Bristol’s Buildings indicated with an orange numbered dot overleaf

1. The Ostrich Pub
This pub was used by the sailors, dock-workers and merchants who worked in the port of Bristol at the time of the slave trade.

2. Guinea Street
Named after the gold coin the ‘guinea’ that was used for trading with Africa, this street was the home of slave ship captain Edmund Saunders.

3. Redcliffe Caves
Used to store goods used in the African and West Indian trades. Sand was collected from the caves to make glass bottles for bottling rum made from slave produced sugar cane.

4. Quaker Burial Ground
Some Bristol Quakers became wealthy merchants through their involvement in the triangular trade. Quakers were actively campaigning for the abolition of the slave trade by the 1760s.

5. St Mary Redcliffe Church
In the 18th century this church had many wealthy Merchant Venturers in its congregation who had become wealthy through their involvement in the triangular trade.

6. The Seven Stars Pub
The Seven Stars pub was visited by anti-slavery campaigner Thomas Clarkson during research to support the Abolition Act.

7. Corn Exchange
The Exchange was built for merchants of all types and has plasterwork carvings that represent Bristol’s foreign trade.

8. Commercial Rooms
Built after the abolition of slavery (but when there were still over 800,000 enslaved Africans in the British Empire), this was a centre/club for Bristol merchants.

9. Natwest Bank
Originally set up in 1750, this was the site of one of the first banks outside London. The plaque on the side of the building remembers ‘The Old Bank’. As merchant wealth increased so did the need for banks.

10. Statue of Edward Colston
Edward Colston was a merchant and slave trader who was also a generous charity donor in Bristol. He was born on 2 November 1636 and died on 11 October 1721.

11. Lewin’s Mead Sugar House
In the 18th century this was one of 20 busy sugar houses in Bristol, that processed slave produced sugar to be used in tea, desserts and rum.

12. The Three Sugar Loaves – now The Christmas Steps
This pub gets its name from a nearby sugar refinery that burned down in 1859. The processed sugar was moulded into conical shaped loaves.

13. Horn and Trumpet Pub
Has a replica carving of a Native American with a headdress of tobacco leaves outside. The original was a figurehead from the steamship the Demerara.

14. The Georgian House Museum
Former home of the wealthy merchant and sugar plantation owner John Pinney and his slave Pero.

15. Merchant Venturers Almshouse
Merchant Venturers built this almshouse for sick and retired sailors.

16. King Street
This street was the home of Captain Henry Webb of the slave ship Nevis Planter.

17. Theatre Royal
Set up by 50 wealthy, local patrons including the Farr family, Henry Bright and Michael Miller who were all involved in the African trade.

18. The Custom House
The original Custom House on this site was built in 1711. Ships involved in the trade with Africa would have had to pay port taxes here.

19. Queen Square
Queen Square used to be a popular place to live for rich merchants and traders. In 1775 seven merchants who traded with Africa lived in the Square.

20. The American Consulate
There were very strong trade links between Bristol and the USA, and a lot of slave grown and harvested tobacco came into the city.

21. 33-35 Queen Square
Former home of Captain Woodes Rogers (1679-1732). He invested his money in the slave ship Whistone Folly which took 270 enslaved Africans to Jamaica from Africa.

22. Number 29 Queen Square
Former home of Alderman Nathaniel Day who part-owned several slave ships and who became Bristol’s Mayor in 1733. Day fought against having to pay taxes on trading slaves.

23. Hole in the Wall Pub
There is a small spy hole on the harbour side of the building which is said to have been used by a lookout to warn the sailors dining inside of customs men and press gangs.

Find out more about terms in bold online at: www.sweethistory.org/about/glossary

Sweet History?
A trail exploring the impact of sugar and slavery on the built environment of Bristol www.sweethistory.org

The Architecture Centre, Bristol working with young people from the Knowle West Media Centre developed a project exploring the impact of the sugar and slave trade on the built environment heritage of Bristol. The young people worked with artists and historians to learn about the social and economic impact of the international trades on the port city to commemorate the abolition of the international slave trade. This walking trail takes you to some of the key buildings and locations connected to Bristol’s history with the sugar and slave trades. The city of Bristol grew considerably and became extremely wealthy during the 18th century. This wealth came from the city’s involvement in trades such as sugar, slavery and tobacco. The profits generated from these trading activities helped to fund the construction of grand houses and public buildings, such as the library and theatre. The Sweet History? Trail around Central Bristol reveals some of the buildings and houses that can be linked to the sugar and slave trades. Visit the website www.sweethistory.org for further detailed information.