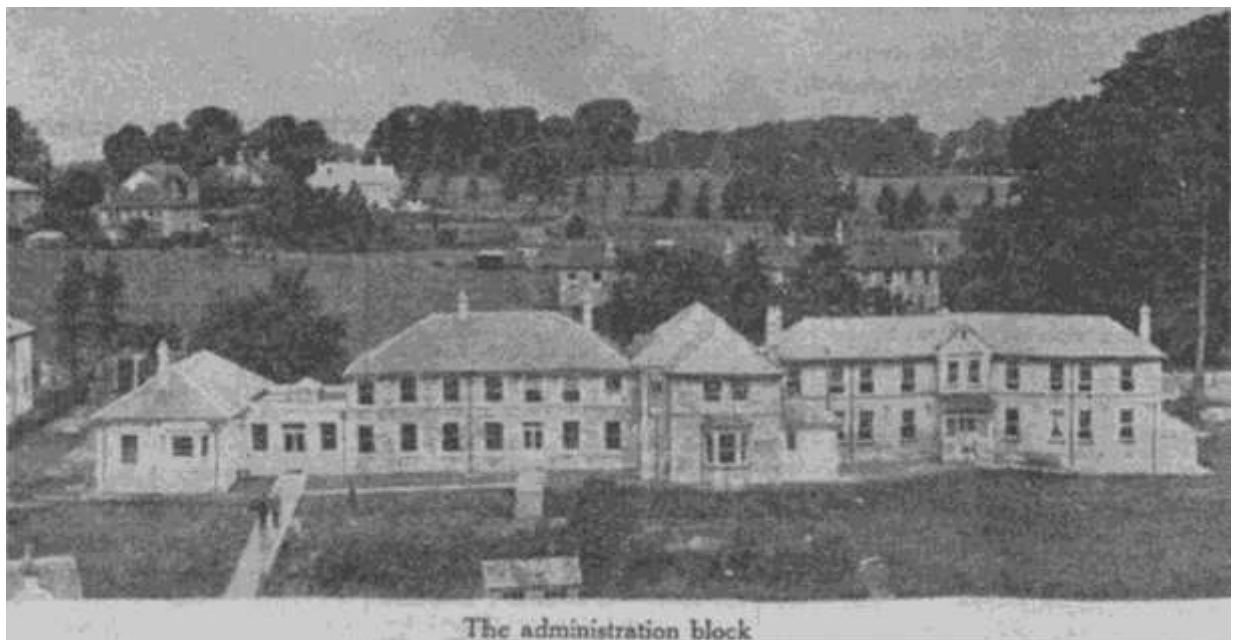


The Survey

of Bath and District

The Journal of the Survey of Old Bath and Its Associates

No.32, October 2017



The administration block

THE SURVEY OF BATH AND DISTRICT

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Front Cover Illustration: Drawing by Thomas Forster, 1787, 'Rock House, Lansdown, Bath'. Victoria Art Gallery, Bath.

Back Cover Illustration: Newspaper cutting showing an aerial view of the Administration Block of the Isolation Hospital c.1934.

CITY NEWS

Bath Record Office

In our 50th anniversary year of the opening of the Record Office in 1967, we have celebrated with displays at community events, a series of lunchtime talks, and a reception with ‘Georgian’ entertainment for our volunteers and supporters.

The major event of the year has undoubtedly been the re-location of the Local Studies and Special Books collections from Bath Central Library to the Guildhall. It has been a long-held ambition of both the archivists and librarians to bring together their collections on one site, and this was finally achieved in June 2017 when the newly-refurbished Record Office search-rooms re-opened as the combined Archives and Local Studies services. Anne Buchanan, Local Studies librarian, has moved from the Podium to join the archivists bringing her expert knowledge of the collections in her care.

We are making substantial progress in cataloguing our vast collections of Council records and this year our team of 20 trained volunteers has assisted in sorting, re-packaging, and data-entry of many thousands of Planning Application drawings. We successfully bid for external grant-funding of £33,000 from the National Cataloguing Grants Scheme for Archives which enabled us to retain our project archivists this year to oversee the cataloguing work.

A further grant from the Medlock Charitable Trust provided funds to run day-schools in Family History research, and take our Roadshows with locally-themed displays and children’s activities to community events around the B&NES district throughout the summer.

Amongst the many and varied archives arriving at the Record Office this year is the extensive research collection of the Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society, and family papers of the Reverend James Dunn of Bathwick. This year also saw the launch of historic Bath maps online at the website of the *Know Your Place* digital mapping project www.kypwest.org.uk. This is a free public database enabling users to compare historic maps of different dates, with images and other historical information gradually being added.

Colin Johnston, Chief Archivist



Bath Record Office 50th Anniversary Reception.

Left: Mary Blagdon, who worked in the Record Office for 20 years, cutting a celebration ‘Charter’ cake, attended by Chief Archivist Colin Johnston.

Below: Lessons in Georgian etiquette with a handkerchief or fan by Alistair and Julie from Bath’s Natural Theatre Company



REPORTS FROM LOCAL SOCIETIES

The Survey of Old Bath

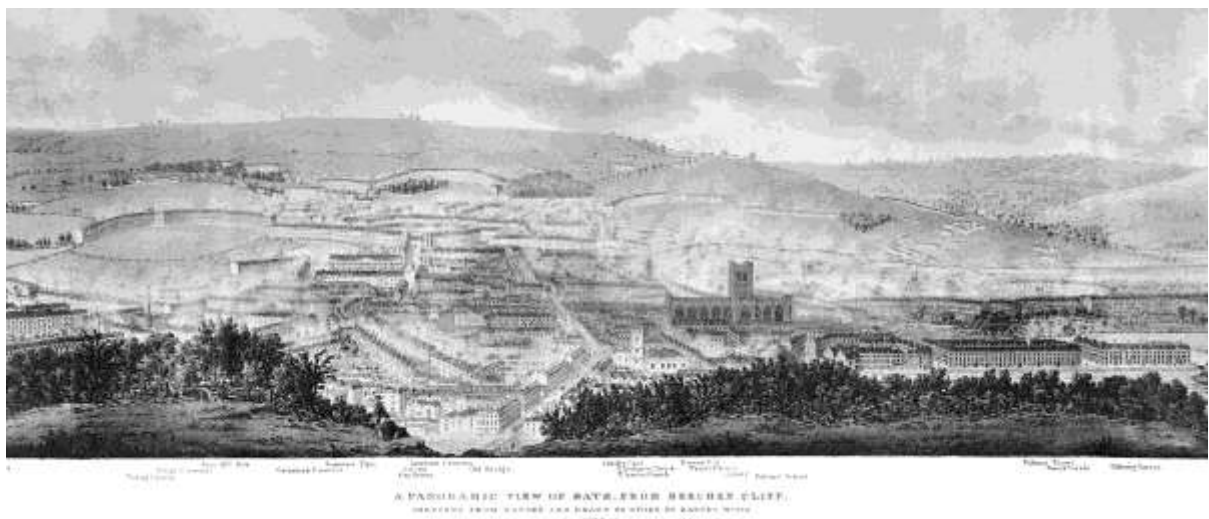
The Survey of Old Bath is a research venture which first adopted its title in 1979. Its aims are to study the topography of old Bath, and the lives of its actual citizens. The Chapman family has been chosen as its sample group, although it welcomes information on other Bath families. The Survey has published a number of historically reconstructed maps, brought out with funding from B&NES, and also other booklets and articles. It works on commission as well as on a voluntary basis.

Elizabeth has been making steady progress with her annotation of the Furman Repertory of deeds for the Bath Record Office (in the region of a thousand properties!) and hopes to have it finished soon. She then intends getting on with her history of the Bath Chapmans. In the meantime she has been able to write up her research on the mythology of the Grail, Parzifal and Ancient Egypt which will be published in due course.

Although delayed by illness and family business, Mike has been able to complete various projects. These included the preparation of a medieval history of Bathampton in collaboration with the Bathampton Local History Research Group who plan to publish studies of different aspects of Bathampton's history. Just recently published is the first, the story of Bathampton Down, which is described below in **Publications**. Coincidentally, Mike and his colleagues Ron Russell and Gill Huggins were given the opportunity to survey Glebe Cottage in Bathampton Lane which has the remains of a medieval building in the garden there. Historic building surveys are still carried out with Ron from time to time at the request of their owners, another recent example being one of the old houses in Batheaston High Street. Another on-going project Mike hopes to finish this year is a book in collaboration with Neil Macmillen on the part played by the cold waters of the river and springs (besides the hot mineral water) in the historical development of Bath.

On the professional side, Mike has recently been collaborating with Fiona Fyle Associates in preparation of a report on a selection of historic view-points around Bath as part of the Bathscape Project led by Bath & North-east Somerset Council. A wide and interesting variety of sites were chosen, including Twerton Roundhill, City Farm, Prospect Stile, Little Solsbury, Dundas Aqueduct, Widcombe Hill, North Parade Bridge and (of course) Beechen Cliff. Practically all of these have been used over the centuries by artists, illustrators and cartographers.

In the meantime, Mike has continued to give walks and talks on the River Avon, the Kennet & Avon Canal and recent restoration work on the Somersetshire Coal Canal. In connection with the latter, further discoveries have been made relating to William Smith and his work in the local coal mines in our area.



Part of a 360-degree panorama taken from the summit of Beechen Cliff by Harvey Wood in 1824.

The Friends of the Survey

The autumn lunch meeting of the Friends of the Survey was held on Friday 28 October 2016 at St. Mary's Church Hall, Bathwick. After the usual business, we were given a talk by Peter Davenport entitled 'The Sawclose – Insights into its Past from Recent Excavations', based on the excavation carried out by Cotswold Archaeology in advance of the new development there. This was of particular interest, as the Survey of Old Bath in collaboration with Bath Archaeological Trust carried out the preliminary research when re-development was first proposed some years ago.

Last year's AGM was held at St. Mary's Church Hall on Wednesday 26 April 2017, when Mike Chapman gave a talk on Broad Street and its development, based on research by Elizabeth Holland and Margaret Burrows.

Our grateful thanks are due to Margaret Burrows and her colleagues for laying out refreshments at the AGM and for providing the buffet lunch at the Autumn meeting.

History of Bath Research Group

HBRG has had extremely appreciative audiences at its meetings and the new season has started well with good attendances.

The presentation on Thomas King's sword has already stimulated further research into the origins and purposes of an 18th century Volunteers' porcelain jug in the Victoria Art Gallery collection. The King family as sculptors will also be examined in the upcoming presentation on Bath's 18th century sculptors.

Guests are always welcome at the meetings which are publicised in the city archives, the Bathwick parish journal and online at History of Bath.org.

There has been very good progress with the huge task surrounding making the Bath Directories available for search electronically and that work is ongoing.

The HBRG website is being re constructed and now will carry all the editions of the SOB publications together with its own Proceedings and will also carry references for all Trevor Fawcett's publications.

Concerned that the summerhouse known as the 'temple' or 'synagogue' at the upper end Devonshire Buildings needed urgent repair, enquiries were made whether it could be spot-Listed to receive grant aid. Finding (with some difficulty) that Beazers were owners of the property, Bath Preservation Trust has now offered to discuss the repair and management of the synagogue with them.

Michael Rowe (Chairman)



**Photo of the Temple
taken before alterations
made in 1987**

The Freshford & District Local History Society

The Freshford & District Local History Society meets on a Wednesday at the end of each month from September to May, with the exception of December for talks on a wide range of topics. Meetings are usually very well attended, with membership mainly from towns and villages in North East Somerset and West Wiltshire. Some talks attract significant numbers of visitors, who are asked to make a small donation, and encouraged to join. In common with most local history societies, we would like to attract more younger members.

Over the last year we have been treated to talks, some on a wide range of topics, and some on the theme of Bradford on Avon. Most have been very well attended:

28 September

Edward Mason, Rector of Bath Abbey: 'Bath Abbey – living history, living future' (the Footprint Project).

26 October

Francesca Breedon, University of Sheffield: 'Recent work at the Carthusian friary at Hinton'.

23 November

Nicola Tallis, Alison Weir Tours: 'The life and times of Lady Jane Grey'.

25 January

Phillip Wooster: 'A Walk around Bath in 1905 illustrated with images from postcards of the time'.

22 February

David Crisp: 'The discovery of the Frome Hoard'.

22 March

Martyn Whittock: 'Anglo Saxon Bradford on Avon'.

26 April

Sophie Hawke: 'Excursions in the 1800s with the Rev. John Skinner, Rector and Antiquarian.

24 May

AGM and Alan Dodge Memorial Lecture - Ivor Slocomb: 'Medieval Bradford on Avon'.

The forthcoming program for Autumn 2017 has been announced and visitors are always welcome. All meetings are held at Freshford Memorial Hall on the fourth Wednesday of the month, at 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm.

27 September

Gerald and Margaret Hull: 'An historical survey of the English grotto in landscape gardens, with particular reference to Joseph and Josiah Lane of Tisbury, Wiltshire'.

25 October

Geoffrey Parkes: 'Can Genghis Khan be found? An account of recent researches on horseback in Mongolia'.

22 November

Robert Parfitt: 'The sailing pilots of the Severn Sea' (Professor Parfitt is a familiar face as a member of 'The Friends' and through his work in Midford and Southstoke).

John Macdonald



NOTES & QUERIES

Charles Norris and Alice Muriel Williamson - Novelists

Members may be interested that in April of last year I received a letter from Madeleine Meissirel of the Chanel Heritage Department of the House of Chanel, Paris. Having read the article in our October 2009 Journal on Charles Norris and Alice Muriel Williamson, Madeleine enquired as to whether I had any additional information on two villas, the La Dagonniere and La Pausa in Roquebrune on Cap Martin the South of France built and owned at one time by the Williamsons. I was able to help with further information and referred her to Alice Muriel's autobiography *The Inky Way* published in 1931 that discusses the building of both villas.

The Chanel Heritage Department is conducting research into the villa La Pausa as it was later owned by Gabrielle 'Coco' Chanel. The Williamsons had built La Dragonniere and later sold it to Lord Rothermere. They then built another villa in 1912 and Alice named it La Pausa after a local legend that the Virgin had rested there and blessed the location after being given aid by a local woman. It was here where the couple entertained the royalty, authors, painters and celebrities of the day. They continued to live there until the end of the First World War. During the war Charles had worked for the Red Cross in France but moved to Bath in late 1918 as he had been diagnosed with cancer. La Pausa was then sold to the Mayer family of Roquebrune and later bought and re-built by The Duke of Westminster for his mistress Coco Chanel in 1927. In the 1930s Churchill was a frequent guest of Coco where he indulged in his hobby of painting. In the 1950s La Pausa was bought by Emery Reves, who had the publishing rights of Churchill's War Memoirs, with Churchill visiting the villa again.



LA PAUSA.

What is regrettable about the legend of La Pausa is that the awareness of the Williamsons prior residence there has been forgotten. It is believed that Coco Chanel named the property La Pausa which was not the case. Churchill was also unaware that La Pausa owed its existence to the Williamsons. He had crossed paths with Alice in 1901 when they exchanged banter at a dinner held by the Whitefriars Club, the club's annual Ladies Banquet where Alice gave the toast to 'Mere Men'. The couple had lived in the South of France on and off since 1905.

The Williamsons, famous novelists in the early 1900s, both died in Bath. Charles died at St. Christopher, Combe Down, in 1920 and Alice died in the Empire Hotel in 1933 in somewhat controversial circumstances. Both are interred in the Abbey Cemetery.

It is gratifying to think our *Journal* is read in places like the House of Chanel.

Bill Chislett

The Cleveland Bridge Toll House

The *Bath Chronicle* recently reported a serious accident on the Cleveland Bridge (Grade II* listed) when a car was in collision with the pillars of one of the bridge lodges. Fortunately engineers from B&NES found the building and the bridge itself were 'structurally sound' and traffic was soon returned to normal, although Bath Preservation Trust has called on the Council to restore the damage as soon as possible. The *Chronicle's* photograph of the scene shows that the lodge damaged in the accident was the one that formerly served as the bridge's toll house.



The scene of the accident, which demolished one of the pillars supporting the pediment of the lodge, as shown in the *Bath Chronicle*.

Below. A print of the bridge in 1830, just after it was built.



Cleveland Bridge (sometimes known as the Bathwick Bridge) was the first full-scale cast-iron road bridge to be built over the Avon in Bath, the ironwork supplied from the Hazledine foundry in Shropshire. It has a single cast-iron span of 100 feet and 37 feet wide, consisting of seven parallel segmented arches with lattice-work in the spandrels to carry the road platform, together with a substantial ornamental iron balustrade. In the centre of the balustrades (originally painted green) is a solid part inscribed both sides of each 'MDCCCXXVII' and beneath, 'H.E. Goodridge Archt. W. Hazledine Contr.'. The bridge was decorated with four Doric lodges built of Bath stone, two at either end, each with a four-column portico fronting onto the road.

In the early 19th century the owners of the Pulteney estate had many proposals drawn up for bridges over the Avon to relieve the pressure on the Pulteney Bridge and achieve a new and imposing entrance to the building developments in Bathwick. Baldwin was initially involved with this, but it was John Pinch and James Goodridge (up to 1835 one of Lord Darlington's local agents) who took over in siting the bridge. Pinch's signed plan of 1810 shows two bridges; one opposite Walcot Parade using the piece of land purchased by the Earl of Bath on the Walcot side of the river; the other opposite land owned by William Clarke next to his brewery at the Porter Butt (until recently a public house on the London Road). As a result of the inflated price asked by Clarke, Pinch and Goodridge advised Lord Darlington to opt for the present site opposite Walcot Parade.

Pinch submitted an extremely handsome set of drawings for the Darlington Bridge. It was to have Lord Darlington's Arms in stone and fine iron lamps on the parapet. There were also drawings by William Jones and John Rennie, all presumably alternatives for the same site. However, none of these were built and a design by Henry Edmund Goodridge, James' son, was adopted instead. As it turned out, none of the grand designs for the area between Pulteney Street and the bridge was realised,

including a proposed Frances Square, and instead a series of villas with informal gardens was laid out to become known as Henrietta Park. When the bridge was finally built in 1827 only the approach on the Bathwick side (from Bathwick Street) was funded at the expense of the Duke of Cleveland.



An early 20th century photograph of the toll house lodge. Note the iron gates to the right, and the sign above the pilaster on the left indicating its function as a Humane Society Station.

The contractor, William Hazledine (1763-1840) was a pioneering English Ironmaster of Shrewsbury, Shropshire, whose talent for casting structural ironwork helped to realise the designs of engineers such as Thomas Telford (who became his friend) and architects such as Charles Bage and Henry Goodridge. It was Hazledine's expertise in manufacturing and testing large iron castings that was critical to the success of these pioneering projects which included the Menai Suspension Bridge (1819-26) and Stretton Aqueduct in Staffordshire (1832-3). Although from a rural background and trained as a millwright, he was given a senior position in a local forge and eventually formed a company with foundries for the production of large structural castings, notably at Coleham, Shrewsbury, and Plas Kynaston (Cefn Mawr). In their time, these were among the most important centres of iron-bridge building expertise in Britain. From 1802, Richard Trevithick placed several orders with the company for the construction of steam engines.

In 1838 Mainwaring commented favourably on the utility and profitability of the bridge:

'On 28th September 1827 the opening of the New Bridge connecting Walcot & Bathwick took place. It is of cast iron & the span somewhat over 100ft & width about 37ft; on each side of the carriage way there is a pavement 6½ft wide for foot-passengers. Two lodges at each end. The charge for building bridge & lodges was about £10,000 raised in £100 shares which now receive a dividend of £7%.'

The toll for foot-passengers was ½d, collected at the lodge on the left downstream side, the toll house being also a Bath Humane Society Station. Traffic was controlled by wrought-iron gates.

In 1925 the bridge was acquired by the Corporation for £15,000 from the Bathwick Bridge Company Ltd. It remained a toll bridge until it was freed, with great civic ceremony, in June 1929, just after the bridge had been strengthened to carry modern traffic by incorporating concrete reinforcements between the cast iron arches below the road, so that they did not alter the visual impact of this fine

bridge from road level. Naturally there have been further necessary renovations to the structure since then, having become arguably the most heavily used route through Bath from all directions.



A pair of steamrollers weight-testing the bridge in April 1928 after strengthening work had been completed.



Lord Bath cuts the tape to free Cleveland Bridge of tolls in 1929.

PUBLICATIONS

Alice Muriel Williamson – The Secret History of an American-English Author, by Richard Rex, Mill City Inc. December 2016. ISBN 13:978-1-63505-309-8.

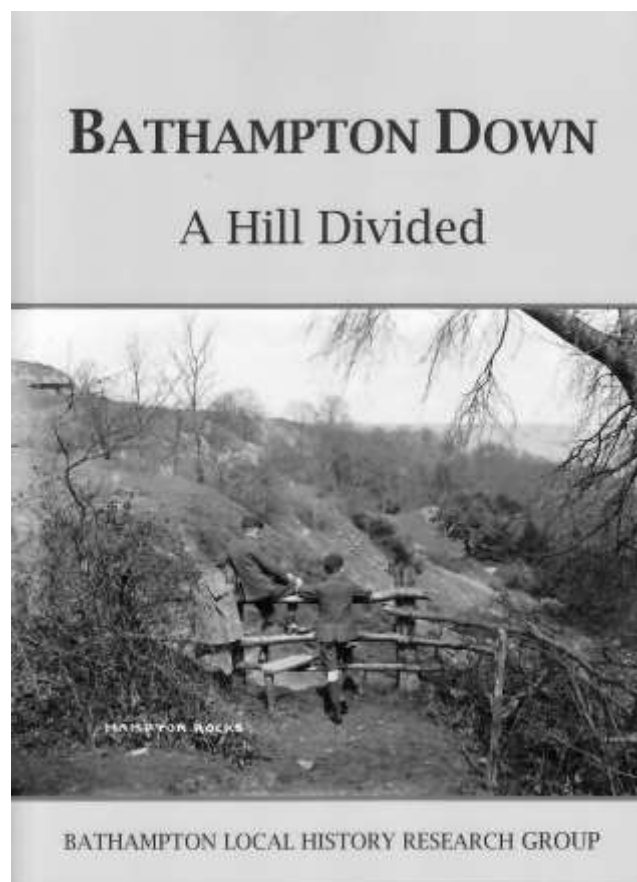
A fascinating book - it gives an insight into Alice's life in the USA before she came to England in the early 1890s. It includes the time the couple lived in Bath. Alice in her autobiography excluded her early life in the USA. It only commenced when she arrived in the UK in the early 1890s.

Bathampton Down - A Hill Divided, by Mary Clark and Gill Huggins, Bathampton Local History Research Group and Ex Libris Press 2017, price £10. ISBN 978-1-91202067-6.

Bathampton Down has always been noted for its extensive pre-historic features, but this book relates the story of the Down since the early 1700s when the Lord of the Manor built a wall to divide it in two and enclose his rabbit warren. Since then it has played an interesting part in the development of Bath's hinterland, particularly for its influence on the city's landscape from the time of Ralph Allen and the building of Sham Castle.

Nevertheless, industrial archaeology figures prominently in the story, including stone quarries and an early tramway, together with the former Bathampton Waterworks and later reservoirs. Nor is the human element omitted, including two notorious murders, a fatal duel, the farmers, a college that was never built, a golf course, a rifle range and secret defence plans during the Second World War.

The 200-page book is attractively produced, with 215 colour and black/white illustrations which will not only provide an informative 'good read' for those who are not familiar with the Down, but also for those who are. It will also serve as an essential reference work for the student of Bath's historic environment, being well researched, with a list of sources, footnotes to the chapters, and - most usefully - an index!



JOHN CHISLETT (1800-1869) – PIONEER ARCHITECT OF PITTSBURGH PENNSYLVANIA

Bill Chislett

John Chislett, born 1800 in Keinton Mandeville Somerset, was an architect, sculptor, a talented artist and musician according to numerous documents and papers in the United States. Married with four children, the family emigrated from Beaminster Dorset to the United States in 1832. They sailed from Bristol aboard the ship *George Canning* and arrived in New York the same year. In 1833 the family moved on to Pittsburgh where he became Pittsburgh's first resident architect.

John Chislett was Pittsburgh's first resident architect. The Civic leaders of Pittsburgh wanted handsome new buildings in international good taste and John Chislett provided this with Greek revival design, beginning with the Bank of Pittsburgh. Further assignments among many, included the area's first Orphan Asylum, Burkes Building, the Allegheny County Court House and the Third Presbyterian Church of which he was a member and played the organ. A list of known designs by Chislett amounts to about 15 but only three exist today. He was also responsible for the design and construction of the cemeteries in Allegheny, Pittsburgh, Crown Hill in Indianapolis Indiana, West Virginia and Ohio. The cemeteries followed the English style with winding roads, gentle hills and natural ravines.

Self-portrait of John Chislett

**(on display in Allegheny
Cemetery's Temple of
Memories Mausoleum)**

Photo: Lu Donnelly



The publication *Majesty of the Law – The Court Houses of Allegheny County* states 'John Chislett who designed the new Court house was the chief architect of Pittsburgh in the 1830's. Chislett was born in England in 1800 and served his apprenticeship at Bath with an architect called Mr Harris'. In addition a bi-monthly Newsletter of the Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania states that he served his apprenticeship in the city of Bath. His biography taken from the American Architects and Buildings database states that he served his apprenticeship in the City of Bath under the tutelage of Walter Harris and his family.

Problem - All the evidence in the United States points to the fact that John was trained here in Bath under the tutelage of the Harris family and there is no reason to doubt that he did. There is enough circumstantial evidence that points to John having been in Bath and influenced by the Harrises by the style of his work in Pittsburgh and he was probably acquainted with all four of the above Harrises all of whom may have been related. However, I have not been able to find any supporting documentation at the Bath Records Office or in any of the numerous publications on Bath buildings and architects. Perhaps members who may or may have stumbled across him in their research would kindly advise me accordingly.

The Harris family - A search of the Bath Street directories for the period 1812 and 1825 revealed that

there were at least a dozen Harrises listed. There were four possibilities to which John may have been apprenticed, articed or influenced by the Harrises, including Walter Harris, a builder who in 1819 was living at 1 Sydney Buildings; Joseph Harris, a builder, sculptor and modeller of 2 Sydney Buildings; J. Harris, a mason of Weymouth Street; and Mr. E. Harris an organist and teacher of pianoforte of 3 Kingston Buildings.

Walter Harris - Two of the buildings that Walter Harris built were St Mary's Church Bathwick and the Freemason's Hall in York Street. The contract for the Church was placed in 1817 the architect being John Pinch and the Freemason's Hall in York Street dedicated in 1817 for which Mr Wilks was the architect.

Joseph Harris – Also a builder, sometimes advertised as an architect albeit he is not listed in the directory entries of architects practicing in Bath in the late Georgian period. Neither is he included in the books *Georgian Building in Bath* or *The Architecture and Architects of 19th Century Bath*, whereas Walter is. Joseph is however listed in the publication *British Sculptors 1666 - 1851* and is credited with a monument to Henry Haffey in 1836 at Bathampton and other signed monuments and tablets signed by him including those to John Butt 1808 at Warminster and Captain Maxwell 1809 at Twyning Gloucester. John Chislett is also included in the publication and credited with monuments to John Sir William Domett in Hawchurch Church Dorset and Joseph Bishop 1823 at Corscombe Dorset.

J. Harris - A mason, may have been related to Walter and Joseph.

Mr. E Harris - Organist and Pianoforte teacher, may have taught John music.

In Pigot's Directory for Dorset 1830 John Chislett describes himself as a Sculptor and Professor of music. Further evidence to support John being in Bath is the similarity between the design of the Third Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh destroyed by fire in 1863 and St. Swithin's Church, Walcot, Bath. The Church rebuilt in the 1770's was extended in 1788 and a classical spire added in 1790. A similarity may also be seen between the old St. Michael's Church demolished in the 1830's to make way for the existing Church and St. James Church destroyed in the Second World War. The Sham Castle Facade and the gateway to Arnos Court situated on the Bath Road between Bath and Bristol closely resembles that of John Chislett's Gateway to Allegheny Cemetery.

[Note: John Chislett is not an antecedent of mine although both our roots are in Somerset.

Bill Chislett (e-mail: magbillchisbauk@aol.com)]



**Detail of Burkes
Building, 209 Fourth
Avenue, Pittsburgh.**

Photo: Lu Donnelly

THE BATH STATUTORY HOSPITAL

Roger Rolls

It is easy to forget how much illness and death was caused by infectious disease in former times. In just one year a century and a half ago, 1,615 people died in the Bath Union Workhouse of which 265 (16%) were killed by scarlet fever. Between 1940 and 1944, 5,456 deaths occurred in the whole of the city and only one was due to scarlet fever. In 1896 a quarter of people catching diphtheria died from the disease whereas between 1940 and 44 the corresponding figure was three percent. Until the early 1890s smallpox was never long absent from the city while during the first 38 years of the 20th century, outbreaks were rare.

The idea of isolating patients suffering from infectious fevers in special wards was recognized at the end of the 18th century by Dr. John Haygarth who retired to Bath from Chester and practiced in the city for 30 years. These views are embodied in a paper read to the Bath Philosophical Society and subsequently published in 1801 in the form of a letter to Dr. Percival on the prevention of infectious fevers.

Bath City Council was one of the earliest local authorities to establish a special hospital for the treatment and isolation of patients with infectious diseases. Its name derived from the statutory powers conferred by the Public Health Act of 1875.

The hospital occupied a site of about eight acres on Claverton Down on the summit of Brass Knocker Hill (Figs. 1 and 2). A house, which had recently been built on the site, and a gardener's cottage were purchased in 1876 for £900 (Plate 1). The first patient was admitted on 26 October 1876 suffering from scarlet fever. In 1879, two small and two large wooden pavilions were erected on the south side of the house. The original hospital accommodated about 70 patients together with some resident staff.




Plate 1  The original house viewed from the north-west. The wings were added on after the house was purchased.



Fig. 1 O.S. map of area in 1886. Hospital grounds in dark tone.



Fig. 2 O.S. Map of area in 1902.

There was also a laundry and a mortuary although these appear to have been added after 1907. A few so-called private patients were nursed in the original house, but this eventually became the administrative offices and accommodation for the resident staff. A 'discharge' block was added in 1902 which had three rooms through which patients passed immediately before leaving for home. The middle one was a bathroom and clean clothing was provided in the third, from which the patient was presumed to emerge in a non-infectious condition.

The hospital purchased two wooden 'tents', made by the Berthon Boat Company, in which patients with smallpox were isolated (Plate 2). There was an outbreak in 1903 when twelve patients and one ward maid, all of whom were at the Mineral Water Hospital, caught the disease from a male patient from Stoke-on-Trent who had come to Bath for treatment. They were isolated in the Berthon tents - polygonal wooden structures, 21 feet in diameter with conical canvas roofs and circular concrete bases. Ventilation was by fresh air entering between the double sides, and escaping by ventilators at the apex. The tents were heated by slow combustion stoves located in their centres, with a stove pipe projecting through the apex. They frequently leaked and were removed from the site in 1911.



Plate 2 View looking north. The gardener's cottage is on the right. The two Berthon tents are in front of the long pavilion.

Before 1928, the hospital had its own sewage plant consisting of a septic tank and a filter bed. The

first toilets were earth closets draining into cesspools. By the turn-of-the-century, these had been converted to water closets connected to the sewage plant. After 1928, the hospital's effluent drained into a mains sewer which ran down Brass Knocker Hill. Clothes were disinfected in a gadget called an Alliot & Paton's patent improved Washington Lyons high-pressure steam disinfecter, purchased for £430, a not inconsiderable sum in those days.

The permanent staff consisted of one head nurse, three assistant nurses, four servants, and a porter and his wife (though what the porter's wife did is not stated). More permanent staff were taken on in 1902 and extra nurses were engaged when required. After 1901 the term 'head nurse' was replaced by 'matron'. Before the first world war, nurses had been obliged to use the same baths as the patients and lacked any separate accommodation. This was remedied by adding an extension on the east side of the old house which provided 14 extra bedrooms and two bathrooms (Plates 3 and 4).



Plate 3 Original house, south side. The wing on the west side and the central part of the house were later rebuilt .



Plate 4 Original house, south side, with the extension on the east side added for nurses accommodation.

The hospital was administered by a subcommittee of the city council's Sanitary Committee. From 1878 until his death in 1905, a Bath general practitioner called Dr. Field provided clinical care for the

patients. He was replaced by Dr. Collins, another Bath G.P. There appears to have been some bad feeling between the GP looking after the patients at the hospital and the Medical Officer of Health for the city, Dr Symons, who felt it was his job to investigate the 'facts as to the adequacy or inadequacy of isolation'. In 1906, there is an entry in the Council minutes stating that '*Dr Collins should have the sole treatment and management of patients at the Statutory Hospital and that Dr. Symons be requested not to visit the hospital unless it is absolutely necessary*', but this did not seem to inhibit Dr. Symons' vigilance on questions of management.

Patients were conveyed to the hospital in a horse-drawn ambulance, and the driver and horse were provided when needed by city tradesmen in Kensington. In 1932, the hospital acquired a 20 horsepower Austin ambulance (Plate 5) which was garaged in the hospital grounds. In the early days, admissions were largely for cases of scarlet fever and diphtheria. Between 1895 and 1899, there was annual average admission rate of 137 of which 78% were patients with scarlet fever and 22% diphtheria. Only 7 out of 137 were for other conditions, for example smallpox. Before 1900, many doctors did not always insist on admission of infectious cases to the hospital but attitudes changed in the early twentieth century. Between 1895 and 1900, only 41% of known diphtheria cases were admitted whereas between 1940 and 1945, 97% were removed from home to hospital.



Plate 5 The hospital's first motor ambulance.

An effective treatment for diphtheria using an antitoxin first became available after 1895 and was regularly used at the hospital from 1898 for both definite and suspected cases, as well as cases treated at home. This resulted in a dramatic fall in the death rate from around 20% before 1900 to less than 4% by the 1920s. By the mid 1920s, immunisation using diphtheria toxoid became available but there was great reluctance for parents in Bath to get their children protected by this method. At the end of 1944, it was estimated that there were still 50% of children in Bath who had not been immunised against diphtheria.

Scarlet fever was the predominant condition treated in the hospital through most of its history. Formerly, this was a common and often fatal consequence of streptococcal tonsillitis. In 1864, one in two hundred and fifty persons in Bath died of the disease. By the mid twentieth century the severity of the condition had waned with a dramatic fall in the death rate, although there was no corresponding fall in the incidence of infection. Nobody is sure of why this decline in virulence occurred. It was showing a downward trend before the advent of isolation hospitals and had virtually disappeared by the time antibiotics came on the scene after the second world war.

Measles is another disease which has waned in virulence. Until well into the twentieth century, between 30 and 50 children died of the disease in Bath during an epidemic year. In the first half of 1915, over 12,000 deaths from measles had been recorded in the UK, a statistic which greatly worried Local Government Health Boards. It was a notifiable disease, and all cases had to be reported to the Medical Officer of Health. Failure to do so resulted in a fine of £100, a colossal amount by today's standards. The MOH for Bath requested that the Board of Guardians for the Frome Road Workhouse (later St. Martin's Hospital) allow a block of buildings next to the Workhouse Infirmary to be used as a temporary ward for children with measles. As it turned out, despite 1916 and 1917 being epidemic years, little use was made of these wards and future cases requiring hospital treatment were admitted to the Statutory Hospital.



Plate 6 Ward 4, circa 1910.



Plate 7 The small building with the half-timbered gable is the 'Discharge ward' and was still standing after the hospital was rebuilt in 1934.



Plate 8 Ward interior of one of the original wooden pavilions.

In 1924, the decision was taken to demolish the old wooden ward blocks and replace them with stone built pavilions but construction did not commence for another six years. The new hospital was finally completed in October 1934. The only parts of the earlier hospital left standing were the wing of the original house and the ‘discharge’ block which was used for isolating highly contagious patients (Plate 7).

There were three pavilions, two for scarlet fever patients and one for diphtheria cases although some flexibility of use was necessary as other infectious diseases requiring isolation were sometimes admitted. Most of the patients were children. There was a fourth block which contained ten single-bedded wards, one of which doubled as an occasional operating theatre. The boiler house, laundry and disinfecting rooms were housed in a block to the rear of the hospital. There was also a mortuary with a post-mortem room, ambulance garage and two semi-detached cottages which initially accommodated the resident engineer and the gardener. The latter was required to act as the ambulance driver.

The Statutory Hospital was taken over by the NHS in 1948 and renamed Claverton Down Hospital. For some years it continued in its role as an infectious diseases hospital and treated many children with poliomyelitis during the epidemics of the early post war years. The hospital had a number of Drinker respirators, popularly known as iron lungs. After the introduction of poliomyelitis vaccination, the number of new cases fell dramatically and the artificial respirators were removed and mostly scrapped.



Plate 9 Opening of the new Claverton Down isolation hospital, 1934.

From left: Col.Davey (Mayor), Mrs.Bullen Davey (his daughter, Mayoress), Dr.Blackett, MOH for Bath, Sir Arthur Robinson (Health Secretary), Mr.F.P.Sissons (City Engineer), Ald.Cowley (Chairman of the Health Committee), Councillor Tiley (Chairman, Hospital Committee), Miss Thompson (Matron).

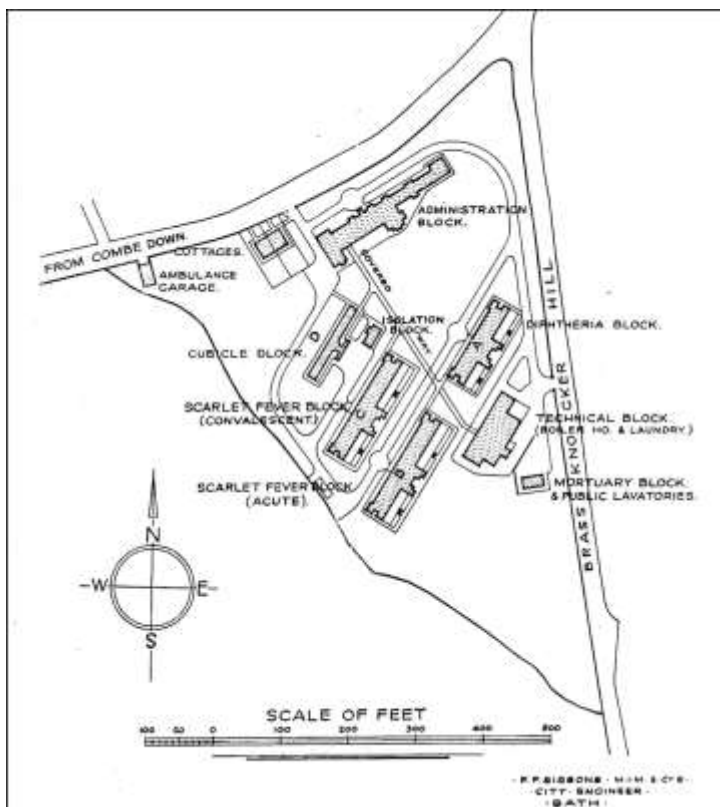


Fig. 3
Ground plan of
the new hospital
in 1934.

With the declining virulence of scarlet fever and effective immunisation programmes against the common childhood epidemic diseases, there was little need for an isolation hospital. In the 1970s a few patients with tuberculosis were treated there and for a brief period the hospital provided accommodation for patients with respiratory diseases after the closure of Winsley Hospital in 1977. In the final years prior to its closure, it also acted as an overspill for elderly patients from St. Martin's Hospital.

In 1986, the Wessex Regional Health Authority decided to close the hospital and accommodate infectious disease cases in an isolation ward at the RUH. The Claverton Down site lay derelict until 1997 when Wessex Water acquired the site. In February 1999 planning permission was granted and all the hospital's buildings were demolished. The site now accommodates the administrative offices of Wessex Water and which were completed in July 2000.

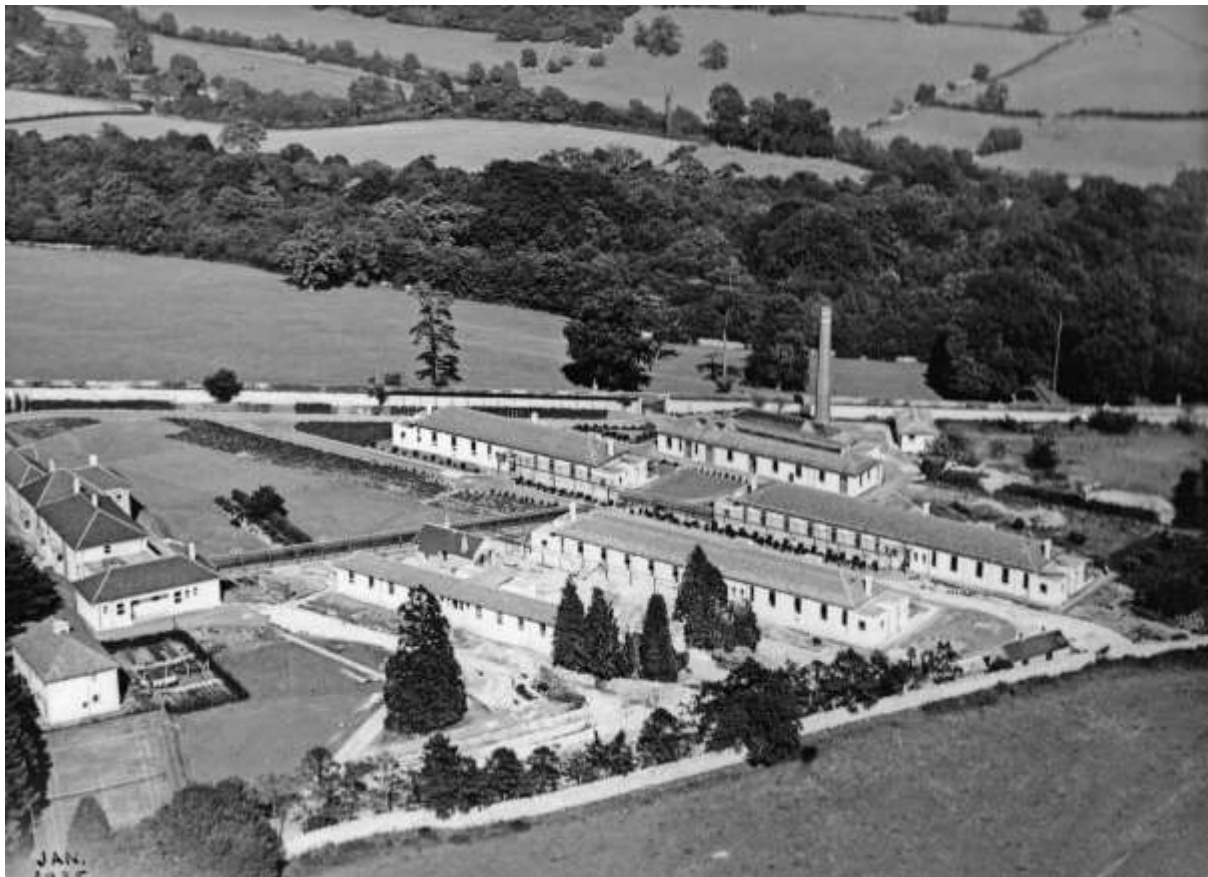


Plate 10 Aerial view of 1930s hospital.



A SURVEY OF SOUTH STOKE MANOR: QUEEN ELIZABETH I, 1561-2

Robert Parfitt and Mike Chapman

After being led to believe that most of South Stoke's manorial records had been destroyed in a fire, it was gratifying to discover that a collection of surveys had been placed in the Somerset Heritage Centre archives by Cambridge University.

Manor Surveys

Manorial surveys were written accounts commissioned by the lord of manor to provide a description of all aspects of his property. They varied in length and detail but could include information on his tenants and their dwellings, their names and type of tenure held, the extent and use of the land with field names, boundaries and roads, the customs of the manor and the annual rent and services owed to the lord.

Surveys were either conducted upon a change of ownership of the manor or to establish ways in which the yield of the manor could be increased. They not only provided the lords of manor with a record of the obligations owed to them by their tenants but also of the rights of the tenants themselves. In this region most of the tenancies had become copyholds in which the copyholder had much the same rights as a freeholder today and could pass their holdings on through many generations of the same family. However, the transfer of a tenancy between family members or to another party required the permission of the lord, granted through the manorial court after the payment of a fee and the swearing of an oath of allegiance to the lord. Often the incoming tenant required the support of two guarantors who were required to stand surety for him. Since the transaction was recorded in the court roll, the tenure was said to be held by copy of court roll.

Manor of South Stoke in the 16th century

Throughout the middle ages the lordship of South Stoke Manor belonged to the monastery at Bath and in 1535 was assessed as having a value of £21.9s.6½d. From 1525 the last Prior of Bath (whose name appears on two of the survey entries) was William Gibbs alias Holway (or Holloway).

In 1537 Prior Holloway farmed out the Manor of South Stoke on a stock and land lease to one of his principal tenants Thomas Smyth(e) and his wife Jane, but in 1539 Bath Priory was dissolved and by 1540 the lease was transferred by the Crown for 21 years to Elias Wynne. The grants of tenancy mentioned in this survey, largely conducted in 1561/2, cover this period of transition, from 1525 in the reign of Henry VIII to 1569 in the reign of Elizabeth.

The South Stoke Survey of 1561/2

The survey, which records eleven villagers' tenements, is written in secretarial hand in heavily abbreviated Latin. It gives the authority under which the tenant held the property (mostly copyhold), the date the authority was granted, the number of dwellings, cottages, etc, belonging to it, and its lands with their field names, acreage, land-use (i.e. pasture, meadow, arable) and often its location (i.e. abutment, 'in' or 'at' etc.). A large proportion have a codicil recording a reversion or surrender of the original grant for a renewal (generally to the heirs), with the names of the guarantors involved. The entry on the last page of the survey is clearly incomplete, but most if not all of the tenants appear to be included. Excluded were other lands in the manor either belonging to the lord himself (referred to as the 'Farm', i.e. leased out), or the glebe lands belonging to the church. Also missing is any mention of common land.

The lands belonging to each holding are generally described under three headings:

1. The main tenement or dwelling, usually in the village, with its attached grounds.
2. Land belonging to it in the South Field (*Australis campus*).
3. Land belonging to it in the North Field (*Borealis campus*).

Manors were generally divided into two or three 'Fields' derived from the common open-field

system, in this case a North Field & South Field. For practical reasons these divisions did not follow the cardinal points exactly, but from the details included in the South Stoke survey the division can be roughly located along a diagonal line running north-west/south-east, half way across the outlines of the manor as shown on the 1840 Tithe Map.

Since the survey is 'verbal', i.e. the information was obtained by a notary who compiled the survey from interviews with the tenants, it inevitably contains phonetic spellings and mis-hearings. In the present transcript the field-names are left in their original form (in bold), those still identifiable on the 1840 South Stoke Tithe Map being shown in the footnotes, together with others (in quotes) being included in more modern spelling. Of the nine surnames of the South Stoke tenants mentioned in the Survey only three are not recorded in the parish churchwardens' accounts one hundred years later; they are Hudd, Hogge and Giles. The rest; Browne (2), Smythe (2), Dagger, Albte (Albte), Willis and Mercer are known local names (Mercer still appears as a field name on the 1840 tithe map). Having a ready water supply, most manors in this region had a water-mill. In the survey, South Stoke mill was held by John Smythe. The Smythe family were probably millers long before that and were evidently prominent members of the community. It was to a Thomas Smythe and his wife Jane that Prior Holloway leased South Stoke Manor with extensive land, stock and rights in 1537.

By the mid 17th century much of the rural landscape in this region had already been enclosed, although it is clear from the survey that enclosure was already under way in this region by the 16th century and that grazing-pasture and meadows for hay dominated the landscape. Nevertheless many fields in the parish remained open with tenants' individual holdings scattered throughout the manor.

Many parishes are fortunate enough to have a sequence of surviving surveys which offers the opportunity to follow the occupancy of a dwelling through time. Unfortunately, South Stoke does not have that benefit. Nevertheless, another survey was taken in 1610, following the death of Queen Elizabeth I when Anne of Denmark, Queen consort of King James I took the manor and living of South Stoke as part of her jointure. This, together with a glebe terrier of 1606 and other early records, provides the possibility of making a more detailed analysis of the present survey than is possible here.

References

Somerset Heritage Centre, Ref.No. T\PH\vch/135, originally held by Cambridge University Archives Ref. No. Ee 111/3.

Parfitt, R.T. (Ed.), *The Book of South Stoke with Midford*, Halsgrove, Tiverton 2001, pp.69/70.

Parfitt, R.T. (Ed.), *The Church of St. James the Great, South Stoke: Churchwardens' Accounts*, Vol.1, 1662-1776, South Stoke Local History Group, 2008.

THE SURVEY STARTS HERE

Southestoke

WILLIAM HUDD

Fine – 13s.4d.

Holds by copy dated 19 March the 26th year of the reign of King Henry VIII [1534] one tenement with purtenances, to which belongs one court, garden and close adjoining containing a half acre, one close of meadow called **Riflemede** containing one acre lying at **Mitford**¹, another close of meadow called **Sheperdes mede**² containing one acre, one parrock³ of meadow called **phelpes** lying within the gates of Southstoke containing half a virgate⁴.

The crop of half an acre of meadow in the Farmer's meadow called **Estmede**⁵ according to the metes and bounds⁶, and part of the crop remaining to the said Farmer.

South Field: three acres and a half upon **westhill** in four pieces; one acre at **Foxmore**⁷, five acre pieces at **grove End**, two acres in **dipslade**⁸, two acres at **Rowlebathe**⁹, one acre at **memberhends**, two acres upon **hursfurl**[ong]¹⁰ in the eastern part, half an acre of the same in another place, three acres upon **hoddeshill**¹¹.

North Field: four acres at **wilands**, six acres in **horsecombe**¹², seven acres upon **east hill** lying in eight pieces, one close in **horsecombe** newly enclosed containing half an acre, one close of arable called **long acre** containing four acres, one close of pasture called **Sheperdes mede** containing one acre, another close of pasture called **Rowleys**¹³ containing three acres now divided into three [pasturage?] in the Field for four sheep according to the acre.

To hold to him and his wife to and rendering per annum – 12s.2d; for church [scot] – 12d; and for customary works 14□d; and rendering one heriot.

William Holway prior¹⁴

Reversion of the premises held by Thomas and William sons of the aforesaid William Hudd with entry fine of £6, as by Copy dated 10 April 4th year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth [1561].

1. Midford in Southstoke.
2. Shepherds mead.
3. A small field, enclosure or pen.
4. A virgate is a variable measure of land area, usually 30 acres but sometimes as low as 20 acres according to geographical location.
5. Eastmead.
6. A boundary fixed by stones or other markers.
7. Foxmoor.
8. 'Deepslade' (not identified).
9. A washpool in Rowley Bottom stream.
10. Harefurlong.
11. Hodshill.
12. Horsecombe
13. Rowley Bottom.
14. William Holway was Prior of Bath Monastery from 1525 until the Dissolution of the monastery in 1539.

JOHN BROWNE

Fine 33s. 4d.

by Ayleworth¹

Holds by copy dated 24 September the 38th year¹ of the reign of King Henry VIII [1546]. One tenement to which belongs one curtilage garden and close adjoining containing half an acre. One close of meadow lying in the east part of his tenement called **Sheperdes mede** containing one acre, one close of meadow at **Bisshopburge**² containing three virgates. The crop of half an acre in the Farmer's meadow called **Estemedede** and part of the crop remaining to the said Farmer.

One close of pasture called **litle pocke**³ containing one virgate another close called **litle Courte mede** containing one acre and a half, one close of pasture called **long acre** of overland⁴ containing two acres, one close of pasture at **horsecombes hed** containing two acres, one close of meadow at **Mysterleyes hedge** containing two acres, one close newly enclosed containing one acre and a half.

South Field: upon the hill called **lez**⁵ **downe** three acres and a half in 4 pieces, one acre below the same hill in **lez edge**, three virgates at **Foxmore** abutting towards the hill, one acre of arable at the same place, one acre of the same in another place, three acres in the bottom of **Bixslade**⁶, two leaze stiches⁷ at **blackbushe** in two pieces containing three virgates, one acre of the same in another place, a half an acre of the same three virgates lying above the road of **Combehawye**⁸, three acres upon **horsehill** in three pieces, one stich in the same.

North Field: two acres and a half at **Cockleakers**⁹, two lease stiches at **Henley**¹⁰, two acres and a half lying at **Albynche**, half an acre at the same, one acre at the boundary of **henley**, three virgates at **longefurl**[ong] **hedd** in two parts, one acre, one virgate upon **estedowne**, one acre upon **estedowne** and the head[land] of the same time, half an acre of the same in another place, three acres lying in **horsecombe**, one acre and a half on the hill by the way called **harpland**, one acre and a half of the same in two pieces, two other acres at the same place, two acres at the same place beside the road leading to Bath¹¹.

To hold to him for the term of his life and rendering per annum 18s 11d and for Churchescot¹² 12d, and for customary works 17¹/₂d, and rendering 1 heriot¹³ as it falls due. Rent
18s.11d.<sup>[L]
[SEP]</sup>

The aforesaid John Browne surrendered the premises and newly held a copy to Sibyll¹⁴ his daughter and Thomas his son by Copy of the court dated 10th day of April in the 4th year of Queen Elizabeth [1561] for a fine of £10 to be paid at the next account by the pledge of William Smythe and Thomas Smythe.

1. Probably the manorial steward.
2. Bisham Bridge. Grounds by the Cam Brook, next to Bishop's Bridge that carried the lane to Twinhoe and Wellow.
3. Abbreviation; 'Little parrock'.
4. Overland; see below, Robert Giles.
5. 'Leaze'.
6. Bislade.
7. Stich/Stitch; a measure of land, a narrow strip or field baulk.
8. Combe Hay Lane.
9. 'Cockle Acres' (not identified).
10. Henleys.
11. Now Southstoke Lane.
12. A tribute collected for the support of the clergy.
13. A feudal tribute due to a lord on the death of a tenant, usually the best beast.
14. Cut off at page limit but possibly Sybill

THOMAS SMYTHE^{[L] [SEP]}

Fine £4

Holds by copy dated 30th September the 17th year of the reign of King Henry VIII [1525]. One messuage and three cottages, to which belongs one courtyard garden and close adjoining containing one virgate of land, one close of meadow called **litle estmede** containing half an acre, another close called **Courtemeade**¹ containing half an acre, one close called **Westmede** containing one acre, two closes of meadow called **battons and wisdomes**, lately a Cottage, containing one acre, one close called **otleys** with a Cottage containing half an acre in which ... situate, two closes called **Courtneys** containing three acres, one close of arable called **barrowe**² containing six acres, one close called **grove end** containing a half an acre, one close newly enclosed in **horsecombe** containing three acres and a half.

North Field: at **breche**³ two acres, above **breche** five acres, abutting upon **Albench** two acres, in **Watcombes bottome** two acres, above the hill with hedland two acres, in the same place two acres in two parts, at **bristowewey**⁴ three acres, at **longthorn hedg** two acres, newly enclosed in **Cokeleares**⁵ one acre, in **Wadbroke** one acre and a half, at **Combes pathe**⁶ two acres, at **Sheperdes ende** two acres, newly enclosed upon the hill in the western part four acres in two separate parts.

South Field: upon **Westdowne** ten acres in divers places, at **Foxmore** three acres, at **grove ende** one acre, towards **le downe edge** five acres, at **bickslade**⁷ one acre and a half, at **heddeshill ende** two acres, at **blackbushe** three virgates, under **heddeshill** two acres, above the hill of **heddeshill** six acres, on the far side of the road to **berrowe** one acre, and the road half an acre, at **barrowe hedge** one acre, abutting upon the **Combehawye** road four acres in two parts, abutting upon same road one acre, in **le Stich** lying below the garden hedge of the Farm containing half a virgate.

28s - 28s 6d [arabic numerals]

To hold to him and William his son for the term &c, and rendering per year 27s, for Church scot 6d, for customary works, 2s.3d and a herriot.

Wm.Holwey, Prior.

Newly granted out of the surrender of John Smythe and William Smyth to hold to the aforesaid William Smythe, Jacob Charnebery and John Charnebery⁸ sons of Richard Charnebery deceased for the entry fine of £13.6s.8d at the two next accounts by change of name, 28th August the 12th year of Queen Elizabeth [1569].

1. Court Mead.

2. Barrow.
3. Breach.
4. Bristol Way - now the B3110 over Pennyquick to the A4, then the main road from Bristol to Salisbury.
- ^[T]_{SEP}5. 'Cockle Acres' (not identified).
6. From Midford to Monkton Combe.
7. Bislade.
8. *Alias* Charmbury.

JOHN DAGGER

Fine --

by Ayleworthe

Holds by copy dated 13th October the 37th year of the reign of King Henry VIII [1545 (Henry died in 1546/7)]. One tenement to which belongs one garden and **lez bathe**, parcelled out at the same place containing three virgates. One close of meadow lying at **Busshopebridge** containing one virgate, one close of meadow lying at **mylewere**¹ containing one virgate, one close of meadow lying in the South part of the lord King's farmer's meadow containing one virgate and called **Estmede**, another close of pasture in **huchefinclyff** called **Thirty Acres** containing a half virgate, one close of pasture lying beneath **Barrowe** containing two acres and a half, another close lying at **mytford elme** containing two acres, another close of pasture at the same place lying at **hinchinclyff** between **mytforde** and **Combe** containing one acre, three virgates in **horsecombe** ... [newly?] enclosed.

North Field: two acres in **nebbowe**, two acres in the west part of the King's highway, two acres upon **elme Close**, half an acre ... [at] **henley** and one half virgate at **Staplehill**², half an acre at **Winterlease**³ furl[ong].

South Field: one acre upon **west hill**, half an acre under **downe ende**, half an acre at **Blackbushe**, one acre at **harefurl**⁴, one acre at **busshops burdge** upon **lez hames**, one acre and abutting on **Taylewere**⁵.

To hold to him John, his wife and John their son,^[T]_{SEP} at the term, &c, for the Rent per Annum of 9s.8d., for Churchets of 6d, and for work-service 6¹/₂d, and one herriot.

1. South Stoke mill stood over the Cam Brook a few yards upstream from Midford bridge.
2. Staple Hill, in Old Midford Hill.
3. Winterley Wood is on the eastern boundary of the parish.
4. Harefurlong.
5. 'Tail Weir' (not identified).

MATILDA HOGGE relict of Robert Thomas Hogge

Fine 46s.8d

^[T]_{SEP}

Holds by grant one tenement to which belong one curtilage garden and close adjoining containing one acre, one close of meadow called **Estmede**, otherwise **Ayshemedede**, containing three virgates, a close of pasture called **lez ham**¹ containing one acre, one close of meadow called **Riflemeade** containing half a virgate, one close of pasture at **Mytforde** in the South part of **Mytfordes wey** called **hilclose**² containing one acre, one parrock next to the same containing half a virgate, one acre and a half in **horsecombe** newly enclosed.

North Field: one acre and a half lying on West Hill in three parts, one virgate of the same in another place, two acres in **lez breche**, two acres upon **staplehill**, one acre at **wadbroke**, one acre and a half at **Mytfordes hill** below **staplehill**, one acre and a half upon **henley**, three acres below **henley** together.

South Field: upon **westedowne**³ two acres in three pieces at **foxmore**, two acres at **Colham** next to **blackebushe**, one acre and a half at **greneway**⁴, one acre and three acres of the same at **lez hames** in two pieces, two acres at **barrowe hedge** abutting upon **harefurl**[ong], two acres above the

tenement in three pieces, 1 acre above the bridge of the bishop.

To hold to her as above and rendering per annum 14s.1d, and for works 10d, and heriot which falls due.

Reversion of the premises granted to John Hedge, his wife, and William his brother by copy dated 27th May in the 7th year of King [Edward] VI [1552/53 (the year of Edward's death)] for an entry fine of £6.

1. A ham was a waterside meadow, liable to flooding.
2. Hill Close.
3. ^[L]_{SEP} West Down.
4. Greenaway Tynning above Combe Hay Lane, suggesting the latter was once a grassed drove way.

JOHN SMYTHE

Fine £10

by R.Hopton bailiff

Holds by copy dated 25th May the 7th year of King Edward VI [1552/3], ^[L]_{SEP} one tenement and one water corn mill to which belong one court garden and close adjoining containing one acre, one close of meadow called **lez milhams**¹ containing three virgates, one close of pasture called **lez grove mede** containing one acre, one close called **brodelande**² containing three acres, another close at **brodelande** aforesaid and next to it containing one acre and a half, one close of meadow called **Taylewere** containing half an acre, one close of pasture called **longe acres** containing one acre, one close of pasture called **binhams clyff** containing half an acre, one close in **horsecombe** newly enclosed containing three virgates.

North Field: at **winterleyes end** two acres, above **mytfordes wey** two acres, at the head of **Staplehill** half an acre. ^[L]_{SEP}

South Field: in **mercombe bottom** two acres and a half in two pieces, in **harefurl**[ong] one acre, at **westmedclyffe** two acres, at **barrowe hedge** three acres.

To hold to him, Mort his wife, and Laurencio his brother to the term and successor and rendering each year 10s.7d, and for works 4d and the heriot which might fall due.

1. Still called Mill Ham today.
1. Broad Lands.

THOMAS ALBERTE

^[L]_{SEP} Fine 40s.

by Ayleworthe

Holds by copy dated 24th September the 38th year of King Henry VIII [1546] two tenements to which pertains one court garden and close adjoining containing one virgate, another tenement in **Mytforde** lying in the south of the tenement of William Smythe to which pertains one court garden and close adjoining containing half a virgate lying below the hill, one close of meadow called **estmede** containing one acre, one close of meadow at **dishelandes** containing one acre, one close at **Southstoke** called **lez Crofte** containing one acre, one close of meadow called **longemedede** containing one acre, one close of pasture lying at the same place containing one acre, one close called **lez hammes** containing one acre, one close of pasture at **bushopbridge** containing two acres, one close at **dichelandes** containing two acres, one close at **winterleyes** lying beside the wood containing one acre.

North Field: at **breche** six acres, at **Cokeleyes** two acres, at **wynterley** one acre, at **wadbroke** two acres, at **hardacre** four acres, above **henley** two acres in two pieces, two acres in the same place in four other pieces, at **longehedge** five acres, at **henleyes well** one acre, upon the hill of **Staplehill** five acres, at **Albenche** four acres and a half, at **Sheperdmede ende** one acre, upon the hill between the roads two acres.

South Field: on **Westdown** eight acres in eight pieces, at **hedfeildes ende** two acres, in the bottom of **mercombe** three acres, upon **heddishill** four acres, in various places there ten acres, abutting upon **harefurl**[ong] called **graplandes**, at **hokeland** abutting upon **Taylewere** two acres, at **Boreland**¹ one acre, at **Blackbushe** three acres, one virgate abutting upon **harefurl**[ong] above the way leading to **Comehawye** two acres, upon **lez Hammes** half an acre, three acres and a half newly enclosed in **horsecombe**.

Rent 28s, - 29s.2d in the Account ...

To hold to him to the term of his life by rendering each year 28s, for corn 2s, for customary works 22d, and for churchetes 12d, and two heriots when they fall due.

It is newly granted out of the surrender of the aforesaid Thomas and his wife, to have to the aforesaid Thomas Dierus and Ed[mund] his sons by favour of Simcocks, gent, for the term of their lives successively for a fine of 40s for the exchange of names^[SEP] paid by the same Dierus and Ed[mund] at the next audit and special licence granted to the aforesaid Dierus and Edmund remaining discharged and demised &c, the 28th of August in the year of Queen Elizabeth &c the 12th [1569].

^[SEP]1. Barlands.

JOHN BROWNE

Holds by copy at will one tenement to which pertain one garden and close adjoining containing half an acre, one close of meadow called **grovemedel** containing two acres and a half, one close of arable called **Estemedeland** containing two acres, one close of pasture called **more** next to **Estmedeland** aforesaid containing one acre, one close called **Nepland** containing one acre, one close called **bynhamclyef** containing one acre, one close in **horsecombe** newly enclosed containing two acres.

(Rent) 15s - 5d in the aforesaid account.

North Field: at **Combes pathe** one acre, at **breche** two acres, at **Whytleyes edge** three virgates, at **Sellers Well** one acre, at **brodeland** two acres together, at **hedlande** one acre and a half, at **Staplehill** four acres, under **henley** three acres, at the same place called **Cleyacre** one acre, under **henley** one acre, at **nethercombe** one acre, above the tenement of Thomas Alberte three virgates.

South Field: upon the hill two acres and a half, at **litteragacres** one virgate, at **great ragacres** two acres and a half, at **westmedclyffe** two acres, below the same three acres, above **busshopbridge** one acre, one virgate abutting upon **hames** one acre, at **Twynehes weye**¹ three virgates, at **fyveyarde** two acres, abutting upon **ham** three virgates, above **le crosse** two acres, above **barland** three acres in three pieces, at **Taylewere** half an acre, at **harefurlong** two acres and a half together. And rendering per annum 15s.4d and for customary works 17¹/₂d. One heriot.

The aforesaid John Browne surrendered his estate in the premises and began anew by Copy dated 10th April the 4th year of the Reign of Queen Elizabeth [1561], to have to him, Edithe his daughter and Thomas Browne the son of Thomas Browne, successors &c, for the entry fine of £10 by the pledge of William Smythe and Thomas Smythe.

1. Twinhoe Way. ^[SEP]

ROBERT GILES

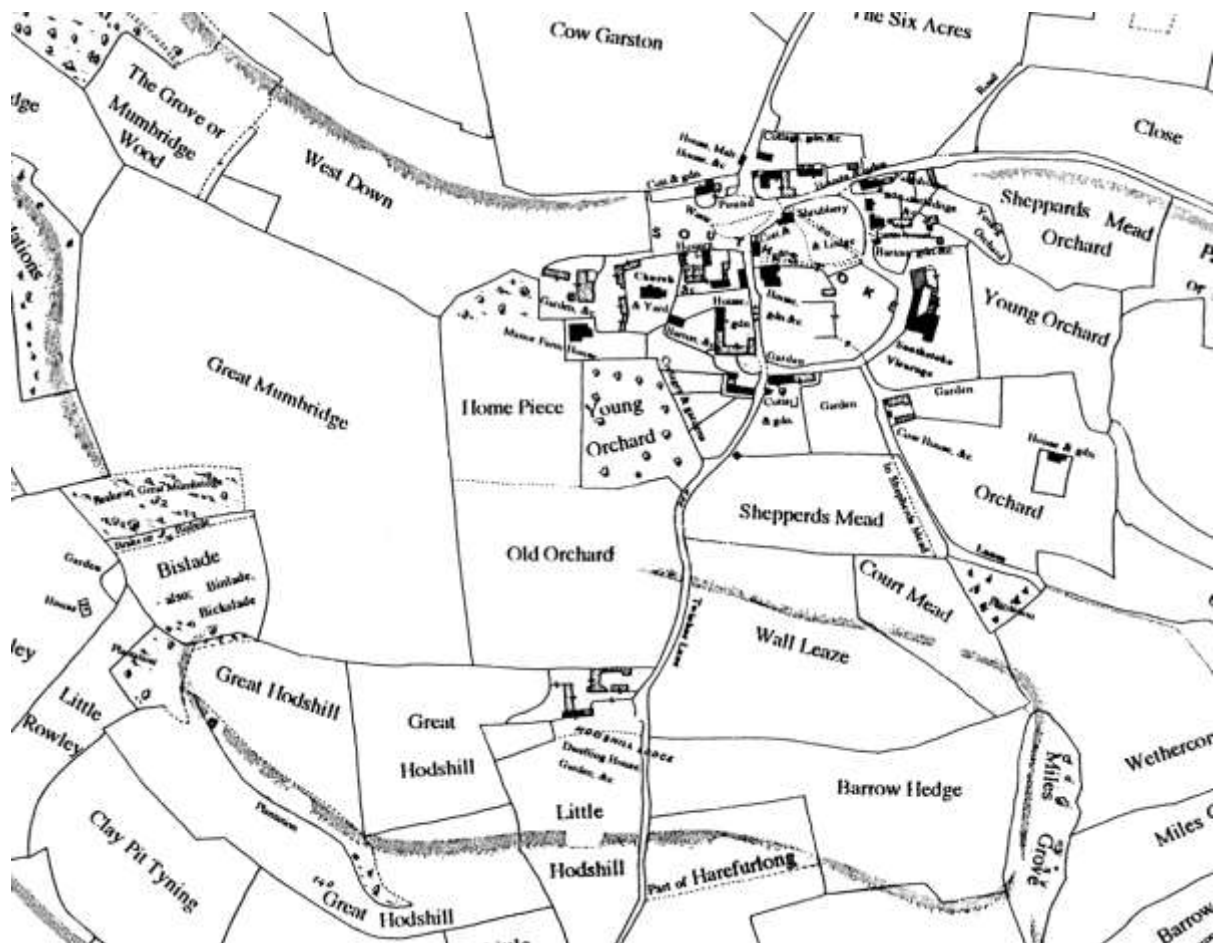
in ... wife Austicia

Fine 10s.

Holds according to the agreement of the manor &c, one cottage to which pertains one garden and barn/yard(?) adjoining containing one perch and one acre of arable lying in the North Field by the road beside **Sellers well** of overland, and renders per annum 2s. Holds the Farmer's sheep for one day. No heriot.

The aforesaid Robert surrendered the premises in the hands of the Lord Queen to John Bigge, his wife and William their son as by copy dated 10th April in the 4th year of Queen Elizabeth [1561] for the entry fine of 10s paying at the next account by the pledge of William Smithe and John Smythe.

1. Overland: Land held by the Lord separately from the copyholds, sometimes newly taken under cultivation or detached from one of the 'austers' or ancient tenements. Unlike copyhold land, it was not always associated with any buildings and did not have right of common. Although it was not subject to heriots, suits and services, it carried an entry fine.



Detail around the village of South Stoke taken from the tithe map of 1840. Many of the field-names mentioned in the survey can still be seen here.

JOHN WILLYS

Wm.Holway, prior

Holds by copy dated 27th September in the 29th year of Henry VIII [1537] one tenement to which pertains one garden one court and a close of meadow adjoining containing two acres, one close of meadow called **Riflemede** containing one virgate, one close at **Taylewere** containing half an acre, one close in **horsecombe** newly enclosed containing one acre and a half.

North Field: at **Albynche** half an acre, at **breche** one acre, at **nebawle**¹ three acres, above **henley** one acre three virgates, under **henley** three acres in two pieces, towards **henley** half an acre one virgate, at the elm at **Staplehill** one virgate, above the village end called **st(c)ampweys lane** two acres, at **bristowewey** upon **east hill** half an acre.

South Field: upon **westdowne** two acres and a half in three pieces, under the hill one acre, at the end of the **grove** one perch, in **lowleys bottom**² one acre, at the end of **horsehill** three acres in two pieces, at **blacke busshe** one acre, at the same in another place two acres, abutting the road to **Combehawys** one acre, abutting upon **lez hames** one acre, upon **barlandes** three acres in two pieces, two acres in **barrowe**, one acre at **Tayleweres Clyff**.

To hold to him and his wife to the term &c, and rendering per annum 18s.2d, for corn 12d, for church scot 6d, and for customary works 10d, and a heriot.

Note for one virgate of land lying under **Stafilhill**³ called **nomanslande**⁴ remains in the hands of the lord, granted to the aforesaid John as tenant at will by rendering each year 2d.

1. Nibbles *alias* Little Wadbrook^[SEP].
2. Rowleys bottom.
3. Staple Hill.
4. No man's land: being of uncertain ownership, was held by the lord.

JOHN MERCER

Holds by copy dated^[SEP] one tenement to which pertains one garden and close adjoining containing half a virgate lying in the north part of John Willis's tenement, one close of meadow called **Riflemede** containing half an acre, another close of meadow there in another place containing half an acre, one close of meadow called **longemedede** containing one acre, one close of pasture called **lez hames** containing two acres, one close of pasture called **Skateyles** containing one acre, one close called **Barnclose** containing half an acre, one close newly enclosed called **lez Clyffes** containing one acre and a half, one close newly enclosed in **horsecombe** containing one acre one virgate.

North Field: at Tunleys Suche upon the hill

THE SURVEY ENDS HERE



THE LOCATION OF JOHN WOOD THE ELDER'S 'SOLS ROCKS'

Michael Williams

'Dinocrates' (the ancient Grecian architect) is not the first word you would expect a lengthy description of mid-18th century Bath to begin with, however this immediately sets the tone for John Wood the Elder's sprawling work *An Essay Towards A Description of Bath* (Wood 1742-3, 1749). While Wood is evidently a good observer, '*Description*' is overshadowed by his theories concerning the legendary King Bladud. Taking the local folklore and Geoffrey of Monmouth's description of Bladud and assuming them to be historical fact, and adding into the mix his insistence that Bladud was also known in ancient Greece as Abaris, Master of Pythagoras, Wood combined these myths and legends and weaved a fantastical tale of Bladud's life and works in and around Bath, involving sacrifices, necromancy, celestial worship, stone circles and druids.

Convinced with his theories, Wood used them as a starting point for describing many of the ancient structures and features in the Bath landscape. Some features, such as the Stanton Drew stone circles he believed to have been Bladud's druid university, are still visible today, and Wood's observations of these surviving structures can therefore be verified in the present. Wood was a competent surveyor of ancient monuments for his time and, while erroneously attributing Stonehenge to the work of the druids, Wood (1747), produced one of the most accurate plans of the stones ever made. And so, while his interpretations of groups of rocks in fields were frequently wildly incorrect, his observations of their sizes, stone type, precise locations and alignments mostly stand up to modern scrutiny and are valuable texts for archaeologists, antiquaries and historians as they were written in a time when many of these sites were in better condition than they are today. Wood's plan of Stonehenge was even used as the main reference for 20th Century restoration works at the site due to its accuracy (Johnson, 2010).

Wood believed that Bladud built a number of monuments around the city of Bath. Of particular relevance are the sun and moon towers close to the hot springs, and the sun and moon circular temples further up Lansdown Hill. The most widely available edition of *Description* is the second edition, published in 1749, and republished posthumously in 1765 by his son, John Wood the Younger. It is in this second edition that the most thorough description of the stones referred to as 'Sols Rocks', Bladud's sun temple, can be found (for ease of reading I have replaced the 'long s' in Wood's 18th century typography with the more contemporary 'short s' throughout this article):

'Now, in an Augural Line with the hot Waters and Towers thus consecrated to the Sun and Moon, and at the Distance of about 3250 Feet from them, as we ascend the Hill now bearing the Name of Lansdown, there are three large Stones lying upon the Ground, in a little Field by the Side of the Road, known by the Name of Sols Rocks, with a Foundation just behind them, shaped into a Circular Form: One of these Stones lies upon its Edge, and is fourteen Feet long, four Feet thick; the other two lie flat, and seem as though they had formerly been in one, of about thirty Feet long, seven Feet six Inches Broad, and three Feet nine Inches thick: But now the Pieces are somewhat thinner; and while one appears full eighteen Feet in Length between the extreme Points, the other measures no more than thirteen Feet from End to End.

These three Stones, when erect and perfect, seem to have made a stupendous Altar; and the circular Foundation behind them seems to have borne other erect Stones, which, in all Probability, were set up by King Bladud for a Temple in honour of the Sun.' (Wood, 1749, Vol.1, p34.)

'The same may be said of Bath when the ancient Britons determined to Honour the Great God Apollo at it, with a Temple and an Altar; since one of the Stones of the latter still appears to have been 30 Feet long, 7 Feet 6 Inches broad, and 3 Feet 9 Inches thick; and the Temple was, in all Probability, composed of Blocks of a much larger Size; and so big as to have rendered the Structure a renowned Work for its Magnitude...' (Wood, 1749, Vol.2, p234.)

Here, Wood is describing three physical objects by the side of the road ascending the hill of Lansdown. An 'augural line' essentially means a 'good line', in this instance probably a good line of sight.

The 'hot waters and towers thus consecrated to the sun and moon' refer to two towers he believed to have been placed above the cisterns of the Roman Baths. The sun tower Wood states '*.. had a Church raised over it dedicated to Saint Paul*', referring to the church that stood on the site of the modern Bath Abbey in Wood's day. The moon tower, Wood states was '*.. covered with a Church, dedicated to Saint Michael*', and later locates the cistern it covered at the south side of St. John's Chapel. These two churches (St. Michael and St. John) are in fact virtually the same place (St. John's Chapel is also known as St. Michael Within the Walls).

A line between these two towers runs roughly east-west and therefore does not ascend the hill of Lansdown at all; he therefore means a line from the towers ascending Lansdown Hill approximately 3250 feet. It should be noted that 3250 feet is also a measurement of an alignment he took at Stanton Drew, from the centre of Circle A, through the centre of Circle B, to two stones in a field called 'Lower-Tining' (Wood looked hard for consistencies in measurements and alignments around ancient monuments), and also that Wood states this distance to be approximate. From Wood's measurements the stones were very large (13-18 feet in length). Wood's measurements of the Stonehenge stones were considered accurate by 20th century standards, and therefore these measurements, while rough, are likely to be reasonably reliable. Two of the stones may have once been a single, larger stone. The 'circular foundation' is perhaps the most interesting additional feature described here, and unless disturbed by groundworks, agriculture or development, is more likely to have survived than the stones, which may have been removed for building materials etc., as has been the fate of many ancient monuments.

There are significant differences between the first and second editions of Wood's 'Description'. The first edition is a shorter work, written when Wood was still developing his theories about Bladud and Bath. In the first edition he makes no reference to 'Sols Rocks', referring instead to the site as 'Salt-Rocks'. His main description of the site in the first edition is as follows:

'How the Hot-Waters were first enclosed is uncertain; but in an augural line with them, as we ascend the Hill to Lansdown, there are Three large Stones, now lying upon the Ground, in a Field by the Side of the Road, known by the Name of the Salt-Rocks; which Stones, when erect, made a stupendous Altar, and, in all Probability, was there set up by King BLADUD, for the Purpose of sacrificing to the Hot-Waters as an Attribute of the Sun; and from hence, no doubt, it was, that the Romans called those Waters by the Name of Aquae Solis, i.e. The Waters of the Sun.' (Wood 1742-3, Vol.1, p26.)

Further information also given in the first edition and not mentioned in the second edition relates to a nearby spring:

'Directly under the Salt-Rocks, to the Westward, and directly under the Carn [Beacon Hill], to the Eastward, there are Springs of Water.' (Wood, 1742-3, Vol.1, p30.)

These two pieces of information give both a different name for the site, 'Salt-Rocks', and a natural physical feature in the form of a spring within close proximity. Curiously, there is no mention of the circular foundation in the first edition, possibly because Wood had yet to make the link.

As a much more lengthy description, measurements and additional features are given in the second edition, it appears that Wood revisited the site at least once between 1742 and 1749. Being local to the site, residing in Queen Square, he may well have visited on numerous occasions during this period. Wood was clearly convinced that the site was an ancient monument. Given his familiarity with other local large stone monuments of the Neolithic and early Bronze Ages, it would be unwise to dismiss this interpretation of the features without further consideration - Wood knew what a genuine ancient stone monument looked like and apparently saw something similar at Sols Rocks. It is also possible that alternative interpretations for the stones and other nearby features might exist.

No literature could be found identifying the location of Sols Rocks. Web searches simply turned up sites quoting Wood's book and giving no further insight as to their location. Of the books about Wood reviewed (Mowl & Earnshaw 1988, Elliot 2004, Frost *et al.* 2004), only brief mentions of Sols Rocks are given, and only Mowl & Earnshaw (1988) refer to them by name, and then only in a direct quote of Wood's. None of these authors knew the exact location of the rocks; however only Wood's

interpretation of them is called into question and not the existence of the rocks themselves. No author to date has mentioned that Wood had previously referred to the site as 'Salt Rocks'. It is also acknowledged by Mowl & Earnshaw (1988) that, along with Stonehenge and Stanton Drew, Sols Rocks was an influence on his final and most enigmatic masterpiece, The Circus. While Wood was almost certainly incorrect about Bladud, there is enough in his description of Sols Rocks to warrant further investigation, particularly given his experience surveying ancient monuments. Additionally, even if the stones were of no archaeological significance they were a significant part of what Wood believed to have been Bladud's city and influential to his architectural work.

The following is an attempt to identify the site using Wood's description by identifying features mentioned nearby that either still exist, or have been recorded as having existed, and to give a location (or at least a possible/probable location) for Sols Rocks. It should be noted that identifying features noted from a time when Lansdown was largely undeveloped is somewhat problematic and that other features in the local area may have been destroyed unrecorded. I have followed Wood's writings as closely as possible and compared them to other sources in order to find somewhere fitting every word of his descriptions of the site.

Locating Sols Rocks

In order to give a possible location for Sols Rocks, we have the following details given by Wood (1742-3, 1749) to consider:

Names, distances and directions - approximately 3250 feet from the hot springs, ascending the hill of Lansdown, and south-west of Beacon Hill. Located in (or potentially close to) a field by the name of 'Salt Rock(s)' (hereafter referred to as 'Salt Rock Field'), to the immediate west of a realigned portion of Lansdown Road '*...in the Year 1707; prior before that Year the Road to Lansdown was considerably more to the Eastward of the Rocks of Solis than it is at present.*' (2nd.ed., Vol.1, p137.) Rocks - three large rocks (referred to collectively from this point as the 'Salt Rocks'), between 13-18 feet (with two of them possibly once being a larger rock) on a hill slope, two lying flat on the ground and one on its side. Wood noted that the rocks resembled rocks around Kingsdown/Monkton Farleigh. Spring - a spring is situated directly under the Salt Rocks.

Quarry - a quarry is situated close to the Salt Rocks, made in 1707 when the modern route of Lansdown Road was constructed '*And lest it should be hereafter imagined what the Stones now retaining the Name of the Sun were taken out of a Quarry just by them, I think it necessary to declare, that that Quarry was made by the Stone taken out of it to make the adjoining new Road, in the Year 1707*' (2nd.ed., Vol.1, p137.)

Circular Foundation - a 'circular foundation' situated behind the rocks, and at a higher elevation than them. Elsewhere referred to as a 'circular work' and 'circular mount'.

Also noted in Wood (1749) to be visible from North Parade; Maes Knoll and Newton Bridge (Newbridge)

Names, Distances and Directions

Wood specifies that the stones were approximately 3250 feet from the 'towers' (now St John's Chapel and Bath Abbey), ascending the hill of Lansdown, in a small field by the side of the Road and to the south-west of Beacon Hill. Wood also mentions that the part of the road it is near had been realigned to the west of the former route in 1707. Only a small section of Lansdown Road was realigned and the old and new routes clearly marked on Thomas Thorpe's plan of the Parish of Walcot in 1740 (Figure 1), published just two years prior to the first edition of Wood's 'Description'. The stones were therefore in one of the small fields immediately to the west of the realigned portion of Lansdown Road. This realignment is between 2820 feet (southern end) and 4130 feet (northern end) from Bath Abbey.

The name 'Salt Rock(s)' (or any variation of) does not appear on any map that could be found. However, the name appears at least twice in the literature outside of Wood's writings. The earliest mention that could be sourced is from Shickle (1900) in an article concerning the 1740 plan of the Parish of Walcot by Thorpe.

This plan (an 1822 copy of which is shown on Figure 1) was published two years prior to the first edition of Wood's 'Description', and shows the field boundaries from the time Wood would have visited it.

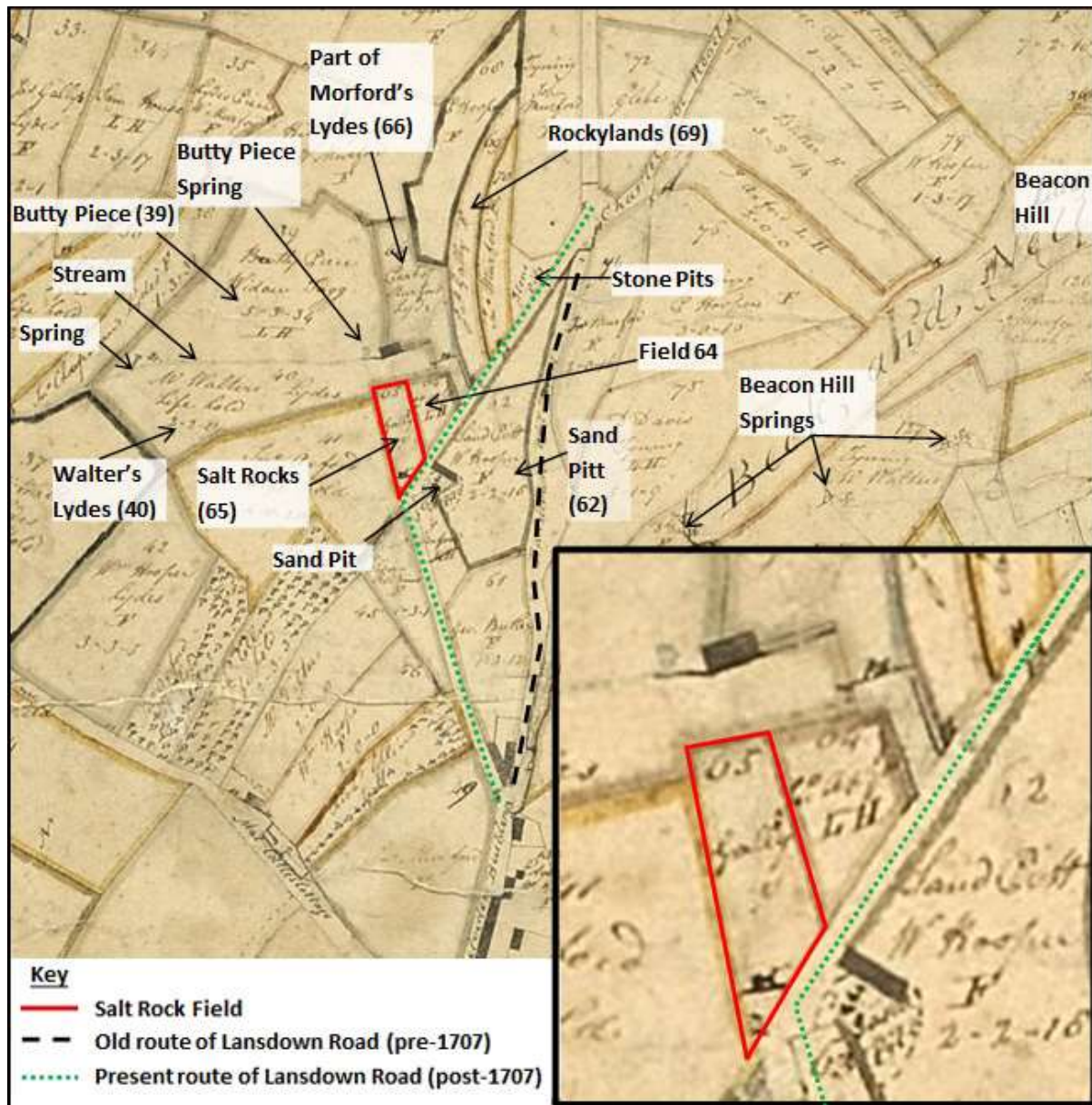


Figure 1: Plan of the Parish of Walcot 1740 by Thomas Thorpe (copy by William Newton, 1822), with annotations showing Salt Rock Field and nearby features and locations. Inset: enlarged plan of Salt Rock Field. ©Bath in Time

'Another family was named Gally. They inhabited a house on the riverside of Walcot Street and owned Weston Cross, now Cranwells, Whitwells, part of Mutcombe, Salt Rock, and Brimble Sleight, which I have not yet been able to identify, Pooke's Tenement and field, Coffin's Batch and several other pieces of land in the East and Westfield of Walcot together with Rockylands, of which the name remains in Rock House, although I think the spots more nearly identified with Lansdown East.' (Shickle, 1900)

Shickle is unclear about his source for these field names, however he states that a place in the Parish of Walcot was known as Salt Rock, owned by James Gally, although Salt Rock is not marked on his copy of Thorpe's plan included in the article, nor is it mentioned in the accompanying schedule held at Bath Central Library. Interestingly, he identifies Rock House with a field named Rockylands, but implies that that name might be the present site of Lansdown Place East (field 69 on the 1740 Thorpe map). Several deeds and leases from the mid-late 18th Century at Bath Record Office (e.g. ref. BC153/1507/6) confirmed that Rockylands is the site of Lansdown Place East, owned by Charles Spackman in 1785 and is clearly marked with Spackman's name on the 1786-7 Harcourt Masters

map. Alternative names for this field found in deeds and leases held at Bath Record Office are 'Rockland', 'Rocky Ground' and 'Rorky Lands'. As Rockylands was owned by James Gally and has the word 'rock' in it, it would be reasonable to suggest that Salt Rock and Rockylands might be the same place. However, an alternative origin for the name for Rock House (now named Hope House after a subsequent occupant) on Lansdown Road is given by Dr Mary Ede (1998):

'Hope House was built in 1781-2 by Charles Hamilton from Painshill, Surrey, where he had planned a remarkable landscaped garden. He lived in the Royal Crescent while he designed new gardens up the Lansdown slopes and the house was built. Unfortunately we have little knowledge of how he laid out the estate, which then extended down right down to Julian Road. The area on which the house was built was called the Salt Rocks and gave it its original name of Rock House'. (Ede, 1998)*

[*indicates a footnote attributing this information to T. Fawcett.]

Unfortunately, Dr. Ede cannot recall her source for this information, and Trevor Fawcett has sadly now passed away (Ede, pers. comm.). Dr. Ede suggests that it may have been found in The Girls' Public Day School Company council minutes when negotiating the sale of Rock House to the school, however I have been unable to locate these minutes.

Rock House appears to have been built on field 64 on the 1740 Thorpe map, owned in 1740 by John Axford. Immediately to the south-west is field 65 - owned by James Gally in 1740, and appears to have consistently been part of the grounds of Rock House from Hamilton's acquisition sometime in the late 1770s until the present day. Gally owned two fields adjacent to the realigned section of Lansdown Road (parcels 64 and 69) and as Shickle (1900) refers to Rockylands and Salt Rock as two different land parcels owned by the Gally family, there is no reason to doubt this when other sources have identified separate locations for these two fields. We can be certain that field 65 was not Rockylands, which leaves Salt Rock as a possibility. No other field in Walcot/Lansdown has any associations with this name to my knowledge. Many of the other fields mentioned by Shickle are easily identifiable by modern place names e.g. Cranwells near Weston Lane and Whitwells (Whitewell Mead on the map). As Shickle's spellings vary from the field names on the map and accompanying schedule (some are not included either) it is clear that Shickle had access to information, probably a document, naming these fields. Like Shickle, I was unable to locate Brimble Sleight, however Brimble was a Walcot family name and I can find no association between the Brimbles and Field 65. However, I have not been able to find his source for the field names.

The field by the side of the road, the ownership of the Gally family, the small size of the field, the name of Rock House and Dr Ede's direct identification all point towards Field 65 being Salt Rock Field. It is also fairly close to Wood's estimation of 3250 feet, the south-eastern corner of Field 65 being approximately 3450 feet from Bath Abbey (the south-eastern corner of Rockylands is around 3700 feet, much further than Wood's estimate). Field 65 is therefore the most likely candidate for Salt Rock Field. In and around this field we would therefore expect to find evidence of the other features noted by Wood.

The Salt Rocks (aka Sols Rocks)

If rocks as large as those described by Wood were still present lying flat on the ground by the side of Lansdown Road, they would most likely be well-known even if they were not of any significance other than their size - these rocks, according to Wood, were huge. The fact that nobody aside from Wood appears to have mentioned them or clearly marked them on a map understandably raises eyebrows.

Three stones are, however, marked on Ordnance Survey maps in Butty Piece Field from 1886 (Figure 2a) to the present day to the north-west of Rock House. The 1960-1961 Ordnance Survey plan (Figure 2b) shows only two stones, with another feature present (A) in the north of Butty Piece. This feature is shown on more detail on the 1952 map as a small circle with a tree growing out of it - possibly this was a flower bed (Figure 2c, A). Since smaller scale OS maps produced before and after this date show three stones consistently in the same place, the missing stone is probably an error of the cartographer. The 1952 OS map (Figure 2b) shows what is potentially a fourth stone (Feature B), though on closer inspection appears to be an accidental spot of ink. A further stone to the south-west of Butty Piece is marked on some 20th Century OS maps (Figure 2c, C). Nothing further is known about this stone, however the other three stones in Butty Piece are given consideration in the

archaeological assessment for the current development works at Hope House: “What initially were thought to be three surviving mere stones in the grounds... probably post-medieval in date... in fact seem to mark the lines and junctions of piped water from wells and springs” (Davenport, 2012). A photograph of the stones is also included in the report. The stones are erect, obviously sculpted and do not appear to be more than 2 feet in height and much less so in width; these are not the Salt Rocks seen by Wood, and may even be later in date than Wood’s ‘Description’ (1749), as significant water works were undertaken in Butty Piece in the centuries following Wood’s death.

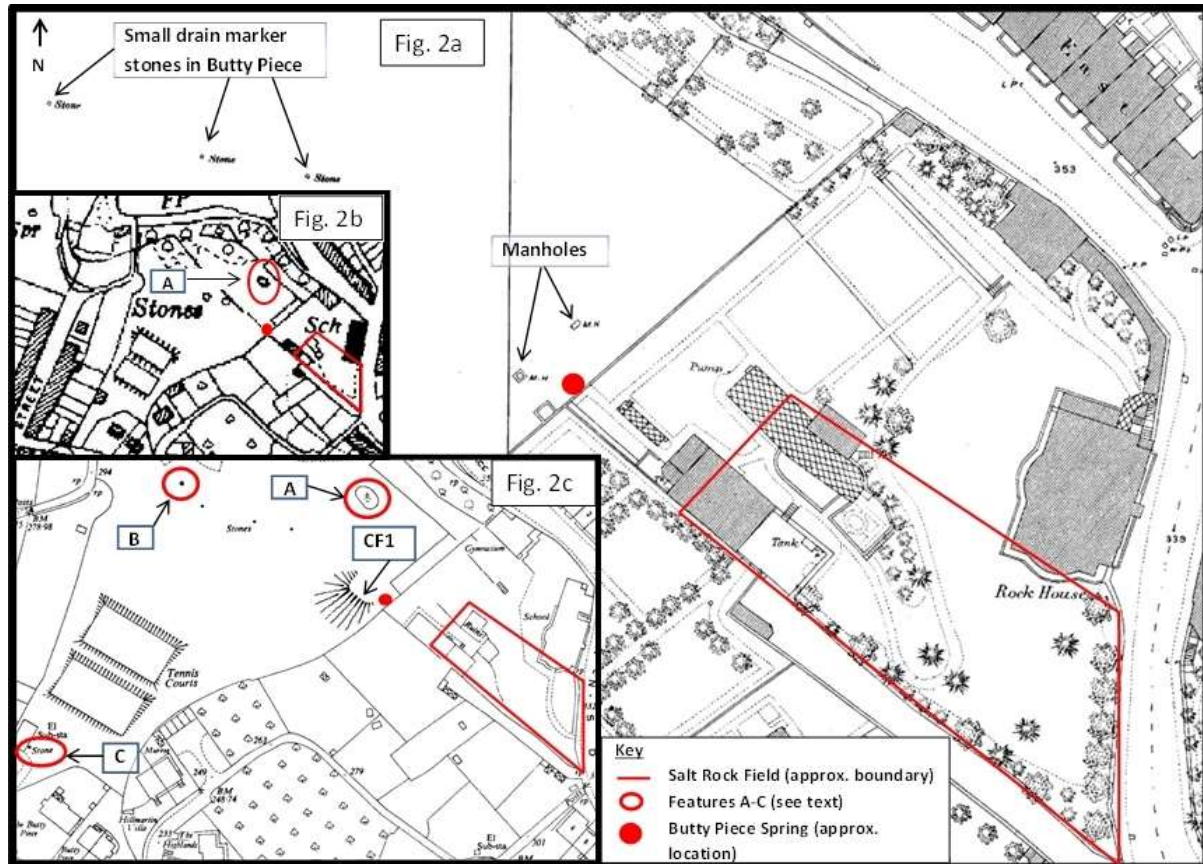


Figure 2: Ordnance Survey maps showing various features in the vicinity of Salt Rock Field. 2a: OS Town Plan Bath, Somerset 1886 1:500; 2b: OS Plan 1960-61 1:10560; 2c: OS Plan 1952 1:1250. All maps © www.old-maps.co.uk<<http://www.old-maps.co.uk>> and Ordnance Survey.

Stones such as those described by Wood are rare in this part of Lansdown. Wood, who knew the local stone better than most people of his time, notes a similarity to the large stones around Kingsdown and Monkton Farleigh, which are great oolite/Bath stone (Mike Chapman, pers. comm.). Great oolite does not appear until the top of Lansdown, to the north of Kingswood School. A band of Bridport (Midford) sands appear on various geological maps around Salt Rock Field (British Geological Survey, 2014). Around the stone pits/quarry marked on Figure 1, and above Lansdown Crescent, the band of Bridport sands ends and is replaced by a band of inferior oolite. Any stones occurring in the vicinity of Rock House may very well have been brought there by humans at some point, although glacial deposits, landslips and geological anomalies are other possibilities.

Another possible ancient stone monument was recorded close to the Royal Crescent, in the area referred to by Wood as ‘Ring Common’ (after Hyde Park), now the allotments behind Marlborough buildings. Pryke & Oswin (2012) reported the finding of four large stones forming an irregular curve by Marek Lewcun in 1985 while undertaking an archaeological excavation there. One pair was described as ‘two large blocks of rough limestone set deep into the clay and bearing marks on their surface to suggest that an original “standing” portion of each was broken deliberately, some time in their past’. Lewcun stated that there was evidence that the stones pre-dated the 17th Century depositions. While these stones are certainly not Wood’s Sols Rocks, being in the wrong place and in a piece of land named by Wood, the find is remarkably similar to Wood’s description of Sols Rocks, particularly with the stones appearing broken. Pryke & Oswin (2012) also speculated that Sols Rocks may well have been visible from this location. A pair of stone circles is also thought to have been

present on Bathampton Down. Scarth (1857) claimed that there were two stone circles ‘.. similar in appearance to those of Stanton Drew.’ As for the fate of these stones, Scarth notes ‘*Unhappily the larger stones have been removed within the memory of the present generation, in order to construct fancy cromlechs in the park, or to form rock-work in their gardens!*’. This may have also been the fate of the Salt Rocks.

The Spring

Wood (1742-43) mentions two springs within the area - one ‘*directly under the Salt-Rocks, to the west-ward*’; and another ‘*under the Carn [Beacon Hill], to the east-ward*’. Thorpe’s 1740 plan of the Parish of Walcot (Figure 1), published two years prior to the first volume of Wood’s Essay, shows three springs directly under Beacon Hill, all to the east of Lansdown Road. To the west of the realigned Lansdown Road are two springs. Butty Piece Spring is located on the boundary between Walter’s Lydes and Butty Piece, with a stream flowing to the west and down the slope of Butty Piece. This stream appears to have formed a natural land boundary between these two fields as shown on Figures 1 and 3. The stream is then joined by a second spring at the bottom of Butty Piece. Butty Piece Spring is very close to the north-western end of Salt Rock Field. Salt Rock Field is on a slope and the northern boundary of the field was over 10m higher than Butty Piece Spring, as evidenced by the contours on Figure 3. Any rocks present in Salt Rock Field could therefore be above the level of the spring, correlating with Wood’s description.

Butty Piece Spring is the only known spring close to that section of road on the western side. The spring has since been used to supply water to the pond in Victoria Park and two tanks, one by each of the two springs in Butty Piece, were constructed by the Circus Waterworks Company (Chapman, 2003). Interestingly, a series of letters between John Wood the Younger and others shows that Butty Piece Spring was very nearly used to supply the Circus with water (Bath Record Office, ref. 0270). In one letter from 1757, Thomas Garrard mentions that he measured the output of the spring at ‘*136 Hogsheads 32 Gallons in 24 hours*’. That it was considered to be sufficient to supply The Circus, gave rise to a stream and produced a large quantity of water, implies that it was probably a very obvious feature in Wood’s time.

Quarry

Two possible locations for the quarry mentioned by Wood as being close to the stones are apparent on the Thorpe map of 1740 (Figure 1). The nearest of these is labelled as ‘Sand Pits’ on the opposite side of Lansdown Road to Salt Rock Field and is part of a larger field known as ‘Sand Pitt’. Since a band of Bridport sands appears at this point on the hillside, the digging here is likely to have been for sand, not stone as Wood stated. Stone pits are labelled on the map (Figure 1) in a small triangular field to the north-east of Salt Rock Field just behind Lansdown Place East (Rockylands). The Harcourt Masters map of 1786-7 identifies this as being an old quarry. This is therefore most likely the stone quarry Wood refers to.

Circular Foundation

In the second edition of ‘Description’, Wood describes a circular feature ‘behind’ the Salt Rocks, which he believed to have been the sun temple, and the ‘ancient basis’ for the Salt Rocks. Wood’s descriptions of this feature are as follows:

‘.. with a Foundation just behind them, shaped into a Circular Form’. (Vol. 1, p119.)

‘.. the circular Foundation behind them seems to have borne other erect Stones’. (Vol. 1, p119.)

‘.. Rocks of Solis, with the Temple behind it, was his Place of Address to the Sun by Sacrifice’ (Vol. 1, p121.)

‘.. the Circular Foundation behind the Rocks of Solis the Basis of the renowned Temple, of a round Form’. (Vol. 1, p122.)

‘For the Rocks of Solis lye prostrate upon the declining Ground below that which made their ancient Basis’. (Vol. 1, p168.)

‘.. and the Temple was, in all Probability, composed of Blocks of a much larger Size [than the Salt Rocks]; and so big as to have rendered the Structure a renowned Work for its Magnitude’. (Wood, 1749, Vol. 2, p234.)

‘...above the Rocks of Sol ; a Valley, in a South South West Line, drawing the Eye to the Circular Mount, whose exalted Situation gives it a Majesty superior to any thing of its Kind ; and such as is sufficient to bow the very Knee of such as may consider it as an Object whereby the supreme God was once adored’. (Vol. 2, p372-3.)

The circular feature is described variously as a ‘foundation’, ‘form’, ‘temple’, and perhaps most significantly, a ‘mount’. There is, of course, the possibility that Wood may have been referring to the natural circular shape of the wider hillside around that area, however given his familiarity with ancient sites, especially his observations of barrows and the henge monument Stonehenge, along with his description of a ‘mount’, I think it more likely he was referring to a feature that at least had a resemblance to the circular earthworks at ancient monuments he is known to have visited and attributed to Bladud and/or the druids. When such features are part of an ancient monument they often outlast any stone structures, as large stones are frequently taken for building materials and garden features, and so it is possible that such a feature (or part of it) remained after the disappearance of the Salt Rocks.

An observation it is important to mention here is that there is no mention of the Circular Foundation in the first edition of ‘Description’. It may be that the Circular Foundation was not a very obvious feature; however, it may have been an obvious feature that Wood had yet to link to the stones.

While it is possible that this feature has not survived to the present day - it may have been destroyed or damaged beyond recognition for a variety of reasons - by examining maps and historic photographs and comparing them to Wood’s description it is possible that this feature, or candidates for it, may be identified. It should be noted that while Wood specifies that the Salt Rocks are within Salt Rock Field, he states that the circular foundation is behind them and may lie outside of Salt Rock Field. While we must accept that the circular foundation may have been destroyed before being recorded on maps and photographs, from the available sources I have identified two candidates for it to the west of the re-aligned section of Lansdown Road, which I will refer to as CF1 and CF2.

CF1

Very close to the north-western end of Salt Rock Field, and immediately above the head of the spring, is a mound-like feature shown on early-mid 20th century maps and photographs. The appearance is that of a small hillock.

This feature is first shown on the 1932 OS County Series: Somerset 1:2500 map and appears again in more detail on OS Plan 1960-1961 1:1250 (Figure 2c). The Lidar map (Figure 3) shows this indeed to be a circular mound. However, this feature is located very close to Butty Piece Spring. A waterworks map from 1868 (South-west Heritage Centre ref. D/P\wal.sw/20/2/5) shows clearly that a large tank, referred to as ‘Butty Piece Tank’ by Yalden (2014), was placed here at some point following Wood’s death. This mound therefore most likely covers the tank, and manholes are shown on top of it on the 1886 map (Figure 2a). CF1 is therefore probably later in date than Wood’s ‘Description’. The mound is also fairly small and in a dip in the hillside, and can barely be made out on most aerial photographs. It also lies outside of Salt Rock Field in Butty Piece. The garden of Rock/Hope house was reduced to fields 64 and 65 (Figure 1) following Hamilton’s death, and then later extended beyond fields 64 and 65 to the north-west to incorporate a part of Walter’s Lydes, and later the whole of Butty Piece in the mid-late 19th Century. Therefore in Wood’s day there would have been a whole field and two field boundaries between Salt Rock Field and CF1 if it were present in his time, and any rocks in Salt Rock Field would be above it and not on the declining slope below it, as shown on Figure 3. CF1 therefore does not fit with Wood’s description of the circular foundation, however another feature, CF2, fits it more closely.

CF2

Rock House itself appears to be in the middle of a large and roughly circular feature. This may have been the result of landscaping by Hamilton, however the 1786-7 Harcourt Masters plan (Figure 4) not only shows this feature, but also indicates that it may have been present prior to the construction of Rock House.

The map shows two curved features immediately to the north-west of Rock House. Significantly, part of the north-easternmost curved feature cuts into the land parcel to the north, owned by Sir Peter Rivers Gay (Walter’s Lydes). This irregularity in the land boundary, consistent with the shape of CF2, suggests a boundary formed by a physical feature, such as sloping ground or an earthwork. Further evidence to support the existence of CF2 prior to Hamilton is found in a 1754 engraving of the Bath landscape (Plate 1). Just to the north-west of the kink in Lansdown Road, CF2 is drawn in profile and appears to have then been a somewhat prominent feature in the landscape. Unfortunately the detail at

the foot of CF2 is too obscure to make out any definite stones, however the field known as Rockylands can also be clearly seen behind it, bounded by hedgerows and with no obvious large stones or circular features.

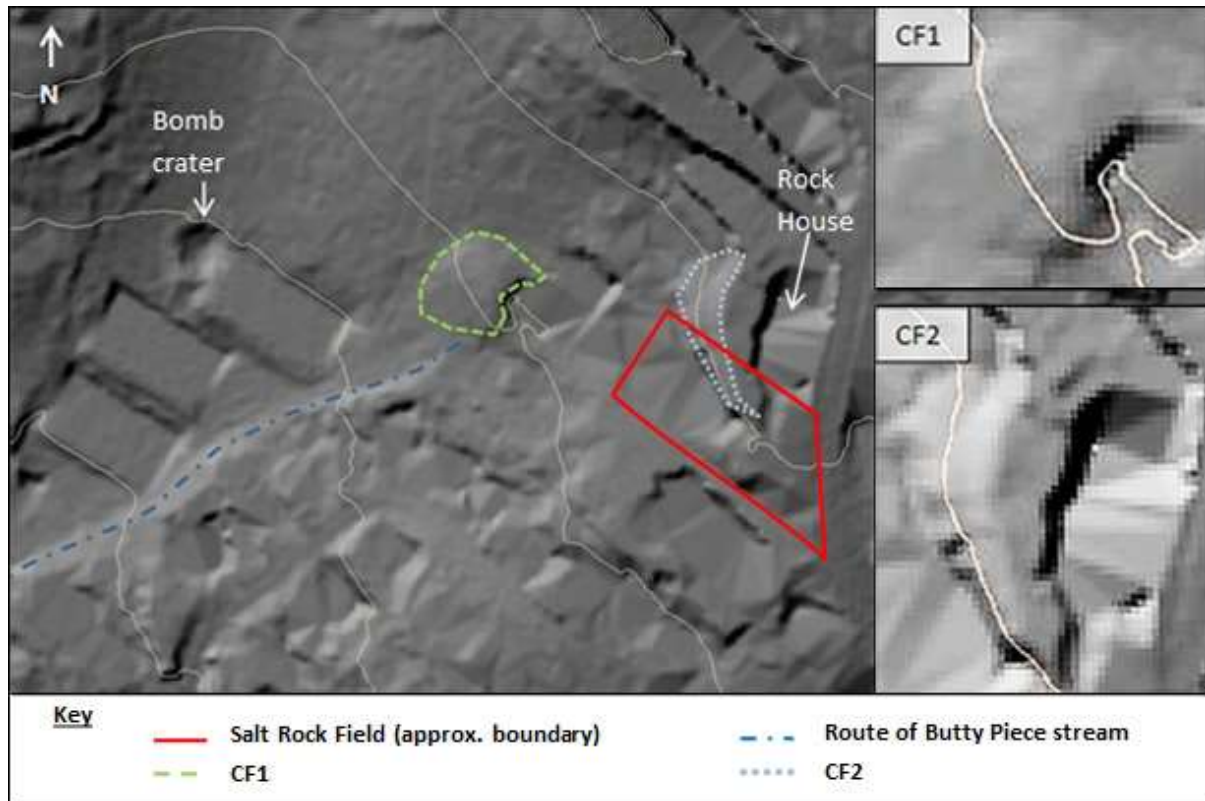


Figure 3: Lidar map showing ground-level features including CF1, CF2 and Butty Piece Spring, and Salt Rock Field in 2014. Contour lines set at 10m intervals. Insets: CF1 and CF2, enlarged. © Environment Agency copyright and database right 2015. All rights reserved.

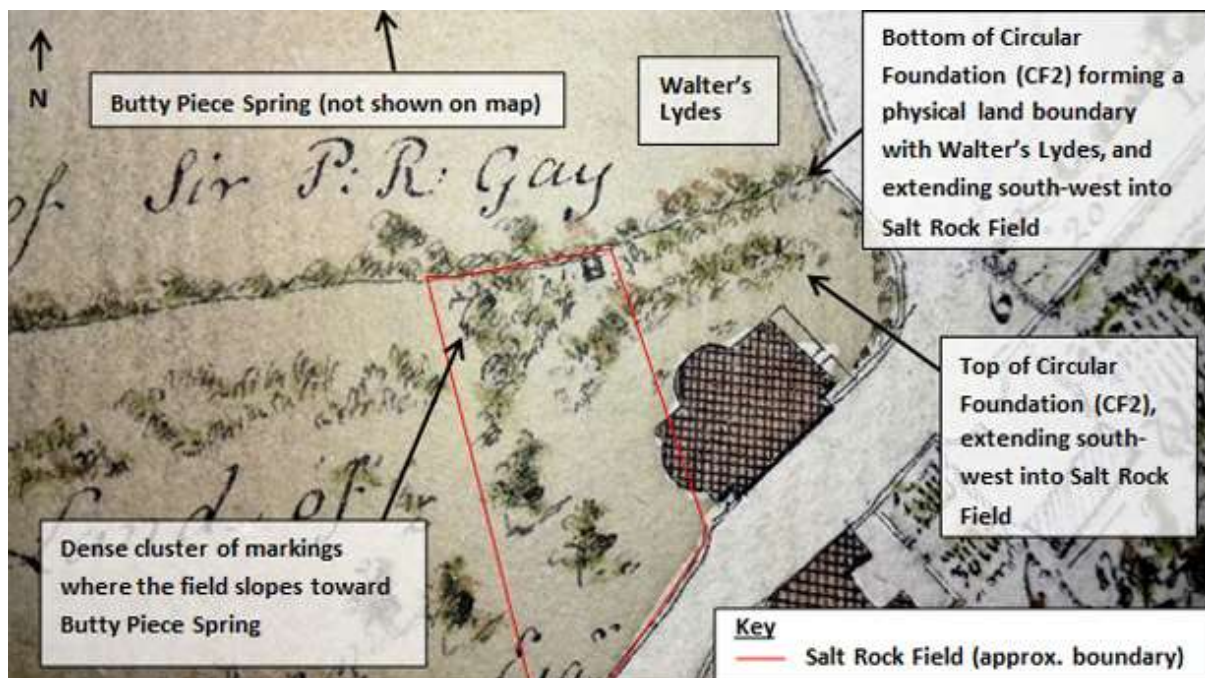


Figure 4: Harcourt Masters 1786-7 Turnpike Maps Sheet 1, showing CF2 forming a physical boundary between Field 64 and Walter's Lydes. Reproduced with kind permission of the South West Heritage Trust (ref. SHC D\T/ba/24)

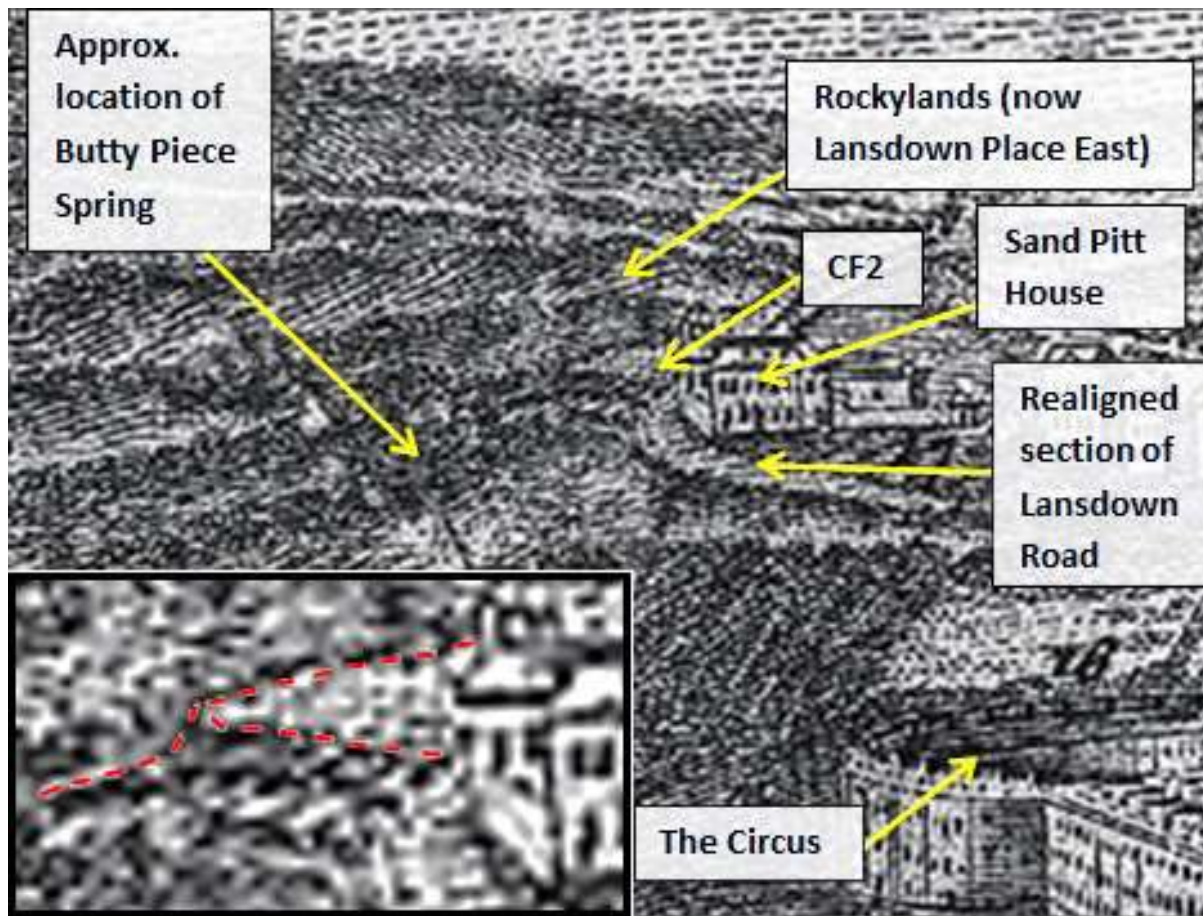


Plate 1: A South West Prospect of the City of Bath 1757 by T. Robins (reissue of a 1754 engraving) showing CF2 in profile prior to the construction of Rock House. ©Bath in Time

Lidar data from the Environment Agency (Figure 3) shows what appears to be a gradual slope between the two curves on the Harcourt Masters 1786-7 map with the curves extended further to the south-east, close to the road. Most significantly, Salt Rock field is on sloping ground immediately below this feature, and therefore the rocks would be precisely '*.. upon declining Ground below that which made their ancient Basis*'. Should this feature have been present prior to the construction of Rock House, Wood may have considered it to resemble a henge-like feature of a size roughly comparable to Stonehenge. Figure 3 shows this feature to consist of a flat, roughly circular plateau with steep slopes sloping into the land formerly known as Walter's Lydes and into the northern edge of Salt Rock field with a steep drop below.

In the north-western corner of the field is a dense area of markings, indicated on Figure 4. I cannot conclusively identify anything within this area as stones, although I cannot entirely rule it out either. A feature that may potentially be a large rock lying flat can be seen at the tip of the arrow pointing to this cluster. However, the detail here is too obscure to be certain of this and it may have been intended to be a tree or other vegetation. Regardless of these markings, this is the point in Salt Rock Field where CF2 slopes down toward Butty Piece Spring. According to Wood the stones were on declining ground below the circular foundation, with a spring 'directly under' them. This part of Salt Rock Field, the closest part of the field to the spring and on the slope below CF2, would appear to fit Wood's description precisely.

The earliest photograph I have managed to obtain of this feature is from 1920 (Plate 2). Significantly, this was taken prior to the use of the site as a school, when the most extensive phase of redevelopment and landscaping at the site occurred, and also prior to the WWII bombing of the site. CF2 can be clearly seen as a mount with a flat, rounded plateau with steep slopes. The north-eastern end of Salt Rock Field had by this time been partially built upon, and later school buildings were also built here. Plate 3 shows the building in 1942 after suffering bomb damage, and in the foreground the steep slope and circular shape of CF2 can be seen below the house.

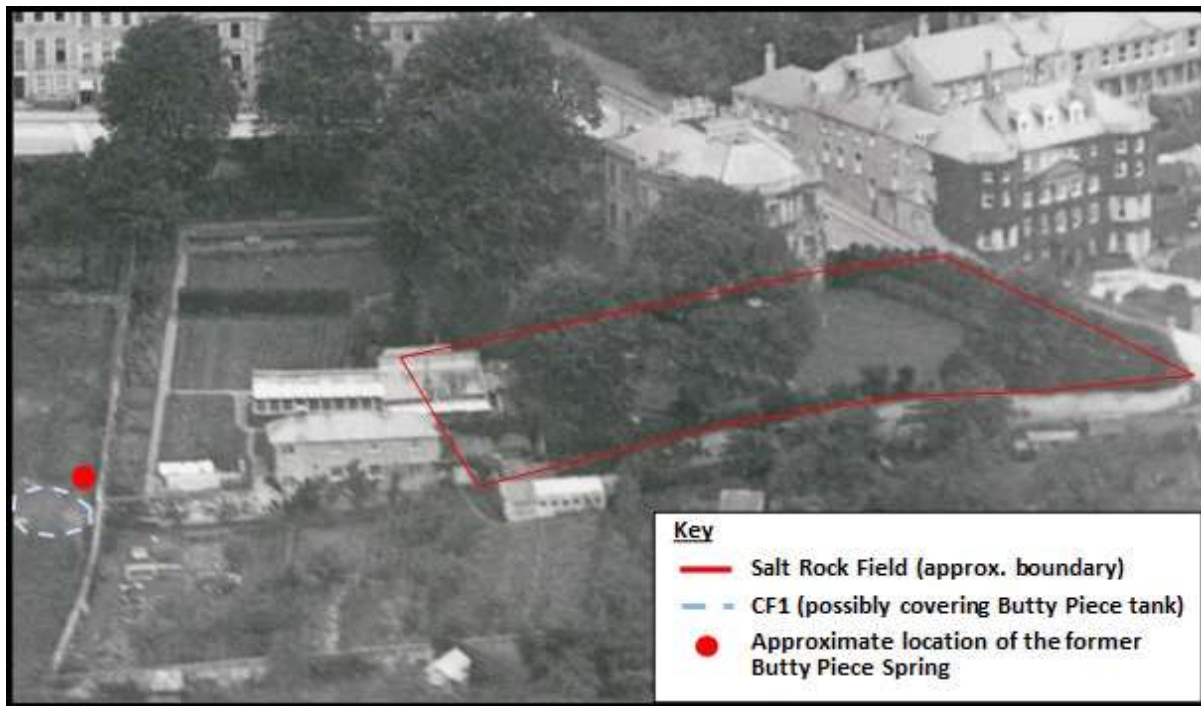


Plate 2: 1920 aerial photograph showing the grounds of Rock House prior to being acquired by the Royal High School ©Bath in Time.



Plate 3: 1942 photograph showing WWII bomb damage to Rock House (view of south-west corner) and the steep slope into Salt Rock Field (foreground). Reproduced with kind permission of Bath Record Office.

Discussion

Aside from a field name and a house name containing the word 'rock', I have been unable to find any conclusive evidence outside of Wood that any large rocks were found in Salt Rock Field or thereabouts. I was also unable to locate the sources of Shickle (1900) and Ede (1998) from which they

obtained the name of ‘Salt Rock(s)’. However, even without any evidence at all for the field name, the field I have identified as Salt Rock Field would appear to fit Wood’s description precisely. No other small field adjacent to Lansdown Road fits Wood’s descriptions as closely as Field 65 on the 1740 Thorpe map, and no other field appears to be associated with the name Salt Rocks(s). Ede’s identification of the land with the name Salt Rocks, and Shickle’s identification of the land owner, James Gally, add significant weight to this conclusion, but are not essential to finding its location. Field 65 is therefore the most likely location based on the available evidence.

Both CF1 and CF2 pre-date the use of the site as a school, when the biggest phase of building and landscaping work was undertaken prior to the current development. Of the possible candidates for the Circular Foundation identified, due to its size, CF2 would certainly make the most ‘stupendous altar’ of the two, and is also much closer in size to the henge at Stonehenge than the smaller CF1. CF1 is close to the spring, and if present in 1742, would have been seen by Wood, who refers to the spring there. CF1 does not appear on any map pre-dating the 20th Century, and the mound probably covers an underground tank constructed sometime after Wood’s death on that spot. CF2 is clearly marked on the 1786-7 map and forms part of the boundary of Peter Rivers Gay’s land (aka Walter’s Lydes) and, significantly, extends into Salt Rock Field.

Further investigation of both of these features would be necessary to determine their age and nature, but this is no longer possible due to recent development works. Other circular features may have been present in Wood’s time that have since disappeared, however CF2 is both consistent with Wood’s description and likely to have been present in his time. Wood’s terminology is also important. He usually refers to smaller features such as barrows as ‘mounds’, whereas larger hill-like features he refers to as ‘mounts’. CF1 would fit the description of ‘mound’, whereas CF2 is much more of a ‘mount’. CF2 appears to be the closest fit to Wood’s description, and as part of it falls within Salt Rock Field, it is more likely that Wood might have linked it to the stones than anything two fields away.

The 1757 Robins etching (Plate 1) shows that CF2 was visible from quite a distance. This fits with Wood’s assumption that the circular foundation with big stones on top of it would have made a ‘stupendous altar’ visible from various places around Bath. It would have done, although we only have Wood’s speculation that stones may have been on top of it. It is also quite conceivable that a 30 foot stone would break into two if it fell from the top down the steep slope - Wood suggests that this was the case. Since it is quite possible that the stones were at least partially hidden from view from the road by CF2, and any trees on it (as shown in 1786-7 on Figure 4), they may not have been obvious to people from the road - hence why nobody else appears to have mentioned them.

The name of ‘Salt Rocks’ I have not given much attention to, as the meaning of ‘salt’ in this context is unclear. Wood (1742) mentions that the Romans poured salt on it after destroying the temple, although in the second edition (where he changed the name to Sols Rocks), he omits this origin tale. Among the numerous definitions of the word, the most obvious relates to minerals in the rocks, however, there is also the Latin *saltus*, meaning ‘to leap’ or ‘to jump’. Perhaps the name could refer to the appearance of the rocks, looking like they had jumped down from the hill above? It may also relate to a landowner, or even willow trees (*Salix*). Another definition of salt is ‘to add bogus evidence to an archaeological site’. I doubt Wood would be so obvious, although it is worth noting that he certainly did have the means to obtain and transport large Great Oolite stones to Lansdown, and did so regularly for his buildings.

The biggest flaw in Wood’s *Description* is the error in his starting point - the ‘reality and eminence’ of Bladud, although he did live in a time when details of the builders of stone monuments were more obscure than they are today. To him at least, Bladud and his druids was a plausible theory, although it was generally dismissed by his contemporaries. What it produced in The Circus was a unique work of art every bit as mysterious and enigmatic as Stonehenge, Stanton Drew and Sols Rocks, and is still visited, admired and studied today on a scale comparable to Stonehenge itself. Wood’s writings are equally as enigmatic and (likely by Wood’s design), in order to get anywhere near to the reality of his observations one is frequently forced into entertaining his theories on the ‘reality and eminence’ of Bladud at the heart of them. While well-intentioned, Wood’s obsession ultimately led to what may have been an interesting site (either geologically or archaeologically, and with the Wood association, historically) being destroyed. Had he retained the name of Salt Rocks in the second edition, or even

better, included a map or a drawing showing their location, the stones might still be there. Since the rocks are likely to have been Great Oolite, Wood's favoured building material, there is certainly an interesting parallel between Wood and his version of Bladud, who likely built his sun temple with the same stone.



Plate 4: The site in April 2017, taken from Lansdown Place East by the author

The site is currently subject to redevelopment and nothing left of above-ground features is likely to remain (Plate 4). An archaeological investigation of site was conducted in 2015 (Davis *et al.*, 2015). Five trenches were dug and no remains pre-dating the 17th Century were found. However, all of the trenches were in Butty Piece. No trenches were dug in Salt Rock Field or Field 64. This is not the fault of the archaeologists, since at the time a large portion of the north end of Salt Rock Field was covered by a school building, making excavation impossible prior to demolition, although much of CF2 was still present. If there was an ancient monument in Salt Rock Field, any supporting evidence in the way of prehistoric remains has now likely been destroyed although, since several structures are known to have been built and demolished on Salt Rock Field since Wood's time, any evidence was likely destroyed prior to the current development. I should note that I do not think the developers on the site at present should be blamed for any destruction - if of course the location I have identified is correct. Having read the planning documents for the site, it is apparent that they undertook a thorough archaeological study and acted appropriately and responsibly on the advice given in the reports. The stones were likely no longer there by then, and their former location unknown.

Should the stones have been present today it is likely that they would be a well-known and well-visited site, even if they were proven not to be an ancient monument. If Sols Rocks was a genuinely ancient monument, the site would no doubt be protected and studied, and be popular with local residents and tourists. If not placed by humans, the stones may have been an interesting geological anomaly or evidence of glaciation or an historic landslip and would most likely have been at least noted by local geologists if they remained there. The Bath tour guides often talk at length about The Circus and its relationship to Stonehenge and Bladud, and some huge stones just up the hill thought by Wood to have been Bladud's sun temple would have made an interesting, exciting and memorable stop on a tour of the city, and a sight visible to residents in the south of Bath.

There are many other 'lost' sites in Wood's 'Description', several of which I have found probable locations for, including Wood's 'moon temple' on Lansdown and a group of possible cairns near Saltford, which are worthy of further investigation.

Acknowledgements

While this is the first published attempt at determining the location of Sols Rocks, both Janet Pryke and John Richards from Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society have both separately informed me that they previously attempted to find the site, concluding that it was roughly in the area described above. They only lacked the information in the first edition of *Description*, including details of the spring and the name Salt Rocks, which allowed me to narrow down the location further. I feel their efforts deserve a mention, not least because their conclusions concur with my research, and I thank them for their helpful advice, in particular Janet for both suggesting and assisting with Lidar mapping, and for sharing her prior research into Sols Rocks and her extensive knowledge of that region of Bath.

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