Berkeley Castle Tales

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Edited by

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Cover: An Anglo-Saxon gold ring that was first recorded in Berkeley Castle's collections in 1860. (photo BCP - Department of Anthropology and Archaeology);
The inner gatehouse of Berkeley Castle (photo by Aerial Cam 2008).
Back cover: Berkeley castle front approach by Leonard Knyff, c.1676 (Berkeley Castle Archives)

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Foreword by Charles Berkeley

It gives me great pleasure in contributing an introduction to this wonderful book on the Berkeley Castle Project undertaken by University of Bristol's archaeology students. My father, when approached, was very keen that this important study was to be done; he discussed with Dr Stuart Prior and Professor Mark Horton what they were proposing and how the dig might work, over 15 years ago. To know that 900 years of family history at Berkeley has been augmented through the University dig is tremendous.

Before William FitzOsbern and his timber framed motte-and-bailey castle, there existed a Minster, possibly housing monks and nuns. After this came down, stone from this was used in construction for the foundation of the shell keep of the castle. Berkeley has a rich layer of history that is connected to many great events in this country, and to know that early Roman, Anglo-Saxon, Norman and Tudor artefacts have been found along with more recent Civil War defences is for us proof of a rich social history in the town and surrounding countryside. My family is proud to be associated with this historic site and owe a huge thank you to everyone who has been involved in the project over the last 15 years.

The enthusiasm shown at all times by Professor Horton and Dr Prior, and the senior team at the University with their passion and knowledge of the site, has been there for us all to see. It has been a privilege for the family to have followed the work and seen the results of this extraordinary uncovering of our archaeology.

Berkeley has always had a story to tell the world, and now we have another layer or two that will excite and be of great interest to many in the future.

Charles Berkeley

Foreword by Roland Brown

I am delighted to see the results of 15 years of hard work put into print to record the findings of the University's Berkeley Project. The team at Berkeley Castle have always looked forward to the arrival of the University of Bristol undergraduates for a few weeks each year, and it has been very rewarding to see the project develop over that period. The staff and students were met by all types of weather during their project but remained cheerful and productive throughout. Following the completion of the programme, we will miss the buzz around the Castle arising when something significant was found. The picture of the site kept evolving as layer after layer of history was carefully uncovered and each year provided something of interest or excitement. I hope that the many, many students who first cut their teeth in practical archaeology at the site will remember Berkeley fondly.

I am particularly grateful to Dr Stuart Prior and his team for engaging so proactively with Berkeley Castle during their time on site. Stuart, Mark, Siân, Emily and many others were always ready to share their knowledge of the site with the Friends of Berkeley Castle, our visitors, staff and many other groups who had an interest. We were also particularly pleased when the dig's social media team became based at the Castle so that they could provide updates to visitors as the project developed. These measures were very important in making the dig relevant to today's visitors, and I hope that the findings of this study will continue to be of interest and benefit to visitors to Berkeley Castle for many years to come.

Roland Brown BSc (Hons) MRICS FAAV
Estate Director

Foreword by Professor Graeme Were

Before arriving in Bristol in January 2018, there were several things I had discovered about the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology in my preparation for my return to UK academia. The first was that Bristol archaeologists are highly regarded amongst their peers; their fieldwork skills are considered second to none and the graduates produced are eagerly snapped up for archaeology jobs around the world. The second thing I found out was that the department had adopted a four-field approach to anthropology. This approach – widespread in American anthropology departments – blends social, linguistic, and biological anthropology with archaeology. Naturally, material culture figured prominently within this matrix and I saw my own research interests strongly reflected by staff in the department. These two reasons, not to mention Bristol's links to museum and heritage sites in the region, provided further incentives to be excited about my new move.

Yet, beside these two significant factors, there was in addition one other feature of the department that really stood out – the Berkeley dig – the annual fieldwork excavation that tied together the department's key strengths in anthropology and archaeology that takes place over three weeks towards the end of the academic term each year.

Berkeley – as it is familiarly known in the department – encapsulates all the positive aspects of four-field anthropology. Not only does it produce some remarkable finds each year, from gardener's glasses dating back to the mid-twentieth century to artefacts from the Roman period and the English Civil War – it also involves engagement with the local Gloucestershire community. In the village of Berkeley, students had set up a pop-up exhibition of finds in local shops and residents' windows. This went on to win a prestigious national award in 2015–2016. It is precisely this diverse skillset that students on the course experience that makes Berkeley what it is and what brought me to Bristol. In the first year I visited, students had interpreted finds and displayed them in one of the most significant rooms in the castle. I found the display case of archaeological finds surrounded by visitors, while a painting by the great English artist George Stubbs (best known for his studies of horses), seemed almost unnoticed. This moment made me reflect on the advice of an English archaeologist friend of mine who said to me when I was about to depart Queensland: 'One thing you really must do when in Bristol is to visit this Medieval castle up the M5 in Gloucestershire.' It was only when visiting the dig and the exhibition in May 2018 that I put two and two together.

This report is the fruition of over a decade of fieldwork and brings to a close a chapter in the life of the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology. The rich findings underline the continued importance of archaeology and anthropology in shedding light on our past. Yet what makes this so special is how the project has reached out beyond academia, impacting in positive ways on students, communities, visitors, and schoolchildren, all of whom participated in this project and contributed in some way to what we now know Berkeley to be. As of all great projects, when they finally come to a close, I am certain we will take inspiration from Berkeley's collaborative model to develop future projects which deepen our understanding of the past.

Graeme Were,
Professor and Chair of Anthropology,
Head of Anthropology and Archaeology
August 2020

Chapter 1

Tales from an Excavation:
University of Bristol and the Berkeley Castle Project 2005–2019

Stuart J. Prior

Introduction

In 2003, in light of proposed development and heritage conservation work in and around the town and castle of Berkeley, Gloucestershire, Elizabeth Halls, the then Castle Director, approached staff at the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of Bristol, with the offer of a long-term research project. Elizabeth was keen to see serious academic research carried out on the castle and its environs. The research proposal was readily accepted by the university and the Berkeley Castle Project (BCP) was established (Fig. 1).

The project began with an initial visit by the late Prof. Mick Aston, Prof. Mark Horton and Dr Stuart Prior back in 2003, and the first season of fieldwork at the castle was conducted in 2005. This subsequently turned into a 14-year archaeological research project for students from the university, surrounding schools and colleges, and local volunteers of all ages until the final season of excavation by the university in the summer of 2019.

With Berkeley Castle (Fig. 2) as a locus for the fieldwork, the project was initially established as a joint venture between the Berkeley Castle Charitable Trust and the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology, University of Bristol. Then, in 2007, following further documentary and cartographic research, the BCP extended its fieldwork into the Edward Jenner Museum Garden, working with the Edward Jenner Museum Board of Trustees and, in 2009, with further fieldwork undertaken in Saint Mary's churchyard, working with the St Mary's Berkeley PCC. The projects were fully supported by the late Mr John Berkeley and, more recently, by Mr Charles Berkeley, the owner and occupier of the castle.

From the outset the project's objective was to build up a detailed picture of the history and archaeology of the castle and associated settlement of Berkeley and the focus for the project was described as 'Minster, Manor and Town'. The project aimed to achieve its objective by combining the results of detailed archaeological fieldwork with information contained in the castle's impressive collection of 20,000 historical documents; 6000 of which relate specifically to the medieval period. It was anticipated that the project, on such an important, prestigious and largely undisturbed site, would add to our knowledge and understanding of the early medieval period and subsequent changes in landscape and society with the coming of the Normans, and the erection of a castle on the former Saxon site.

In 2005, excavations in the Walled Garden to the north of the castle (at ST 6850 9930) – Trench 1 – recorded evidence for a ditch containing late 9th to early 11th century pottery and a Saxon millstone. This highlighted that Berkeley was an important 'central place' in the late Saxon period, the ditch seemingly being a boundary ditch for the suspected minster and the pottery and millstone found, with their late 9th–early 11th century dates, correspond perfectly with the known historic dates for the minster itself. The first authenticated evidence for a minster at Berkeley comes from an Anglo-Saxon charter of 824, which is a record of the settlement of a dispute between Bishop Heahberht and the familia
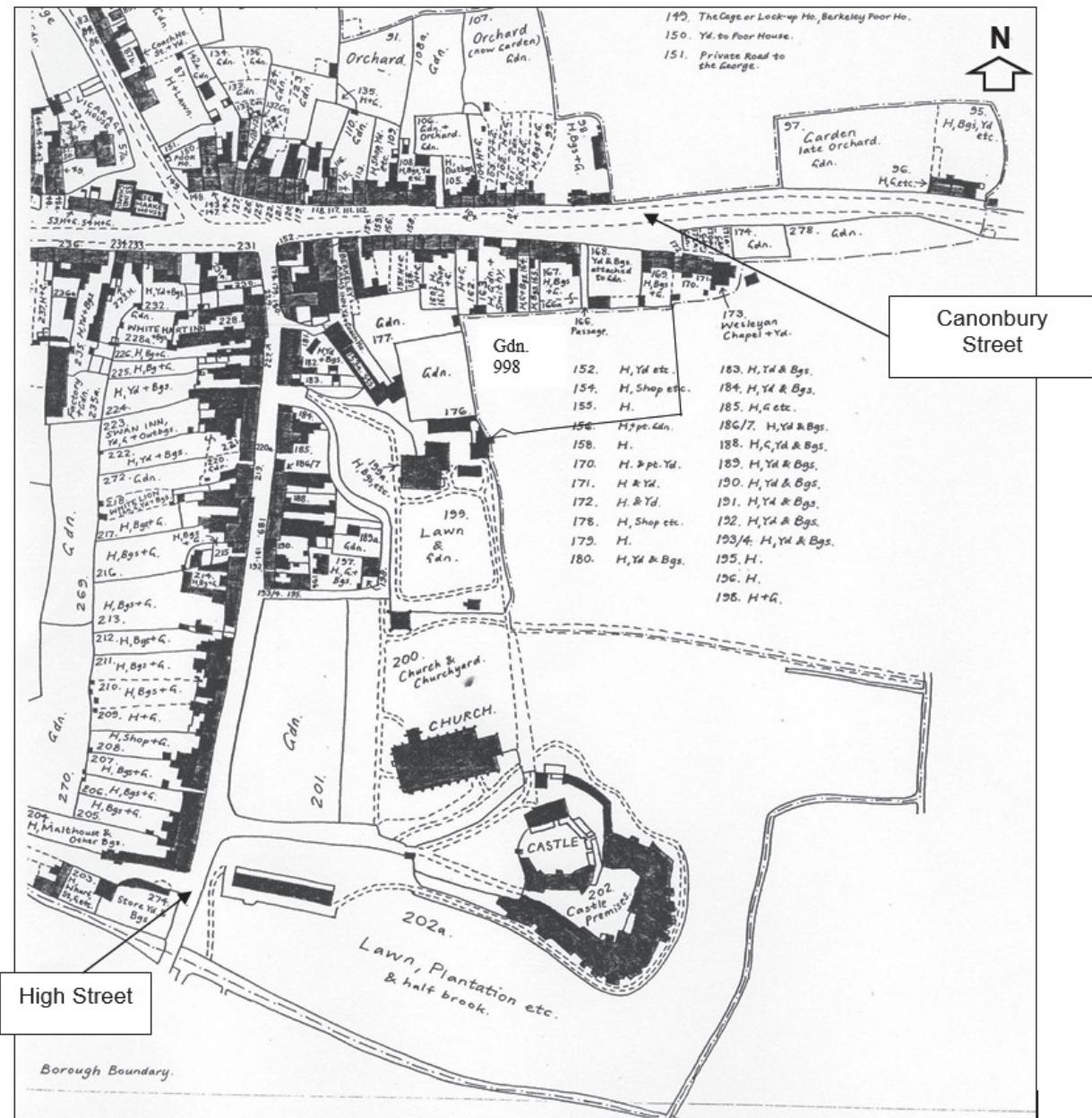
Figure 1. Section of Berkeley town and castle from 1840 Tithe Map

at Berkeley concerning land at Westbury on Trym (S1433 – misc. texts), while the minster appears to have been destroyed sometime between 1019 and 1051, at the hands of Earl Godwin.

Historical background

A detailed and comprehensive account of the history of the castle and town of Berkeley were included in BCP Report No 1 (Prior 2005) and a detailed map regression analysis of relevant historic maps was also undertaken and the results of the exercise were discussed at length in BCP Report No.1 (Prior 2005a). Below is a summary of the results and discussions from both studies. Names followed by Roman numerals in square brackets, used throughout this report, refer to members of the Berkeley family: e.g. Thomas [IV] (1352–1417) was the 10th Baron of Berkeley, but the fourth Thomas in the family line.

The town

Historically, a settlement at Berkeley can be traced back to the Domesday survey of 1086, though its origins appear to lie in the Saxon period, as early sources refer to a settlement named *Beorkenlau* or *Beorclea.* The name *Beorclea* may derive from *Berk*, 'a birch', and *Lea*, 'a pasture'; whilst *Beorkenlau*, when translated, means 'the birch clearing' (Tandy 2003, 1). An alternative interpretation of the town's name is *Beorcleah* or *Beorclingas*, where *leah* is a word used to describe 'a woodland clearing' and *ingas* means 'to belong to someone'. Importantly however, the word *ingas* can also refer to 'religious communities or monastic sites'. According to Tandy (2003, 237) documentary sources record the presence of an abbey at Berkeley from the 8th century onwards and *Beorclingas* may be a reference to it. There are also numerous references to a nunnery, and even a minster, at Berkeley during this period.

The first recorded abbot at Berkeley is reputed to be *Tilhere*, who is seemingly mentioned in a deed of 759, which was witnessed by King Offa (Tandy 2003, 237). There are several authenticated references to abbots or abbesses at Berkeley in the 9th and early 10th centuries, in Anglo-Saxon charters. The abbey built up the estate which became known as Berkeley Hundred, which was the largest estate in the county prior to the Norman Conquest. It has been suggested that in 833, lands in or around Berkeley may have been owned by some of King Alfred's family, as part of the dominion of Ethelred and Eathelflaed (Tandy 2003, 216). Smyth states that the Hundred was established by 890 (Smyth 1639). By 1086, the abbey and its estate had been dissolved (Leech 1981, 4).

Berkeley appears to have been a Royal Demesne during the reign of Edward the Confessor (1042–1066) (Tandy 2003, 218) and a town was in existence by this time. The evidence for this comprises a small collection of coins minted at Berkeley during this period (Leech 1981, 4). Domesday Book (1086) records that Berkeley had 'a market in which 17 men live and pay dues', indicating that a market was in existence in the reign of Edward the Confessor, and had probably existed long before. This makes Berkeley the only market-town in Gloucestershire at this time, besides Tewkesbury. Domesday also mentions the castle at Berkeley: 'In SHARPNESS 5 hides which belong to Berkeley, which Earl William placed outside to build a small castle. Roger claims them' (Morris 1982, 163b).

Smyth, in his *Lives of the Berkeley's*, written 1639, states that '*in many old deeds*' the town was called '*nova villa*', and an undated deed in the Public Records Office (Ancient Deeds V) refers to a tenement in 'the new town of Berkeley'. This suggests that the town, or a large part of it, rather than developing around the Saxon market in a somewhat *ad hoc* fashion, was actually a Norman 'New Town' that would have been laid out sometime between the 11th and 13th centuries. The regularity of property boundaries on the west side of High Street seem to support this notion and it is likely that the majority of the town plan can be attributed to the Normans (Leech 1981, 5).

In 1159, Henry II granted permission to Robert FitzHarding (*d.* 1170) and his heirs the right to hold a market at Berkeley. Smyth suggests that Berkeley became a borough by 1171, during the reign of Henry II (Tandy 2003, 5); while Fisher suggests that the date was slightly later, 1236–1262, during the reign of Henry III (Fisher 1865, 7–8). The town was granted a Royal Charter by Edward I (1272–1307). From the 13th century onwards, the town of Berkeley sought to established itself as an important market and trading centre, although its prosperity was often overshadowed by the wool and cloth producing towns of the Cotswolds nearby.

The town layout has changed little since the medieval period with the four main streets, Canonbury Street, High Street, Salter Street and Marybrook Street, first referenced in 1492, 1575, 1575 and 1516 respectively (Leech 1981, 4). The main trading street during the medieval period was probably High

Figure 2. A depiction of the inner ward of Berkeley Castle by F. W. Hulme (1845)

Street. Many buildings within this street are earlier than the buildings along Canonbury Street and adjoining Salter Street.

Moyle's 1544 Survey of Berkeley (Fig. 3) and the Tithe Map of 1840 show a series of regular medieval burgage plots to either side of High Street, from the Canonbury Street junction to The Pill. In contrast, the plots in Salter Street are larger and more irregular which suggests, in combination with the dates of the buildings in the area, that the commercial centre shifted from High Street to Salter Street and Canonbury Street during the 17th–18th centuries: when the town became a prosperous trading centre. Many buildings in Salter Street and Canonbury Street date to this period and there are a number of buildings along Canonbury Street which, although now dwellings, were once shop frontages. The same can be said of medieval buildings in High Street.

Smyth suggests that in 1422 the town may have comprised as many as 240 houses (Smyth 1639, III, 84), but this number was greatly reduced by 1483, as a result of rival claims to the castle, which saw it attacked, taken and retaken on numerous occasions, half destroying the town in the process. In 1639, Berkeley consisted of a castle, a church and just 80 houses. In 1804, it consisted of 99 houses and 658 inhabitants (Fig. 4).

The town lost its borough status in 1886 when the corporation lost its charter and was annulled. The town and district, from that point on, came under the jurisdiction of the county magistrates, with the status of a parish. In the 19th century the town declined in importance as it was not situated on any through roads or rail routes.
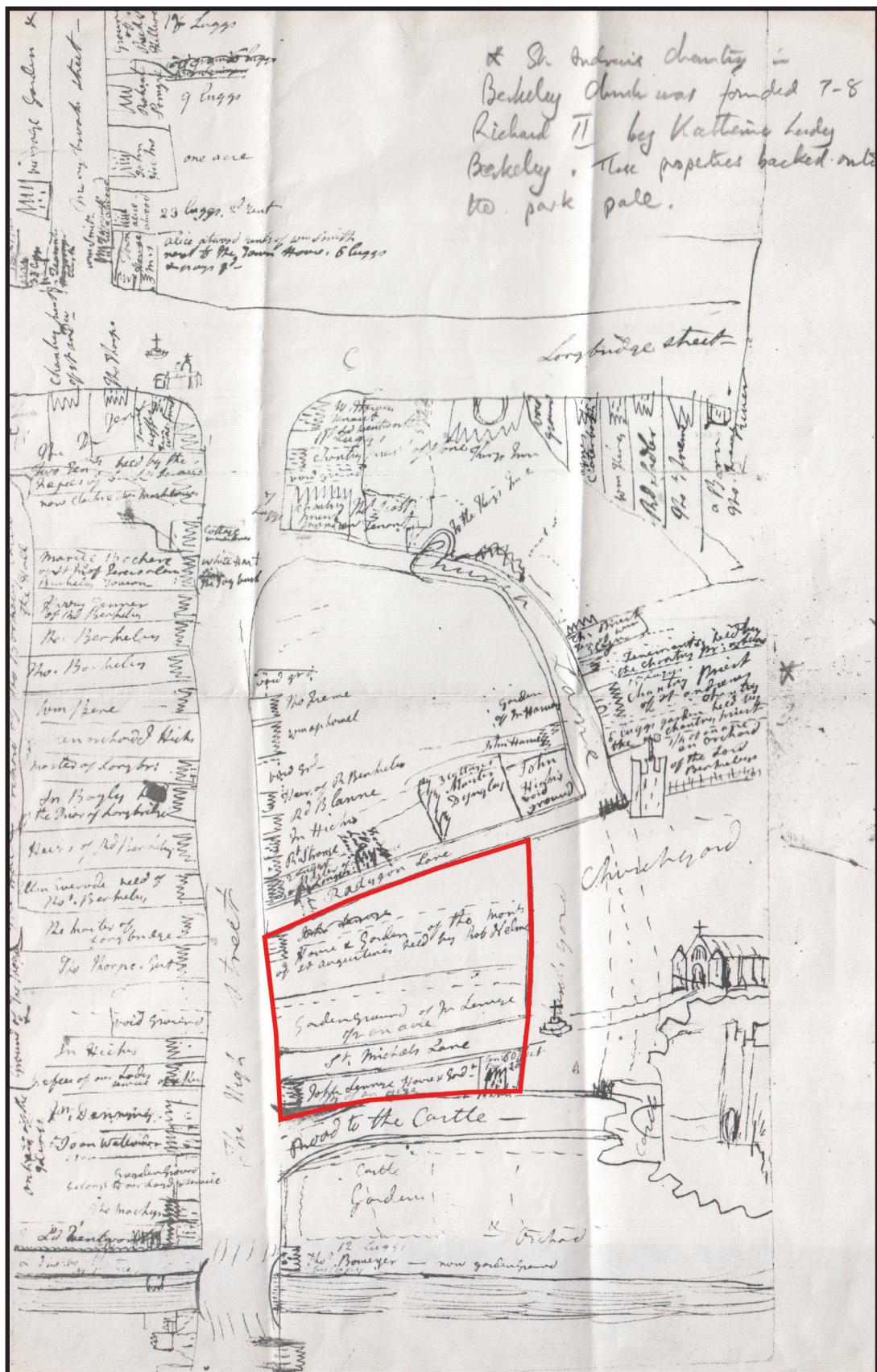
Figure 3. Detail from Moyle's 1544 map of Berkeley (section in red was target of BCP work on High Street)

Longbridge Street and Holy Trinity Hospital

On the 1544 Moyle Survey of Berkeley, Canonbury Street is named Longbridge Street. At the east end of Canonbury Street, where the road crosses the rivulet that flows to the east of the town, was an area called Longbridge. It was named after a long wooden bridge which, by the 17th century, had been replaced with a causeway pitched with stone. At Longbridge, there was a medieval hospital of Holy Trinity, founded by Maurice de Berkeley [I] *c.* 1170–1189. The complex comprised chapel, priory and hospital, along with a series of fishponds. It was dissolved at the time of the Dissolution of the Monasteries, under the *Chantries Act* of 1547. Smyth (1639) records that all the buildings were demolished before the end of the 16th century (Leech 1981, 5; GSMR 5116).

Little Park and Castle Worthy

All the properties that front onto the eastern side of Church Lane, along with those that front onto the southern side of Longbridge Street, back onto a feature listed as 'Park Pale' on the 1544 Moyle Survey of Berkeley. In 1544 an area bounded to the north by Canonbury Street, to the east by the Longbridge rivulet, to the south by the perimeter boundary of the castle, and to the west by the eastern boundaries of the Churchyard, Chantry and Vicarage, was a deer park known as 'Little Park' or 'Kings Park'. The word 'Pale' describes the paling or fencing that was used to enclose the park. Adjacent to Little Park was another park called Castle Park.
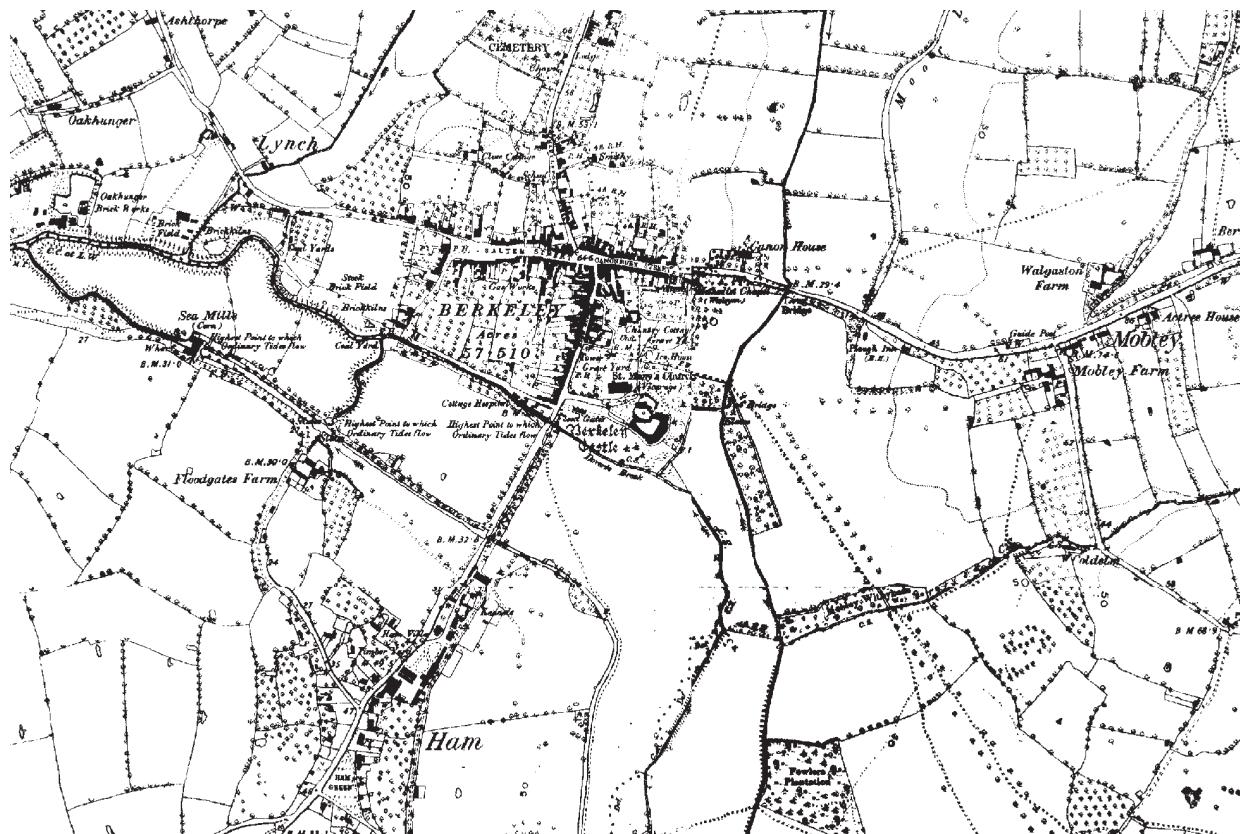
Figure 4. OS first edition map of Berkeley

The first record of 'Little Park' and 'Castle Park' dates from 1522, when the tenants of Berkeley wrote to Henry VIII to complain that his deer had escaped from the two parks and had eaten/damaged their crops. Henry's reply was that 'Castle Park' was to be enlarged and another large deer park created. The new park, which went away from the town towards the village of Newport, was named 'Worthy Park' or 'Castle Worthy Park' (Tandy 2003, 60–1, 229).

The Walled Garden

In 1544, and from at least 1533, the area which comprised a walled garden (Fig. 4) to the north of the castle was part of a deer park named 'Little Park'. The Walled Garden first appeared on the 1840 Tithe Map and plot 998 was a 'garden'. The owner of the garden was Lord Segrave (Lord of the Manor) and the occupier at the time was the Berkeley Free School. The construction of the walled garden is the first visible enclosure of the former 'Little Park' deer park. On the OS 1st edition map (1880–1885 above) the layout of the walled garden is indicated.. On later maps, depicted in the garden, in the north-west corner, is a large greenhouse and two more stand against the north wall. There is also a series of formal paths, which run around the perimeter and cross the garden centrally in two directions, dividing the internal area into quadrants. The paths are lined with trees. Outside the eastern wall of the garden are several other greenhouses, oriented roughly east–west.

Church Lane and Jenner's Garden

Moyle's 1544 map of Berkeley (Fig. 3) shows Church Lane as a neat arc curving north-west to south-east which continues through the churchyard to the castle gatehouse but, on all later maps, the course of the lane has completely altered. A plan in the Gloucester Records Office (GRO, Q/SRh 1828A/2), dated 1828, shows a proposed alteration to Church Lane to the course of the present day route. The alteration was carried out and a new lane was constructed to give Captain Jenner a larger frontage to his house (plot 199 on the 1840 Tithe Map). The Chantry was newly built as a residence in *c.* 1707 and Edward Jennner (famous for inventing the procedure of vaccination) moved into the house *c.* 1785. The Edward Jenner Museum building served as the Vicarage from 1854 to 1983, at which point a new vicarage was built in the former garden.

Nelme's Paddock

At present, the area enclosed by Radigon Lane to the north, St Mary's churchyard to the east, the road to the castle to the south (called 'King's Highway'), and High Street to the west, is an empty paddock. On Moyle's 1544 survey of Berkeley, however, this paddock is shown bisected by a lane called St Michael's Lane that ran from High Street to the west door of the church; and opposite the church door, in the entrance to the lane, is depicted a large stone cross.

The paddock, as portrayed on the 1544 map, is further subdivided into four plots: two to the north and two to the south of St Michael's Lane. The entries in the plots, from north to south, read: *Home and Garden, of the monks of St Augustine's, held by Robert Nelme; Garden, Ground of Robert Nelme, ½ an acre; John Lennye, House and Garden, ¼ of an acre; Barn, length 60 feet × width 20 feet.* Thus, in 1544, there were houses in the north-west and south-west corners of the paddock, fronting onto High Street, and in the south-east corner there stood a large barn, fronting onto the 'King's Highway' to the castle. As Robert Nelme was in possession of the majority of land that today comprises the paddock, the area quickly gained the nick-name 'Nelme's Paddock': this name has been used throughout the report to distinguish this piece of ground.

On the 1840 Tithe Map, there is no sign of the buildings, St Michael's Lane or the large stone cross depicted in 1544; and these features are not visible today. Smyth (1639, III, 84) states that St Michael's Lane had gone before his lifetime which, if true, means that it disappeared sometime between 1544 and 1567, and it is perhaps possible that the houses were destroyed in September 1645, in the English Civil War, during a three day siege on the castle. On the 1840 Tithe Map, 'Nelme's Paddock' is labelled Plot 201 and is listed in the Apportionments as a 'garden'. This was a walled garden that produced fruit and vegetables for the castle household. On the OS 1st edition map (1880–1885) the walled garden has been filled in to create the paddock.

Quarf Mead and Home Ground

South-west of Berkeley Castle, on the opposite side of the road to the stables and kennels of Berkeley hunt, there is a large meadow, which measures *c.* 200 m north-east to south-west × *c.* 200 m north-west to south-east. It is bounded to the north by the Little Avon River, to the east by the road to Ham, to the south by the northern boundaries of various properties that front onto Hamfield Lane, and to the west by the eastern boundary of Floodgates Farm. Unsurprisingly, since the meadow borders the Little Avon River and is only 8–10 m AOD, it has been known to flood during high tides at Sharpness. The meadow contains numerous earthworks, some rectangular, which may represent house platforms. Tandy (2003, 175–90) suggests that the bridge at the north-east corner of the field is the original site of the 'Lockfast Bridge', first recorded in 1165–1220, and hence the castle's two water mills, mentioned in Domesday, were located at nearby Brown's Mill, 500 m to the south-east, and Sea Mills, 280 m to the north-west. The earliest map that shows the meadow is the 1840 Tithe Map which depicts it divided into two plots: adjacent to the Little Avon River is the smaller 'Quarf Mead' plot, the southern boundary of which follows the 10.00 m contour line, and south of this is the larger 'Home Ground' plot. On the OS 1st edition map, 'the highest point to which ordinary tides flow' is marked in the meadow's north-west corner and it is possible that 'Quarf Mead' translates as 'Wharf Meadow', and may have numbered among Berkeley's many wharfs. The numerous earthworks in the meadow are not depicted on any historic or modern maps. These findings led to several years of research that attempted to identify positively the external boundaries of the Anglo-Saxon minster as well as further investigation of the interior of the Anglo-Saxon minster itself, and additionally, excavation and survey work in and around the castle.

Previous archaeological work in Berkeley

Between 1917 and 1937, the 8th Earl of Berkeley carried out a series of archaeological excavations in the Outer Ward and within the shell-keep at Berkeley Castle (GSMR 5112). Reports on these excavations are published in *Transactions of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society* 1927, vol. 49, 183–93 and 1938, vol. 60, 308–39, and the results have been reinterpreted in BCP Report No. 1, 35 (Prior 2005a). The most important conclusions reached were: (1) that a moat surrounded a major portion of the shell-keep – the moat ran around the base of the shell-keep on the south-west, north-west and north-east sides; (2) that the moat was not concentric with the shell-keep and was therefore earlier in date – which suggests that it was a moat surrounding one of the earlier mottes [1067 or 1121] (Fig. 5).

An archaeological watching brief was also undertaken between February 2002 and March 2003, by M Cook, in St Mary's churchyard (GSMR 5117). In addition to recording 10th–14th century Saxon and medieval pottery, a section of stone paving, when lifted, was found to comprise gravestones turned face downwards. Five had legible inscriptions and dated between 1791 and 1853.

Finally, an archaeological evaluation was undertaken by George Nash for Border Archaeology during February 2003 (GSMR 22165 and 22166). Eight trenches were excavated in the Walled Garden close to the medieval street frontages of Canonbury Street. Three of these revealed sections of medieval building

foundations which fronted onto Canonbury Street. Associated with these structures was a significant finds assemblage including medieval glazed pottery. Other trenching located within the walled garden revealed evidence of an earlier formal garden layout including the foundations of a 19th century greenhouse, together with the remains of an under-floor heating system (Nash 2003, 16–17).

Bristol excavations at the Berkeley Castle estate

From 2005 to 2007 research and excavation concentrated mainly on identifying the boundaries of the Anglo-Saxon minster at Berkeley digging firstly in the Walled Garden [ST 685 991] to the north of the castle and then focusing upon the buildings themselves inside the minster (Fig. 6).

In 2006, a large trench (Trench 3) was opened inside the remains of the castle's Walled Garden complex, commonly known as the Butterfly Garden [ST 685 991], located near the medieval street frontages of Canonbury Street. Trench 3 was cut adjacent to Trench 1 to explore a longer section of Anglo-Saxon ditch that was discovered in the 2005 excavations. A further 8.00 m of truncated mid-9th to early 11th century ditch was uncovered. The ditch profile was wider than that recorded in 2005, and the ditch is now estimated to have been *c.* 2.00 m wide at the top when first cut. Thus we knew we had located one
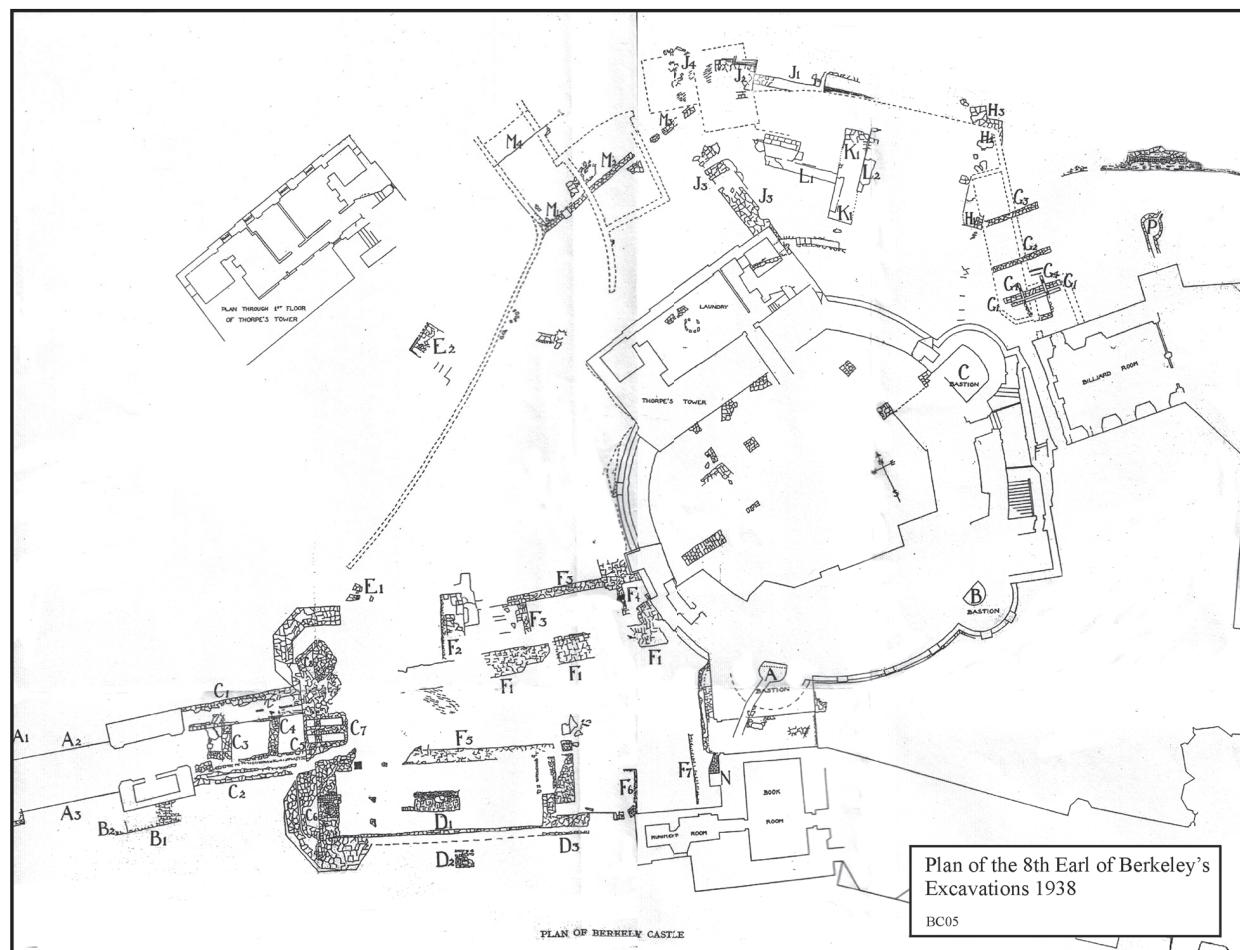

Figure 5. Plan of the 8th Earl Berkeley excavations in 1938

side of the minster's enclosure ditch, and for the next few years the goal was to ascertain the external boundaries of the minster. The real boundaries were not realized, however, until the final year of excavations in 2019.

In 2006, the ditch fill in the Walled Garden was found to contained two sherds of mid-9th to early 11th century pottery; a further two sherds were also recorded in adjacent contexts, and an Anglo-Saxon coin was recovered. The coin was a silver halfpenny of King Edgar (the Peaceable) 959–975; the Great Great Great Grandson of Alfred the Great.

The size, location and alignment of the ditch recorded in Trench 3, along with the finds contained in the ditch fill and adjacent contexts, support the suggestion made in the 2005 excavation report that there was a Saxon Minster at Berkeley which appears to have gone into decline towards the end of the 10th century.

In addition to the excavations in 2006, two large, detailed earthwork surveys were undertaken. In Quarf Mead and Home Ground [ST 680 987] a survey recorded a complex palimpsest of earthworks associated with the Little Avon River and possibly connected to river transport, waterpower or flood defence, as well as the vestigial remains of old field boundaries and areas of ridge and furrow ploughing. The earthwork survey in Little Park and Castle Worthy (Longbridge) [ST 687 992] respectively recorded a sizeable L-shaped platform and a couple of large rectangular sunken features bordering a well-defined rectangular platform: the latter appears to be the remnants of two fishponds and a building which may possibly be associated with the medieval hospital complex of Holy Trinity (*c.* 1170–1547), whilst the former may be a protective or defensive structure linked to the northern approach to the castle.

From 2007 to 2009, research and excavation concentrated mainly on the interior of the minster with work undertaken in Nelme's Paddock [ST 684 990] and the Edward Jenner Museum Garden [ST 685 990]. Excavations in 2007 investigated what is presumed to be the nun's church (BCP Report Number 7; 'Archaeological Fieldwork in the Jenner Museum Garden', 2007 – Trench 9) for the double-house minster; St Mary's church (extant) conversely forming the monk's church (with an Anglo-Saxon string course still visible in the present church). In the Edward Jenner Museum garden excavations (Trench 5, 7, 10 and 11) also investigated other Anglo-Saxon buildings that were probably small dwelling houses for the nuns.

Two burials were uncovered in 2007, during excavation of Trench 5 (BC07 – Trench No 5; BCP Report Number 7; 'Archaeological Fieldwork Jenner Museum Garden' 2007 – Trench No 5) alongside the south wall of the Jenner Museum garden, which revealed clear evidence of late Saxon or Saxo-Norman use of the site. It is tempting to attribute these burials to the Anglo-Saxon nunnery recorded historically as having been founded *c.* 883 and demolished *c.* 1043. The nunnery appears to have formed an integral component of the minster, whose chapel, sources suggest, was located adjacent to the site where the two burials were unearthed.

Also undertaken in 2007, in Nelme's Paddock [ST 684 990], was an open-area excavation that recorded the remains of the now-vanished St Michael's Lane and two Tudor houses, which are shown on Moyle's 1544 map of Berkeley and, additionally, the remains of the castle's Medieval Barn. Remnants of the east wall of the barn have been identified – and recorded – in the present churchyard wall to the west of St Mary's Church. A geophysical survey was undertaken on a number of visible earthwork features in Quarf Mead and Home Ground [ST 680 987]. A detailed earthwork survey undertaken during the Project's 2006 fieldwork, suggested that these features may be the remains of house platforms, wharf side structures or one, possibly two, medieval watermills that are known to have existed in the area. Furthermore, in the Castle Moat [ST 686 990], a detailed earthwork survey was undertaken of two areas: (a) the ditch/

N
W E
S

Trench 12

Trench 13

Trench 3

Trench 1

Trench 10

Trench 7

Trench 15

Trench 16

Trench 5

Trench 14

Trench 11

Trench 9

Trench 18

Trench 6

Trench 8

Trench 17

Trench 4

Trench 2

Trench 19

Meters
0   10   20   40
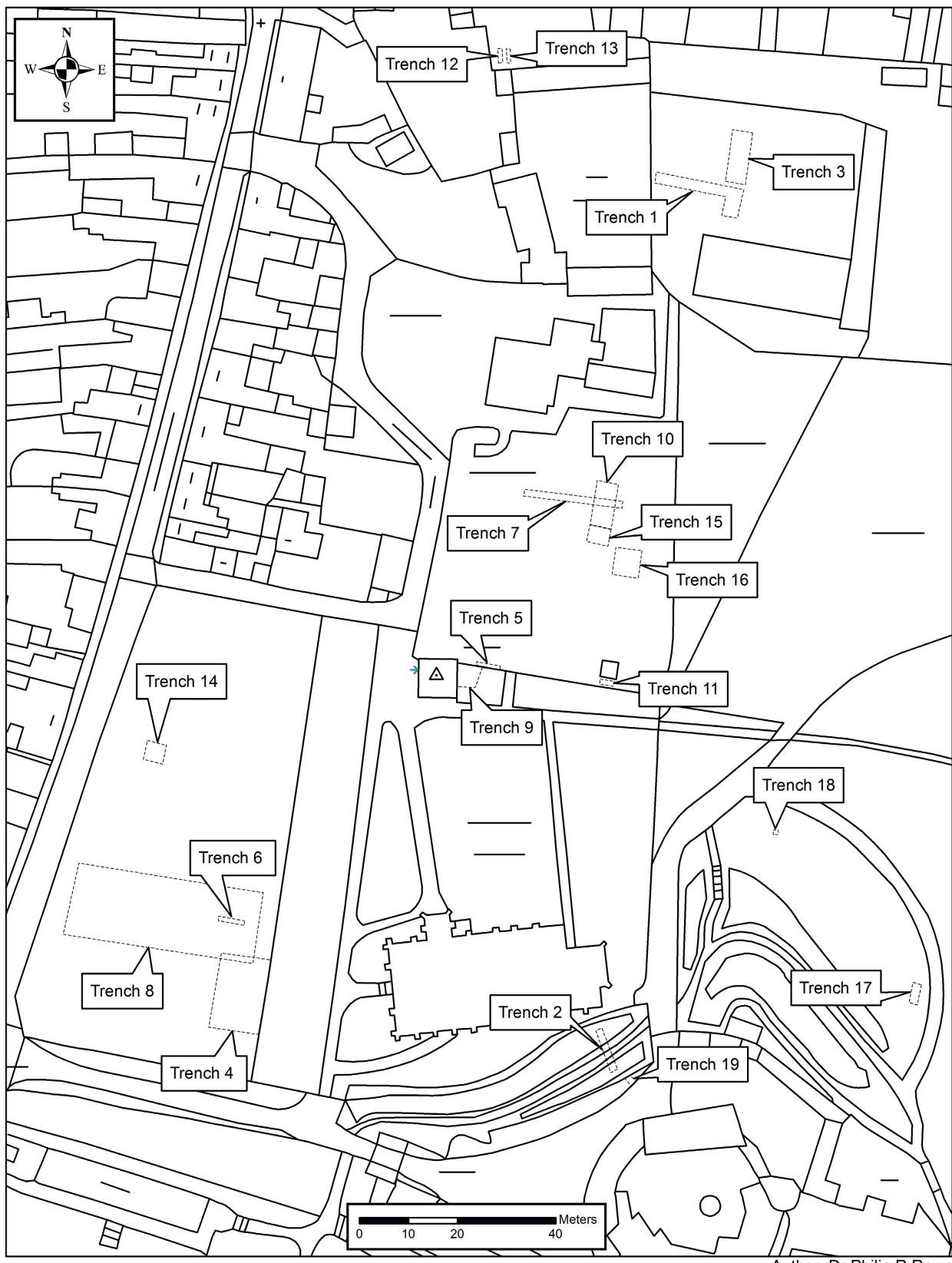
Author: Dr Philip R Rowe

Figure 6. Locations of the Berkeley Castle Project excavation trenches

moat that lies between the castle's Outer Ward and St Mary's church; (b) the area to the north and east of the castle keep, which is bounded by a terraced garden to the south, a brook to the east, Little Park to the north, and a pathway from the main visitor car park to the castle in the west. The survey built upon the excavation work undertaken during the Project's 2005 fieldwork, which demonstrated that the ditch between the castle's Outer Ward and St Mary's church was a defensive feature from the English Civil War (*c*. 1645) rather than a medieval castle moat. In 2008, excavations continued in Nelme's Paddock [ST 684 990] looking for the western ditch of the minster but it was not until 2015 that the true external west ditch of the minster was finally recorded in Nelme's Paddock; and excavated from 2015 to 2019. In 2009, however, an excavation in the *Berkeley Arms* Hotel (Trench 12) recorded the Anglo-Saxon boundary ditch running along the rear of the gardens that front onto Canonbury Street. Thus, we knew we had the east and north sides of the minster enclosure at that point, and from 2009 to 2019 excavations were targeted to try to find the minster's western and southern extremities and to investigate some of the structures and buildings of the interior. It is not hard to ascertain the southern extent of the minster, however, as the ditch must run up the private drive to the castle, otherwise you fall off the end of the hill that Berkeley sits atop.

In 2009, excavations continued in Nelme's Paddock, where Trench 4 (15 m north–south × 10 m east–west) and Trench 6 (5 m east–west × 1 m north–south), which were opened in 2007, were combined to form one large trench (Trench 8); and this trench was further extended west towards High Street. Also in 2009, excavations continued in St Mary's Churchyard [ST 684 993] in an area adjacent to the east side of the free standing Church tower. If Berkeley was indeed a double house minster it would have had two churches, one for the monks and one for the nuns, and the excavations here set out to prove this. At St Mary's there is a separate bell tower at the north end of the churchyard which was rebuilt in 1753 after it was damaged during the Civil War (GSMR 9344). This bell tower was constructed on the site of an earlier church with tower (Bigland 1791; Fosbroke 1821, 49; Fisher 1865, 10; Leech 1981, 5; Tandy, 2003, 108, 236–40). Early references specify that the previous church was a nunnery chapel (Bigland 1791; Fosbroke 1821, 49) and that the minster either decayed or was incorporated into the newly established parochial system sometime between 1019 and 1051. The objective of the work undertaken in St Mary's Churchyard was to locate the foundations of the nunnery chapel. The excavations uncovered walls and floor layers that were clearly part of the fabric of a medieval church/tower, which was subsequently robbed to provide building stone during the reconstruction of the replacement tower in 1753. Excavations also revealing that the later church tower did not sit atop of the footprint of the earlier one, and that it was clearly moved several metres to the west, which of course means that the nunnery chapel, or earlier church that adjoined the medieval tower, was several metres to the east, just outside the edge of the excavated trench cut (and so remains a mystery for another time).

Between 2008 to 2010 excavations were conducted in Nelme's Paddock (Trench 8), St Mary's Churchyard (Trench 9) and in the Jenner Museum Garden (Trench 10). These trenches were also focused upon identifying the interior of the minster and in addition to create a broader understanding of the landscape evolution around Berkeley. In 2012 and 2013, excavations were mainly concentrated in the Jenner Garden, with the extensions of Trench 10 and Trench 15, again to try to understand the interior of the Anglo-Saxon Minster and the potential buildings within. In 2013 two trenches were opened in the area of Castle Gateway (Trench 17 – north-east of the castle and Trench 18) to assess changes to the castle's entrance. The results highlighted that the original entrance to the castle had shifted away from being northfacing with castle visitors now approaching from the south-west resulting from a newly constructed private driveway. The last trench opened at Berkeley was that dug by the University of Bristol team in 2015 (Trench 19) in the Castle's Outer Ward (next to footbridge) as, with the conclusion of the excavations in Trench 19, we were finally beginning to understand the early origins of the castle and the great donjon that was constructed when the castle was built in stone by Robert FitzHarding in 1153–1154.

Community and heritage in Berkeley

From the very early days of the Berkeley Castle Project the Bristol team, which was already experienced in the aspects of public and community archaeology, put this at the forefront of its approach to the engagement with the local communities. Community engagement is a major concern for education and heritage sectors alike. The diversity of engagement strategies employed by these bodies is context dependent and, as such, there is no single best practice guidance that can be applied to all projects. The demand for community engagement comes from multiple directions: the community themselves; the educational institution, such as a university; and may also extend to include heritage partners, like museums. Engagement activities can serve to bring academic research into the wider world in a tangible manner. In Berkeley the university students were positioned as drivers in engagement showing an important contribution to fieldwork-based learning.

At Berkeley, the project has launched an onsite social media team which communicated in real time the excavation achievements to the public, and a blog, still available (in 2021) through the departmental website. These activities were completely student led providing them with valuable skills. The community aspect of the Berkeley Castle Project though was really showcased with the 'Town Museum Project', one of the many 'mini- projects' co-run by students. Students were taking their knowledge of archaeological research and hands-on fieldwork experience at Berkeley Castle, combined with their classroom learning, and transforming it into a tangible engagement output.

The Town Museum Project aimed to identify an effective way to bring archaeology to the community of Berkeley, to provide opportunities for students to enhance their engagement skills and to showcase the archaeological research undertaken by the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology. The objectives centred on plans to design a temporary exhibition of artefacts for public display around the town of Berkeley. This would lead to an invitation to the community to participate in hosting a temporary display of excavated artefacts and place students at the heart of all activities. We also sought to evaluate all aspects of the project, including student, stakeholder and participant reflections and feedback and to work with our heritage stakeholder (owner of the artefacts), Berkeley Castle, and consider what activities could support their efforts and concerns. The design, implementation and feedback were developed into a project model with the goal to share outcomes and impacts as widely as possible.

The Town Museum Project ran from 2013 to 2015. Berkeley Castle, our key heritage stakeholder, facilitated and supported the project from its inception, giving permission for artefacts to go on public display and printing information materials as requested by the Engagement Team. In the first instance, a notice was posted through the letterboxes of residents informing them of our excavation season along with an invitation to apply to host a display tray for the Town Museum. In small teams, students went door to door in the centre of the town, introducing the project and asking residents if they were interested in applying. This personal approach worked much more effectively than the printed flyers and resulted in 20 community participants, including private residences and commercial businesses, signing up in just one day. The face-to-face engagement was an important experience for the students and taught them the value of inter-personal relationships with the community.

Once the community demonstrated their interest in the project, students extracted 250 artefacts from the archaeological assemblage for display. To ensure that items would not become mis-catalogued later, each item was hand-labelled. Students then arranged the artefacts into trays on coloured paper, to make a pleasing display, and designed information sheets to display alongside the trays. Both elements required them to use a range of archaeological skills, drawing on their existing academic knowledge and research abilities. Students also took care to design an agreement form for the community to sign,

leaving them with a copy of the form for their records. The agreement was very simple and served to remind participants to take reasonable care so that the artefacts would not be damaged during the project.

The Town Museum Project outcomes concentrated on three main aspects: first, placing trust in both students and the community helped to develop better relationships between the different stakeholders; secondly, within a supervised and supportive framework the students were able to take creative charge of managing a project to produce effectively impressive and professional result; finally, inviting community participation in both private and commercial venues lead to better and more effective engagement.

The aims and objectives of the project were met and then exceeded. The research efforts of the Department of Anthropology and Archaeology were showcased to great effect in a public venue. Berkeley Castle were delighted to be able to share their history within the community, to enhance community relations, which is a priority for them. They also welcomed the possibility of increased publicity of their heritage site. The project proved to be an effective way to bring archaeology into community life at Berkeley. The community were pleased to be so actively included within our research efforts and applauded the project vocally. Local businesses also saw the project and associated media coverage as a means to promote their business and support the local economy. The community also improved their knowledge of history, archaeology of their local area, and artefact analysis. Students developed an extensive range of transferable engagement-related skills, from communication to time management, and also greatly enjoyed the experience. They valued the trust placed in them to lead the project and invested much personal time. Likewise, the community valued the trust given to them to become temporary curators of the artefacts.

The Berkeley Tales volume

Research in Berkeley is far from complete and this volume does not aim to be a definitive publication of the archaeological research for the Castle and the town. The scope of the publication is to communicate the outcomes of the 15 years of University of Bristol research in the area and to pave the road for future research in the evolution on town landscapes in Britain. Kostas Trimmis, Gareth Dickinson and Jenifer Muller in Chapter 2 tackle exactly this aspect of the landscape evolution in Berkeley, building on the earlier work by Phil Rowe and Jim Pimpernell. Geophysics and landscape research were core components of the BCP from the very first to the very last season. A series of archaeology technicians, landscape archaeology students and professional providers working for all these years at Berkeley is summarised in chapter two. In Chapter 3, building specialist and archaeology project manager Rachel Morgan and the current author attempt to create a biography of the castle itself, based upon building recording, historic research and archaeological information from the Bristol excavations. Chapter 4 presents a summary of the excavation's main findings with a brief report for every trench at Berkeley reconstructing the narrative of the excavation and the past events. The reporting of Trench 8, where work had not yet been completed by the end of BCP's time on site, is also presented as a preliminary work.

The second part of the volume focuses on the presentation, assessment and analysis of the finds assemblages from BCP. In Chapter 5, Paul Blinkhorn, a long-time project collaborator, presents analysis of the pottery assemblage from the BCP. The pottery reports are presented by trench with the overall discussion in the last chapter. In Chapter 6 all the small finds from the project are presented by Emma Firth, incorporating previous work by Leslie Webster. Chapters 7 and 8 focus on the analysis of animal and human skeletal remains from Berkeley, respectively. Sarah Gosling, another long-time project partner presents a first account of the animal bones from the Walled Garden, Castle Worthy and the

Jenner Garden excavations. The Nelme's Paddock material is also assessed. Christianne Fernée follows, with a detailed analysis of the human bone finds, mainly from Trench 4 in Nelme's Paddock but also from the Jenner Garden excavations, incorporating earlier work by Annsofie Witkin. Kostas Trimmis joins the present author for the last chapter to present the narrative and evolution of Berkeley Castle and town based upon the archaeological finds and features.

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