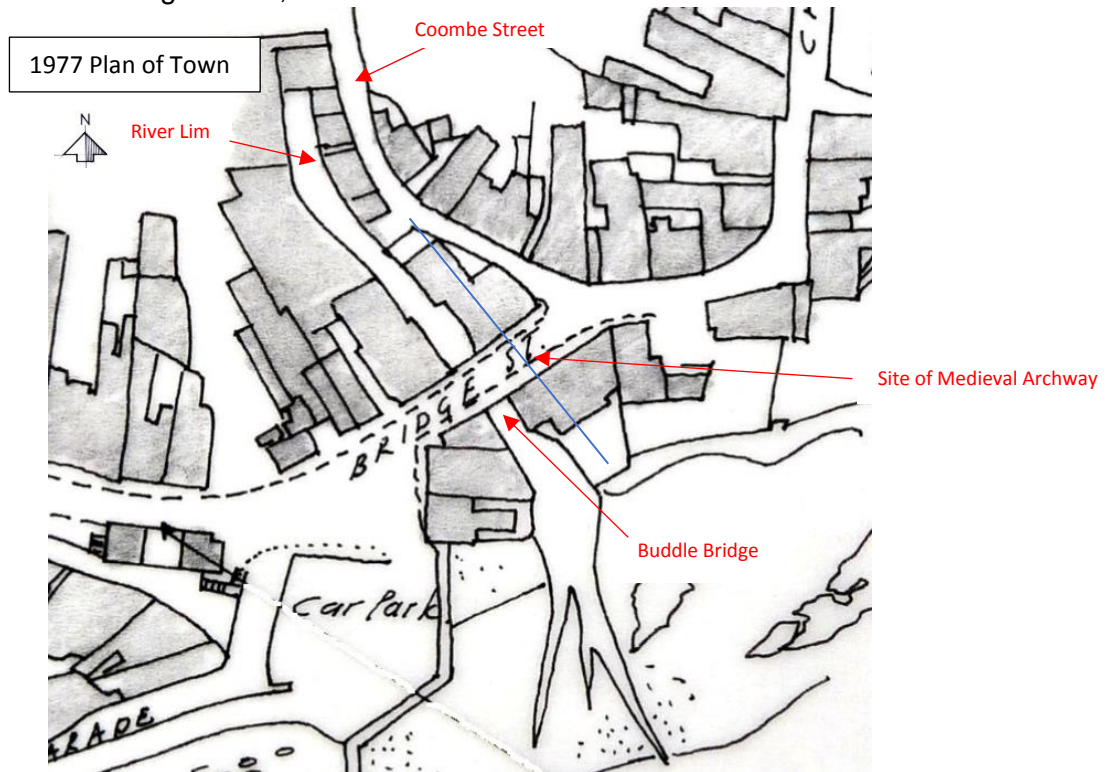


Medieval Archway in Bridge Street, Lyme Regis

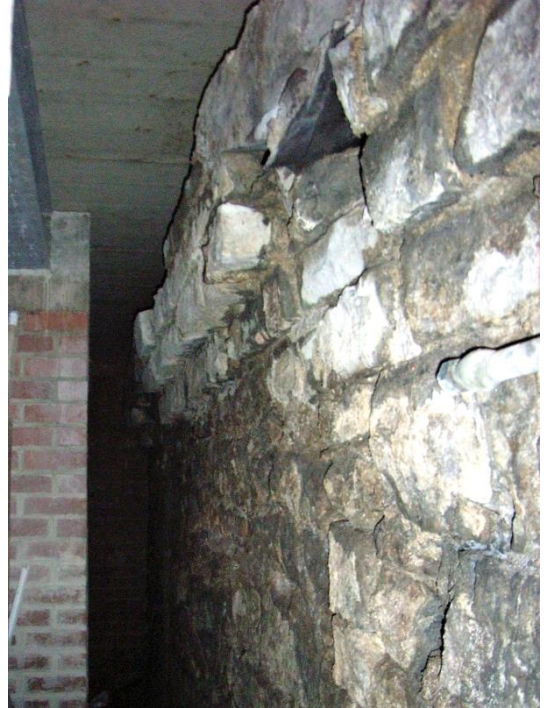
Richard Wells and Graham Davies, June 2020

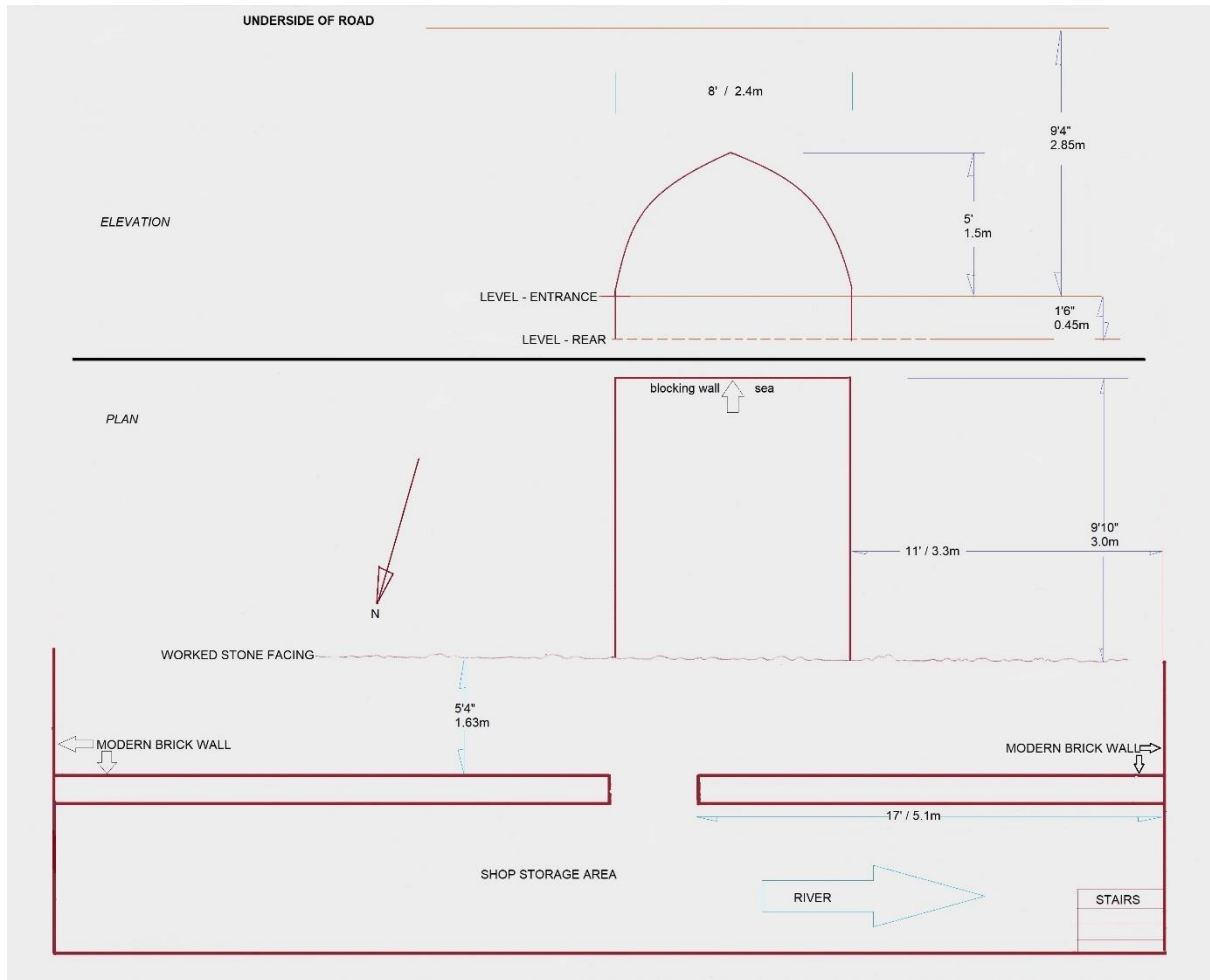
There is a 12/13th century grade I listed medieval bridge/archway hidden below Bridge Street in Lyme Regis. In 2012 the authors, on behalf of the Museum, were allowed access through the cellar of premises on the landward side of Bridge Street, to view the site.



In medieval times an embankment, of earth and/or stone rubble, was built to carry a roadway across the narrow Lim valley close the mouth of the river. The embankment was faced with supporting walls of rough ashlar on its landward and seaward sides. To build on such an exposed site suggests that the sea was once further away or the site was protected by a shingle bar. A 14th century bridge replaced the archway through which the river Lim flowed, and about 20 feet to the northeast of this Buddle Bridge are the remains of a bridge with medieval archway, in the cellar of No. 2 Bridge Street.

The 8 ft span archway is sited in the surviving landward supporting wall of rough ashlar, its shape being a pointed arch with dog tooth ornament; an entrance to be noticed, perhaps of some importance. Halfway under the modern road it is blocked off but, from the joints in the stonework where it meets the blocking, it is obvious that it did continue farther. Modern brickwork in a shop basement on the seaward side of the road has obliterated any signs of the arch. The general condition of the arch is good, although there is a build-up of debris on the floor inside the arch. Modern brick-work reinforces the location against the heavy usage of the road above. Photography was difficult in this confined site but measurements were taken and a plan made.





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