

# Victoria County History Shropshire

A scoping study for a new history of Newport

## Appendices



Revision April 2019

# Appendix 1

## Detailed synopsis of *The Red Book*: a comprehensive account of the history of Newport

### 1. Introduction

#### 1.1 Boundaries (1000)<sup>1</sup>

The relevant boundary is that of the present Town Council's authority, which broadly corresponds to the ancient parish plus additions made since the formation of Newport Urban District in 1892; 19th- and 20th-century boundary changes will be outlined. The volume will include a map clearly showing the parish boundary and topography.

The parish boundary may overlie the bounds of 'Plesc', a place described in a royal charter of 963. The boundaries of the new town as planted, however, would have been determined by the requirements of the new urban settlement and need not have followed the Plesc boundary precisely.

Newport was carved out of Edgmond parish, probably in the first half of the 12th century and remained surrounded by townships which remained in Edgmond. Prior to 1892, its territory was roughly elliptical, broader from east to west than from north to south. The Strine Brook/Newport Pool formed the northern boundary; and the town/parish also took in an area northwest of the bridge, bounded by Green Lane. Strine Brook above the pool and a tributary stream formed the boundary to the east and southeast. The south and southwest boundary with Church Aston crossed the present Station Road, apparently marked by field boundaries and possibly a ditch. The western boundary was Mundy Brook, a tributary of the Strine Brook which it joined a few hundred yards below the mill dam and bridge.

The area of the ancient parish was about 567 a. It was extended to 768 a. with the formation of Newport Urban District in 1892, taking in adjacent parts of Church Aston, Chetwynd Aston, and Chetwynd. The latter was Chetwynd End, a suburb along the road leading north from the bridge.

SA, DA11/100, 1880–1974; DA11/990/6, 1882–92

F.A. Youngs, *Guide to the Local Administrative Units of England. Vol. 2 Northern England* (London, RHS, 1991), 390

*PN Shropshire, I*, 26, 222; *VI*, 118–26.

Hill map (1681); Tithe map (1841); First edition OS 25" map.

#### 1.2 Landscape (1000)

The parish is bounded by streams and marshes, with the church and market place standing on the highest point, around 70–75 m ASL, the ground sloping away gently on all sides. A second area of higher ground is Norbroom to the east, separated from the town centre by a depression where formerly a stream ran north from the 'great marsh' down to the Strine, its course is now Water Lane. The 'great marsh' occupied the south-east of the parish, and the 'small marsh' the south-west. Marshland north-west of the built-up area, along the Strine, may have given its name to Beaumaris Lane ('Bewmarys lane' in 1420: Raby charters, 48, 49), from French, 'beautiful marsh'. Newport is situated at the southeastern point of the Weald Moors, so much higher ground rises immediately north of the parish. Drainage is therefore an important part of the history of the parish. The relationship of the moated sites in the parish to the primary settlement will also be considered.

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<sup>1</sup> Numbers in brackets are *indicative* word lengths for that section.

### 1.3 Communications (3500)

#### Roads (1000)

Roman roads in the area are relevant to the origins of settlement at the location of the medieval ‘new town’ and its place in the pre-modern road network. The Roman road linking Whitchurch and Watling Street (Margary 19) passed about two miles to the east. The main north–south road through Newport and the bridge that carried it over the Strine brook are evidently crucial in the town’s history.

Assuming it was *not* a Roman road (HER, 01387), the chronology must be that, at some post-Roman time, the Whitchurch–Watling Street road changed course: after a river crossing at Shakeford near Higher Heath (Hinstock parish), it turned south to form the main road through what is now Newport, before crossing Watling Street and continuing southeastwards. As Prentice observes, the question is ‘Did the road make the settlement, or the settlement the road?’ (p. 10).

The route was turnpiked by statute of 1759 as the Chester–Birmingham road, with designated sections from Whitchurch to Newport and from Newport to Stonnall (Staffs.). Having been for centuries the main land route from London to Chester and North Wales, and ports for Liverpool and Ireland, by 1830 it was bypassed by Telford’s London–Holyhead road. Disturnpiked, in 1879 it was declared a main road. Designated as part of the A41 trunk road from London to Birkenhead in 1935, since 1985 a bypass has taken the A41 to the east of the town and the section through Newport renumbered as the B5062. Within the town, southwards from the bridge, the road is named: Lower Bar, High Street, Upper Bar, and Station Road.

Other main roads lead from Newport towards Shrewsbury, Wellington, Eccleshall, and Stafford. The Shrewsbury road may be an ancient ridgeway, following the high ground of the Weald Moors. It was an important route by the early 13th century, when King John ordered the road verges on Haughmond hill to be cleared (forming a *trencheia*) for the safety of travellers, and it was ‘magna strata’ in 1232 (*Close Rolls, Henry III*, [1232], 9); it was turnpiked in the eighteenth century. The Wellington road also passed through a *trencheia* in a wooded area (Trench, par. Eyton upon the Weald Moors); it was turnpiked in 1763, disturnpiked in 1867 and designated a main road in 1879 (*VCH Salop*, XI, ‘Wellington: Communications’, notes 16–21).

The road eastwards to Stafford is less ancient. A northerly route via Forton to Eccleshall, and thence Stafford, was turnpiked in the 1760s and remained an important route north-east from Newport. The more direct Newport–Gnosall–Stafford turnpike was established in 1793 (33 Geo. III, c.153), but initially it probably branched off the Forton road. The present Stafford Road, joining the High Street beside the town hall and running down to Water Lane, was originally a lane leading to Marsh Lane and the backs of the High Street burgages, known as Backhouse Lane by the 16th century (SA, NB/E/2/9), later Bakehouse Lane (Tithe map; *Shrews. Chron.*, 5 Mar. 1841, 1). East of Water Lane, Stafford Road overlies field boundaries and is no earlier than 1793, being described as the new Newport–Stafford road in 1804 (SA, NTM 6/4/10). This remains the main road to Stafford, now designated A518.

Turnpike Trust, Trustees’ minute book, 1822–67: SA, DA11/966/1/1  
Newport Highway District: Quarter Sessions orders, 1862–; SA, DA23/998/1  
Tithe map, 1841; newspapers

#### Bridges (500)

The history of the bridge over the Strine is related to that of the mill (the mill dam formed the bridge) and later the canal (see Horton, Buildings). In 1749 the lords of the manor and the corporation of Newport conveyed the waste that was formerly ‘The Strine or Newport Pool’ and ‘the Flags’ adjacent to trustees ‘for repairing the Stone Bridge or Pool Dam at Newport’ with any surplus to be applied to repairing the streets and the market house. The bridge was rebuilt in 1773 by public subscription and partly rebuilt in 1813. In 1830–33 the Birmingham and Liverpool Junction Railway Canal Navigation purchased the trust’s land for construction of the canal and rebuilt the bridge, although the Bridge

Trust continued maintaining it and installed gas lighting. Pursuant to the act of 1854 creating the Town and Marsh Trust, the Bridge Trust merged with the latter and the final balance of its funds was transferred to the Town and Marsh Trust in 1857 [also mention in 'Local Government']

1749 deed: SA, 6000/19376

Newport Bridge Trust, accounts and minutes 1790–1857: SA, 8919

*Charity Commission Report*, 431

Newport Marsh and Newport Bridge Charities, petition and scheme of administration, 1852–1854: TNA, TS 18/782; SA, NTM/6/6/9/1

#### *Canal (500)*

The Newport branch of the Birmingham to Liverpool (later, Shropshire Union) canal, was constructed 1830–2:

Plans 1826: SA, DP306; 8919

Plan of route branching off Birmingham–Liverpool Junction Canal at Norbury. Surveyor: D. Houghton: SRO, D615/M/9/14

Plan of the proposed Newport Branch of the Birmingham and Liverpool Junction Canal with the Collateral Branches or Railways ... 1826: Institute of Chartered Engineers (ICE), MCDR233

Canal company minutes: TNA, RAIL 623, RAIL 808

#### *Railway (500)*

The Birmingham and Liverpool Canal Company constructed the railway to Newport, a station on the Wellington–Stafford line, opened 1846, closed 1967.

Contract for erection of goods warehouses, offices and stables at Shrewsbury and Newport, on Shrewsbury and Stafford line, 22 Aug. 1849: TNA, RAIL 623/54

Land plan for proposed railway from Wellington to Newport, c. 1846: TNA, RAIL 623/56  
Shifnal, Newport and Norton Bridge Railway, 29 Nov. 1862: SA, DP426 [did this ever operate?]

Photographs of station: SA, PH/N/8/12–

V. Mitchell and K. Smith, *Country Railway Routes. Stafford to Wellington, Including the Coalport Branch* (Midhurst, W. Sussex, 2014)

NHS, acc. 219–22 (and others)

#### *Carriers; Public road transport (1000)*

Trade directories and newspapers provide information on 19th–20th century carrying services; transcripts of directories and other material: NHS acc. 74, 325, 464, 944, 1502. Census records of occupations should also be checked. Pre-1800, information may appear from e.g. parish registers, probate inventories, business accounts.

### **1.4 Population (750)**

Population figures are sporadically available, pre-1800, mostly counting households rather than individuals, and in the case of taxation records not comprehensive. For Newport, the earliest is the 'lay subsidy' of 1327, when 37 households were assessed to have moveable property worth more than 10 shillings, but this says nothing of the number of less well-off households. Similarly: poll tax 1381, lay subsidy 1525, diocesan survey 1563. Finally, figures from assessments for the hearth tax of 1673 (count of households with at least one hearth) may be compared with the ecclesiastical 'Compton' census of 1676 (count of individual adults: 745 in Newport).

Changes in population (births, mortality) can also be estimated by numerical analysis of the Newport parish registers, which start from 1572.

- The Shropshire Lay Subsidy Roll of 1 Edward III, 1327*, ed. H. M. Auden and W. G. D. Fletcher (reprinted from *TSHAS: Oswestry*, 1907), 172–3
- The Poll Taxes of 1377, 1379 and 1381. Part 2 Lincolnshire-Westmorland*, ed. C. C. Fenwick (Oxford, 2001), pp.
- Shropshire Taxes in the Reign of Henry VIII*, ed. M. A. Faraday (Walton-on-Thames, Surrey, 2015), 73–4
- Return of households, Coventry and Lichfield diocese, 1563: BL, Harley MS 594, fols. 160-2
- Shropshire Hearth Tax Roll of 1672*, ed. W. Watkins-Pitchford, Shropshire Archaeological and Parish Register Society (1949), pp.
- The Compton Census of 1676: A Critical Edition*, ed. A. Whiteman (Oxford, 1986),; ‘The religious census of Shropshire in 1676’, ed. W. G. D. Fletcher, *TSAS*, ser. 2, 1 (1889), 75-92
- Census reports, 1801–

### **1.5 Settlement (500)**

There is archaeological evidence of human habitation in the Newport area for all periods from the Mesolithic era. Data can be collected from the Portable Antiquities Scheme (Dr Peter Reavill, Finds Liaison Officer), Shropshire HER, and NHS collection of artefacts and records of local finds.

*Prehistoric*: R. Middleton and M.D. Watson, ‘A flint assemblage from Newport’, *TSAS* 73 (1998) 64–7 but see now the work of Peter Reavill.

*Roman*: There is substantial evidence of Roman activity in and around the town (e.g. HER 31611) and see *Roads*, above.

*Anglo-Saxon*: If ‘Plesc’ was in the same location as Newport, then the Anglo-Saxon charter is evidence for the existence of an Anglo-Saxon estate by 963.

### **1.6 Buildings and townscapes (3000)**

Here we will review the evidence of standing buildings for the medieval character of the town, the tradition of vernacular building with a consideration of the more significant houses and the evidence in both the standing buildings and the documentary sources for a rebuilding of Newport in the late eighteenth century which gives the town its current character. Much of the lower class housing was contained in the yards at the rear of the buildings fringing the high street within the constraints of the medieval burgage system. In the later nineteenth century building tended to take place on the fringes of the town leaving the central core mostly unaltered. The later twentieth century has brought more substantial changes, with the demolition of some properties in the historic core of the town and their replacement by buildings of little architectural merit, the building of industrial premises and latterly supermarkets to the east of the historic core and the massive expansion of suburban housing.

[Total for this section, 9,750]

## 2. Newport Town

### 2.1 Origins, Growth and Development (3000)

#### *Medieval town, 11th–16th centuries<sup>2</sup>*

Newport is a Norman planned town, named in contemporary Latin documents as *Novus Burgus* ('new town') but apparently called Newport ('new market town') in English by c.1200. It may have been founded by Roger de Montgomery and then developed by the crown, being held as royal demesne from 1100 to 1223, or it may have been newly planted by Henry I.

The north-south route, the mill and bridge over the Strine, and the church and market place, are the key factors in Newport's urban development. The extensive laying-out of burgage plots along the High Street is an important topic.

#### *Early modern town, 16th-19th centuries*

Municipal improvements: foundation of the grammar school and almshouses; (re)building of the market hall and butter cross; enclosure of the Great marsh and work of the Marsh Trustees. The town was still mainly laid out along the main street.

Great fire in 1665: account in parish register and in the unusually detailed royal brief issued: BL, MS 2075, ff. 108-12.

#### *Modern town, 19th century-present*

Major changes to the townscape, especially in the second quarter of the 19th century, were driven by developments in transportation: the (late) arrival of the canal and railway at opposite ends of the town. The effects of the by-passing of Newport by the London-Holyhead road should be explored (see 1.3 above). Also the development of the Great Marsh.

In the 20th century, large developments on the former marsh of industry and new schools; suburban housing built over the former agricultural land.

Trade directories; tithe apportionment; newspapers; town planning documents; planning applications; photographs and postcards

### 2.2 Government and Politics

#### 2.2.1 *Newport manor (ownership) (1,000)*

'Plesc' and (Church) Aston were royal demesne in 963 when King Edgar granted them as *boc-land* to his thegn (*minister*), Wulfric.<sup>3</sup> By 1066 they were held by Leofwine *cilt* (?the noble) within his large estate of Edgmond.

Title to the manor of Edgmond from 1066, and of Newport from when it was first conveyed as a separate estate in 1358, is traced in 'VCH Newport', ed. Cox, 8, 30.

#### 2.2.2. *Manorial government (courts and officers) (500)*

Manor court rolls

Jurisdiction over felons and forfeiture of their goods, ?1671: BL, Add. MS 46457

#### 2.2.3. *The Borough (4000)*

Report of the Commission on Municipal Boroughs in England and Wales, 1835

M. Beresford, *New Towns of the Middle Ages* (London, 1967), 65-6, 482

W.M. Beresford and H.P.R. Finberg, *English Medieval Boroughs: A Handlist* (1973), 152

Origins and charter

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<sup>2</sup> The chronological divisions adopted for this and the following sections are left deliberately vague. They can be refined once the relevant important dates appear from the research.

<sup>3</sup> Possibly the Mercian magnate Wulfric Spot, who may also have held Longford: 'VCH Newport', ed. Cox, 24; *ODNB*, 'Wulfric Spot (d. 1002x4)'.

The burgesses claimed to have had their customs and liberties during the reign of Henry I (1100-1135), but Newport is first mentioned in 1160, when the town paid 20s. as a 'gift' to the crown, and then in Henry II's charter of c.1163x1166 which confirmed the (unspecified) customs and liberties of the king's burgesses of *Novus Burgus*. After successive royal confirmations, the final borough charter, and the only original one still extant, was granted by James I in 1604: SA, NB/A/1.

Eyton, *Antiq. Shrops.*, XI, 129-43

#### Extent

The borough was the same in extent as the parish.

#### Borough officers

The (high) steward, deputy steward and bailiffs. See Borough Minute books, 1668-1886: SA, NB/B

Seal, plate and insignia: none known of.

#### Courts

There appears to be a single surviving borough court book.

Borough Court Book of Newport, 1707-9: SA, 327/10/3

#### Finance

#### Property

The Great Marsh, Norbroom field.

Abolition of the corporation under the Municipal Corporations Act 1883.

2.2.4. *The Bridge Trustees* (7500)

2.2.5. *The Town and Marsh Trustees* (2000)

2.2.6. *Newport Market Company* (1858) (750)

2.2.7. *The dissolution of the Borough and Newport Local Board, 1886-94* (500)

2.2.8. *Post-1894 Local government* (2000)

Newport (Salop) Urban District Council Act, 1929: TNA, ED 31/403

2.2.9. *Post-1974 Local government* (1,000)

2.2.10. *Parochial government* (1,000)

2.2.11. *Civic buildings* (2000)

2.3. *Public services and utilities* (4,000)

#### Police

#### Fire

#### Water, sewerage, and refuse

Water supply: SA, 1101/CXIV, 1876

'The surgeons of Newport' in Miles, *Newport People*, 133-48

#### Streets (paving, lighting, etc.)

#### Post, telegraph, and telephone

Gas and electricity: private gas production: SA, 1101/IX (5), 1831.

[Total for this section 22,450]



## 3. Economic History

### 3.1 Agriculture (1500)

Middle Ages: the parish had a single open or common field, Norbroom, to the east of the town. Date of enclosure? Livestock were pastured on the lower-lying meadows and marshes that surrounded the town. The survival of the open field and its enclosure will be considered as will the enclosure of the Great Marsh.

In 1840, just 40 a. of the parish land (that was subject to tithes) was cultivated as arable, and 404 a. was meadows and pastures: Tithe apportionment.

National Archives, Tithe file, IR 18/8213; MAF 68, Agricultural Census returns (1867-1990) (selected years); National Farm Survey for Newport (1941), MAF 32/632/129.

### 3.2 Mills (750)

#### *Watermills* (500)

Domesday Book records a mill and fishery in Edgmond manor, worth 10s. in 1086, this was probably at (the future) Newport. In 1198 Alexander of Newport, keeper of the king's fishery, held a mill in serjeanty tenure, again, presumably this was Newport mill (*Book of Fees*, 7). See Horton, Buildings.

Lease of mill etc. granted by lord of the manor, 1573: BL, Add Ch. 73139

Newport mill(s) 16th-18th century: SA, 6000/19347-54, 19358, 19360, 19383-93, 19478; SRO 593/E/6/26

#### *Windmills* (250)

A windmill was erected in 1796 at the end of Broomfield Road by the Marsh Trustees, motivated by dissatisfaction with the monopoly of the watermills, but it was a financial failure, demolished in 1902.

#### *Charity Commission Report*

'The Old Mill at Newport', engraving from a drawing by C. W. S. Dixon. Late 19th century: NHS.

photograph of derelict windmill, probably 1894: NHS

### 3.3 Fisheries (250)

The fishery was clearly relevant to the town's origins (e.g. the iconography of the town seal), but as its heyday was in the Middle Ages there is almost no information on its operations. The fishery was the pool created by the mill dam on the Strine brook, so some of its history will be covered under *Watermills*.

### 3.4 Trade and Industry

#### 3.4.1. *Markets and fairs* (2000)

Lord of the manor's right to market and fair tolls, 1563: BL, Add. Ch. 73138

Evasion of market tolls, 1589-1638: BL, Add. MS 46458, ff. 92, 94, 95, 155-8

Toll book for market and fairs, 1633-4: SA, P207/V/1/44

Newport Smithfield

Act for providing a Market House and Market Place and other buildings for public accommodation in the town of Newport ... 1858: SA, P207/V/2/8

Newport Market Company, 1858-1888: SA, 1101/CI

Newport Market Company and new market house, 1861: SA, NTM/6/5/1

Local Board erecting stalls in the street, 1880s: *First Report of the Royal Commission on Market Rights and Tolls* (London, 1889), 183.

M. Miles, *Newport (Shropshire) Market and Trading Company 1858-1993*.

Artefacts of early modern market regulation:

T. W. Picken, 'A Relic of Newport's Old Corporation', ms note describes a copper bowl inscribed with the words 'Ancient Newport Toll Metre': NHS acc. 145, 1616.

Brass weight: NHS acc. 9

Standard measures: two bushel measures; a variety of measures including a gallon measure dated 1671 [bought by the town and on display in The Guildhall] and one 7 lb and one 56 lb weight; a bushel measure on an oak chest [the chest is on display at the Guildhall] All formerly in possession of C. W. S. Dixon, acquired with title to the manor of Newport, c.1900: photographs in SA, 6000/19416.

3.4.2. *Crafts and trades* (1500)

Inventory evidence in the seventeenth-early eighteenth century; any parish register evidence; census after 1801.

3.4.3. *Manufacturing* (1000)

'The Underhills' in Miles, *Newport People*, 207-19  
'Audco and jobs' in Miles, *Newport People*, 218-36

3.4.4. *Transport services* (500)

[includes: stage coaches, carrying operations on the canal but see 1.3 above]

3.4.5. *Retailing* (1000)

3.4.6. *Visitor economy* (500)

Coaching inns: numerous on the High Street, and the Royal Victoria Hotel.

3.4.7. *Financial services: banking* (1000)

Newport Savings bank founded 1816: finally became part of TSB. Records at Lloyds Bank Archives; TNA, NDO 20/52, papers on the amalgamation of the Newport savings bank with Salop and Welshpool Savings Bank, 1918-19. Other banks active in the town.

3.4.8. *Legal profession* (1,000)

Annual law List from 1800: surviving business records of individual Newport Solicitors.

For all topics within this chapter, important sources are:

*Newport Advertiser*; other newspapers, e.g. *Wellington Journal*; trade directories; census returns; NHS archive, especially photographs.

Total for this section 11,000 words

## 4. Social History

### 4.1 Social Structure (incl. families such as Boughey) (1000)

To include analysis of the distribution of wealth from the lay subsidies, Hearth Tax etc; prominent merchants and landowners (see sources under 1.4 above); ‘The Bougheys of Aqualate’, in Miles, *Newport People*, 26-60.

### 4.2 Social Welfare

#### 4.2.1. *Medical provision: practitioners and hospitals* (1000)

Higgins family, 1795-1886: SA, 1101/XVIII  
Newport Nursing Association and Mary Roddam Nursing Home, 1907-1948: SA, 3670/NA/1-7:  
‘The surgeons of Newport’, in Miles, *Newport People*, 133-48  
‘Mary Roddam and district nursing’, in Miles, *Newport People*, 149-57  
Royal College of Surgeons, Lives Online: [livesonline.rcseng.ac.uk/biogs](http://livesonline.rcseng.ac.uk/biogs)  
Boughey Hospital erected 1930.

#### 4.2.2. *Poor relief*

##### 4.2.2.1. The Old Poor Law (500)

Few seventeenth- or eighteenth-century parochial poor law records are presently known to survive except for an overseers’ account book for 1704-26 (SA, P207/L/1/1). Figures for expenditure for various years before 1834 can be obtained from the parliamentary papers. To include discussion of the stocking manufactory launched by the Marsh Trustees in 1790.

##### 4.2.2.2. Newport Union (1500)

Minutes and accounts in SA, PL 11. The workhouse was erected in 1856.

‘The poor of Newport’, in Miles, *Newport People*, 63-90  
L. Smith, *Refuges of Last Resort: Shropshire Workhouses and the People Who Ran Them*, TSAHS, 82 (2007), esp. 64-9

##### 4.2.3. *Charities for the poor* (other than borough lands) (1000)

*Charity Commission Report* (1821); TNA, CHAR 2.  
A painted board listing charities hangs beneath the tower in the parish church.  
‘William John Fieldhouse’ in Miles, *Newport People*, 130-2

##### 4.2.4. *Almshouses* (500)

Newport has two sets of almshouses. The first were established c.1442 in the churchyard and rebuilt in 1836 on Vineyard Road. The second formed part of the benefaction of William Adams, were constructed at the gates to Adams’ grammar school where they remain in use.

Commission for Charitable Uses, inquiry held at Newport, 1632: TNA, C 93/13/25; copy dated 1733: SA, IMG1312-1324 includes deeds, 15th-17th centuries  
*Charity Commission Report*, 412-25  
S. Watts, *Shropshire Almshouses* (Logaston, 2010).

### 4.3 Community Life

#### 4.3.1. *Law and order* (incl. crime and riots) (500)

A new lock-up/police house (still extant with date stone) was built on Stafford Road in 1847.

‘The Newport Patrole’ in Miles, *Newport People*, 91-8  
The Newport Association for the Prosecution of Felons

SA, PS1/18: Newport Petty Sessional Division, created 1836, in 1955 merged with Wellington to form Wrekin Division. Sessions were held in the town hall every alternate Tuesday morning. Extensive minute books, court registers etc. mostly post 1900.

#### 4.3.2. *Inns and public houses* (500)

As both a stop on the London-Chester road and a market town, Newport had many inns and public houses.

Quarter Sessions, Registers of Licensed Houses, 19th-20th centuries

Trade directories; newspapers; title deeds

‘Inn Focus - The Swan’, in *Newport People & Places* (NHS, 1990), 12-13

‘The Royal Victoria Hotel’, in *Newport People & Places II* (NHS, 1990), 10-12

M. Miles, *The Inns and Outs of Newport’s Pubs: A History of a Shropshire Market Town* (Newport, 2007)

#### 4.3.3. *Benefit and friendly societies* (500)

Several recorded in orders of Shrewsbury Quarter Sessions, 1794-1843: SA, QS.

#### 4.3.4. *Recreation* (incl. parks) (1000)

Victoria Park; Norbroom Park

#### 4.3.5. *Cultural life* (libraries, cinemas, theatres, concerts etc.) (1000)

Theatre: licence issued by Quarter Sessions, 1802, 1814, 1828

Assembly room above market house, 1858-

Newport Public Circulating Library, opened 1829: SA, P207/V/2/6

Literary Institute: Printed letter regarding the establishment of the Newport Literary and Social

Club: SA, P207/V/2/10; ‘A History of the Newport Literary and Social Institute 1883-

1938’ by R. G. Pugh: SA, P207/V/4/2/5; see Horton, Buildings

Newspaper: *Newport Advertiser* (1855-), see Miles, *Newport People*, 188-92, 197-201

#### 4.3.6. *Societies and events* (incl. festivals) (1000)

Newport Show, 1931-1957: SA, 3670/NS/1-10

Music festival (1940s -): SA, P207/V/2/3

#### 4.3.7. *Sport* (1000)

Racecourse, 1839-69: SA, 1101/CXVI.

Rugby, football and cricket clubs: search *Newport Advertiser*

Cycling: Newport Nocturne

#### 4.3.8. *Allotments* (250)

#### 4.3.9. *Cemeteries* (500)

Newport Burial Board, 1856-1954: SA, DA11/207-209

### 4.4. Education (5,500)

#### *Educational charities*

Provision by medieval college of St Mary

#### *Schools*

The English School, the town’s original grammar school,

*Charity Commission Report*, 409-12; *Staffordshire Advertiser*, 5 December 1846, 3.

Adams’s Grammar School

With a fairly recent and authoritative monograph, the grammar school can be treated briefly here, including updating the VCH account published in 1969.

Taylor, D. and R. Taylor, *Mr Adams Free Grammar School* (Chichester, 2002)  
'Tom Collins' [headmaster] in Miles, *Newport People*, 158-74

#### Charity subscription schools

Newport National School: SA, ED1564/231-5: plans for new schools and master's house; 1872-1905: TNA, ED 49/6378

#### Private schools

e.g. Mrs Lewis's school at Old Hall, Newport: *Staffordshire Advertiser*. 6 July 1822, 1: 'Sarah Jane Mills and Merevale', in Miles, *Newport People*, 175-85

#### Post-1880

Infants School, 1949-1969: TNA, ED 161/11284

National School, 1903-68:

School building application: TNA, ED 103/107/44, p. 863

SA, ED2699/41; SA, P207/R/1; TNA, ED 6/54; 1898-1914: ED 21/14868, 1919-35: TNA, ED 21/38420; 1936; TNA, ED 21/59964; TNA, ED 49/6378

Secondary Schools Digest files: County Schools, 1953-82: TNA, ED 162/1637

County High School for Girls: single-sex grammar, 11-18. Opened 1919, replacing Merevale School. 'Mervale' (*sic*) County School for Girls, 1903-21: TNA, ED 35/2124; ED 35/5771-5; ED 109/4973-4; ED 109/9051/6

Last Ofsted report ?2007. In 2007, on roll: 257 in school, 104 in sixth-form

Burton Borough School: mixed comprehensive, non-selective, ages 11-18. The school opened in 1957 (as secondary modern) and in September 2004 it was designated a Specialist Arts College, but in 2018 was simply a 'community school'. Latest Ofsted report is 2018: 1060 on roll.

Newport Roman Catholic School: 1900-62: TNA, ED 161/11347; SA, ED2699/41/28; 1909-18: TNA, ED 21/14869; 1926-33: TNA, ED 21/38421; 1936-9: TNA, ED 21/59965

### **4.5. Housing (2,500)**

Total for this section, c. 19,200 words

## 5. Religious History

### 5.1 The Established Church

#### 5.1.1. *Church origins and parochial organisation* (500)

The *hina gemare* of the Anglo-Saxon charter bounds may indicate the presence of a religious community in the mid 10th century but the evidence is too ambiguous to be relied upon: *PN Shropshire*, VI, 121-2.

The church of St Nicholas was probably founded as an integral element of the new town, and was initially a chapelry of Edgmond parish church. Edgmond church with its appurtenant chapels was given to Shrewsbury abbey, probably by the abbey's founder, Roger de Montgomery (*d.* 1094), and certainly by 1121. Richard, priest of Newport, attested a charter for the abbey 1135xc.1139, and Newport church was named among the abbey's possessions 1149x1159, indicating that it attained parochial status, independent of Edgmond, between 1121 and 1159.

*Cartulary of Shrewsbury Abbey*, ed. U. Rees, nos. 20, 32, 327-9; *English Episcopal Acta*, 14, *Coventry and Lichfield 1072-1159*, ed. M. J. Franklin (1997), nos. 36, 69; *English Episcopal Acta*, 16, *Coventry and Lichfield 1160-1182*, ed. M. J. Franklin (1998), no. 92; *Letters and Charters of Henry II*, no. 2480. On origins, cf. 'VCH Newport', ed. Cox, 31.

#### 5.1.2 *Church Fabric, building history* (2,500)

to include stained glass, bells, organ etc. Churchwarden's accounts run from 1695 to 1937, apparently continuously but there seem to be no vestry minutes. For the documentation of successive rebuildings of the church, see p. 48 below.

#### 5.1.3. *Advowson* (500)

'VCH Newport', ed. Cox, 31.

#### 5.1.4. *Endowment* including value of living (500)

Glebe and tithes

*Glebe Terriers of Shropshire*, ed. Watts, vol. 2, 41-4; 'VCH Newport', ed. Cox, 31.

Rectory house

'VCH Newport', ed. Cox, 31, but needs more on the architectural history of the College House.

#### 5.1.5. *Charities (for church fabric)* (500)

Church organ: 'William John Fieldhouse' in Miles, *Newport People*, 130-2

#### 5.1.6. *Religious life* (2,000)

Eyton, *Antiq. Shrops.*, IX, 130, 139-43

The Clergy of the Church of England 1540-1835 Database:

[www.theclergydatabase.org.uk](http://www.theclergydatabase.org.uk)

*Crockford's Clerical Directory*, 1858-present

Visitation materials at Staffordshire RO

#### 5.1.7. *Chantries* (500)

The chapel of St Mary Magdalene, dissolved 1547 and now completely vanished, probably originated as a leper colony: 'VCH Newport', ed. Cox, 32; BL, Add Ch. 73129-34 (1384-1427)

The college of St Mary was an important institution in the town from 1458 until its dissolution in 1547, and beyond, as the origins of the 'English School' (see above, Social History - Education): VCH, *Salop*, ii, 133-4; 'VCH Newport', ed. Cox, 32.

### 5.2 Protestant Nonconformity (2000)

To include accounts of the buildings

'VCH Newport', ed. Cox, 32

The SA holdings are not extensive for any of the denominations:

SA, NM3767/XIII: Primitive Methodist

SA, NM3767/XXVIII, NM5870/45: Wesleyan Methodist

SA, NO7542: United Reformed Church (formerly Congregational Church)

'The Silvesters of Newport' in Miles, *Newport People*, 186-206

### 5.3 Roman Catholicism (1,000)

To include accounts of the buildings

After the Talbots sold Longford Hall in 1789, a priest lived at Salter's Hall, which was temporarily the bishop of Shrewsbury's residence in the 19th century. The RC church was built on the same site in 1830s.

Ss Peter and Paul RC Church: incl. register of baptisms 1843-85: SA, RC18/1/1

Licence for Roman Catholic worship, 1791: SA, QS

Journal of the 1845 visit of Miss Harriet Pigott, a Catholic convert; describes the church and offers a snapshot of religious life: Oxford, Bodleian Library, MS Piggott e.1

Correspondence of clergy, mainly James Brown, bishop of Shrewsbury, while at Newport, 1850s-60s: Birmingham Archdiocesan Archives, B series, SC/C2.

## Appendix 2

### Detailed synopsis of *Newport buildings and townscapes*

#### Introduction

#### Religious Buildings

##### Church of St Nicholas

Probably 12th-century originally, the tower was rebuilt in the 14th century along with 5-bay arcades. The decorative roof is 15th century, replacing an earlier roof with a steep pitch. In 1725-9, the exterior of the nave and chancel were rebuilt in brick with Georgian windows, this arrangement shown in a plan of 1837-8 relating to re-pewing and alterations. Edward Haycock Junior rebuilt the chancel in 1866. In 1883-5, a major restoration was undertaken by John Norton of London, who rebuilt the nave and reconstructed the arcades, whilst the chancel was remodelled in a second phase. Repairs to the tower took place in 1910-11. An alabaster tomb-chest with recumbent effigies, c.1520, thought to be of John Salter and wife, has been relocated to the south chapel, whilst there is an impressive range of stained glass dating from 1874 to 1981. Medieval masonry was recorded by contemporaries during the Norton restoration, providing much useful evidence.

##### References

Barrow, C.C., *A Short History of St. Nicholas Church, Newport*, 1921 (SA q K 64); Cranage, D.H.S., *The Churches of Shropshire*, 1905, Part 7, pp. 609-16; Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, pp. 440-2; SA 6001/372/3: Revd Edward Williams, *Watercolours of Shropshire Churches, Newport 1791*; Historic England Archive, Swindon, early 20th century drawing of a medieval traceried screen (available on-line); Shropshire HER PRN 00820.

##### Further Sources to be consulted

###### Shropshire Archives and Museums

SA P207/B/1/1/2: Churchwardens' Account Books (1723-64), including possible evidence for the restoration of 1725-9; SA 6001/6742: Ink drawings of Shropshire Churches, c.1800; SHYMS (Shropshire Museums): FA/1991/203, Lithograph of Newport Church 1840-60; SA P207/B/2/3/1: Faculty for restoration, May 1883; SA P207/B/2/1/: Documents regarding 1883 restoration, including plans; SA P207/U/2/3: Re. five wooden figures found in the roof during restorations; SA P207/V/4/2: Papers of C.C. Barrow; SA P207/B/2/2: Tower repairs 1910-11; D.C. Cox (ed.), 1997, *Sir Stephen Glynne's Church Notes for Shropshire*, p. 75 (reference to seat carvings); E. Jones in *TSAS*, Volumes VIII-X, 1885-7 (source material in Barrow, above); SA IMG1301-24: Drawings of Monuments by William Mytton (d. 1746).

###### Staffordshire Record Office (Lichfield Diocesan Records)

LD77/21/38: Faculty for erecting a new gallery and repewing, 1837-8, by J. & J. Cobb. Also see [www.images.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk](http://www.images.lambethpalacelibrary.org.uk): ICBS 00872a, Plan of 1837-8; B/C/12/1/338: Faculty for restoring and altering the church (may duplicate SA P207/B/2/3/1); General: B/C/12/- Faculty papers.

###### NHS archives

NHS collection 01616, Papers of T.W. Picken (antiquarian), particularly regarding 1883 restoration and Salter tomb; report no. 00132; SNAP archive: pen & ink drawing, 1820-30.

There is a significant opportunity to produce a definitive church guide in association with NHS and the church. Historical and antiquarian observations should be verified and the information used to



elucidate the church's development. The monuments, carvings and stained glass are of additional interest.

### **College of St Mary**

The south chancel chapel was built as a chantry from 1432 by Thomas Draper and retains the Perpendicular-style two-bay arcade. Subsequently, a college connected with St. Mary's guild was founded in 1442 with a master and four chaplains, the college house being located at 20-24 St Mary Street. The building was replaced by houses and shops in the late 16th century, although a wall in the cellar may relate to the college house (see Significant Houses, below).

#### *References*

Cranage, D.H.S., *The Churches of Shropshire*, 1905, Part 7, pp. 609-16; Knowles, D. & Hadcock, R.N., *Medieval Religious Houses in England & Wales*, 1971; Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, pp. 440-2; NHRE monument no. 73897.

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

See E. Jones, *TSAS*, 1910 (Certificates of the Shropshire Chantries)  
VCH Shropshire, Vol II, ed. A.T. Gaydon and R.B. Pugh, 1973, Religious Houses, Colleges, Newport, St Mary, pp. 133-4; [www.vchshropshire.org/cox\\_newport.html](http://www.vchshropshire.org/cox_newport.html)

### **St Peter and St Paul's Roman Catholic Church (incorporating Salter's Hall)**

Roman Catholic Church and Presbytery, encapsulating the 17th century Salter's Hall and part of an earlier screens-passage. The 17th century roof structure and staircase newel posts have been recorded in the attic. The complex was remodelled in 1832 by Joseph Potter, architect, of Lichfield, in gothic-style. It is of brick with stone dressings, gables and lancet windows. The decoration and furnishings of the Sanctuary were possibly designed by A.W.N. Pugin, 1838-40, who was patronised by Lord Talbot, whilst the stained glass in the lancets is by Margaret Rope. A large rose window inserted in the gabled front of the church in 1920 relieves the somewhat austere style.

#### *References*

Colvin, Howard, *A Biographical Dictionary of British Architects 1600-1840*, 1978, pp. 654-5; Mercer, *Shropshire Experience*, pp. 313-7; Moran, *Vernacular Buildings*, p. 476; Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, p. 442; Historic England, List no. 1188022.

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

Historic England Archive, Swindon, 1994, record form; Architectural History Practice, Taking Stock (Diocese of Shrewsbury), St. Peter and St. Paul, Newport, 2012; SNAP, interior photos.

Note that the updated Historic England list entry (2014) describes the building in considerable detail, and can be drawn upon for this project. This will contrast well with antiquarian source material (see editor's report).

### **Non-conformist Chapels**

#### *Former Independent Chapel, Beaumaris Road*

This chapel was licensed at the Quarter Sessions in July 1803, replacing an earlier building, location unknown. It was a small chapel with two lateral round-arched windows. The congregation grew and a new chapel was built in Wellington Road in 1832. The old chapel was converted into two cottages, shown in a photograph with a central chimney stack, but was later demolished.

### *References*

Cox, *Nonconformist chapels*

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS digital archive, including information on Capt Jonathan Scott who founded the chapel.

### *Trinity Independent (Congregational) Chapel, Wellington Road*

Large Tuscan-style chapel built in 1831-2, replacing that in Beaumaris Road. It has a three-bay stuccoed front with pilasters and a pedimented gable. A central recessed bay forms the porch with doorways to the side returns, now glazed in. The gallery is supported on thin iron columns. It became a United Reformed church in 1972.

### *References*

Cox, *Nonconformist chapels*; Mercer, *Shropshire Experience*, p. 309; Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, p. 442; Stell, C., *An Inventory of non-conformist chapels in Central England* (RCHME), 1986 (excerpt in SA q C 98).

### *Former Primitive Methodist Chapel, Stafford Road*

A gable-fronted brick chapel of 1830, with round-arched windows with tall keystones flanking the doorway, above which is a stone tablet. A new chapel was built in 1876 in Wellington Road, the old building rented out and then sold.

### *References*

Cox, *Nonconformist chapels*. (The photograph is copyright Martin-Kaye solicitors, Telford.)

### *Primitive Methodist Chapel, Wellington Road*

Built in 1876. Red brick with prominent yellow brick dressings, round-arched openings and cast iron windows. Closed in the 1920s and now a Masonic Hall.

### *References*

Cox, *Nonconformist chapels*.

### *Former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Upper Bar*

The Methodists erected a chapel in Upper Bar in 1829-30 at a cost of £200, using the site or buildings of a former theatre. The gabled-front has 3 round-arched windows to the upper storey which lit a gallery at one end, the ground floor now converted to shops. The chapel became a working men's club in 1865, and a new chapel was built in Avenue Road in 1876-7.

### *References*

Cox, *Nonconformist chapels*; [vchshropshire.org/cox\\_newport.html](http://vchshropshire.org/cox_newport.html); Prentice, *Newport*, p. 76.

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

SA NM3767/xxviii; NHS archives.

### *Wesleyan Methodist Chapel, Avenue Road*

1876-7. A Gothic-style gable-fronted chapel by George Bidlake, architect, of Wolverhampton, of red brick with yellow brick dressings. The congregation joined the United Reform church in Wellington Road in 2001, and the building became a gymnasium before being converted to a private house.

### *References*

Cox, *Nonconformist chapels*. Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, p. 442; *Directory of British Architects 1834-1900*, BAL/RIBA, p. 80.

**All Chapels:** See Cox, *Nonconformist chapels*; [vchshropshire.org/cox\\_newport.html](http://vchshropshire.org/cox_newport.html); Stell, C., (RCHME), 1986 (excerpt in SA q C 98).

### **Cemetery Chapel**

Newport General Cemetery opened in 1859. This small gothic-style chapel in the centre of the cemetery grounds is gable-fronted and of rock-faced stone. It was constructed by John Williams, a local builder who collaborated with John Cobb.

### *References*

Shropshire HER PRN 14377; SNAP archive.

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

SA DA11/209/1, 5-6: Specifications and contract documents for tradesmen, October 1859, plan of site, and petition for consecration of burial ground.

## **Civic Buildings**

### **The Guildhall**

Perhaps the most impressive building in Newport, the guildhall is a two-bay open hall with cusped and decorative bracing to the roof, between a gabled entrance bay and rear room. It has been dendro-dated 1487, at which time it was associated with the merchant Guild of St Mary. A range was added to the right, dendro-dated 1546, close-studded and with a lobby-entrance. It bears a decorated jetty bressumer, engraved 'Wm Gregari 1615', but this was brought from elsewhere. The interior bears an impressive array of contemporary stencilled decoration. In the 19th century, a gable-fronted wing was added to the right, giving the current 'hall-house' appearance.

### *References*

Mercer, *Shropshire Experience*, p. 123; Moran, *Vernacular Buildings*, pp. 470-6 (including reconstruction drawings and plans); Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, p. 444; Historic England, List no. 1177807 (grade II\*); Historic England Archive, Swindon, Files 1967-85 (including measured drawings by M. Moran); NHS Heritage Trail, booklet.

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS Report nos. 00204, 00767; NHS collection 01616, Papers of T.W. Picken (antiquarian).

Note: There is a considerable volume of available material relating to this building, which needs to be synthesised to produce an authoritative account.

### **Former Market Hall (demolished), The Square**

The market hall was constructed c.1662 with money donated by William Adams. It was a narrow building supported on pillars, with arched openings to the ground floor, a clock attached to the front gable and a bell turret on the roof. The town hall occupied the upper storey and the lock-up was downstairs. It was demolished in 1859 at the behest of the Marsh Trustees, who then contracted John Cobb to build a new town and market hall on the east side of the square.

### *References*

Warner, *Newport*; Prentice, *Newport*, pp. 31-2; SNAP archive.

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

SA P207/V/2/18; SA NTM/6/5/1: Refers to 1854 Act - the trustees can demolish the market house and butter cross and rebuild the town hall. Document includes a plan of the trustees' accommodation in the new hall. (A copy of the act is available at NHS)

### **Former Butter Cross (demolished), High Street**

Rebuilt in stone in 1665 by Thomas Talbot. Demolished in 1859-60, but shown in old photographs. It was a low open structure in classical-style, with round columns supporting a gabled roof. Excavations revealed its footprint, which is now marked by blue brick.

### *References*

Prentice, *Newport*, plate 14, p. 37; Shropshire HER ESA6807; Oasis database, slrconsul-181981.

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

SA P207/V/2/18; SA NTM/6/5/1; SNAP archive.

### **Town Hall and Market Hall**

Built in 1860 by John Cobb Junior of Newport, unflatteringly described by Newman & Pevsner as 'debased Italianate'. The six-window front has over-emphasised detail, including a semi-circular scroll over the clock. Two round-arched entrance doors, between windows, are shown in old photographs, but these were removed in the 20th century and replaced by a wide shop front. The building hosted a dance floor and cinema (The Picture House), the ballroom restored and re-opened in 2018. To the rear is the substantial market hall, a nine-gable brick block with cast iron windows, still in use.

### *References*

Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, p. 444; Prentice, *Newport*, pp. 84-5; Warner, *Newport*; SNAP photograph, 1936.

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

SA P207/V/2/18; SA NTM/6/5/1; NHS archive, including report on John Cobb, no. 02072; Brown, Fred, *Silver Screen Memories*, 1984, (SA c 38 4).

### **Puleston Cross, High Street**

Market Cross dedicated to Roger Pyvelesdon (1241-72), High Sheriff of Shropshire, raised by his son. The 2m-high shaft has angle mouldings and stands on a tiered octagonal base, but the cross is missing. It was possibly mutilated during the Civil War. Archaeological recording revealed a buried soil passing beneath, dated 916-1205 AD, and there was no evidence that the monument had been moved. It is not clear whether the same stone was used for the base and the shaft.

### *References*

Historic England, List no. 1014890 (Scheduled Monument); NHRE Monument no. 73900; Shropshire HER ESA6807; Oasis database slrconsul-181981; NHS archive.

### **Former Lock-up and Police Station, Stafford Road**

A two-storey building with advanced central gabled bay, the gable bearing a plaque dated 1847. It was constructed by John Cobb of Newport on a plot off Stafford Road which was formerly a field. The lock-up had two cells with heavy doors, wooden beds and concrete floors. It is now a house and has been recently modernised.

#### *References*

Warner, *Newport*, p. 93; SNAP archive.

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

SA 2924/67: The County Surveyor is to make accurate plans of lock ups, including at Newport, June 1841; SCC1/G/597: Plans by C. H. Simmons, County Architect, 1955.

### **Cottage Hospital, Station Road**

Designed by E. Kirby & Sons, architects, of Liverpool. Funded by a bequest of Lady Annabel Boughey (d. 1914) and built in 1930. It is shown in old photographs with a prominent entrance arch leading into a courtyard.

#### *References*

Prentice, *Newport*, plate 44; NHRE monument no. 1082629; Historic England Archive, Swindon, 1994, File.

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

SA c 71 5: Catalogue of the records of Edmund Kirby & sons of Liverpool; SNAP archive.

## **Hotels and Commercial Buildings**

### **Royal Victoria Hotel, High Street**

Opened as The Union Hotel in 1830, but following a visit by Princess Victoria in 1832, the name was changed to the Royal Victoria. It is a prominent building with stuccoed front and fine classical-style detail, said to have a coffered ceiling inside. The upper storey is divided into bays by pilasters with leaf and palmette capitals. Shown in an old photograph with a horse bus outside, used to convey passengers to the railway station.

#### *References*

Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, pp. 443-4; Prentice, *Newport*, plate 21. SNAP archive

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS archive; SA PH/N/8/13/: Photograph

### **The Bridge Inn**

The Bridge Inn was located on the mill pool dam. It is said to retain a 17th century newel post at the foot of the staircase, and deeds go back to 1669 when it was owned by the Cherrington family. The bar and cellar are the oldest parts, but the brick exterior is early 19th century. It was called the Cross Keys until 1828, when it became the Bridge Inn, perhaps the time at which it was remodelled. A row of older cottages (Bridge Terrace) adjoins to the left, probably contemporary with the 17th century inn and shown on Hill's map of 1681-2.

#### *References*

Shropshire HER PRN 12920; SA 81/599: William Hill map, 1681-2; SNAP archive; NHS report no. 01108 (Bridge Terrace)

### **Lloyds Bank, 95 High Street**

Built as the premises of the Shropshire Banking Company in the late 19th century, the imposing front has Regency elements and is designed to convey its function. See also, former Barclays Bank at 53 High Street (below), and former Newport Provident Bank which opened in 1863 at 21 High Street, under Secretary, H. P. Silvester.

#### *References*

Mercer, *Shropshire Experience*, p. 272.

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS report no. 03532 (Mr Silvester); Lloyd's Bank archives.

### **53 High Street (Former Barclays Bank and before that the Red Lion Inn)**

17th century or earlier. The building was the Red Lion Inn from 1690 with substantial stabling in the rear yard. In the early 19th century it became three shops, and may have been remodelled at that time. The stuccoed front was designed to impress, the first floor bearing an arched pediment on Ionic columns over drapery swags. It became the United Counties Bank in 1905, the ground floor remodelled in classical-style by Edwin Whittingham. It was taken over by Barclays Bank in 1917, before closing in 2018.

#### *References*

Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, p. 444; Historic England, List no. 1054393; SNAP archive.

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS report nos. 01579, 00318, 00721. Also report no. 01528 on an inventory of 1713. Barclay's Bank archive.

## **Entertainment**

### **Former racing grandstand, Audley Villa**

Built c.1839 as the grandstand at Newport racecourse and shown in a woodblock drawing as such. It had been converted to a villa by 1900, when the railings from the grandstand balcony were re-located to the front boundary of the property. The house is stuccoed under a hipped roof, with advanced central entrance bay and fine classical-style detail.

#### *References*

Historic England, List nos. 1367294 and 1054380; Warner, *Newport*.

#### *Further sources to be consulted*

SA NTM/4/30/1-2: A proposal was made to erect a new grandstand in 1839; NHS report nos. 02307, 02564, 03386.

### **The Newport Literary and Social Institute, Wellington Road**

The Literary Institution was located on the corner of Wellington Road and opened in 1883, possibly with funding from the Boughey family. A narrow 3-storey building with sash windows, it was probably purpose-built. As well as books, there were reading, billiard, smoking and recreation rooms. The institution moved to new premises, The Town House, in High Street in 1927.

### *References*

Prentice, *Newport*, p. 73; Warner, *Newport*.

### *Further sources to be consulted*

SA P207/N/4/2/5: A history of the institute from 1883 to 1938 by R.G. Pugh, 1938; NHS report nos. 00203, 00229, 02456, plus copy of Pugh, above.

## **Schools**

### **Adams' Grammar School**

A school for 80 boys built in 1656, generously endowed by William Adams, a London haberdasher born in Newport. The central 2-storey range is crowned by a domed clock-turret. The school-room and library were over an open arcade, with flanking and projecting houses for the schoolmaster and his assistant. Remodelled and refaced in ashlar in 1820-2 by John Cobb of Newport, but retaining the original layout. A blocked doorway leading into the rear of the school-room is 17th-century, whilst the clock and staircase in the headmaster's house are said to be original.

### *References*

Mercer, *Shropshire Experience*, p. 222; Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, pp. 442-3. Historic England, List no. 1054359 (grade II\*).

### *Further sources to be consulted*

Taylor, D. & R., *Mr Adams' Free Grammar School*, 2002. The book includes a print of 1765, Gough Maps 28, p. 241 (Bodleian Library); SA SCC1/G/561-4, plans of a new block, 1927-8; School archives. (A detailed history of the school is given by Taylor & Taylor. The focus here should be on plans, drawings and photographs of the school buildings.)

### **Newport Girls' High School, Wellington Road**

Built in 1924-5 by G. N. Bailey, County schools' architect, a long symmetrical composition including 5-bay central block and pedimented end pavilions. Constructed of pink brick with red brick and stone dressings, and baroque-style detail.

### *References*

Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, p. 443

### *Further sources to be consulted*

SA SCC1/G/582-9: Preliminary drawings & plan of site, 1923-4; SCC1/G/590: Plan of site, A.G. Chant, County Architect, 1939; SCC1/G/591-3: New science laboratory; School archives (the school may be interested in having its history written).

### **Junior School, Avenue Road**

A National school, by John Ladds, built in 1872. Gothic-style, red brick with polychrome detail including black and yellow bands and slate-hanging under the window arches. The teacher's house is attached to the right. An Infants School was added on the adjoining plot to the left, dated 1898.

### *References*

Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, p. 443; Prentice, *Newport*, p. 74.

### *Further sources to be consulted*

SA SCC1/G/574-5: Sketch plan, n.d., and existing building, 1931, respectively.

### **Former British School, Wellington Road**

Adjacent to and associated with Trinity Independent chapel. A single-storey gable-fronted building with simple classical-style detail, including a round arch over the doorway. Under the arch is a stone plaque reading 'Erected by voluntary contributions AD MDCCCXLI' (1841). It is labelled as a Girls' school on the 1st edition Ordnance Survey.

#### *References*

Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, p. 443; SNAP archive; Ordnance Survey 1881, 1st edition, Sheet XXXI, SW.

### **Royal Free English School**

A school for poor children was held in the Booth Hall (Market Hall?) from the 17th century onwards (see editor's report). The Booth Hall was demolished in 1859 and the school was moved to a site between 25 Upper Bar and Wellington Road, a simple single-storey, red brick building. It was sold in 1898 by the charity commissioners when pupils started migrating to the Junior School in Avenue Road. The building was photographed in the 1980s in a derelict state before its demolition.

#### *References*

Prentice, *Newport*, pp. 31, 74; Shropshire HER PRN 06085; SNAP exterior photograph.

### **Castle House School/Merevale**

Two Georgian villas adjoining each other, late 18th century with later alterations, of red brick and engraved stucco dressings. A taller, third house on the left is probably later. Each house is different, but all have good classical-style detail, and there are a couple of Flemish gables. In the garden is a large folly consisting of castellated turrets linked by a wall. By 1898 it was known as Merevale College, a boarding school for girls. From 1919-25, it housed the Girls' High School before the current building in Wellington Road was completed. It has been a Preparatory school since 1944.

#### *References*

Warner, *Newport*, pp. 76, 93; Historic England, List nos. 1054384 and 1307284; SA PH/N/8/10/- : Photographs dating from 1898. SNAP exterior photographs.

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS report no. 01084; SNAP archive

**All schools:** the files of the Department of Education and its successors at the National Archives need to be searched for applications for funding for new buildings, some of which may well contain plans sent to the Department for its approval.

## **Industrial**

### **Site of Former Mill, River Strine**

A significant feature of the medieval manor, associated with the fishery and dam. Said to have been at the foot of the bridge going into town, on the right-hand side. Described in 1560 as two mills under one roof, possibly referring to two pairs of mill-stones. The mill went out of use in the late 18th century and the site was demolished in 1836 when the canal was built.

#### *References*



Shropshire HER PRN 00807; NHRE monument no. 73894; SA 6000/19358

*Further sources to be consulted*

SA 6000/19349-50, 19358, 19360, 19364, 19382, 16356, 619360; NB/E/2/; NHS archive.

**Windmill, Broomfield Road (demolished)**

A windmill was constructed in Broomfield road in 1796 under the direction of the Marsh Trustees, but was a loss-making concern and was sold in 1802. It was converted to a dwelling and is shown in several old depictions. It is marked on the Ordnance Survey of 1881 as 'Old Windmill' and was subsequently demolished. There were two further windmills, Chetwynd Mill, off Forton Road, which had become a creamery by 1930, and the site of another at Sandiford Crescent, shown as 'Old Windmill' on the 1881 map.

*References*

Warner, *Newport*, plate 50; Warner, *Newport*; Shropshire HER PRN 07162, 07163, 07164, 06072; Ordnance Survey 1881, 1st edition, Sheet XXXI, NW & SW.

*Further sources to be consulted*

SA NTM/5/3/-: Mortgage marsh to raise money to build a windmill; P207/V/3/22 (photo); NHS report no. 02747; SNAP archive, including drawing by Charlotte Burne.

**Tan Yard, Tan Bank (partly demolished)**

All that remains are some ranges and cottages set in a yard, the ranges now used by automotive traders. Some of these buildings are marked on the 1881 Ordnance Survey.

*References*

Shropshire HER PRN 07173; Ordnance Survey 1881, 1st edition, Sheet XXXI, NW

*Further sources to be consulted*

NHS report no. 00757

**Audley Engineering Works (demolished)**

Audley Engineering Company was registered in 1906, taking over the premises of St Mary's Ironworks. The company made valves, inscribed AUDCO, and was a major supplier of the British market. After a merger, the company became known as Serck Audco. It subsequently changed hands several times, but production ceased in 1998-9. The factory consisted of long parallel ranges covering a large area, which were then demolished and the site levelled. It has since been redeveloped for housing (Audley Park). Although none of the buildings survive, old maps, photographs, aerial views and documents may provide further evidence for its development.

*References*

Shropshire HER PRN 07172; Ordnance Survey, Sheet XXXI NW, 1881 and 1938; Prentice, *Newport*, pp. 95-6; Newport Heritage Trail, booklet.

*Further sources to be consulted*

Shropshire HER PRN 07172, including ESA 6626; Trinder, Barrie, *The Industrial Archaeology of Shropshire*, 1996, p. 62; SNAP, Aerial photos, various dates; NHS archives, including 2 books dated 1955 and 1982.

**Masseys Iron and Brass foundry, 2a Lower Bar**

c. 1910, the building was an agricultural iron foundry and the front has two large openings in the shape of horse-shoes, now infilled with glazing and doorways. The building has coved plaster eaves and three small gabled dormers. A well-preserved front, but less important historically than Mr Underhill's foundry in St Mary Street, which became the site of the Audley Engineering Works.

*References*

Historic England, List no. 1295070.

## Transport

### Station Cottage, off Wright Avenue

Associated with the Shropshire Union of Railways and Canals (SUR & CC) and its successors (1847-1964). A blue brick station cottage occupied by the crossing-keeper before the road bridge was built over the railway line. It is now a dwelling within a modern housing development. A curved stone retaining wall to the north is also associated with the railway.

*References*

Shropshire HER PRN 33021; SNAP archive.

*Further sources to be consulted*

SA DP322-4, 326, 426; Historic England Archive, Swindon, File; Morriss, Richard, in *TSAS*, 1985, A gazetteer of passenger railway stations in Shropshire, pp. 89-105; NHS archives.

### The Canal Lock and Roving Bridge, Shropshire Union Canal, Newport Branch

The Newport branch of the former Birmingham and Liverpool Junction Canal was constructed in 1835-6. The canal lock and roving bridge, the latter allowing horses to cross from one side of the towpath to the other, has been scheduled by Historic England as an excellent example of its type, and a detailed description is provided. This monument forms an impressive assemblage with other structures along the canal in Newport, including the Summer House Bridge, a warehouse, locks and two lock-houses. The canal bridge is in place of the dam which held back water to power the mill; the latter went out of use in the early 18th century. (Did the dam-bridge survive until 1835, or was there an intervening bridge during this century?)

*References*

Roving bridge and lock, Historic England, List no. 1002952 (Scheduled Monument); Summer House Bridge, Historic England, List no. 1261468.

*Further sources to be consulted*

SA DP306: Plan of the proposed Newport branch of the Birmingham & Liverpool Junction Canal, 30 September 1826. Surveyed by W.A. Provis under the direction of Thomas Telford; cms.snct.co.uk (The Shrewsbury & Newport Canals Trust).

### Turnpike House, Stafford Road

18th to 19th century toll-house on the Newport to Stafford road, shown on the 1841 tithe map. The toll-house is a two-storey brick house with bay window to front, later extended to the left with a bay window to the east gable end. The road is probably 18th century and cuts across earlier fields. (There were also toll gates at Upper Bar and in Chetwynd).

*References*

Shropshire HER PRN 06080/15336; SA P207/T/1/1: Tithe map

*Further sources to be consulted*

SA DA11/966: Turnpike Trust (1822-67); SA NB/F/1/1: Minute book for Turnpike Trust.

**New Bridge over River Meese, A519 (by-passed)**

Two-arch bridge, stone with plain parapets, built in 1726. It is on the site of an earlier bridge, built by 1478, of which no trace remains. This route, Newport to Eccleshall, is thought to be an early ridgeway and was the original route to Stafford.

*References*

Historic England, List no. 1367319; NHRE monument no. 74179; L. Fletcher, pers. comm.

## Welfare Institutions

**Former Almshouses, High Street**

William Glover was granted land between the churchyard and the King's highway in 1446 for the maintenance of 4 people. In 1836, more land was required for the churchyard, and a new almshouse was built in Vineyard Road (see below).

*References*

Shropshire HER PRN 00810; NHRE Monument no. 73894

*Further sources to be consulted*

SA NB/E/4/ (out store): Churchyard hospital and almshouses (1585-1770); NHS report no. 01616 (copy of indenture, 1657).

**Almshouses flanking entrance to Adams Grammar School**

A pair of almshouses intended for two men and two women were built in 1656, part of the endowment of William Adams. They originally had Dutch gables, but these were removed by John Cobb of Newport when he reconstructed them in 1820-2.

*References*

Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, pp. 442-3. (Also see sources for the school)

**Poorhouse, 32-36 Vineyard Road**

Probably 18th century and referred to in 1787. A tall brick building under a hipped roof with dentilled eaves, otherwise plainly detailed. It now forms 3 dwellings. The height suggests it may have been 'a house of industry'.

*References*

Smith, Lance, 'Refuges of Last Resort: Shropshire Workhouses and the People Who Ran Them', *TSAS* 82 (2007), p. 64.

*Further sources to be consulted*

[SA P207/L/8/4: Lease for a messuage in Norbroom ... for the use of the inhabitants of the parish as a workhouse for the poor, August 1755.](#)

**Almshouses, 24-30 Vineyard Road**

Dated 1836 and replacing the almshouses in the High Street (see above). A range of four small cottages, of brick with stone dressings, including stone-framed windows under square drip-moulds. There is a large stone tablet on the front bearing an inscription and date.

#### *References*

Historic England, List no. 1188036; Smith, Lance, *ibid.*, p. 64.

### **Newport Union Workhouse, Audley Avenue**

Union workhouse by John Cobb of Newport, started in February 1855 at a cost of £3,610. Its completion was certified by Edward Haycock, County architect, in May 1856. Long 2-storey brick ranges are arranged around two yards. Further single-storey ranges were added to the rear in 1873 by John Lofts. It later became a children's home, then an old people's home, before being sold for housing in 1986. The former infirmary east of the workhouse was built in 1906-8 by Fleeming & son, architects.

#### *References*

Smith, Lance, *ibid.*, pp. 64-9; NHRE Monument no. 1454196.

#### *Further sources to be consulted*

Morrison, Kathryn, 1999, *The Workhouse, A Study of Poor Law buildings in England*, RCHME (for discussion of layouts); PL11/106-7: Guardians' minutes, building committee; SA PH/N/8/17/2: Photograph; SA SCC1/G/567-72: Survey drawing and alterations (when the workhouse became a children's home); SA SC 21/5 (1986); SNAP archive; [www.workhouses.org.uk](http://www.workhouses.org.uk)

## **Agriculture**

### **Buried soils, Stafford Street**

Pollen analysis revealed wheat, rye, hemp and cornflower, typical of the medieval period. 13th - 14th century pottery was found, along with a possible revetment to a pond.

#### *References*

Shropshire HER ESA6566; Oasis database fieldsec1-97623

### **Quarry Farm Cottage, Stafford Road**

A small 19th-century farmstead, 50% survival, now converted to dwellings. It is adjacent to an old quarry. (One of the few remaining agricultural buildings within Newport town boundary).

#### *References*

Shropshire HER PRN 24022

### **Grain Silo, Audley Avenue**

One of 16 grain silos erected by the government in WWII, a large steel-framed structure with central tower and concrete wings, housing machinery, drying plant and bins. During the war it had 20 bins containing 5,000 tons of grain, and could be accessed from the railway. It was still in use in the 1980s with a capacity of 6,000 tons, the original steam-powered heaters, being replaced by diesel heaters. Now occupied by Wynnstay (Is the silo still in use?).

### *References*

NHRE monument no. 1188780; [ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue](http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue); Prentice, *Newport*, p. 95.

## **Significant Houses (Vernacular and Polite)**

There are many significant houses in Newport, and this selection is by no means comprehensive. Information may come to light during the course of the project which may require additions.

### **Moated Site, Station Road**

Medieval moated site, described in 1471 as being so ruinous as to be worth nothing. In 1681-2 the moat is clearly marked as an earthwork on a plot labelled Bembows Yard, along with 9-11 Upper Bar. The moat is similarly shown as a square earthwork, approximately 55 x 55m, on the Ordnance Survey of 1881. Now in the grounds of late 19th and early 20th century developments, only two arms of the moat are visible.

### *References*

NHRE Monument no. 73903; Shropshire HER PRN 00812; SA 81/599: Map by William Hill, 1681-2; Ordnance Survey, 1881, 1st edition, Sheet XXXI, SW.

### *Further sources to be consulted*

Shropshire HER PRN 00812, detailed record files and associated event records. SA 6001/240: William Phillips Manuscripts, c.1900, *Moated Dwellings in Salop*.

### **Site of Mansion House, off St. Mary Street**

Said to have been a medieval guest house maintained by the College of St Mary and used by important travellers (This requires verification). It was subsequently in private ownership and was one of the largest houses in Newport, as seen on William Hill's map of 1681. The house was set back from the High Street, but with nothing obscuring its frontage.

### *References*

NHS booklet, 2003; SA 81/599: William Hill map, 1681-2; Shropshire HER PRN 06084

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

SA P207/F/2/3/7: Grant regarding transfer of Mansion House from College of St. Mary, now dissolved, ... to John Pergent and Thomas Reve; Shropshire HER PRN 06084 including associated event records; NHS report no. 00795.

### **King's Head, Chetwynd End**

Part of a medieval cruck truss has been recorded in photographs, suggesting that this is one of the earliest buildings in Newport. Known as The Bull in 1681. Deeds of 1787 onwards are held by Marston's brewery (copies in NHS). The exterior is 18th to 19th century in character, constructed of brick with sash windows.

### *References*

Shropshire HER PRN 17189; SNAP interior and exterior photos.

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS report no. 00766; Shropshire HER PRN 17189: photos in detailed record files.

### **18-24 St Mary Street**

A two-storey range with jetty stylistically dated 1560-80 and replacing the medieval college of St. Mary. It consists of six identical box-panelled bays, each 3.7m square, with much timber-framing preserved inside. There may have been shops on the ground floor with chambers over. No. 22 was purchased in 1700 as the rectory, and was recorded in 1799 as being 'mean though in good repair'. The range was re-fronted in brick, probably in the late 18th century. The rectory was moved to the somewhat grander Beaumaris House in 1874 (see below).

#### *References*

Moran, *Vernacular Buildings*, p. 477; Historic England, List no. 1054337

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

SA P207/F/2/3/: Building acquired by the parishioners in 1700; NHS report no. 01591; [vchshropshire.org/cox\\_newport.html](http://vchshropshire.org/cox_newport.html); SNAP, interior photographs.

### **Boghey House, 60 High Street**

16th-century originally and retaining timber-framing with wattle and daub infill to the 2nd floor, along with the newel post of a contemporary staircase. The newel post is in its original position, suggesting that the walls were once higher. The hall at the front is probably 17th century and has a diagonal hearth in the northeast corner. A rear room may be 18th century, and accommodated the board of the Marsh Trustees. Typically, the stuccoed facade is late 18th century, with a wooden doorcase to the left and 19th century bay window to the right. Liddle & Heane solicitors were formerly based here.

#### *References*

Historic England, List no. 1178242.

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS report no. 01580; SNAP, interior photographs.

### **9-11 Upper Bar**

A timber-framed 2-storey building with jetty, consisting of a 3-bay hall with gable-fronted parlour wing to right. Probably early 17th century, though the parlour wing could have earlier origins. Close-studding has been recorded under the exterior render during renovations. In 1672 the site was in the ownership of Thomas Talbot and leased to the Benbowe family. The house is shown on a map of 1681-2 in a plot labelled 'Bembows Yard' along with the moated site which is immediately south of it. (Did this house replace the moated site, not Old Hall, which doesn't appear very old?)

#### *References*

Moran, *Vernacular Buildings*, p. 477; Historic England, List no. 1054341; Map by William Hill, 1681-2; SNAP archive; L. Fletcher, pers. comm.

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

Historic England Archive, Swindon, Interior and Exterior photographs; NHS archive.

### **67 High Street**

16th and 17th century internally. The stuccoed facade with plat bands is 18th century in character, a panelled door on the left leading to a yard-passage. The central core is 16th century with much timber-framing preserved, including a truss in the attic with an ogee arch. A carved beam on the south side may have been on the exterior originally, facing into the passage. The front and rear bays are probably 17th century. There is a projecting timber shop-front with splayed entrance, whilst the interior of the shop was stripped out and refitted in the 20th century. Formerly Addison grocers.

### *References*

Historic England, list no. 1307217; SNAP, interior photos; NHS report no. 00758.

### **Former Star Inn, 30 High Street**

A 17th century, 3-storey timber-framed building, re-fronted and stuccoed in the 18th century. Timber-framing is retained in the passage to the north. Inside the shop, an ovolo-moulded bressumer is visible in the ceiling, set back about 1m from the current building line. Sockets in the underside suggest close-studding, and provide good evidence that the High Street was once wider. A carving of a man was found on a timber to the southwest, now covered over, whilst Fleur-de-lis and tulip motifs have also been recorded. In 1790, it was a house belonging to John Cotes, High Steward, but by the 19th century it was an inn with pleasure gardens to the rear, known as Star Gardens.

### *References*

Moran, *Vernacular Buildings*, p. 477; Historic England, List no. 1367289; Newport Heritage Trail, booklet.

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS report Nos. 01576, 00318; SNAP, interior photographs.

### **87-89 and 91-91A High Street**

These buildings are within one curtilage and are late 16th to 17th century. Nos. 87-89 is 16th-century and has three-panel high box-framing to the rear and is said to have a blocked stone-mullioned window. The three-storey front is red brick with sash windows with tall key-blocks. No. 91-91A is probably 17th century infill of an open space and has a timber-framed core, a front room and rear wing. The attic storey of the wing has projecting eaves supported on carved brackets, interpreted as a knitting or spinning gallery. There is a covered well in the yard outside. The front elevation is re-faced in modern brick.

### *References*

Moran, *Vernacular Buildings*, p. 477 (including photograph); Shropshire HER PRN 12931, 13511; Historic England, List nos. 1367322 and 1054356; NHS archive.

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

Shropshire HER PRN 12931, 13511 and ESA6911. The latter is a design and access statement by Arrol & Snell architects; NHS report nos. 01102, 01104, 01584.

### **Ivydene, Lower Bar**

A box-framed house, probably 17th-century, but with many phases of construction, re-fronted and gentrified in the early-18th century. The long, lower rear wing contains the entrance hall and a staircase with cast iron balusters. A former roof-line with steep pitch survives inside, and the original house may have extended eastwards. Once used as a school, and now a restaurant.

### *References*

Moran, *Vernacular Buildings*, p. 478; Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, p. 443; Historic England, List no. 1054370; Davies, White & Perry estate agents, photos of rear and interior. SNAP archive.

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS report No. 01585; SNAP interior photos; Historic England archive, Swindon, drawings.

### **34 St Mary Street**

Probably late 16th-century with timber-framing recorded inside. The building has a narrow frontage, probably representing a burgage plot, with side-passage entry from the north. There was a shop to the front, with heated parlour and kitchen behind. Some earlier stone walling was found in the cellar at right-angles to the road, possibly relating to the medieval church or college. In the 19th century, the shop was a fishmongers: at the back of the burgage plot was a smoke-house, a tall narrow brick building with central doorway and 2 openings, now demolished.

#### *References*

Moran, *Vernacular Buildings*, p. 477 (includes photograph of smoke-house); Historic England, List no. 1294976; NHS archive.

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS archives, report no. 01593; SNAP, interior photographs.

### **45 High Street (Davies, White & Perry)**

A Regency-style stuccoed front of c.1840, three-storey and three-window with distinctive incised pilasters. The building was previously the Crown Inn and has an interesting history.

#### *References*

Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, p. 444; Historic England, List no. 1054391; NHS archives

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS archives; SNAP, interior photographs of cellar.

### **Beumaris House, 125 High Street**

The front has a tablet inscribed 1724 with the initials ITI, but this is a remodelling of a sub-medieval house with records dating back to the early 17th century. An impressive three-storey five-bay house, of red brick with stuccoed classical-style detail, including a doorway with Tuscan pilasters supporting a pediment. This house is perhaps the best of a group of highly-gentrified Georgian houses at the north end of the town, and retains fine moulded plaster ceilings. At one time it was the Bear Inn, with coaching facilities to the rear, and has also been a grocer's shop. In 1874, the house was purchased by subscription as the rectory. More recently, it was a boarding house of Adams Grammar School.

#### *References*

Newman and Pevsner, *Shropshire*, p. 444; Historic England, list no. 1367287; NHRE Monument no. 1057167; Andrew Dixon estates agents, rear photos; SNAP archive.

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS archives; SNAP, interior photos; [vchshropshire.org/cox\\_newport.html](http://vchshropshire.org/cox_newport.html); SA SC/6003/186: Sales catalogue, 1948; School archive.

### **Old Hall, Station Road**

The exterior is late 18th century with alterations, a 3-storey 3-window square-plan house, of painted brick under a hipped slate roof. The name suggests earlier origins, and it may have been a successor of the moated manor site nearby. In 1840, the building was used as a school for boys, and this continued until at least 1885. It is now a doctors' surgery.

#### *References*

Prentice, *Newport*, p. 75; Historic England, List no. 1054340; NHRE Monument no. 1316437

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*



NHS archives; Historic England archive, Swindon, 1981, Interior and exterior photos, plans and elevations; SA PH/N/8/15/9-: Photographs from the 1970s.

### **131 High Street**

A fine early 19th century brick villa with stone dressings and tall sash windows, the central stone porch supported on paired ionic columns. Formerly known as Hurlstone, the house was purchased as the rectory in 1933 for the Revd Prebendary William Salt, in place of Beaumaris House which was sold. The cast iron boundary railings with openwork piers form a good townscape feature on the High Street, whilst to the rear were outbuildings and gardens and access to Water Lane.

#### *References*

Historic England, list nos. 1054372-3; [vchshropshire.org/cox\\_newport.html](http://vchshropshire.org/cox_newport.html)

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

SA P207/F/2/3/48: House purchased for Revd Salt.

### **25-27 Chetwynd End**

A late 17th century house remodelled in the early 19th century to form a Regency-style suburban villa. The house is stuccoed under a hipped roof with shallow pilaster strips which divide the front elevation into panels. The entrance bay is slightly advanced, with a decorative balcony over the porch. Such villas are found on the north and south approaches into Newport, but not on the eastern approach.

#### *References*

Mercer, *Shropshire Experience*, p. 205 (including illustration); Historic England, List no. 1367297; NHRE Monument no. 1058181.

### **St. Mary, 36 Station Road**

Constructed from 1882-6 by Edwin Whittingham, master-builder, of Newport. In Arts & Crafts style with well-preserved detail including half-timbering and tile-hanging. Whittingham built a number of houses in this style c.1900 in the southern suburbs of Newport, for example, in Granville Avenue. He also remodelled a number of significant buildings in the High Street.

#### *References and sources to be consulted*

NHS archives, including report on Edwin Whittingham, no. 02066

### **1 Station Road (former Station-master's house)**

A substantial suburban villa of c.1838 which is probably a remodelling of an earlier house. It became the station-master's house when part of its grounds were required for the railway bridge and remained so until the 1960s. It is of red brick with stone dressings, including distinctive triangular pediments to the gables, and has a symmetrical 3-window front with stone porch and sash windows. Several ranges adjoin to the rear, including a stable and coach-house. Remains of earlier window openings have been seen on the rear elevation of the house.

#### *References*

Historic England, List no. 1367315; NHS archives; Templetons estate agents, photos.

#### *Further Sources to be consulted*

NHS report no. 03192; SNAP archive; SA DPs (see Station Cottage, above)

## Townscape (Summary)

Historic Ordnance Survey maps clearly show long burgage plots laid out in the medieval period in more than one phase. A measured survey of burgage plot frontages would help elucidate this development further (see below). The town is thought to have expanded in the late medieval period, and the bars moved further out. No. 9-11 Upper Bar may represent 17th century suburban development, though it could be a successor to the moated site. The fire in Newport destroyed or damaged some of the sub-medieval buildings in the town centre, but this requires clarification. These buildings were then obscured by a substantial programme of Georgian gentrification, resulting in the 18th century character that is so prevalent today. Some buildings were re-fronted, others encased, whilst many occupied two or more burgage plots. The north end of High Street and Lower Bar provide the best examples of Georgian gentrification. At the north end are some good 19th century shopfronts, possibly unaltered because the shopping centre migrated south. Some fine early 19th century villas, some in Regency style, cluster around the south and north approaches into town, but interestingly, not on Stafford Road to the east. The north-south trade route became less important after the construction of the Holyhead Road further west, but it is unclear whether the Regency villas were constructed before or after this event. Stafford Road to the east is no earlier than the 18th century, cutting across fields and negotiating the marsh. Villas of c.1900 are found in the southern suburbs, around Granville Avenue and Wellington Road, some built by Edwin Whittingham, and the railway may have influenced these developments.

### **Workers' Housing**

Rear yards provided sites for workers' housing, utilising the long medieval plots. NHS has undertaken research on this topic, which should be synthesized along with historic map regression, starting with the tithe map, through historic and current Ordnance Surveys. Tithe apportionments may shed light on ownership and landlords as may the Valuation Office surveys made immediately before the First World War. Modern housing now occupies some of the yards, and it is unclear how much of the workers' housing has been demolished. Evidence should be sought for slum clearance from the 1890s onwards, especially through the Newport Local Board and UDC records.

Council Housing appears to have begun with the Newport Salop Housing Scheme, 1927.

Nos. 19-41 Avenue Road comprise planned housing for working people, provided by the Oddfellows Society in 1905. They are built in rows of 4, each consisting of 2 mirrored pairs.

### *References*

NHS archives.

### *Further Sources to be consulted*

SA P207/T/1: Newport tithe map & apportionment; Ordnance Survey Sheets XXXI, NW & SW (various dates); SA DA11/ : Newport Local Board & UDC records, including DA11/112, 114, 155, 159, 603-7, 802; Search of Newport Town Council archive; NHS report nos. 00316, 00759, 00794.

## Appendix 3

### HANDBOOK OF SOURCES FOR THE HISTORY OF NEWPORT

By Judith Everard

The VCH history of Newport will draw on a wide range of original sources, some of them printed but mostly manuscript documents. It is this dependence on primary sources (i.e. created at the time under study) that makes the VCH series both new and reliable. This list includes the main sources to be used but is not comprehensive. The principal archive used is listed first, followed by the other archives in alphabetical order, and then the published sources, primary and secondary.

Newport may lack a previous monograph history, *pace* Prentice (1986), but the town has been the subject of considerable research by local historians, some of which has been published. In the 1880s, Edward Jones published a book-length survey of documentary materials ‘from the earliest times’, and in recent decades detailed studies have appeared on particular topics (e.g. Thomas Adams’ Grammar School, public houses, NHS booklets). There remain considerable amounts of unpublished – but well catalogued – material in NHS collections. We hope that the papers of the late Malcolm Miles might be made available to us.

For the nineteenth and twentieth century newspapers are indispensable sources. See the comments on their availability of the *Newport Advertiser* and its successors at 00 above. Other newspapers, including those published in Shrewsbury and Wellington, have better online coverage at the moment.

#### Manuscript Sources

##### Shropshire Archives, Shrewsbury

Records of county government and records from manors, parishes, local government authorities and organisations within the county, as well as collections of family, business, and solicitors’ papers. The NHS has compiled exhaustive spreadsheets of records relating to Newport held at SA, and these give us a good basis from which to start.

81/599: volume of maps of the manors of Longford, Newport, Edgmond, and Church Aston surveyed 1681-2, esp. 81/599/7–8: survey of [part of] the manor of Newport with tenants’ holdings inserted, and ‘Map of Salters Hall and other lands in Newport, together with five meadows lying in Edgmond, with a Discription of ye Towne and poole of Newport Done by W. Hill.’

972: Lilleshall Hall archive, but most of the material we might have expected to find there appears to be in 6000 (see below).

1101, 3670, Liddle and Heane, solicitors: very large collection (323 boxes), mostly of family and estate papers, but also some concerning Newport institutions; typescript catalogue of about 80 boxes (although the catalogue cannot be readily related to the boxes), part only listed in the accessions catalogue, at least 20 boxes with no list at all. Needs a very concentrated effort before it is usable.

2917, 3199: Elliott and Acton, solicitors, Newport, firm’s records, 1850–1940

6000: Manuscripts of the former Shrewsbury Public Library, includes original charters, manor court rolls, and other documents concerning Newport, 13th–18th centuries from

the collections of C. W. S. Dixon, and abstracted by him from the Lilleshall Hall archive.

DA11: Newport Local Board and Urban District Council records, includes Town Council: 1858–1974

DA11/966/1/1: Turnpike Trust, Trustees' minute book, 1822–67

NB: Newport Borough, i.e. Corporation of Newport, 1604–1886

NB/E: original deeds concerning the borough's property and rights, 13th–17th centuries

NTM: records of the Marsh Trustees, then Newport Town and Marsh Trust Trustees, 1725–1931

P207: Newport parish records, especially:

P207/A: parish registers, 1569–1965

P207/B/1: churchwardens' accounts, 1695–1963

P207/L: administration of the old poor law, 1609–1835

P207/Q: charities, 1656–1968

P207/R/1: National School, 1903–68

P207/V: large collection of miscellaneous documents (originals and transcripts) concerning the history of Newport and Lilleshall.

PL11: Newport Poor Law Union.

Parish Registers, box 35: transcripts of nine volumes of registers of Newport parish church (P207/A), from 1572 to 1853, with a four-page introduction to vol. I and another introduction to vols III–IX [The register began in 1569, but by the time of transcription the first page (1569–71) was illegible.]

### **British Library, London**

Original deeds and antiquarian copies relating to Newport:

Additional Charters 72610, 72624, 73104, 73127–39, 73859–77, 75082: deeds of the Talbot earls of Shrewsbury

Additional MS 6523: 12th-century Gospel of St Luke glossed, owned in 1549 by Thomas Symmons, draper of Newport, and in 1561 by Richard Newport of High Ercall

Additional MS 41043: Shelton Young Collection, Vol. CLV

Additional MS 41044: Shelton Young Collection, Vol. CLVI

Harley MS 594, diocesan survey, 1563: Salop and Newport deaneries, ff. 160–2

Harley MS 1985: copies by Randle Holme of 'charters and deeds belonging to the towne of Newport in com. Salop, 1648', ff. 49–59.

Harley MS 2063: copies of deeds of 'Mr Yonge of Kenton, Shropshire', including documents concerning Newport, ff. 5–13v.

### **Bodleian Library, Oxford**

Ashmole MS 854, Inscriptions and monuments recorded by Ashmole: Shropshire (pp. 121–57), Newport p. 233

Blakeway MSS: collections for a history of Shropshire, MSS 3, 11, 17, 24

Gough MS 28, fo. 24: illustration of Newport, published in D. Taylor and R. Taylor, *Mr Adams Free Grammar School* (Chichester, 2002)

Piggott MSS: papers of Miss Harriet Pigott (1775–1846), a member of the Pigott family of Chetwynd Park, especially Piggott ms e.1: journal of her visit to Newport in 1845; see also mss b.5 (scrapbook) and g.1 (diary and accounts, 1812)

### **Institute of Chartered Engineers (ICE), London**

MCDR233: Mackenzie drawings. Plan of the proposed Newport Branch of the Birmingham and Liverpool Junction Canal with the Collateral Branches or Railways...1826.

### **Ironbridge Gorge Museum archives**

Transcripts of Newport inventories 1660-1970 made under the direction of Dr Barrie Trinder.

### **Raby Castle, Co. Durham**

See M.C. Hill (ed.), ‘Calendar of Some of the Shropshire Deeds at Raby Castle’, 4 vols (typescript at SA, calendar Boxes 1 and 2 and part of 4).

‘Lord Barnard’s Estate documents at Raby Castle’, handlist by Mrs Elizabeth Steele, custodian of Raby Castle archive (typescript at SA).

Shropshire and Staffordshire Deeds, original charters concerning tenements in Newport  
Box 1 bundles 19 and 25  
Box 2 bundles 7–9  
Box 6 bundle 17

Raby Estate: Box 50: 1817, ‘Abstract of Fee Farm Grants in Newport, Shropshire’.

**Shropshire Historic Environment Record** (formerly the Shropshire Sites and Monuments Record) holds notes of archaeological sites and features and of listed buildings. It is accessible at <https://new.shropshire.gov.uk/environment/historic-environment/historic-environment-record/>

### **Staffordshire Record Office, Stafford**

The Leveson Gower family, dukes of Sutherland, possessed many Shropshire manors, notably Lilleshall. Most of the Shropshire materials were transferred to SA as the Lilleshall Collection (SA, 972), but the Newport material had probably been removed previously, by C. W. S Dixon when he became lord of the manor, and was deposited by the Dixon family in SA, now in 6000 series. Documents concerning the Staffordshire estates were deposited with SRO as 593, Duke of Sutherland Papers. Some Shropshire and specifically Newport, materials were left within it; the most interesting ones are listed below, from ‘Catalogue of Records of the Duke of Sutherland’s estate in Staffordshire Record Office’ (typescript in SA)

593 Duke of Sutherland Papers

593/E/6/26: 1639: Chorlton v. Earl of Shrewsbury, Sir Ric. Leveson, Bostocke and Howle. Case in Chancery re alleged illegal activities of Shrewsbury and Leveson [lords

of manor] in claiming and enforcing a title to Newport mill which Chorlton claims is his.

593/G : several Shropshire rentals, 17th-18th centuries containing, inter alia, Newport properties

593/J/16: Newport Manor court rolls, view of frankpledge: 1541, 1550, 1552, 1632, 1634. Suit roll, 1626. Fragment of a chief rental, ?16th century; 'vouchers': 1647 and one c.1470.

593/O/3/2 Newport: rental of lands belonging to William Yong of Kaynton: tenants names, rents, brief description of property, 1539 or 1540.

593/T/4/18: Newport: Documents re tolls of markets and fairs. Draft leases, conditions for letting, draft depositions as to tolls. 1832-45

The diocese of Lichfield and Coventry included north Shropshire, hence the diocesan archives contain material on the religious organisation of Newport parish including appointments of clergy and archdeacons' visitations. The bishop had general jurisdiction over probate in the area, which was exercised through the Lichfield Consistory Court. Formerly held at Lichfield Record Office, these are now deposited at SRO.

B/A/1-: Bishops' registers

B/C/5: Consistory Court papers

B/V/1-: Visitation books

Wills and Inventories of Newport people proved in the probate court of the Diocese of Lichfield and the PCC (whose records are held by the national archives, but are on line on a fee basis). See also under Ironbridge Gorge museum above.

**The National Archives** at Kew, London, holds the records of national government from the late 12th century onwards. Calendars of some medieval administrative records which have been used in the history, notably the Close and Patent Rolls, have been published. The classes of documents to be used in this history will include:

C 93/13/25: Commission for Charitable Uses, inquiry held at Newport, 1632

Chancery: Equity Pleadings C5-C16

Chancery: Extents of inquests post mortem: C 132/14/2 (1253), C 133/8/6 (1273), C 133/15/3 (1275), C 133/20/15 (1278), C 133/33/14 (1282), C 134/56/3 (1316), C 136/6/9 (1391), C 136/38/1 (1385).

CHAR 2 (Charity Commissioners' files).

E 315/25/6: Bailiff's accounts with Edgmond, 1517-19.

ED: files on Newport schools (numerous).

IR 18/8213, tithe file c. 1840; IR 23/71/141, ff. 128-35; Land Tax return, 1798; IR 24, Land Tax Redemption certificates (1798 and later)

MAF: agricultural census (selective only); National Farm Survey (1941)

RAIL 623: Shropshire Union Railways and Canal Company

RAIL 808: Birmingham & Liverpool Junction Canal Co.

SC 6/HenryVIII/439, Ministers' account for the dissolved monastery of Lilleshall, 1540, and other dissolution records.

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*A History of Shropshire: Volume III*, ed. G. Baugh (London, 1979)

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#### Websites

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British History Online: [www.british-history.ac.uk/](http://www.british-history.ac.uk/)

British Newspaper Archive: [britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk](http://britishnewspaperarchive.co.uk)

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