

Beaminster Historic Urban Character Area 6 Gerrard's Green/Hollymoor

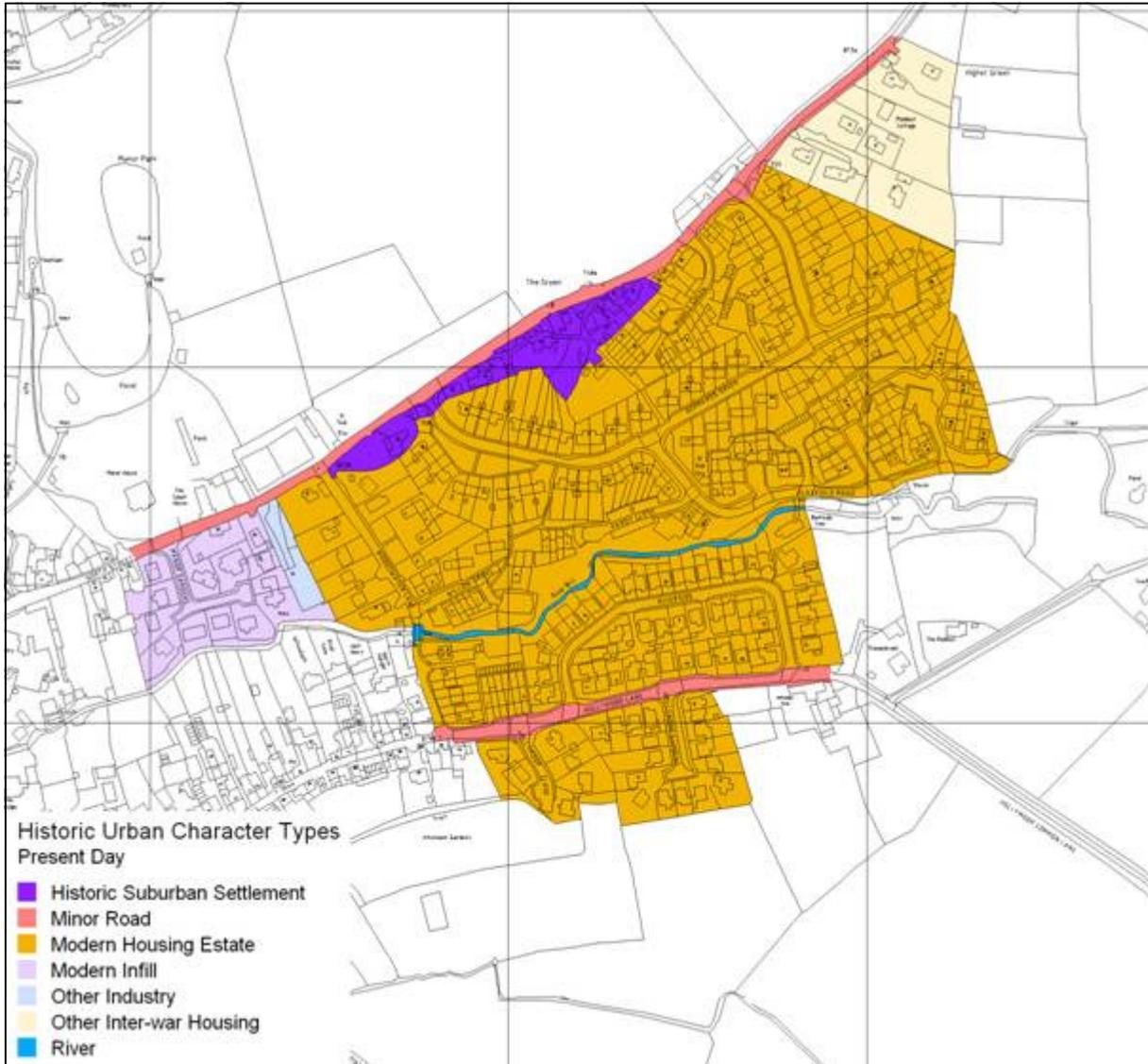


Figure 92: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 6, showing current historic urban character type



Figure 93: 'The Green' looking down North Street towards the town centre.



Figure 94: View down Woodswater Lane, looking south.

Beaminster Historic Urban Character Area 6 Structure of Character Area

Overview

This character area lies to the east of the historic core of medieval and post-medieval Beaminster and represents an area of suburban expansion east of the town between North Street and Hollymoor Lane. It is defined largely by the extent of the modern development.

Topography and Geology

Topographically, this area forms part of the valley of the Brit, which runs roughly WSW-ESE through the middle of this area. The slopes are rather steeper on the northern side of the river and the ground is generally rising up to the northeast. The whole of the area lies on Fuller's Earth Clays.

Urban Structure

There are two roughly parallel roads, North Street and Hollymoor Lane forming the northern and southern edges of the area, with one road, Woodswater Lane, which crosses the river Brit by a ford, linking the two to the west. The areas between these roads is largely suburban estates accessed by a network of culs-de-sac.

Present Character

Figure 92 shows the present day historic urban character types. The area is dominated by modern housing estates, with an area of modern infill housing to the west along North Street. There is an irregular linear area of historic suburban development ('The Green') along the south side of North Street.

Time Depth

The earliest elements in this character area are the roads. Hollymoor Lane, a continuation of East Street is medieval or earlier in origin. North Street is probably of a similar age. The other early route is Woodswater Lane.

The historic suburban settlement of 'The Green' is of late 18th and early 19th century date and represents the earliest settlement in this area.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

The settlement pattern is primarily low density housing in a mixture of curvilinear looped networks and culs-de-sac. The houses are set well back from the roads near the centre of the plots, with gardens fronting the street. The buildings are either set parallel to the street or in a staggered layout in a regular planned layout.

One exception to this general pattern is 'The Green' where the many of the buildings are set directly on the street frontage, with some at right angles to the street, in small irregular plots.

The area has a very open layout with some green verges and in many places there are extensive views of the surrounding countryside to the north and south. The river Brit runs through the area, dividing it in two.



Figure 95: The Green, with 'Gargoyles' in foreground.



Figure 96: View eastwards along Hollymoor Lane.

Beaminster Historic Urban Character Area 6 Built Character

Building types

The historic buildings at 'The Green' are of late 18th or early 19th century date and comprise a number of different small cottages and houses of one-and-a-half or two storeys high.

The 1920's-30's houses at the northeast corner of the area are detached two storey houses.

The post-war houses along Gerrard's Green are mainly two storey semi-detached houses with a smaller number of bungalows, of a design typical of the period and of no local distinctiveness.

Hollymoor Lane, Hollymoor Close, Hollymoor Gardens and Riverside contain mainly late 1960s-early 1970's detached bungalows of similar design and style. Manor Gardens and the west side of Woodswater Lane also have detached bungalows of a similar date. These are all typical of the period and of no local distinctiveness.

Willow Grove and the east side of Woodswater Lane have one and two storey terraced houses mainly of late 1990's date.

Building Materials

Local lias stone is used for the historic buildings, with slate roofs. Nos 64 & 66 The Green

has a thatched roof. 'Gargoyles' 52 The Green has two probably 16th century carved stone busts holding plain shields, built into the wall at first floor level (Figure 95).

The modern buildings are constructed in red brick with some pebbledash façades and tiled roofs in the Gerrard's Green area. Along Hollymoor Lane the houses are clad in sandstone with areas of wooden cladding and tiled roofs. Along Woodswater Lane the houses are of red and grey brick, with some wooden cladding, and tiled roofs. The houses in Manor Gardens area have primarily stone clad façades, with some brick and rendered panels, and tiled roofs.

Key Buildings

62 The Green, 64 & 66 The Green, 'Gargoyles' 52 The Green.



Figure 97: Modern bungalows at Riverside, off Hollymoor Lane.



Figure 98: Houses along Gerrard's Green.



Figure 99: East end of Gerrard's Green, looking south.



Figure 100: Manor Gardens.

Beaminster Historic Urban Character Area 6 Archaeology

Archaeological Investigations

There have been no archaeological investigations undertaken in this area.

Archaeological Character

The lack of any below-ground investigation constrains the consideration of the archaeological resource. Its location beyond the historic core of the town indicates there is unlikely to be any significant urban archaeological evidence. However, the location of a former mill, flax spinning mill and saw mill dating from at least the 18th century (but may be much older) next to the river at the west end of the area has industrial archaeological potential. The modern housing estate development has removed most of the historic boundaries in this area. Woodswater Lane and

its ford may be of considerable antiquity, but the other boundaries are relict field boundaries perhaps of 17th and 18th century date.

No evidence for pre-urban activity has been recorded in this character area, but the river valley location may provide a favourable location for prehistoric activity.

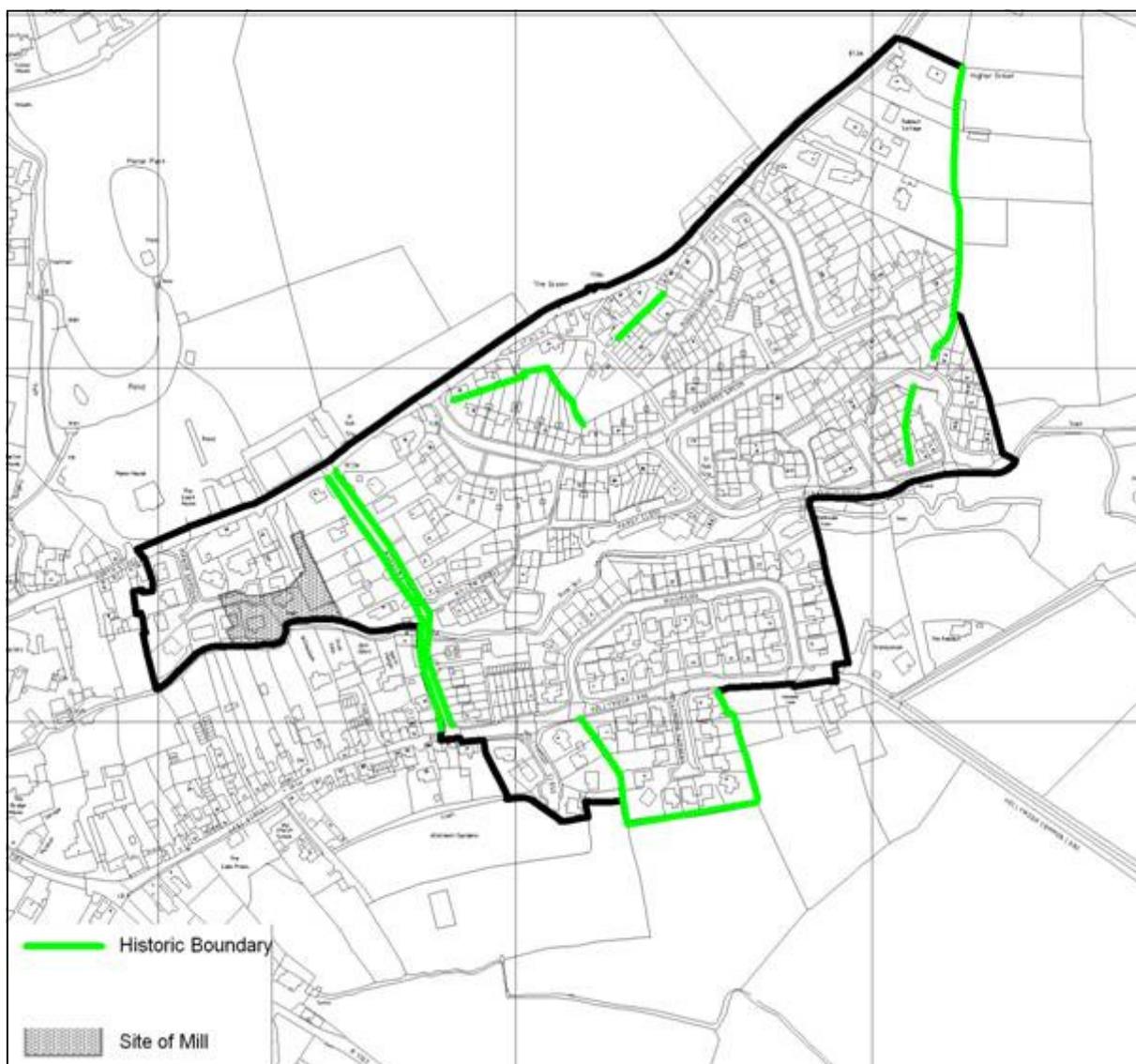


Figure 101: Archaeological features within Historic Urban Character Area 6.

Beaminster Historic Urban Character Area 6 Designations

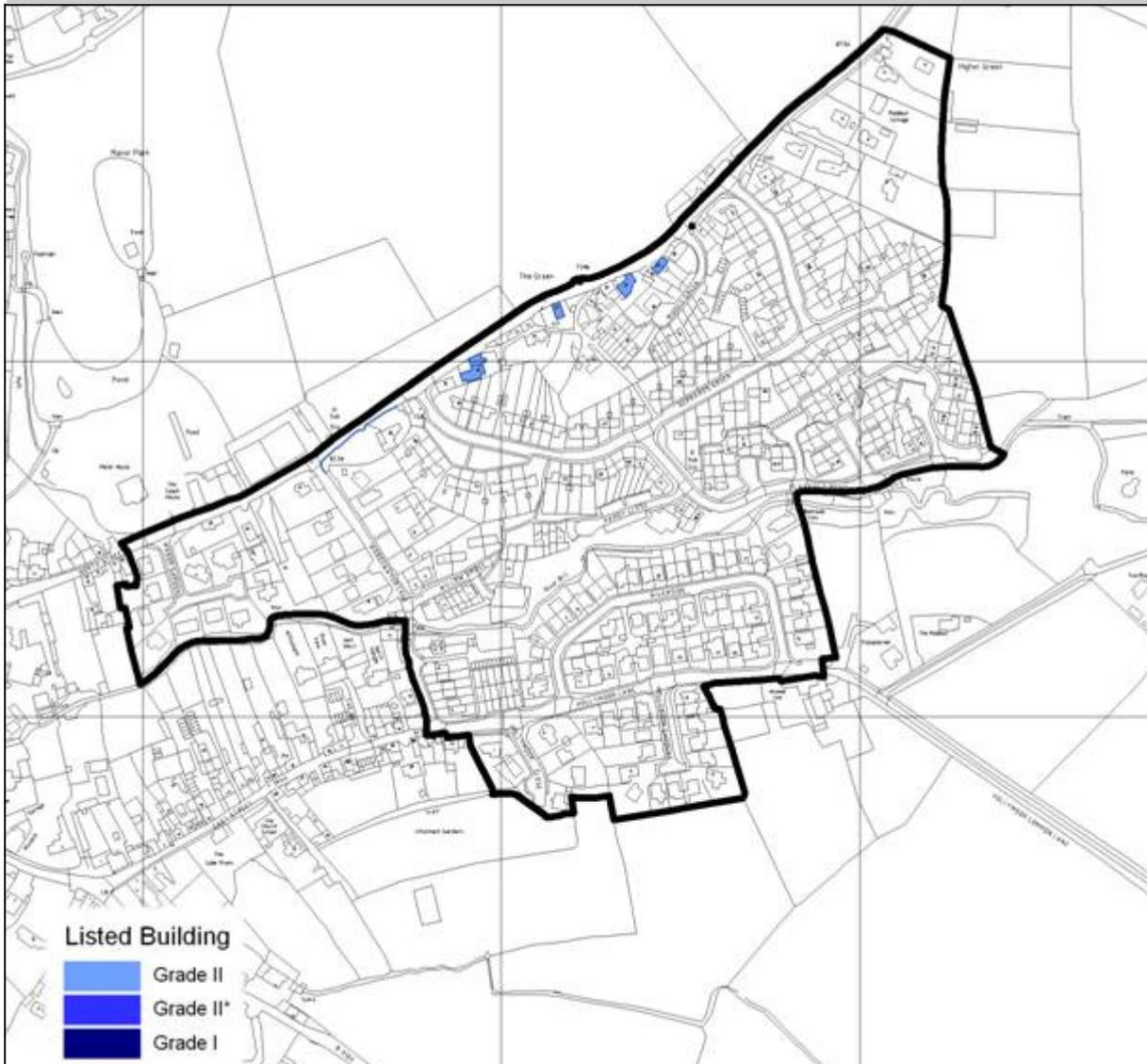


Figure 102: Listed Buildings and other designations in Historic Urban Character Area 6.

Listed Buildings

There are five Listed Buildings in the Character Area, all are Grade II.

Conservation Areas

The whole of this Character Area lies outside the Beaminster Conservation Area (Figure 33).

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.



Figure 103: Thatched cottages, 64 & 66 The Green.

Beaminster Historic Urban Character Area 6 Evaluation

Strength of Historic Character

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **weak**. There is little time depth evident in this area of primarily post-war housing estates. The area of greatest historic character is the remains of the late 18th and 19th century suburban settlement at 'The Green'. The modern buildings in the area have no local distinctiveness.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **low** sensitivity to major change as the majority of the area comprises modern suburban housing development, with few surviving historic components.

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **low**. It lies beyond the historic core of the medieval and post-medieval town and was largely developed in the 19th and 20th century, indicating there is unlikely to be much urban archaeology. There is some potential for industrial archaeological remains of former mills adjacent to the river Brit. There is also potential for recovering archaeological information on the pre-urban activity, but the character of this is as yet undefined.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 1, 14, 16-18 (Part 7).

Key Characteristics

- 19th century suburb of small cottages and houses at The Green
- Ford over River Brit on Woodswater Lane