

Physical Legacies of Enslavement in the Diocese of Bristol:

A pilot project in contested heritage

Alice Kinghorn



BACKGROUND
CONTEXT



RESEARCH
OBJECTIVES



METHODOLOGIES



RISKS



BENEFITS



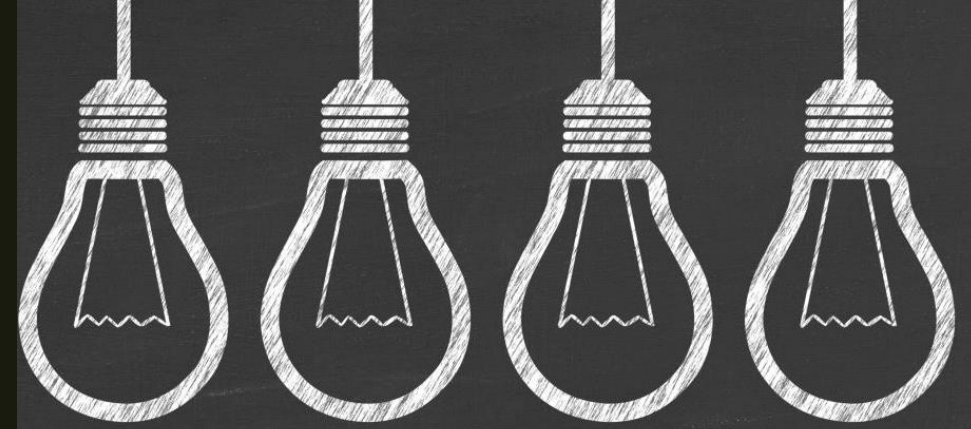
OUTCOMES



FUTURE

Funding

- Seed-funded project
- Faculty of Arts Impact Fund
- PolicyBristol
- Research + discussion



Background Context to Research

Review of statues/monuments

June 2020

Church Commissioners Report

January 2023

Guide to Contested Heritage

May 2021



Research up to 25 churches in the Bristol for historical connections to transatlantic enslavement through physical legacies



Photograph and store information in a dataset.

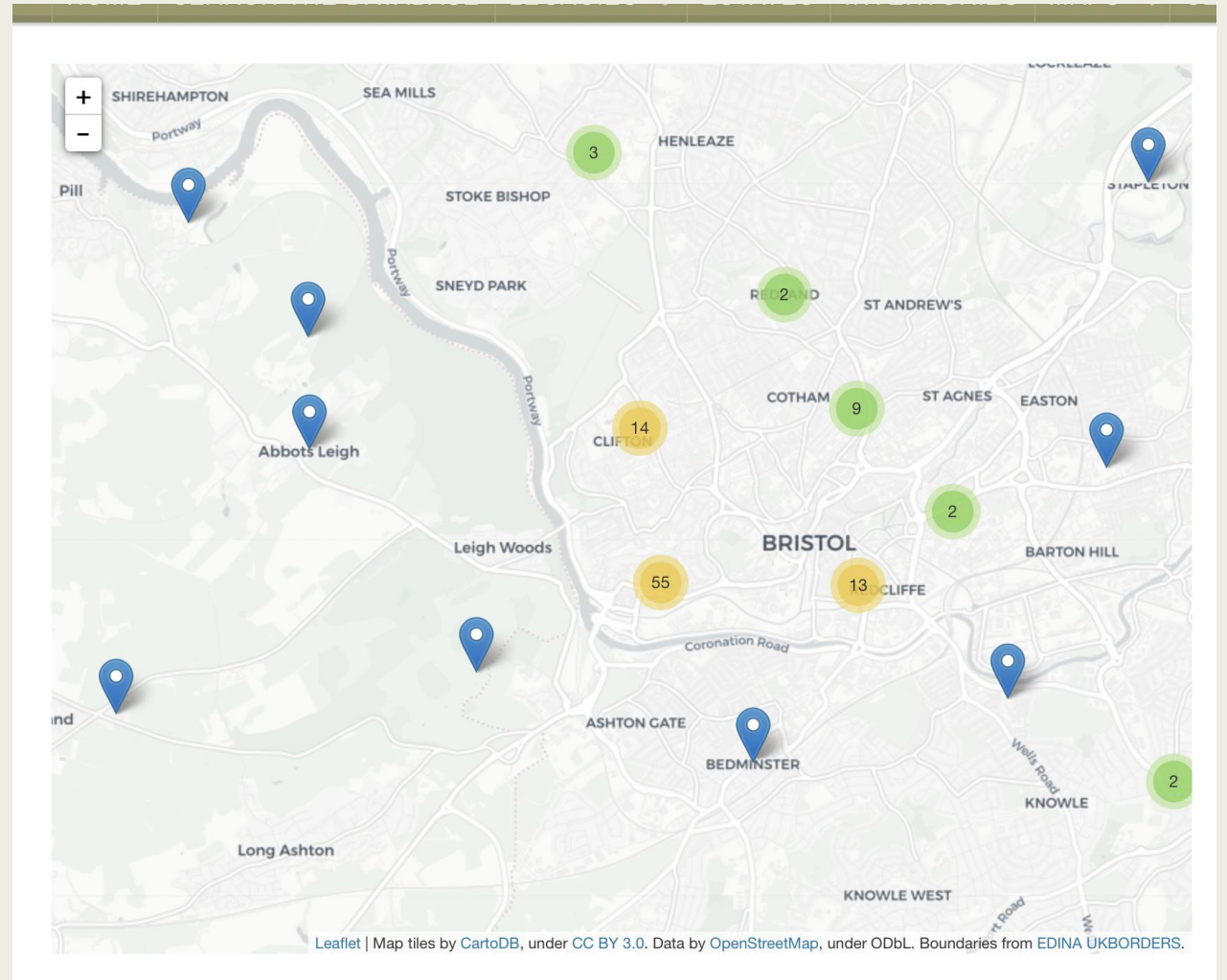
Research Objectives

Projected Project Outcomes

- Dataset including photos and historical context of each monument.
- This can be used to inform future decision-making.
- Opportunity for cross-parish discussion

Church Selection

- Construction Date
- Location
- Previous research



Defining Connections



What do we mean by
connection?



Association? Links? Ties?

Previous Definitions

- 1) By directly investing in slave ships or insuring them
- 2) By indirectly investing in slave trading by buying shares in the Royal African Company or the South Seas Company
- 3) By providing trade goods to Africa or the slave plantations or dealing in slave-produced goods from the plantations.
- 4) By plantation ownership directly purchased or inherited, or obtained through marriage or even by lending money to a defaulting planter.
- 5) By holding colonial office or otherwise being involved in the administration of slave colonies.
- 6) By 'employing' enslaved people either at home or in the colonies.

Madge Dresser, *Slavery and the British Country House*, (English Heritage, 2013) p.29.

Administrator	Mortgagee
Annuitant	Mortgagee-in-possession
Assignee	Official assignee
Attorney	Owner-in-fee
Committee	Receiver
Executor or executrix	Residuary Legatee
Guardian	Sequestrator
Heir-at-law	Tenant-for-life
Judgement creditor	Tenant-in-tail
Legatee	Trustee

Legacies Of British Slavery Database

National Trust

‘This includes the global slave trades, goods and products of enslaved labour, abolition and protest, and the East India Company and the British Raj.’

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/who-we-are/research/addressing-our-histories-of-colonialism-and-historic-slavery>

This project's definition

- Enslaver
- Merchant/trader in enslaved people, or goods produced by enslaved labour
- Investor in slave trading ships or plantations
- Beneficiaries
- Holding colonial office
- Wrote/spoke on slavery (both abolition and anti-abolition)

- All connections were contextualized.



ORGANISING A
VISIT



EXAMINING AND
PHOTOGRAPHE
D RELEVANT
LEGACIES.



SHARING ANY
EXISTING LINES
OF ENQUIRIES



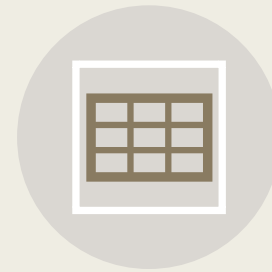
INVITATION TO
DISCUSSING
RESEARCH
OUTCOMES

What was required?

Project Benefits



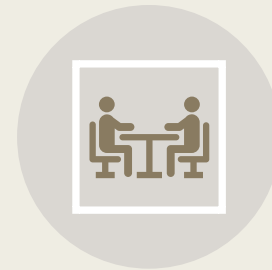
Provided transcription/photographs of memorials with contested heritage.



Dataset



Collaborative/cross parish approach.



Space to discuss findings.

Overview



23 churches invited, 11 participated.



A number of memorials of contested heritage have been found.



Where items of other interest (gravestones etc.) have been identified, these have been included.

Challenges

Initial
hesitation

Inheritance –
how far
back?

Memorials to
children

‘Likely’

Decision Making – how can this research be used?

- Community engagement
- Options for change? (No change vs no action?)
- What is the prominence of the object?



Lessons from this pilot?



TRANSPARENCY



DISCUSSION



COLLABORATION



COMMUNITY

References

- Church Commissioners for England, see *Church Commissioners' Research Into Historic Links to Transatlantic Chattel Slavery* (2023) (<https://www.churchofengland.org/sites/default/files/2023-01/Church%20Commissioners%20for%20England%20-%20Research%20into%20historic%20links%20to%20transatlantic%20chattel%20slavery%20-%20report.pdf>) [25 April 2023]
- *Slavery and the British Country House*, ed. by Madge Dresser and Andrew Hann (Swindon: English Heritage, 2013)
- Olusoga, David, "The history of British slave ownership has been buried: now its scale can be revealed". *The Guardian* (2015)
- Hall, Catherine (2016). "Writing History, Making 'Race': Slave-Owners and Their Stories". *Australian Historical Studies*. 47 (3): 365–380
- Draper, Nicholas, "'Possessing Slaves': Ownership, Compensation and Metropolitan Society in Britain at the time of Emancipation 1834-40," *History Workshop Journal*, 64, 1 (2007), 74-102
- Draper, Nicholas, *The Price of Emancipation: Slave-Ownership, Compensation, and British Society at the End of Slavery* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2009)
- Olusoga, David, *Black and British: A Forgotten History* (London: Macmillan, 2016)