol and Gloucester, and connected Newcastle to Exeter. The line passed from the south-east to the north-west of the town, and its construction in 1844 involved boring a tunnel over 1km in length through solid limestone rock. The railway cutting which led to the tunnel was 23m (76 feet) deep, and it alone yielded 75,000 cubic metres (98,000 cubic yards) of limestone; most of the limestone excavated from the tunnel was sold for burning (Lay 1978).

The construction of the Charfield Railway Tunnel effected the northern part of the town, and resulted in the drainage of large pools to the south of the church. It may have prompted the abandonment and subsequent demolition of Pool House, the probable medieval manor house of the parish. By the second half of the 19th century the lord of the manor lived at Tortworth (Lay 1978).

Wickwar was one of the first towns in England to have its streets lit by electric lamps, well before the much larger city of Bristol had even a single electric light. In about 1890 a chemist called Ansell was employed at one of the breweries in the town; he was interested in electricity and installed a lighting system in the brewery. The owner of the firm was so pleased with the results that he had the power line extended to his house at the other end of the street from the brewery. When the parish council came into being in 1894 it decided to tap into the wires and install street-lighting using the current. (Ryder 1966: 154)

It is not known if any evidence of the early lighting system survives in the old brewery or elsewhere in the town; any significant finds would be of national importance. Further investigation of the electrical system in the town is urgently required.

The population in the 19th century remained fairly constant at a figure just below one thousand inhabitants. In the 20th century, however, the population declined rapidly and by 1975 there were only 680 people living in the town (Leech 1975: 29). At the time of Leech's study there had consequently been very little development and the limited expansion that had occurred was concentrated beyond the limits of the medieval borough. Since then there has been a substantial rise in new housing developments on the eastern and southern edges of the town. Many of these houses have only been built in the last five years. The effect of the burgeoning suburban population has not been felt on the town centre, and to date there has been relatively little development.

#### 1.4 Population

1551	400 communicants	(Percival 1970: 117)
1563	81 households	(Percival 1970: 117)
1603	200 communicants	(Percival 1970: 117)
1650	100 families	(Percival 1970: 117)
1676	420 communicants and 8 nonconformists	(Percival 1970: 117)
1712	1000 Inhabitants (in the parish)	(Percival 1970: 117)
1779	850 inhabitants	(Rudder 1779)
1801	764 inhabitants	(Percival 1970: 117)
1861	949 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1870)
1871	902 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1879)
1881	917 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1885)
1891	933 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1897)
1901	905 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1906)
1911	860 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1914)
1921	769 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1927)
1931	831 inhabitants	(Kelly's Directory 1931)
1971	680 inhabitants	(Northavon Draft plan 1975; census figures)

## 2.0 PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

### 2.1 Sources of evidence

- **Below ground intervention:** Geotechnical test pits (SMR 7368).
- **Field survey work:** Site visit to long barrow (Iles 1979).
- **Archaeological/historical research:** Avon Industrial Building Trust parish survey (Manley 1984); survey of archaeology in the Avon and Gloucestershire Cotswolds (Savile 1980); study of the archaeology of Avon (Aston & Iles 1988).

### 2.2 Local settlement pattern

There is no evidence for prehistoric settlement on the site of the medieval town of Wickwar. Much of the land surrounding the town is pastureland and therefore very little prehistoric material has come to light as a result of ploughing. One worked black flint scraper has been found in the parish area at ST 72038932 (Manley 1978). Despite the paucity of finds, an earthwork about 1km to the south-west of Wickwar may be a possible long barrow (SMR 3061; Iles 1979). It lies to the north of Frith Farm and is overlain by a field wall close to a stream.

#### **Iron Age settlement 550 BC - AD 47**

No Iron Age remains have been found on the town site, although there is some tentative evidence for pits and ditches dating to this period to the south-west at Hall End Farm (SMR 7368). A series of geotechnical test pits were excavated by the Bristol Mineral Company Ltd. in 1990 prior to celestite extraction. The site was observed by Roberts on behalf of Avon County Council and he recorded a pit, and ditch which he describes as a prehistoric feature of possible Iron Age date.

### 2.3 Regional context

The most notable prehistoric features in the region of Wickwar are three important Iron Age hillforts which all lie along the edge of the Cotswold escarpment: Horton Camp (SMR 2112; SAM 69), Little Sodbury hillfort (SMR 2103; SAM 70) and Dyrham and Hinton hillfort (SMR 1968; SAM 47). They are all scheduled monuments (Savile 1980).

*No map has been produced for the Prehistoric period*

### 3.0 ROMANO-BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY

#### 3.1 Sources of evidence

- **Field survey work:** Field walking by the Northavon archaeology group.
- **Aerial photographs:** 1946 RAF.
- **Archaeological/historical research:** Avon Industrial Building Trust parish survey (Hallett 1977; Howell 1979, 1980); Study of the archaeology of Avon (Aston & Iles 1988).

#### 3.2 Local settlement pattern

A Roman road is said to extend about 1km to the west of Wickwar town running roughly parallel to the Cotswold escarpment, as seen on an aerial photograph taken by the RAF in 1946 (SMR 6052/2057; Iles 1979). There are numerous finds associated with its route, including pottery (SMR 3062), a Roman enclosure (SMR 7418) and possible occupation areas indicated by stone foundations, pottery and coins (SMR 2056; SMR 2058; SMR 5870). A substantial quantity of Romano-British material was found at Hall End in 1984, although this site has not been published (Russett pers comm).

#### 3.3 Regional context

Comparatively few Roman settlements are known in this area. This is largely because there has been very little fieldwork and because much of the lower ground is pasture or woodland with little opportunity for fieldwalking. The intensive field survey of Marshfield parish revealed a network of Roman farms and hamlets, generally 1km apart, and this pattern is likely to extend further north along the Cotswold escarpment. (Iles 1985: 39; Russett 1985)

*No map has been produced for the Romano-British period*

## 4.0 POST ROMAN AND SAXON ARCHAEOLOGY

### 4.1 Sources of evidence

- **Field survey work:** Topographic survey of the town (Leech 1975).
- **Place name evidence:** Study of place names in Gloucestershire (Smith 1964).
- **Documentary evidence:** Domesday Book 1086.

### 4.2 Local settlement pattern [Map A: 1, 2]

An earlier village is known to have preceded the town at Wickwar: the Domesday Book mentions a village of *Wichen*, as discussed above. Leech suggested that the location of the Saxon village was likely to have been to the north of the medieval town, centred around the parish church (Leech 1975: 33). An area of low definition earthworks to the north and west of the church adds weight to this assertion (SMR 9177). The area of probable Saxon settlement shown on *Map A* is conjectural, and has been roughly drawn to include the fields bounded by the roads in the parish [*Map A: 1*].

In the absence of more detailed information, the depiction of the parish church on *Map A* is based on the curtilage of the church shown on the Tithe map of 1838 [*Map A: 2*]. The church is likely to have been a daughter church of Hawkesbury (known as South Stoke in the Saxon period), since it was still in the deanery of Hawkesbury in the early 18th century (Atkyns 1712: 817). Therefore it is unlikely that the Saxon church was particularly large or important one.

*No map has been produced for the post Roman and early Saxon period*

## 5.0 MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY

### 5.1 Sources of evidence

- **Field survey work:** Topographic survey of the town (Leech 1975).
- **Standings buildings:** Buildings study (Robinson 1916); study of church and principal buildings (Verey 1970); DoE List of buildings of special architectural or historic interest (1984); study of Wickwar parish church (Perry c.1985).
- **Maps:** Plan analysis of 1759 estate map, 1838 Tithe map and Ordnance Survey map of 1882.
- **Aerial photographs:** 1946 RAF 106G/UK/1721 2192 ST 788/1
- **Documentary evidence:** Domesday Book 1086.
- **Archaeological/historical research:** Study of the archaeology of Avon (Aston & Iles 1988).

### 5.2 Watercourses, roads and routeways

#### Watercourses [*Map B*]

The earliest cartographic depiction of the town is the 1759 estate map, but unfortunately it makes only a very limited record of the watercourses in the town, usually only showing them where there is a feature of note such as at Horse Bridge. The first detailed depiction of the watercourses appears on the Tithe map of 1838 and this must remain the best approximation of the course of the streams in the medieval period; these rivers appear on *Map B*.

A river, later known as the Little Avon, wound its way southwards across the fields to the east of the town. A tributary of this river flowed along the western edge of the town parallel to the main street, and was clearly straightened at some point, possibly in the medieval period when the town was laid out. It then flowed on towards the north-east, joining the Little Avon to the north of the town. The construction of the railway tunnel in the first half of the 19th century resulted in the diversion of this stream, and the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 does not show any watercourses in the northern part of the town.

#### Roads [*Map B*]

The three main roads which focus on the town almost certainly date to at least the medieval period, if not earlier. They linked Wickwar to Chipping Sodbury, Charfield and Wotton-under-Edge and are clearly shown on the 1759 estate map as the principal roads. The road to Hawkesbury branched off from the Wotton-under-Edge road to the north-east of the town. In addition to these roads which are still in use today, Sturt bridge which dates to the medieval period, testifies to a routeway which led off to the east of the town.

Back lane access to the burgage plots in the town is only shown on the Tithe map to the east of the town. It is likely that there was originally similar access to the plots on the west side of the town, but by the 19th century this second back lane no longer survived.

#### Bridges [*Map B: 1, 2*]

Two of the roads out of the town are likely to have crossed watercourses: the road to Charfield and the road to Wotton-under-Edge. No evidence is known to exist for bridge structures at either of them, but there has not been a detailed ground survey. In the absence of further information the point where the road to Charfield crosses the watercourse is depicted on *Map B* with a 10m radius centred on the point where the road and watercourse meet [*Map B: 1*]. The point where the road to Wotton-under-

Edge crosses the watercourse is depicted on *Map B* with a 15m radius centred on the point where the road and watercourse meet [*Map B*: 2]. The roads no longer cross the watercourses as a result of 19th century drainage, and therefore the survival of any wooden structures is unlikely. Further investigation on the ground is required to check for the survival of structural remains such as stone bridge foundations.

#### **Horse Bridge** [*Map B*: 3]

The road to Hawkesbury crosses the Little Avon river a short distance to the north-east of Wickwar. A small stone bridge with one rounded arch and plain stone parapet survives here and dates to the medieval period (SMR 2065; SAM 164). It was marked on the 1759 estate map as Horse Bridge. The last site visit was in 1989, when it was described as sound, although the stonework on the parapet was overgrown with ivy and brambles (Williams 1989). The depiction of the bridge on *Map B* is based on the bridge shown on the digital Ordnance Survey map of 1995. It is possible that the stone bridge was preceded by a wooden structure and this should be borne in mind if any work is undertaken in the immediate vicinity.

### **5.3 Commercial core**

#### **Town plots** [*Map B*: 4, 5, 6, 7]

There is a well marked pattern of regular town plots on either side of the High Street, terminating in a back lane to the east [*Map A*: 4, 5] and a straight field boundary to the west [*Map B*: 6]. The main street follows the spine of a low ridge and there is little likelihood of waterlogged deposits. A short span of plots also survives to the north of the High Street, though their identity as burgage plots is less certain [*Map B*: 7].

The occupation rate of the plots in the medieval period is not known, although there may be a history of abandonment and reoccupation for some. Medieval buildings at 42-46 High Street and 73 High Street confirms medieval occupation in the central area (SMR 6553; DoE 1984; Hall 1983: 279-85).

No medieval documentation for burgage plots has been identified in the course of this study, although this is probably due to the limited documentary research rather than a real absence in the records. The long, narrow plots are, however, characteristic of burgage plots.

#### **Market place** [*Map B*: 8]

The success of the medieval market at Wickwar is not known, despite the grant of a charter in 1285. At some point it seems likely that the broad, straight central portion of the High Street served as a market-place, marked out by a stretch of burgages set back on the west side of the street. The area depicted on *Map B* is based on the digital Ordnance Survey map of 1995; it has remained unchanged since the Tithe map of 1838.

### **5.4 Religious sites and cemeteries**

#### **Wickwar parish church** [*Map B*: 9]

The parish church dates to the 12th century but was extensively remodelled in the 14th and 15th centuries, and largely rebuilt in 1881 (SMR 5552; DoE 1984). It was dedicated to St. Mary until at least the 15th century when a will dated 1416 referred to it as St. Mary's, but in 1503 a will shows the present dedication to Holy Trinity (Perry 1985: 9). The Rectors of the church are recorded from 1277 (Perry 1985: 31).

Most of the windows are perpendicular in style, as is the west tower which was built in three stages (Robinson 1916: 112; Verey 1970: 405). Rudder states that the church is

said to have been erected by Woolsworth, an eminent clothier who also built Pool House to the south of the church (Rudder 1779: 820). Medieval features include a piscina in the north chapel and a font with an enriched octagonal bowl (Verey 1970: 405). Of particular interest is a sculpture of St. John the Baptist built into the outer north wall of the church organ chamber which dates to 1496 (*ibid.*). It was originally from Pool House and Russett has noted that it may be associated with the same manorial family who changed the dedication of the church (Russett pers comm).

Perry has identified a Weavers' Chapel in the parish church, and states that a guild of weavers and dyers of Wickwar met there in the medieval period. Only a general 13th century date is given for the founding of guilds, but further survey work on the chapel may shed light on a specific date for the Wickwar guild. (Perry 1986: 29)

In the absence of more detailed information the depiction of the graveyard on *Map B* is based on the area shown on the Tithe map of 1838.

## 5.5 Industrial areas and sites

### **Wickwar mill** [*Map B: 10*]

Wickwar is known to have had a watermill in the medieval period, but its precise location is not known: the watermill is mentioned in documentary sources because it could not work in the summer due to insufficient water power, and by 1562 it was in ruins (Tann 1965: 53). A possible mill site has been identified to the south of Chase Lane (SMR 2894). The Tithe apportionments refer to the plot of land adjacent to the river as 'Part of mill hill' (plot 693): this area has been marked on *Map B* as the possible site of the mill. No stone buildings were noted during a survey in 1978, although a clump of nettles may indicate an occupation site (Lay 1978). The course of the river alongside this plot of land appears to have been straightened, possibly because a leat was built here.

## 5.6 Private estates

### **Wickwar manor** [*Map B: 11-16*]

Wickwar manor contained a large portion of parish lands and is likely to have predated the formation of the town in 1285 (Lay 1978). Two sites have been identified as the possible location of the medieval manor house of Wickwar (SMR 5551, SMR 9669).

The most likely candidate is a site to the south of the church, where Pool House once stood (SMR 9669). This house was demolished between 1840 and 1888, and today lies partly under a path leading from the town to the church, and partly in an area of tumbled garden walls. An illustration of the house drawn in 1801 indicates that it was late medieval or early 16th century in date (Lysons 1804; Verey 1970: 406; Russett 1991). Verey also noted that a statue of St. John the Baptist was visible in the gable-end; this is now incorporated in the north wall of the organ chamber and it has an inscription dating to 1496 (Verey 1970: 406). The depiction of this area on *Map B* is based on the plot area associated with Pool House, shown on the Tithe map of 1838.

A second possible site for the manor house has been identified on the basis of field name evidence (SMR 5551; Lay 1978). Four fields to the north and west of the church are identified in the Tithe apportionments by the name 'court'; these have been marked on *Map B*. The names could have been derived from the existence of a courtyard of buildings: 'The Court Orchard' (plot 743 to the west of the church where the rectory now stands), 'The Court Field' (plot 747), 'Lower Court Field' (plot 750) and 'Little Court Field at Far Church Leaze' (plot 752). They partly encircle plot 749, raising the possibility that they surrounded the former manor house. Plot 749 has been marked on *Map B* as

a possible candidate for the manor buildings. Further field reconnaissance is required to check for surviving earthwork features in this area.

#### **Medieval fishponds** [Map B: 17, 18]

Earthwork features have been observed to south of the church at the bottom of the valley (site visit 1996). They appeared to delineate two rectangular fishponds and partly underlie an area of water shown on the Tithe map of 1838 (plot 724). The depiction of the fishponds on *Map B* is roughly based on the area identified during the site visit. More detailed ground survey work is required.

A second large area of water is shown on the Tithe map in an adjacent field to the east (plot 713). Robinson describes them as 'large fishponds... upon one of these a boat was kept' and Perry refers to (presumably) the larger pool as a lake (Perry 1986: 15). Pool House evidently derived its name from the proximity of the lakes. The earliest record of this name is 1801 (Lysons 1804), however, further documentary research may reveal earlier references to the house.

It is difficult to prove that the earthworks represent fishponds that are medieval in date, but it is certain that the water areas were increased in size at some point during the post-medieval period. The date of the pathway to the church may prove critical to elucidating this point. The pathway is not marked on the 1759 estate map, but appears on the Tithe map of 1838. This could indicate a date of construction in the late 18th or early 19th century. However, it is also quite possible that the pathway was present in 1759 but for some reason it was not included on the map.

Perry has suggested that the road acted as a dam for the lakes, since the roadway was once known as the 'stank', which is old English for a dam (Perry 1986: 15). The use of the old English term 'stank' may itself indicate an early medieval date for the dam. Alternatively it may be that the name was used to merely describe the appearance of the structure rather than its function. In the absence of more detailed information, the depiction of the 'stank' on *Map B* is based on the digital Ordnance Survey map of 1995.

### **5.7 Standing buildings**

Two buildings in the town are known to date to the late medieval period: 42-46 on the west side of the High Street date to the 15th century, and number 73 on the east side of the High Street is possibly 16th century in date (DoE 1984: 9/197; DoE 1987: 9/272). Two farmsteads outside the town also have surviving medieval features, though there are likely to have been many more examples if Wickwar is typical of other market towns: Meads Farm (DoE 1984: 9/208) and Frith Farm (DoE 1984: 239).

### **5.8 Local context**

No specific study has been made of the medieval landscape in this area, although a short article by Iles in 1984 did consider the area immediately to the south and east of Wickwar. He states that most parishes in the southern Cotswold area coincided with a single manor (Iles 1984: 41). This appears not to have been the case for Wickwar, which at the time of the Conquest had been held as three manors, however, it seems probable that it became a single manor afterwards, since its medieval name reflects that of the lords of the manor, and in the 19th century a significant proportion of the land in the parish was still held by the manor (South Gloucestershire Sites and Monuments Record parish file).

The parish lay within the bounds of the royal Forest of Kingswood which, though called a forest, referred primarily to the legal governance of the land rather than to a large

wooded area in the modern sense of the word. There were several areas with a greater concentration of woodland and one of these is likely to have been Wetmoor Woods to the east of Wickwar (Iles 1984: 41).

Archaeological evidence for medieval settlement in the area surrounding Wickwar is located predominantly on the lower land to the west of the Cotswold escarpment. Medieval field strip lynchets were identified on a 1946 aerial photograph taken by the RAF in an area adjacent to the east side of the town (SMR 2893). A second photograph taken at the same time further to the east shows an area of earthwork features which have not been identified. They lie adjacent to 'Saltmoor Ditch' - a name which raises interesting questions about the earthworks.

Medieval farmsteads are known to have existed at Westend Farm (SMR 9092), Barber's Court Farm (SMR 1562, SMR 5796) and Hall End Farm (SMR 5794). A medieval settlement and chapel existed at Wixoldbury (SMR 9089, SMR 9090).

## 6.0 POST-MEDIEVAL ARCHAEOLOGY (16th-18th century)

### 6.1 Sources of evidence

- **Below ground intervention:** Excavation of garden at 67 High Street (Peacey 1979).
- **Field survey work:** Topographic survey of the town (Leech 1975).
- **Standings buildings:** Buildings study (Robinson 1916); study of church and principal buildings (Verey 1970); buildings study (Hall 1983); DoE List of buildings of special architectural or historic interest (1984); study of Wickwar parish church (Perry c.1985).
- **Maps:** 1759 estate map; plan analysis of 1838 Tithe map and Ordnance Survey map of 1882.
- **Aerial photographs:** 1946 RAF 106G/UK/1721 2192 ST 788/1.
- **Documentary evidence:** Antiquarian accounts (Atkyns 1712; Rudder 1779).
- **Archaeological/historical research:** study of the archaeology of Avon (Aston & Iles 1988).

### 6.2 Watercourses, roads and routeways

#### **Watercourses** [*Map C: 1, 2*]

The earliest mapped depiction of the town is the 1759 estate map but unfortunately it makes only a very sporadic record of the watercourses in the town, usually where there is a feature of note such as at Horse Bridge. The first detailed depiction of the watercourses appears on the Tithe map of 1838 and, as with the medieval period, this must remain the best approximation of the course of the streams in the post-medieval period; these rivers appear on *Map C*.

The fishponds depicted to the south and east of the church and clearly shown on the Tithe map almost certainly date to at least the post-medieval period. The construction of the railway tunnel in the first half of the 19th century resulted in the diversion of the stream to the north of the town, and the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 does not show any watercourses in this part of the town.

#### **Roads** [*Map C: 3*]

The road network is unlikely to have changed since the medieval period, and continued to comprise three main roads into the town, linking it to Chipping Sodbury, Wotton-under-Edge, Charfield and Hawkesbury. They are all clearly shown on the 1759 estate map as the principal roads.

Of the minor roads in the town, the route to the church is of particular interest. On the 1759 estate map the main road to the church appears to be from the north. The absence of the road to the south of the church may indicate that it was built after this date, to provide a shorter path from the town to the church. It is substantially higher than the fields on either side of it, presumably because the stream and fishponds were both located here. Perry has suggested that the road acted as a dam for a lake since the roadway was once known as the 'stank', which is old English for a dam; the water drained away when the railway tunnel was cut under the pool in 1841 (Perry 1986: 15). The potential for the survival of archaeological material in this area is good. The area depicted on *Map C* is based on existing road as shown on the digital Ordnance Survey map of 1995.

#### **Bridges** [*Map C: 4-6*]

There are 3 points at which the roads into the town had to cross the river, as described above (section 5.2). Evidence survives at one of them for a medieval stone bridge; this

is marked on the 1759 estate map as Horse Bridge (SMR 2065). It is not known if there were post-medieval alterations made to this bridge. A second Medieval bridge The Sturt Bridge lies to the south east of the town.

### 6.3 Commercial core

#### **Town plots** [*Map C*]

The success of the town in the 16th and 17th centuries suggests that this was the period when the town plots were fully utilised, forming the basis for the town area shown on the Tithe map of 1838 (and shown on *Map C*). One or two of the town plots were amalgamated on the Tithe map, possibly pre-dating the 19th century. They suggest that the pressure on space fronting the High Street may have been low at points in the town's history, and there was an opportunity for the more wealthy members of the community to combine plots to form larger areas. These parcels of land may have been the site of industrial activity in the town, relating to cloth industry, clay pipe manufacture or brewing. They are depicted on *Map C*.

By contrast, there are a lot of buildings developed to the rear of these plots suggesting a different pattern of development, one where there is a higher premium on space. Further detailed documentary research is required to elucidate a better understanding of these conflicting trends.

#### **Market place and market cross** [*Map C: 7*]

The central portion of the High Street served as a market-place, and this can still be discerned today. The area depicted on *Map C* is based on plan analysis of the modern town, as shown on the digital Ordnance Survey map of 1995, and the Tithe map of 1838 which shows the area most clearly. In the early 18th century a market cross stood in the High Street, opposite the town hall (Perry 1986: 12). It does not appear in Pooley's book of crosses and presumably had disappeared by this time (Pooley 1868).

### 6.4 Civic buildings

#### **Town hall** [*Map C: 8*]

The town hall dates to c.1795 and is made of rubble, with arched openings on the second floor and a bellcote with pinnacle (Verey 1970: 406). It is a listed grade II building (DoE 1984: 9/200). The depiction of the town hall on *Map C* is based on the surviving building, as shown on the digital Ordnance Survey map of 1995.

Of particular note is the town hall clock which, according to Perry, predates 1610; Thomas Robinson, a clock expert of Bristol, stated that it made before the advent of the pendulum time piece and thus confirmed this early date of manufacture (Perry c.1985: 12). The clock suggests that there was an earlier town hall building probably built on the same site.

#### **Free School** [*Map C: 9*]

A free grammar school was established in 1684 by Mr. Hosea. He had been a poor boy apprenticed to a weaver in the town, but had run away to London when he was child and made his fortune there. He is said to have run away because he broke a pan containing a traditional dish called *Whitepot* on the way to the bakehouse, and was too terrified to return to his master. He gave £600 to build a school house for the master to live in. (Rudder 1779: 822)

The school house was described by Verey in 1970 as 'a good building with a hipped roof' (Verey 1970: 406); it survives today in reasonably good condition and is a listed grade II building (DoE 1984: 9/187). The depiction of the school on *Map C* is based on

the plot boundary associated with the building shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

Rudder also mentions a second free-school in the town but its location is not known.

## 6.5 Religious sites and cemeteries

### **Holy Trinity Church** [*Map C: 10*]

Although the parish church did not undergo any major reconstruction during the post-medieval period, it would have looked very unlike the medieval church, stripped of its ornaments and whitewashed (Perry 1985: 9). Atkyns' description of the church in 1712 gives some idea of the church before the 19th century alterations:

'the church is large and adorned with battlements; it hath an isle on the south side, and two chancels, one belonging to the parish, the other to the minister; the Tower is high and stands to the West End, and is adorned with handsome pinnacles. The church is dedicated to the Virgin Mary.' (Atkyns 1712: 818).

A date stone of 1749 over the east window may refer to a restoration at that time. The oldest memorial tablet in the church itself dates to 1638 and is located in the north aisle of the Nave (Perry 1985: 19). Other post-medieval features in the church include a plate of 1707, a flagon of 1730, an almsplate of 1743, and a chandelier dating to 1728. The churchyard contains several examples of table tombs, some dating from the early 17th century. They include a notable coloured marble tablet dedicated to Stokes (1762) and made by the Bristol family of Paty (Verrey 1970: 50, 405).

The register of baptisms, marriages and burials survives from 1689 onwards. Of particular note is the year 1759, when 36 people died from smallpox. An extract from the parish records of 1710 mention payment for the clock and chimes in the church tower and for its maintenance (Perry c.1985).

In the absence of more detailed information the depiction of the graveyard on *Map C* is based on the area shown on the Tithe map of 1838.

## 6.6 Industrial areas and sites

### **Clay pipe factory** [*Map C: 11-13*]

Pipemaking in Wickwar began in the late 17th century and was practiced by a succession of makers down to the early 19th century. The earliest record of a clay pipe maker was in 1715 when an apprenticeship indenture of William Head was placed with Obadiah Ash. Mayoral rolls indicated that Ash came to Wickwar between 1670 and 1686, and pipes of a late 17th century type with the initials 'OA' have been found at Wotton-under-Edge and Woodford. (Peacey 1979: 74)

The clay pipe manufactory owned by Ash was located close to a malthouse in the town, since 18th century pipes marked 'O ASH' and wastered stems, indicating the presence of a kiln nearby, have been found here (*ibid.*). The area marked on *Map C* corresponds to plots 549 and 550 on the Tithe map, which was later occupied by a 19th century malthouse (Peacey personal communication).

A site of a second clay pipe manufactory was excavated in 1967, in an area corresponding to plot 568 on the Tithe map (*ibid.*). A total of 28 square metres (one hundred square feet) was excavated, the depth of soil varying from 0.23 m at the back of the house to 1m against the lower wall of the garden. No structural remains were encountered, but a layer of fine ash and unfired pipe clay containing wasters and fragments of kiln fabric were found. A fine series of 18th century pipes was pieced

together, the majority of which were marked with 'TS' on the right hand side of the pipe bowl. The initials refer to Thomas Sommers, who was described as 'a pipemaker of Wickwar' in a will of Hannah Sommers in 1769. (Peacey 1979: 76)

In 1969 a third site was identified by Peacey at the southern edge of the town, in the garden of a property called 'The Gate'; this property is marked on the Tithe map of 1838 as plots 509, 510, 511 and 512. A large quantity of fragmented kiln waste and pipe stems was recovered, many of which bore the stamp of Rob Lovell. The parish registers record his birth in 1780 and death in 1826.

There is likely to be a further clay pipe manufactory in the town because many 18th century pipes have been found in Wickwar marked 'IE'; this maker is not recorded in Bristol and may have been another local maker. (Peacey 1979: 76)

#### **Malthouses** [*Map C: 14, 15*]

Peacey has referred to an 'old malthouse' which was mentioned in connection to Obadiah Ash, as discussed above. The area shown on *Map C* is based on the Tithe map of 1838 (plots 549 and 550). There are two possible candidates for the malthouse building itself, which are shown on the Tithe map and still survive today: a long building at the back of the property [*Map C: 14*] and the buildings fronting the High Street (70-72) [*Map C: 15*].

### **6.7 Private estates**

#### **Wickwar manor** [*Map C: 16*]

The post-medieval site for the manor of Wickwar is certain to have been Pool House (SMR 9669). This house was demolished between 1838 and 1882, and today lies partly under a path leading from the town to the church, and partly in an area of tumbled garden walls. The depiction of the manor house on *Map C* is based on the plot area associated with Pool House, shown on the Tithe map of 1838.

An illustration of the house drawn in 1801 indicates that it was late medieval or early 16th century in date (Lysons 1804; Verey 1970: 406; Russett 1991). Atkyns states that 'Mr. Purnell has a large house near the Church and a good estate in the Parish' (Atkyns 1712: 817). A plot of land to the north of the church is recorded in the Tithe apportionments as 'Parnells Leaze' (plot 751).

Pool House evidently derived its name from the proximity of two large pools, variously referred to as fishponds or lakes: Robinson describes them as 'large fishponds... upon one of these a boat was kept' and Perry refers to (presumably) the larger pool as a lake (Perry 1986: 15). The two areas of water are shown on the Tithe map of 1838 to the south of the house (plots 713 and 724). The date of the lakes is not known, but the record of the name in 1801 suggests that they were certainly present by this date (Lysons 1804). Further documentary research may reveal earlier references to the house and proof of pre-19th century lakes. The two lakes areas are depicted on *Map B*.

### **6.8 Standing buildings**

In addition to the late 17th century school house in the town, five other buildings dating to the 17th century survive along the High Street (DoE 1984: 9/177, 9/179, 9/180, 9/191, 9/192). Castle Farm, to the south of the original town core, also dates to the 17th century (DoE 1984: 9/204). Eight houses in the High Street date to the 18th century, including the Town Hall (DoE 1984: 9/183, 9/186, 9/188, 9/193, 9/195, 9/198,

9/200, 9/203). In the outlying area of the town, 18th century buildings survive at South Farm, Hill House and at West End (DoE 1984: 9/206, 9/170, 9/207, 9/209).

### **6.9 Local context**

A number of post-medieval farmsteads have been identified mainly to the west and south of the town (SMR 6552, SMR 2887, SMR 2886). A pound has also been identified to the south-west of the town at West End on the basis of the Ordnance Survey map of 1921, but very little survives. A workhouse was also identified from the same map about 1km to the south of the town on Frith Lane.

## 7.0 EARLY MODERN (19th century) ARCHAEOLOGY

### 7.1 Sources of evidence

- **Field survey work:** Topographic survey of the town (Leech 1975).
- **Standings buildings:** Buildings study (Robinson 1916); study of church and principal buildings (Verey 1970); DoE List of buildings of special architectural or historic interest (1984); study of Wickwar parish church (Perry c.1985)
- **Maps:** Tithe map 1939; Ordnance Survey map of 1882; Ordnance Survey map of 1921.
- **Aerial photographs:** 1946 RAF 106G/UK/1721 2192 ST 788/1
- **Documentary evidence:** Kelly's Directory 1842, 1879, 1885, 1897.
- **Archaeological/historical research:** Industrial archaeology (Buchanan & Buchanan 1980: 63); Research on railways (Oakley 1986); local history journal; study of the archaeology of Avon (Aston & Iles 1988).

### 7.2 Watercourses, roads and routeways

#### **Watercourses and water supply** [Map D]

Comparisons between the Tithe map of 1838 and the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 show considerable changes to the river system in the town area. The river and fishponds (or lakes) shown on the Tithe map to the south of the church do not appear on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882, presumably because they were drained as a result of the railway tunnel built directly below this area. No detailed study of the water management system has been made, but it seems reasonable to assume that the river was diverted below ground since it stops at the end of the properties on the west side of the High Street and reappears to the north-east of the town.

There are 5 wells and 3 pumps marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 in the main town area. The pumps overlie the original route of the river. The location of these water sources is important because they are likely to have been in use for several hundred years: the public wells were important points of congregation and it is possible that there is a correlation between their location and better buildings (Schofield 1994: 53). They were also frequently the source of disease. The wells in Wickwar are probably the only chance of waterlogged material surviving in the town, particularly where they are no longer used.

#### **Roads** [Map D]

The 19th century road network did not change dramatically from the post-medieval period, and continued to comprise three main roads linking the town to Chipping Sodbury, Wotton-under-Edge, Charfield and Hawkesbury. They are all clearly shown on the Tithe map of 1838 and Ordnance Survey map of 1882 as the principal roads. One interesting difference to emerge when the two maps are compared is a shortening of the back lane. This altered the access to Southend House to the north of the plot of land.

#### **Bridges**

In the early 19th century there were five points at which the roads are likely to have had to cross the river, however, after the railway tunnel was completed in 1841 the river to the north of the town was diverted underground reducing the number of crossing points to two. It is at these two points that evidence survives for a medieval stone bridge, as described above (SMR 2065, 2895).

**Railways** [*Map D: 1-4*]

Wickwar lay on a section of railway track which provided the final link between Bristol and Gloucestershire. In 1839 the new Bristol and Gloucester Railway, supported by the new Great Western Railway (GWR), obtained an Act to build an extension to the existing Bristol and Gloucestershire Railway: the line travelled to Standish, to the south-west of Gloucester, where it connected up with the new Cheltenham and Great Western Union Railway. The new line was run by GWR and opened in 1844, thus completing rail communications between Newcastle and Exeter. (Oakley 1986: 9)

The railway line passed to the west and north of the town via the Charfield Railway tunnel [*Map D: 1*] (SMR 5450; Buchanan & Buchanan 1980: 63). The tunnel was over 1km long and is the first example in England of pneumatic drilling used in civil engineering for the purpose of explosives (Perry 1986: 17). Seven air shafts were incorporated into the design of the tunnel and they still survive today: two fall within the study area [*Map D: 2, 3*]. During the operations on the tunnel the Church Registers show that three workmen were killed when a barrel of gunpowder exploded in 1841. Seven other men died in accidents connected with the tunnel at about this time (*ibid.*).

Wickwar Station was opened at the same time as the line in 1844 [*Map D: 4*] (SMR 5115). It lay to the north of the town on the road to Wotton-under-Edge, a short distance from the north portal of the tunnel. The station was closed to goods in 1963 and closed entirely in 1965, however, the line is still in use. (Oakley 1986: 46)

The depiction of Charfield Railway Tunnel, the 7 air shafts and the main station building on *Map D* is based on the surviving structures, first shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 and still depicted on the digital Ordnance Survey map of 1995. Further survey work is required of the station building because its present survival and use is not known.

A road bridge was built over the railway in c1843 by the engineer Brunel. It is a listed grade II building (DoE 1984: 261).

### 7.3 Commercial core

**Town plots** [*Map D*]

There was no significant growth in the size of the town in the 19th century and the original settlement area appears to have continued in use. The town plots depicted on *Map D* are based on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

**Market place** [*Map D: 5*]

The central portion of the High Street served as a market-place, and it can still be discerned today. The area depicted on *Map D* is based on plan analysis of the modern town, as shown on the digital Ordnance Survey map of 1995, and the Tithe map of 1838 which shows the area most clearly.

### 7.4 Civic buildings

**Town Hall** [*Map D: 6*]

The 18th century town hall is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882. A mid 19th century alteration was made to the early 17th century clock, by the addition of a bell to strike the hours. The bell was made by Hale & Co. of Bristol in 1848 (Perry 1986: 12). It is a listed grade II building (DoE 1984: 9/200). The depiction of the town hall on *Map D* is based on the surviving building, as shown on the digital Ordnance Survey map of 1995.

**Free School [Map D: 7]**

The free grammar school established by Mr. Hosea in the 17th century continued to function as a school for children in the parish. The school house was described by Verey in 1970 as 'a good building with a hipped roof' (Verey 1970: 406); it survives today in reasonably good condition and is a listed grade II building (DoE 1984: 9/187). The depiction of the school on *Map D* is based on the plot boundary associated with the building shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

**Boys and Girls School [Map D: 8]**

A second school is marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 as the 'Boys and Girls School'; the plot area associated with the school building is depicted on *Map D*. It was located to the south of the church and is almost certainly the public elementary school mentioned in Kelly's directory and established in 1878 (Kelly's directory 1914: 371). The school building stands today, although it is not listed.

## 7.5 Religious sites and cemeteries

**Holy Trinity Church [Map D: 9]**

Minor alterations occurred to the parish church in 1830 when it was re-paved (Perry 1986: 17), but in 1881 it was practically rebuilt during its restoration by W.L. Bernard (Verey 1970: 405). It is a listed grade II\* building (DoE 1984: 9/150).

The churchyard was extended in the late 19th century to include two plots of land to the south; the additional area marked on *Map D* are based on a plan dated to 1893.

**Sunday School [Map D: 10]**

A Sunday school was built to the north of parish church in 1837 (Verey 1970: 406), and still survives today. It is a listed grade II building (DoE 1984: 9/151). The depiction of the Sunday School on *Map D* is based on the immediate plot associated with the surviving building, as shown on the digital Ordnance Survey map of 1995.

**Old Rectory [Map D: 11]**

The Old Rectory was built in 1864 by George Devey to the west of the church. It was made of rubble on an irregular plan (Verey 1970: 61) and survives intact today. It is a listed grade II building (DoE 1984: 9/149). The depiction of the Rectory on *Map D* is based on the immediate plot associated with the surviving building, as shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 and the digital Ordnance Survey map of 1995.

**Independent Chapel [Map D: 12]**

The Wickwar Congregational chapel was opened in 1817 on the High Street. The building is made of rendered local stone and has a slate roof; the chapel seated 130 people (Stanbrook & Powney 1989). It was marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 as the Independent Chapel, and the area depicted on *Map D* is based on the plot area in which it stands. It is not known if there was a burial ground associated with the chapel, but the plot associated with the building has been included as a precaution. It is a listed grade II building (DoE 1984: 9/178).

**Baptist Chapel [Map D: 13]**

The Baptist Chapel in Wickwar was opened in 1863 and closed in 1947 (Stanbrook & Powney 1989). The building is made of rendered local stone and has a slate roof. It is now a private house and the depiction of the chapel on *Map D* is based on that shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882. It is not known if there was a burial ground associated with the chapel, but the plot adjacent to the building has been included as a precaution.

## 7.6 Extractive industrial areas and sites

### Quarries [Map D: 14, 15]

Wickwar, like its neighbour Chipping Sodbury to the south, lies on a narrow band of Carboniferous Limestone and most of the buildings in the town are made of this stone. A number of quarries are marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882. Two small areas were located on the northern fringes of the settlement area, within the study area [Map D: 14, 15]; three larger areas were marked to the north-west of the town, outside the study area. Evidence for the largest area of quarrying survives today in the form of a lake. Further field reconnaissance is required to access the extent to which the other areas have been backfilled.

## 7.7 Non-extractive industrial areas and sites

### Malthouses [Map D: 16, 17]

According to Ryder there were 4 malthouses in the 19th century (Ryder 1966: 154), one of which is shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 (SMR 9107). Peacey identified a second malthouse to the on the south-west side of the High Street: the other two could not be identified.

The largest example is a malthouse to the north of the town at Wilcox's Garage (SMR 9107). It is an example of an early 19th century malthouse built in pennant sandstone and altered in the late 19th century. The later (front) elevation consists of two parts: to the right is a two-storey section with a segmental headed cart entry and two tall round-headed windows above; to the left is a two-stage projecting tower with quoins and a pyramidal slate roof. The main part of the malthouse is to the rear; it is 3 storeys high, with 5 segmental headed windows with iron grilles. The interior retains some cast iron columns. It is a listed grade II building. (Russett 1992 slide; DoE 1984: 9/189)

A second malthouse is referred to by Peacey, as described above. The precise location of the 'old malthouse' is not known, though it lay within the plot areas 549 and 550 shown on the Tithe map of 1838. The area depicted on *Map D* corresponds to these plot areas.

### Breweries [Map D: 18, 19, 20]

The origins of Arnold & Company Brewery go back to 1800, when Mr. Thomas Arnold opened a brewery in the High Street (SMR 4445). The business prospered and a new larger brewery was built to the north of the town, close to the railway station. The depiction of these two breweries on *Map D* is based on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 [Map D: 26, 27]. (West Country Brewery Holdings 1960: 21)

It is not known when the building in High Street ceased to be used as a brewery, but references to 20th century changes in ownership imply that by 1924 the brewery was based solely on the larger site to the north of the town. The earlier brewery building has been split into two buildings, 36 and 38 High Street, and is a listed grade II building; however, no reference is made to its use in the listing description and no internal survey was made (DoE 1984: 37/195). Further survey work is required to check for surviving features that relate its use as a brewery. A survey in 1980 noted that the buildings of a small brewery were still intact (Buchanan & Buchanan 1980: 63), however, it is difficult to discern if this is the same building because a different grid reference was given (ST 723886).

The brewery to the north of the town, later known as the Cider Works, continued in use as a cider factory well into the second half of the 20th century: a publication commissioned by its owners in 1960 describes the new facilities at the plant. The

complex has now been converted into a small trading estate, but it retains a range of pennant sandstone buildings from the original brewery (Day 1987). The proximity of the river to this site must have been a major attraction for its 19th century owners; water was diverted from the Little Avon to a sluice marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 [Map D: 28]. The sluice area has subsequently been filled in.

#### **Public houses** [Map D: 21, 22, 23]

Only one pub was identified on the Tithe map of 1838: The White Horse Inn, located on Station Road and now a private house called White Horse Lodge. In addition to this inn, two others were shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882: the New Inn, which is now known as the Buthay Public House and an unidentified public house on the east side of the High Street more or less opposite the Baptist Chapel. The depiction of the public houses on Map D is based on the plot areas shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882.

#### **Brick kiln** [Map D: 24]

A brick kiln was shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 to the north of the sluice: this area has been shown on Map D. Further field survey work is required to establish if the kiln or any other features associated with the brick works still survive.

### **7.8 Private estates**

#### **Pool House** [Map D: 25]

Pool House, the probable manor house for the parish, was demolished between 1840 and 1888 (SMR 9669). Today the site lies partly under a path leading from the town to the church, and partly in an area of tumbled garden walls. The depiction of the manor house on Map D is based on the plot area associated with Pool House, shown on the Tithe map of 1838.

The lakes to the south of the house were drained away when the railway tunnel was cut in 1841 (Perry 1986: 15) and presumably the abandonment of the house is also related to the construction of the line, which ran directly beneath the house. The last recorded occupant of Pool House is Thomas Cullimore, who appears in the church records of 1821 due to payment for a seat in the gallery of the church.

### **7.9 Standing buildings**

There are 18 listed buildings dating to the 19th century along the High Street, including the malthouse described above, and several other houses were remodelled at this time. In addition to these buildings in the core area of the town, the Old Rectory on Church Lane (DoE 1984: 9/149) and the Sunday School (DoE 1984: 9/151) both date to the late 19th century. To the south of the town, Ivy House at number 34 dates to the 19th century (DoE 1984: 9/205).

## 8.0 20TH CENTURY DEVELOPMENT

### 8.1 Sources of evidence

- **Below ground intervention:** Excavation in the garden of 67 High Street (Peacey 1979)
- **Field survey work:** Topographic survey of the town (Leech 1975).
- **Standings buildings:** Buildings study (Robinson 1916); study of church and principal buildings (Verey 1970); DoE List of buildings of special architectural or historic interest (1984); study of Wickwar parish church (Perry c.1985).
- **Maps:** Ordnance Survey maps of 1923, 1968, 1981, 1990, 1995.
- **Aerial photographs:** 1946 RAF 106G/UK/1721 2192 ST 788/1; 1991 ADAS Aerial Photography Unit, Cambridge: 103-106, 203-206.
- **Archaeological/historical research:** Industrial archaeology (Buchanan & Buchanan 1980: 63); research on railways (Oakley 1986); study of the archaeology of Avon (Aston & Iles 1988).

### 8.2 Watercourses, roads and routeways

#### Watercourses and water supply

The major changes to the watercourses in the town occurred in the 19th century, and the course of the Little Avon River does not seem to have altered significantly in the intervening period. No study has been made of the modern water and sewerage management system, although a sewerage plant to the north of the town was noted on the 1991 aerial photographs of the town.

#### Roads

The principal road into the town remain unchanged from the medieval period. The new roads in the town are associated with housing development which occurred largely in the 1980s and 1990s. They form a distinctive pattern of curved cul-du-sac roads, providing access for all houses.

#### Railways [Map E: 1]

The railway line which passes from the south-east to the north-west of the town is still in use today, but the station at Wickwar was closed to goods in 1963 and closed entirely in 1965 (Oakley 1986: 46).

### 8.3 Redevelopment within the town centre [Map E: 2]

No major demolition has occurred in the town centre, aside from one accidental gas explosion at the end of the High Street in 1987, which destroyed 11 High Street (Russett pers comm). There have been extensions to some buildings and others have lost outbuildings and other associated features. The only development to occur within the town which infringes the likely medieval town core is at the back of the plots occupied by Southend House. No evaluations were carried out prior to these developments, which appear to have been built in the between 1981 and 1995.

An important area was identified during the site visit to the town in 1996, on the eastern side of the High Street (Site visit 1996); a number of ruined buildings were observed in this area and they may be a result of population decline during the first half of the 20th century. It is important to ensure that these features are properly recorded before they are lost.

#### 8.4 Settlement growth [Map E: 3, 4]

The Ordnance Survey maps of 1923, 1968, 1981, 1990 and 1995 give a reasonably good picture of the settlement growth in Wickwar, the majority of which occurred in the 1980s and 1990s. The phases of settlement growth are shown on *Map E*.

There was relatively little development between 1882 and 1923, which does not seem entirely surprising given the decline in population from 917 to 769 over this period (Kelly's Directory 1885, 1927). By 1968 a fringe of housing had been built along the back of the plots on the west side of the town [*Map E: 3*] and a small cul-de-sac was built to the east of the town [*Map E: 4*]. This development had expanded only slightly by 1981.

The Ordnance Survey map of 1990 shows a dramatic increase in housing development, with a large area of detached and semi-detached houses built to the south and east of the town. By 1995 housing development had infilled all the land to the east of the town.

#### 8.5 Civic buildings

##### **Free School** [*Map E: 5*]

The free grammar school established by Mr. Hosea in the 17th century continued to function as the County Primary School for children in the parish until the early 1990s (it is still marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1990). The school house was described by Verey in 1970 as 'a good building with a hipped roof' (Verey 1970: 406); it survives today in reasonably good condition and is a listed grade II building (DoE 1984: 9/187).

##### **Boys and Girls School** [*Map E: 6*]

The boys and girls school, marked on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882 continues to be labelled as a school on the Ordnance Survey map of 1923, but by 1968 it is referred to as a hall. The building survives today.

##### **Alexander Hosea School** [*Map E: 7*]

A new school was built on the east side of Wickwar in the early 1990s.

#### 8.6 Religious sites and cemeteries

##### **Holy Trinity Church** [*Map E: 8*]

The fabric of the church has received a great deal of attention in the second half of the 20th century. The tower was re-pointed in 1958 and the church re-roofed in 1964. An extensive scheme to reinstate the Weaver's Chapel and new Baptistery was completed in 1969. (Perry 1986: 13)

Features of the early 20th century include a stained glass west window made in 1911 by Christopher Whall, a projecting organ chamber of 1929 and an Austrian chandelier of the same date (Verey 1970: 405). More recently a memorial window was installed in 1977, depicting the history of Wickwar.

The war memorial to the men of the parish dates from 1924, and includes those who died during the two World Wars.

##### **Congregational Chapel** [*Map E: 9*]

The Independent Chapel is shown on the 20th century Ordnance Survey maps as the Congregational Chapel. It has also been referred to as the Wickwar United Reformed Chapel. Very little information has been published on the church although it is still in use. The building was altered in 1919 (Verey 1970: 406).

The area depicted on *Map E* is based on the plot area in which it stands. It is not known if there was a burial ground associated with the chapel, but the plot associated with the building has been included as a precaution. It is a listed grade II building (DoE 1984: 9/178).

**Baptist Chapel** [*Map E: 10*]

The Baptist Chapel in Wickwar closed in 1947 (Stanbrook & Powney 1989). The building is made of rendered local stone and has a slate roof. It is now a private house and the depiction of the chapel on *Map E* is based on that shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1882. It is not known if there was a burial ground associated with the chapel, but the plot adjacent to the building has been included as a precaution.

**Temperance Hall** [*Map E: 11*]

A building which still survives today is labelled on the Ordnance Survey map of 1923 as a Temperance Hall. It does not appear on the Ordnance Survey map of 1886 and consequently it must have been built between 1886 and 1923. It is not labelled on the 1968, 1981, 1990 or 1995 map as a Temperance Hall. Documentary research is required to elucidate the role of the hall in the early 20th century.

## 8.7 Extractive industrial areas and sites

### Quarries

Some quarrying continued close to the town in the early 20th century; for example, Oldbarn quarries were shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1923. However, by 1991 quarrying operations were concentrated on two extensive sites to the north of the town (ADAS aerial photography 1991).

## 8.8 Non-extractive industrial areas and sites

### Breweries

 [*Map E: 12*]

References to 20th century changes in the ownership of Arnold & Company Brewery imply that by 1924 the brewery was based solely on the larger site to the north of the town. Around this time the factory was changed from brewing beer to cider making. The old brewery was stripped out and the building converted to hold huge storage tanks. After the war the storage facilities were enlarged and a new bottling plant installed. In 1960 the cellars are described as being some of the largest reinforced tanks in the country, with a capacity of almost 7 million litres stored 18m underground. (West Country Brewery Holdings 1960: 21)

By 1981 the works area is described on the Ordnance Survey map as a trading estate, though it appears to have retained some of the pennant sandstone buildings associated with original brewery (Day 1987). The brewing company, Wickwar Brewery, moved to a new factory site a short distance up the road, where it is still located.

### Elastic Mill

 [*Map E: 13*]

An Elastic Mill was shown on the Ordnance Survey map of 1968 though by 1981 the buildings are labelled as 'Works'. By 1990 additional buildings were built to the west of the town, with an access road to what was labelled 'Arnoldsfield Trading Estate'.

## **9.0 RESEARCH INTERESTS**

### **9.1 Research interests**

1. A detailed ground survey is required of the area around Holy Trinity Church to establish the likely remains of the Saxon village.
2. A more holistic approach to the landscape around Wickwar would provide a better context in which to discuss the development of the town. In particular, the role of the waterways needs to be explored more fully. A better understanding of the changing alignments of the streams and siting of public wells would shed valuable light on the settlement development in the area.
3. The conflict in settlement density outlined in section 6.3 needs to be explored further. Did the construction of back building lots occur at a different time to the amalgamation of burgage plots or was property increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few wealthier town dwellers?
4. More detailed documentary and archaeological research is required to build up a more complete picture of the town in the 18th and 19th century, since very little is understood of industrial development within the town. In addition, a better understanding of 19th century changes to the town would add greater credibility to assertions made about the earlier town.
5. A detailed investigation of the electrical wiring in the town is urgently required to check for evidence of the pioneering 19th century lighting system, first installed in the old brewery and then extended to light the streets.

### **9.2 Recommendations for further research work**

1. Compile a summary of all documentary sources for the town.
2. Conduct a detailed buildings survey, focusing particularly on the houses fronting the High Street. Many of the houses are not listed and may contain 18th and possibly 17th century features, usually as a core to later buildings. Only very few of the listed buildings have been subject to an internal survey, and where this is carried out it is likely to reveal earlier features possibly dating to the medieval period.
3. Conduct a cellar survey.
4. Prepare a detailed contour survey of the town.
5. Build up a detailed deposit model for the town.
6. Complete a comprehensive trawl of Bristol City Museum archives to check for finds and sites which have not been published and are not included in the Sites and Monuments Record.

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## 10.2 Map sources

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- 1838 Sturge, Y. Tithe map. Gloucestershire Record Office T1/198
- 1882 Ordnance Survey map 25 inch Gloucestershire 64.10
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- 1923 Ordnance Survey map 1:2500 Gloucestershire sheet 64 SW
- 1968 Ordnance Survey map 1:2500 ST 7287, ST 7288
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## 10.3 Aerial photographs

1946

RAF 106G-UK-1721 2192 ST 788/1

1991

ADAS Run 7 - 104/102

#### 10.4 Archaeological evaluations

SMR 10439	The Buthay pub and garden, Wickwar. Entry in Sites and Monuments Record 'magic dark blue book, by Vince Russett, not entered in.
SMR 9573	54 High Street, Wickwar. Entry in Sites and Monuments Record by Vince Russett.
SMR 10718	32 High Street, Wickwar. Entry in Sites and Monuments Record by Vince Russett.
SMR 10826	Trial excavation at rear of 28 High Street. Entry in Sites and Monuments Record by Dave Evans.
SMR 11047	Watching brief conducted by Vince Russett in car park adjacent to church.

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