

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 15 Historic Bothenhampton

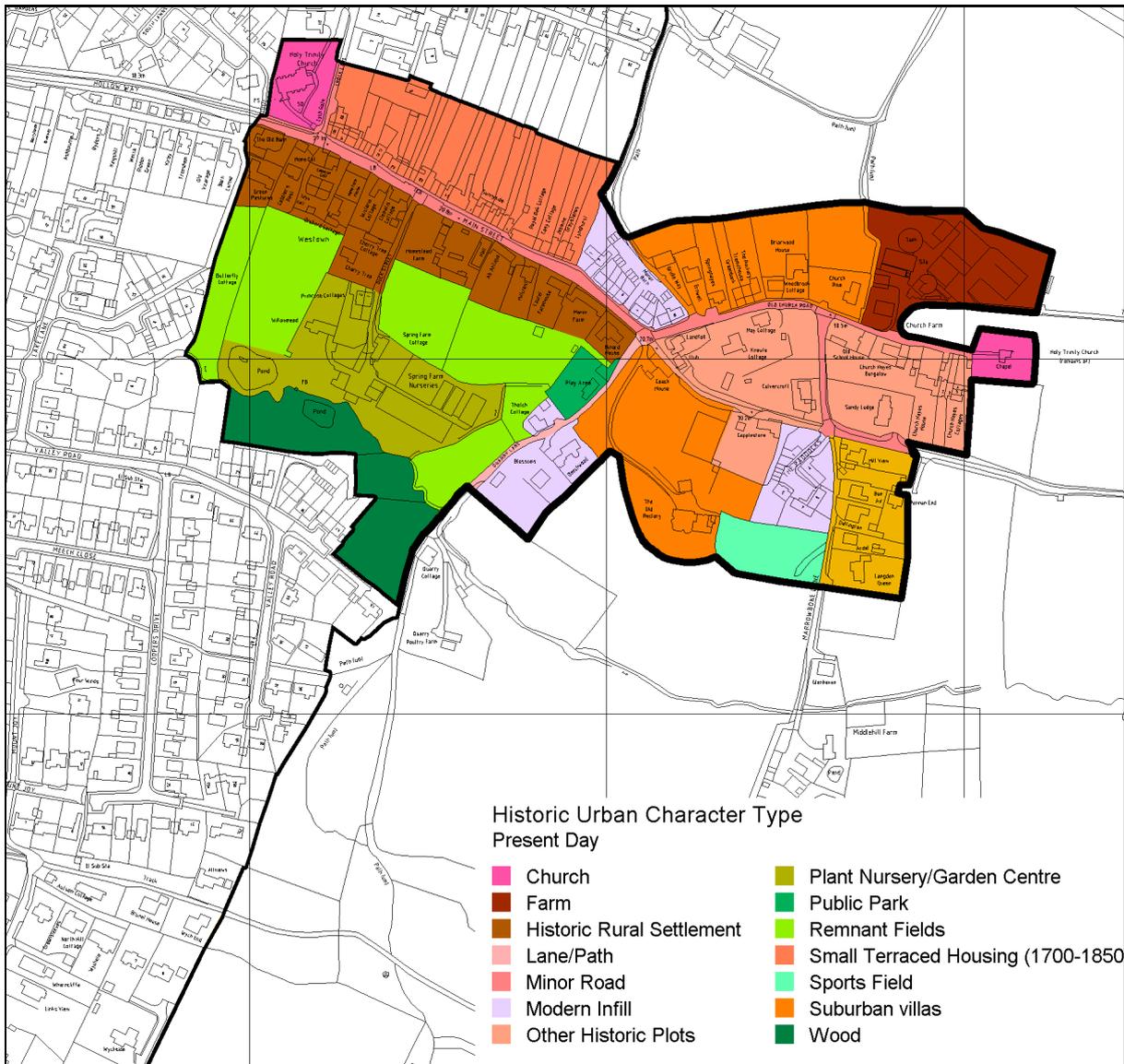


Figure 162: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 15, showing current historic urban character type.



Figure 163: View west along Main Street, Bothenhampton.



Figure 164: View along Old Church Road, Bothenhampton, showing more rural character of this part of the character area.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 15 Structure of Character Area

Overview

This is the historic centre of the village of Bothenhampton. It is bracketed by two churches, the medieval Church of the Holy Trinity to the east and the late 19th century church to the west. The eastern part of the area has a more rural feel and the western part is more recognisably the village centre.

Topography and Geology

Bothenhampton is situated on undulating ground on the south-facing slopes of a small stream valley running E-W. It lies on sandstone of the Down Cliff and Thorncombe Sand Members.

Urban Structure

The village of Bothenhampton has a basic linear plan form along Main Street with a line of regular narrow rectangular plots set along the northern side, suggesting a planned layout, perhaps a deliberate development away from the older focus of the village. The south side of the street has more irregular wider plots. The east end of the village is formed from a series of lanes with a range of larger irregular properties and terminating in Church Farm and the old Holy Trinity Church.

Present Character

Figure 162 shows the present day historic urban character types. It is formed from a mosaic of different plan components, many of which are rural in origin, including Historic Rural Settlement, Farm, Remnant Fields, Plant Nursery/Garden Centre, Other Historic Plots, Suburban Villas, with a distinctive regular block of Small Terraced Housing on the north side of Main Street. The village is bracketed by the two churches. Other minor historic urban character types include Public Park, Sports Field and small areas of Modern Infill.

Time Depth

Bothenhampton has its origins in the Saxon or



Figure 165: View along Main Street, Bothenhampton, showing different character on each side of street.

medieval period as a small dependent settlement, the original composition and structure of which is not easy to determine from the present village. The earliest component is the old church, presumably the focus of the medieval settlement. There is a mixed area of thatched cottages and modern houses adjacent to the church that may be of considerable antiquity in origin. The village centre comprises an 18th/19th century terrace of cottages on the north side of Main Street. On the opposite side of the street are a number of vernacular farmhouses of 16th-19th century date. There is a row of late 19th century houses on the north side of Old Church Road. The modern farm buildings of Church Farm lie north of the church and there are a number of areas of modern infill of neo-vernacular style houses.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

The settlement pattern is a mix of high density housing in a ribbon layout on the north side of Main Street with low density housing in an organic irregular pattern elsewhere. Main Street is approached from the west via a green hollow lane and it has an undulating course following the topography with subtle changes of direction. The northern (uphill) side of Main Street is formed by a series of attached houses set directly behind a raised pavement. The other side of the street has a series of farmhouses and other buildings either set back from the frontage behind stone perimeter walls or set on the frontage but facing away from the street. The character of the streetscape changes to the east, becoming more rural in character with a more irregular settlement pattern of cottages, farms and small areas of 19th and 20th century development, mainly set back from the roads. The road edge is largely formed by stone walls, hedges and grassy banks.

The topography has a major effect on the character with the sloping ground and high pavement of Main Street providing many views across the landscape and the surrounding hills apparent from many parts of this area. There are fairly frequent mature trees and hedges, particularly towards the east of the area.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 15 Built Character

Building types

The area has a wide range of interesting historic buildings. The 14th-15th century church has an unusual plan with tower attached to the chancel. The new church is a remarkable Arts and Crafts building designed by E S Prior. The vernacular rural buildings are mainly detached larger farmhouses with thatched roofs. The 18th and early 19th century houses and cottages generally have symmetrical facades and include detached houses such as May Cottage and attached houses and cottages including Sunnyside and Hopewell House on Main Street. Other buildings include the Tudor Revival style Old School House and the red brick village hall. Some of the modern buildings, including those at Manor Barn and down Quarry Lane are in neo-vernacular style.

In addition to the buildings, there is a distinctive raised pavement with stone retaining wall along Main Street and a number of stone boundary walls: that around the old churchyard is particularly fine.

Building Materials

Many of the older buildings are built of local Forest Marble, some with Inferior Oolite dressings. Some of the 19th century buildings are of local Bothenhampton brick. A number of buildings along the north side of Main Street are rendered. Some buildings are thatched; others have slate or tiled roofs.

Key Buildings

The key buildings are Holy Trinity Old and New Churches, the farmhouses along the south side of Main Street (Laurel Farmhouse, Ab Antiquo, Manor Farmhouse, Homestead Farm), the row of houses along the north side of Main Street (in particular, The George Inn, Hopewell House, Sunnyside and Cosy Cottage), May Cottage, the Old Rectory, and the Old School House.



Figure 166: Main Street, Bothenhampton with the George Inn in foreground.



Figure 167: Holy Trinity New Church, Bothenhampton.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 15 Archaeology

Archaeological Investigations

There have been no archaeological investigations in this character area.

Archaeological Character

The lack of below-ground investigation constrains consideration of the archaeological resource. Nevertheless, this area's location in the historic core of a Saxon or medieval settlement would suggest that remains of earlier property boundaries, structures and other evidence for settlement activity such as refuse pits of medieval and post-medieval date.

Figure 168 shows the historic boundaries depicted on maps dated to the later 19th century. These are mainly earlier field and property boundaries.

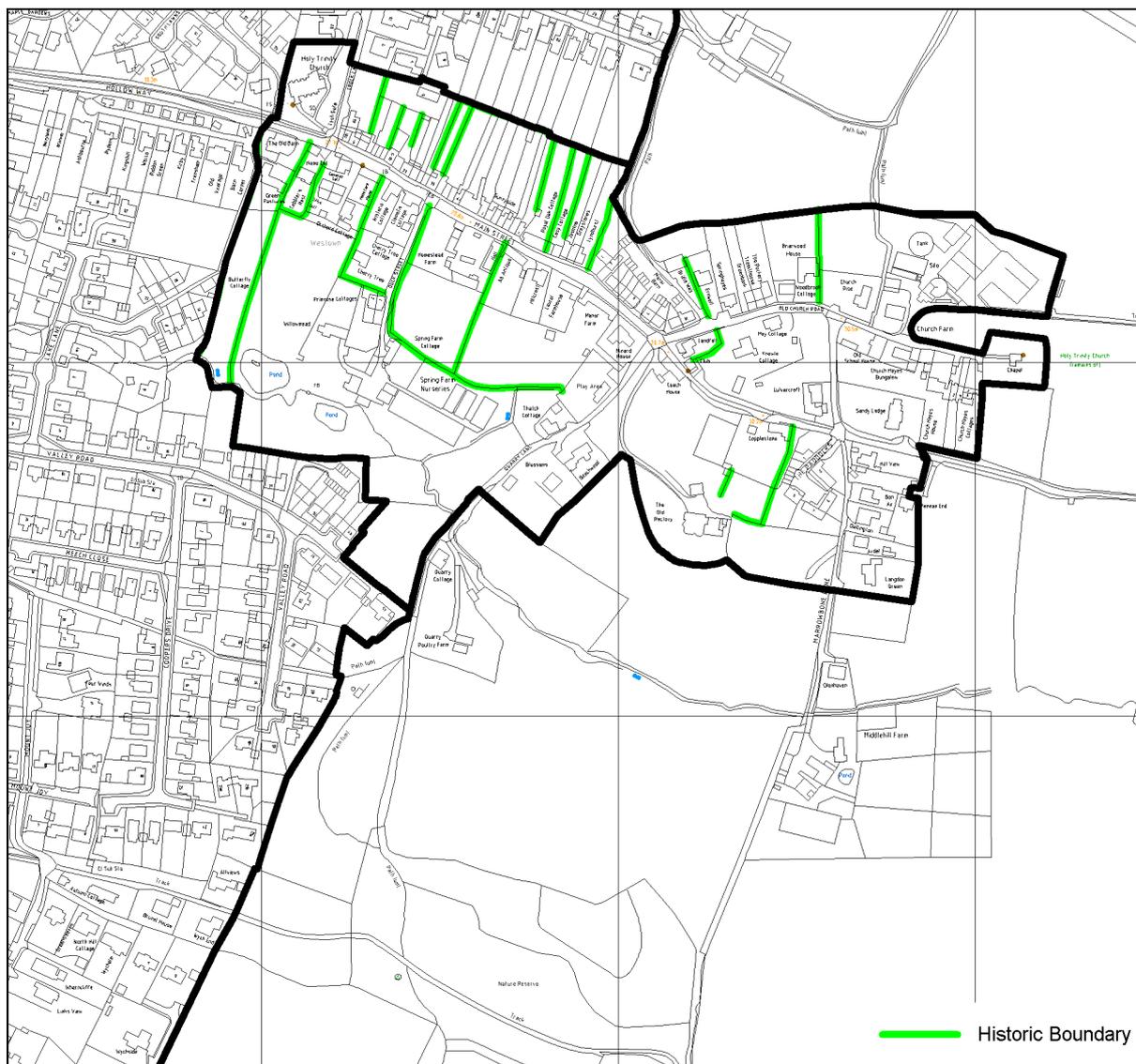


Figure 168: Archaeological features in Historic Urban Character Area 15.

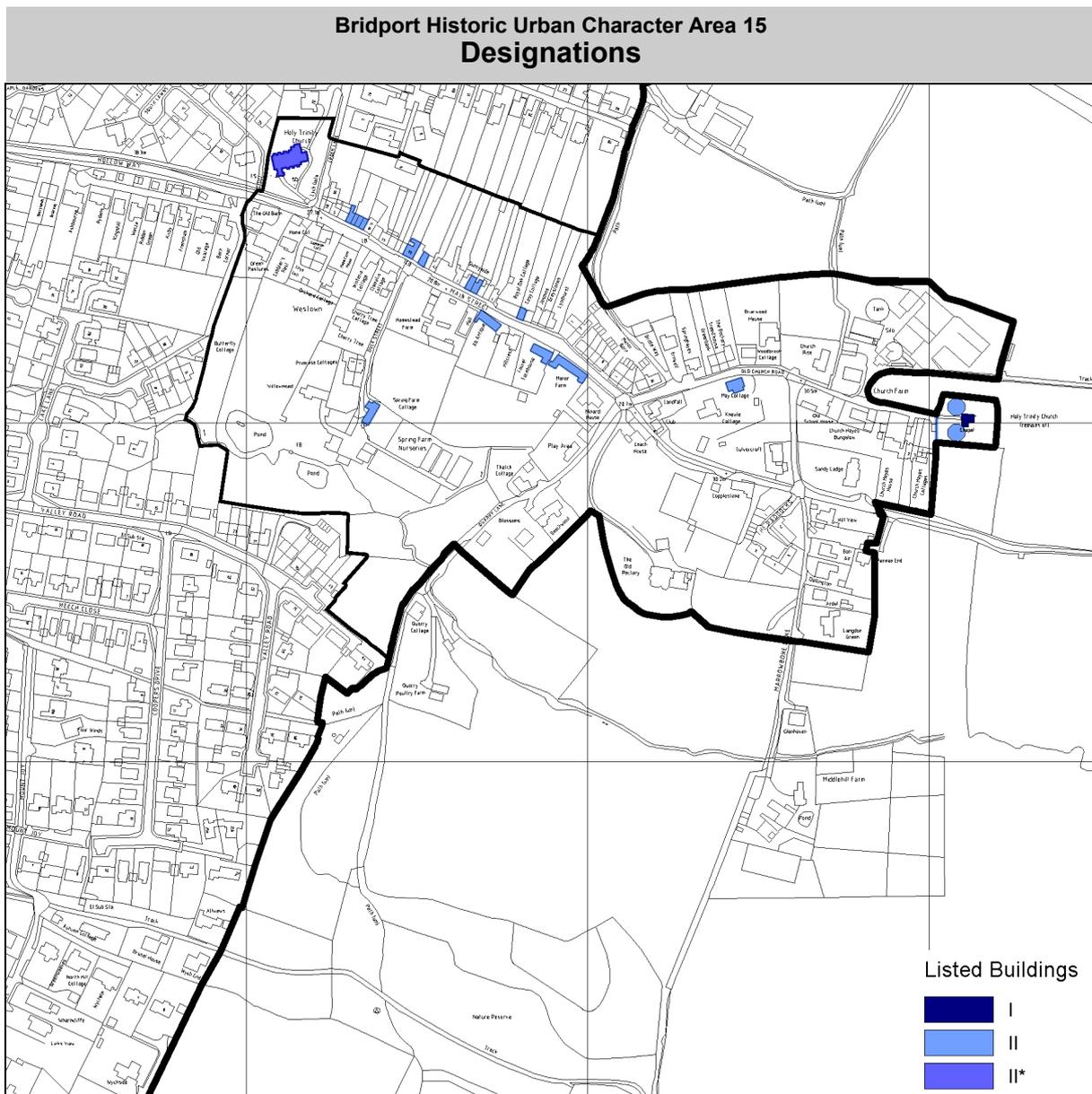


Figure 169: Listed Buildings and other designations in Historic Urban Character Area 15.

Listed Buildings

There are 15 Listed Buildings in the Character Area. Old Holy Trinity Church is Grade I and New Holy Trinity Church is Grade II* and the remaining 13 buildings and structures are Grade II.

Conservation Areas

Most of this Character Area lies within the Bothenhampton Conservation Area (Figure 41).

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within the Character Area.

Scheduled Monuments

No Scheduled Monuments lie within this character area.

**Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 15
Evaluation**

Strength of Historic Character

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **Strong**. It has a good survival of historic farm buildings and a planned early 19th century development. The widespread use of local materials and a range of different building heights and architectural details give both coherence and interest to this area. There are relatively few modern intrusions to reduce the overall group value of the historic buildings. The survival of historic farm buildings clustered in the settlement reflects the former agricultural economic base of Bothenhampton, which is underscored by the varied topography of the surrounding countryside visible from many parts of this area.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **High** sensitivity to major change. Much of the street frontage is built up with historic buildings and a fairly high survival of historic boundaries, which are very sensitive to anything other than small scale change and any opening up of the frontages would have a major impact upon the character. The area has a patchwork of differing types of building and plots and any large scale development which did not respect this mosaic of types would have a detrimental effect on the historic character of the area.

Archaeological Potential

This character area has a **High** potential to answer questions about the early settlement history of Bothenhampton, particularly its late Saxon and Norman extent and layout. The historic farm buildings, in particular, could pay detailed building recording and analysis to determine their period of origin and development, which could contribute important information about the development of Bothenhampton. The survival of potential archaeological deposits and features is assessed to be low to medium.

Key Characteristics

- Historic rural buildings
- Historic street frontage with pleasing row of buildings and raised pavements
- Bothenhampton Old Church
- Bothenhampton New Church