

= Greyfriars , Bristol =

Greyfriars , in Bristol , England , was a Franciscan friary . The name Greyfriars derived from the grey robes worn by the friars . It was founded at some time before 1234 , within the town walls and then moved to Lewin 's Mead in 1250 . The site included extensive gardens surrounded by a stone wall . Following the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the sixteenth century , the premises were leased to the town council in 1541 , who desired to use the stone to make repairs to the town walls , and the harbour facilities . In succeeding centuries many different uses have been made of the site , which is currently occupied by an office block and part of Bristol Dental School .

= = History = =

The friary was established at some time before 1234 , this being known because Henry III granted wood for fuel to the friars in that year , followed by further grants of oak wood and fresh fish landed at Bristol . The friars wore long grey coats , with a grey hood or cowl , hence the name , grey friars . Originally located within the town walls , the friary was moved to Lewin 's Mead in 1250 . This followed the diversion of the river Frome into St Augustine 's Reach . A marshy area on the north bank of the Frome was drained and some of the clay and rock from the excavations was deposited on it .

The earliest church on the site was approximately 50 by 9 metres (164 ft × 30 ft) . It was later enlarged with cloisters , a bell tower and a chapter house being added . The buildings were constructed from the local red sandstone . Bristol City Museum houses some stained glass which was recovered from the chapter house , probably after the dissolution of the monasteries . Writing in the fifteenth century , William Worcester described the area of the precinct as roughly bounded by the modern Upper Maudlin Street , Lower Maudlin Street , Lewin 's Mead and Johnny Ball Lane . The friars had extensive gardens devoted to horticulture . There were also two lime kilns and the whole was surrounded by freestone walls .

A report in 1538 , by Richard Yngworth , during the Dissolution of the Monasteries , describes the warden of the friary as " stiff " . The warden also held office in Richmond and Yngworth went on to say " yet for all his great port , I think him twenty marks in debt , and not able to pay it . " Six remaining friars surrendered the property to Ingworth and it was dissolved . The precinct was leased to one Jeremy Green for a total annual rent of 20 shillings and 8 pence . In 1541 , Henry VIII granted the friary , together with other dissolved houses , to the Mayor and Commonalty of Bristol for a " consideration of £ 1 @, @ 000 cash and a yearly fee farm rent of £ 20 " . The Mayor had earlier petitioned the king , saying " The Grey Friars of Bristol is of the foundation ... of the town , built by ancient burgesses at their cost ; we should like it to repair the walls and quay and to make a wharf . "

= = Post @-@ dissolution = =

The site has been redeveloped many times in subsequent centuries ; amongst other uses , a Moravian church and a chocolate factory have occupied premises there . It is currently occupied by an office development , also called Greyfriars , and parts of Bristol Dental School . Traces of the abbot 's house were discovered during building works in 1989 and a small oval window was incorporated into the new building . Archaeological investigations have found graves with human remains , dating to the thirteenth to fifteenth century , and a medieval conduit , similar to one excavated at Saint Augustine 's Abbey in Bristol .