

A FRAGMENT OF ROMANO-BRITISH MOSAIC PAVEMENT FROM WEYMOUTH

This piece of tessellated pavement was revealed by builders in 1902 when working near Nos 55-57 Newberry Road, Weymouth.

There is some evidence that it had originally been discovered as far back as 1835 when this part of Chapelhay was first being developed, and then covered up again.

The general view is that the pavement was part of an isolated Romano-British villa that once stood here in the late Roman period. Whether it was a farm house or a dwelling for use in the summer is not known.

There is no evidence of an extensive Roman settlement in Weymouth, but small pieces of evidence have come to light in the past, which show that the Romans and romanised Britons knew the area, making use of the safe anchorage and waterway formed by the River Wey, and even burying their dead in the vicinity of the present town.

A tessellated or mosaic pavement is a floor covering made up of stone tesserae [Latin for 'dice'] cubes, which were closely fitted together to form simple or complex designs and fixed by cement, mortar, clay or grout. They were very popular, both indoors and outdoors, throughout the Roman Empire. Further examples can be seen in the Dorset County Museum in Dorchester





2
NEWBERRY ROAD

HY608 JRX

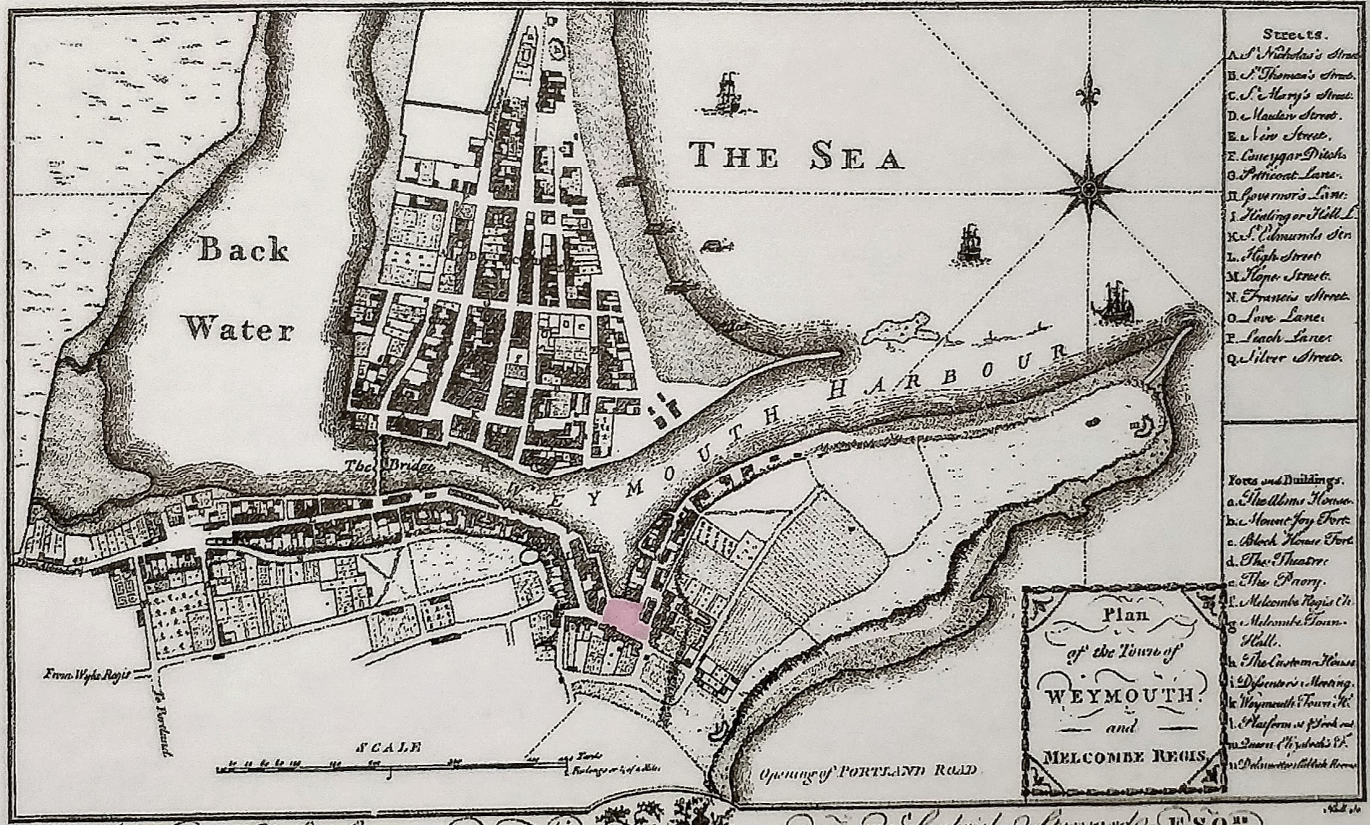


53

55

YH10 XVD

YR59 RWU



- Streets.**
- A. St. Nicholas's Street.
 - B. St. Thomas's Street.
 - C. St. Mary's Street.
 - D. Maiden Street.
 - E. Lion Street.
 - F. Luceygar Ditch.
 - G. Pincock Lane.
 - H. Governor's Lane.
 - I. Riding or Mill Lane.
 - K. St. Edmund's Street.
 - L. High Street.
 - M. Rope Street.
 - N. Francis Street.
 - O. Love Lane.
 - P. Lamb Lane.
 - Q. Silver Street.

- Towns and Buildings.**
- a. The Old House.
 - b. The New House.
 - c. Black Horse Fort.
 - d. The Theatre.
 - e. The Priory.
 - f. Melcombe Regis Church.
 - g. Melcombe Town Hall.
 - h. The Custom House.
 - i. The Mayor's Meeting.
 - k. Weymouth Town Hall.
 - l. The Prison.
 - m. The Workhouse.
 - n. The Hospital.

To William Chafin Grove of WADDON
 This PLAN, of WEYMOUTH. Drawn & Engraved
 AND TO Gabriel Stoward, ESQ.^r
 at their Request, is respectfully Inscribed by the Author.

WEYMOUTH 1774

The area marked in pink on this map is part of what we know as Hope Square. The inlet of water to the north of it was filled in in 1781. Brewing of one kind or another took place in this area from at least the 17th century



- Streets.**
- A. St. Nicholas's Street.
 - B. St. Thomas's Street.
 - C. St. Mary's Street.
 - D. Maiden Street.
 - E. Lion Street.
 - F. Coneygar Ditch.
 - G. Pottoat Lane.
 - H. Governor's Lane.
 - I. Hindling or Hill Lane.
 - K. St. Edmund's Den.
 - L. High Street.
 - M. Hope Street.
 - N. Francis Street.
 - O. Love Lane.
 - P. Leach Lane.
 - Q. Silver Street.

- Towns and Buildings.**
- a. The Old House.
 - b. The New House.
 - c. Black Horse Fort.
 - d. The Theatre.
 - e. The Priory.
 - f. Melcombe Regis Church.
 - g. Melcombe Town Hall.
 - h. The Custom House.
 - i. Dispensary Meeting.
 - k. Weymouth Town Hall.
 - l. Playhouse or Stock Exchange.
 - m. Queen's Church.
 - n. St. Andrew's Church.

To William Chasor Grove of WADDON.
 This PLAN, of WEYMOUTH. Drawn & Engraved



AND, TO Gabriel Stoward, ESQ.
 at their Request, is respectfully Inscribed by the Author.

DEVELOPMENT OF THE TWIN PORTS

Neither small trading port had its own church. Weymouth was in the extensive parish of All Saints Wyke Regis. Melcombe Regis was in the parish of St Anne's Radipole. Both towns were clearly growing in wealth and status, they were given the right to elect two Members of Parliament each, a status which lasted until 1832.

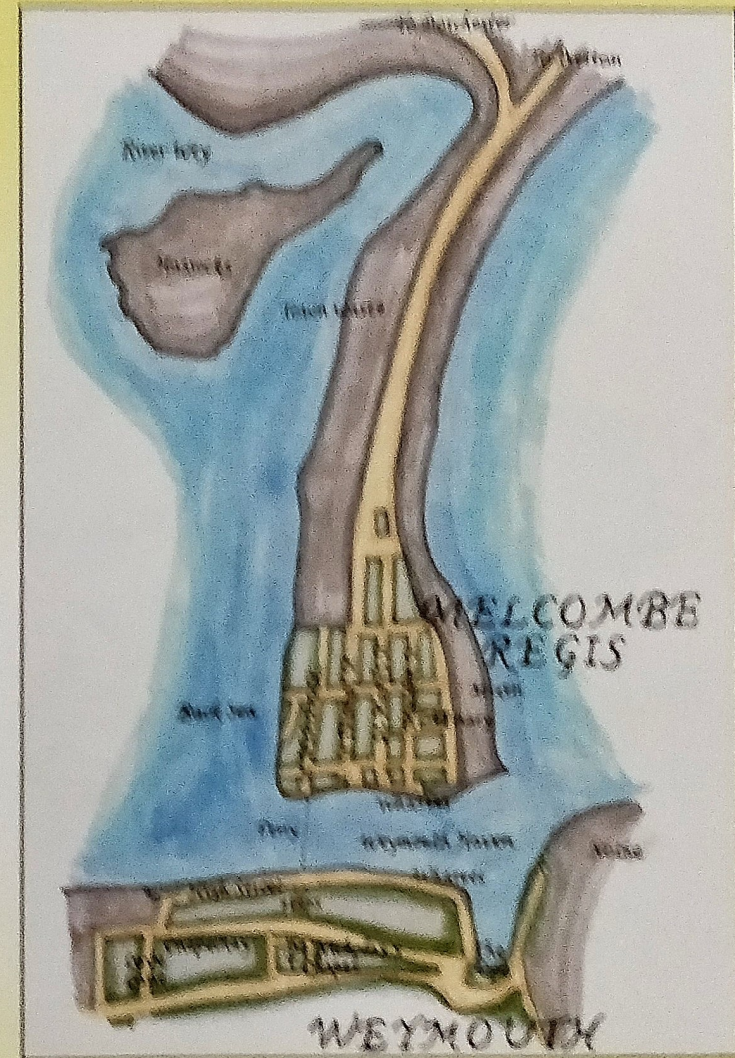
Both towns were given **Royal Licences to become Staple Ports**, there were only 10 in the country.

Melcombe could **export wool**, Weymouth could **import wine** and both traded with France, especially Gascony and Anjou.

The wealth that they both enjoyed is supported by the fact that French pirates and raiders attacked each town and its ships on several occasions during the 14th and 15th centuries.

Together they supplied 20 ships and 264 men for Edward III's siege of Calais in 1346 (Hundred Years' War) Bristol and London only provided 22 and 25 ships respectively on this occasion.

It was this "French connection" which brought disaster to this area!



**WEYMOUTH & MELCOMBE REGIS
IN THE LATE MEDIEVAL PERIOD**

Based on early maps, property documents and surviving street plans, this shows the likely extent of the two towns by about 1500. The grid-iron layout of Melcombe suggests that this was an organized, planned settlement, in contrast to the restricted, more haphazard growth of Weymouth.