

**Case Name:** Lord Nelson Public House, Main Road, Cleve BS49 4NR

**Case Number:** 1449389

### **Background**

Historic England has received an application to consider the Lord Nelson public house for listing. The pub closed in November 2016. There are proposals to redevelop the site, although a planning application has yet to be submitted.

### **Asset(s) under Assessment**

Facts about the asset(s) can be found in the Annex(es) to this report.

Annex	Name	Heritage Category
1	Lord Nelson Public House	Listing

### **Visits**

Date	Visit Type
14 August 2017	Full inspection

## Annex 1

The factual details are being assessed as the basis for a proposed addition to The National Heritage List for England.

### Factual Details

**Name: Lord Nelson Public House**

#### **Location**

58 Main Road, Cleeve, North Somerset, BS49 4NR

County	District	District Type	Parish
	North Somerset	Unitary Authority	Cleeve

#### **History**

The inter-war years (1918-39) were a time of significance and change for the public house in England. The 'improved' or 'reformed' pubs of this period stemmed from a desire to cut back on the amount of drunkenness associated with conventional Victorian and Edwardian public houses. Many went far beyond those of other periods in terms of their size, range of facilities, and the complexity of their plan forms. They included rooms such as saloon lounges, games rooms, smoking rooms, dining rooms and function rooms; distinguished from one another by the quality of their fittings, also reflecting the class of clientele they expected to attract, consciously appealed to families and to a mix of incomes and classes. Central, island serveries with counters opening onto several bar areas allowed the monitoring of customers and also the efficient distribution of staff to whichever area needed service. Gardens were common, as were large car parks in order to cater for motorists. Approximately 1,000 new pubs were built in the 1920s – the vast majority of them on 'improved' lines - and almost 2,000 in the period 1935-39. Neo-Tudor (known as 'Brewers' Tudor) and Neo-Georgian were the most favoured architectural styles, although designs were also influenced by the Arts and Crafts, English Vernacular, Hispano-Moorish and Moderne styles (the latter being used increasingly from the mid-1930s).

Between 1925 and the mid-1930s, The Bristol Brewery Georges & Co Ltd built a series of large, roadside pubs in the Tudor style within Bristol and the surrounding villages. Many were rebuildings of older country inns, a modernisation process that took place alongside the improvement of the brewery's existing properties, and in established districts and village locations the brewery favoured more traditional styles. Built on the site of an earlier public house of the same name, the Lord Nelson in Cleeve was designed by RJ Edwards, the in-house architect for Georges' surveying department and opened in 1936. Its design, in a Tudor style, was replicated, in many key respects, by a sister-pub, the Eastfield Inn that was built at about the same time, in around 1934 in Henleaze, a suburb of Bristol. Both pubs also had an integral skittle alley and a function room; a key distinguishing feature of many Georges' inter-war pubs. During the late C20 the Lord Nelson was variously owned by other breweries: Bass Charrington in the 1990s, followed by Marstons and, after 1999, Greene King. During this period the open-sided loggia to the rear was glazed in and incorporated into the building; the demolition of a small rear range and a store; and the addition of a large extension to the rear to provide additional dining and lounge areas, toilets and a new kitchen. Some internal reconfiguration was also carried out, including the re-orientation and replacement of the bar counter, except in the public bar; and modifications to the circulation with the blocking of some doorways, the insertion of new openings and the removal or opening-up of some internal

walls. In the early C21 a further rear addition was built against the south side of the late-C20 extension. The Lord Nelson closed in November 2016.

### **Details**

Public house, rebuilt on an earlier inn plot in 1934-36 and designed by RJ Edwards in the Tudor-Revival style, for The Bristol Brewery Georges & Co Ltd. Late-C20 and early-C21 additions and alterations.

### **MATERIALS**

It is constructed of brick laid in Flemish bond, part rendered and painted, with ashlar dressings. There are plain tiled and flat roofs, and brick stacks to the side elevations and rear; the one to the rear has been truncated.

### **PLAN**

The building is set on a generous, roughly T-shaped plot and is orientated north-east to south-west. The main pub building, of two storeys and a basement, has two principal bar rooms on the ground floor and a series of rooms leading off a spine corridor at first-floor level, with late-C20 and early-C21 extensions at the rear. Single-storey ranges extend to the north-west and south-east containing a function room and a skittle alley respectively. The car park is to the north-west and to the rear is a garden with an orchard beyond.

### **EXTERIOR**

The long, roadside front (north-west) is symmetrically arranged with projecting gabled wings and a central block of three bays. A stone plinth runs across the front and flanking walls and reaches the level of the ground-floor sills. Both wings have a ground-floor bay window with moulded stone surround and a jettied first floor supported on large timber console brackets with foliate and spiral carvings. The upper floor has a timber oriel window on slender brackets. The central block between the wings has a first-floor brick balcony supported on timber posts. Below are two, three-light mullion and transom windows with lead panes set within stone surrounds and main public entrances at either end which are enclosed by late-C20 porches with double doors. The original half-glazed doors have Tudor-arched stone surrounds. The first floor has an applied timber-frame detailing and three timber mullion and transom windows; the central one under a gable. Some of the casements and toplights have been replaced in the late C20, but have lead panes. The end walls are dominated by large Tudor-style brick stacks with diaperwork at first-floor level and offset chimney pots. These provide an emphatic, vertical accent to the building. To the north-west elevation is a third public entrance within a projecting, flat-roofed porch with a four-centred arched doorway to the front and a two-light casement in plain stone surround to the left return. A timber lean-to shelter has been added. The function room to the left has a hipped roof with a ventilator in a gablet and three pairs of doors with glazing bars and fanlights over, set within surrounds of raised brick. There is a flat-roofed, single-storey toilet block with a brick parapet to the far right. The opposing end wall also has a flat-roofed single-storey toilet block; its windows in plain stone flat-arched surrounds, while the front wall of the skittle alley has three round-headed windows with glazing bars and raised brick surrounds. The rear (south-east) of

the building is masked by the late-C20 additions, which are built of brick under hipped roofs. To the right, the open-sided loggia has been infilled with three sets of paired doors and marginal glazing; the brick pillars have been retained. Its roof was originally glazed but has been reclad in plain tiles.

## INTERIOR

The ground floor is sub-divided into distinct bar areas with different functions to the front part of the building, but the space has been reorganised to some extent with the large dining/lounge extension to the rear in the late C20. The public bar (right) has a wooden floor; timber panelling to the lower walls; fixed seating and coving. The bar front appears to be original, but has been truncated, and the back bar is late C20/early C21. A small lobby entrance has also been removed. The former smoking room (left) retains timber panelling to the lower walls; moulded coving; some fixed bench seating which has been re-positioned; and a timber panelled chimneypiece. The fireplace has a round-arched hearth which appears to be later. The original bar to this room has been turned through 90 degrees and replaced by a modern bar counter, and the former doorway in the corner of the room has been blocked and replaced with a glass panel. To facilitate the rear addition in the late C20, part of the rear wall to the building, the original kitchen and the rear range which contained an office, toilets and dry store were removed; a further store to the rear was also demolished. The function room retains decorative plaster mouldings to the ceiling and coving. Two of the three doorways leading into the loggia have been modified; one is now a window and the other has been infilled except for the fanlights. The skittle alley has a floor of maple wood, its skittle diamond and wooden chute, though this has been partly obscured and overlaid by later timber panelling to the wall. The first-floor plan has largely been unchanged with rooms leading of a spinal corridor. It is approached by a staircase at the north-west end which has newel posts with recessed panels, barley-twist balusters and a moulded wooden handrail. Most of the original four-panel doors survive, and cornices and picture rails to some of the rooms. Many of the stays and catches to the first-floor windows are modern.

## SUBSIDIARY FEATURES

There are local stone rubble boundary walls to two sides of the car park, and further stone walls to the north and east sides of the garden at the rear. At the north-east corner of the garden wall is a later opening with red brick jambs accessing the orchard beyond.

### **Selected Sources**

#### **Websites**

Bristol Brewery Georges and Co Ltd, accessed 10 August 2017 from [http://humanities.uwe.ac.uk/bhr/Main/brewery/1\\_brew.htm](http://humanities.uwe.ac.uk/bhr/Main/brewery/1_brew.htm)

#### **Other**

Fergusson, I and Ridley, D, July 2017, The Lord Nelson Public House, Cleve. A History & Heritage Report

**Map****National Grid Reference:** ST4562265594

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The above map is for quick reference purposes only and may not be to scale. For a copy of the full scale map, please see the attached PDF – 1449477\_1.pdf.