

Shaftesbury Historic Urban Character Area 6

Cann

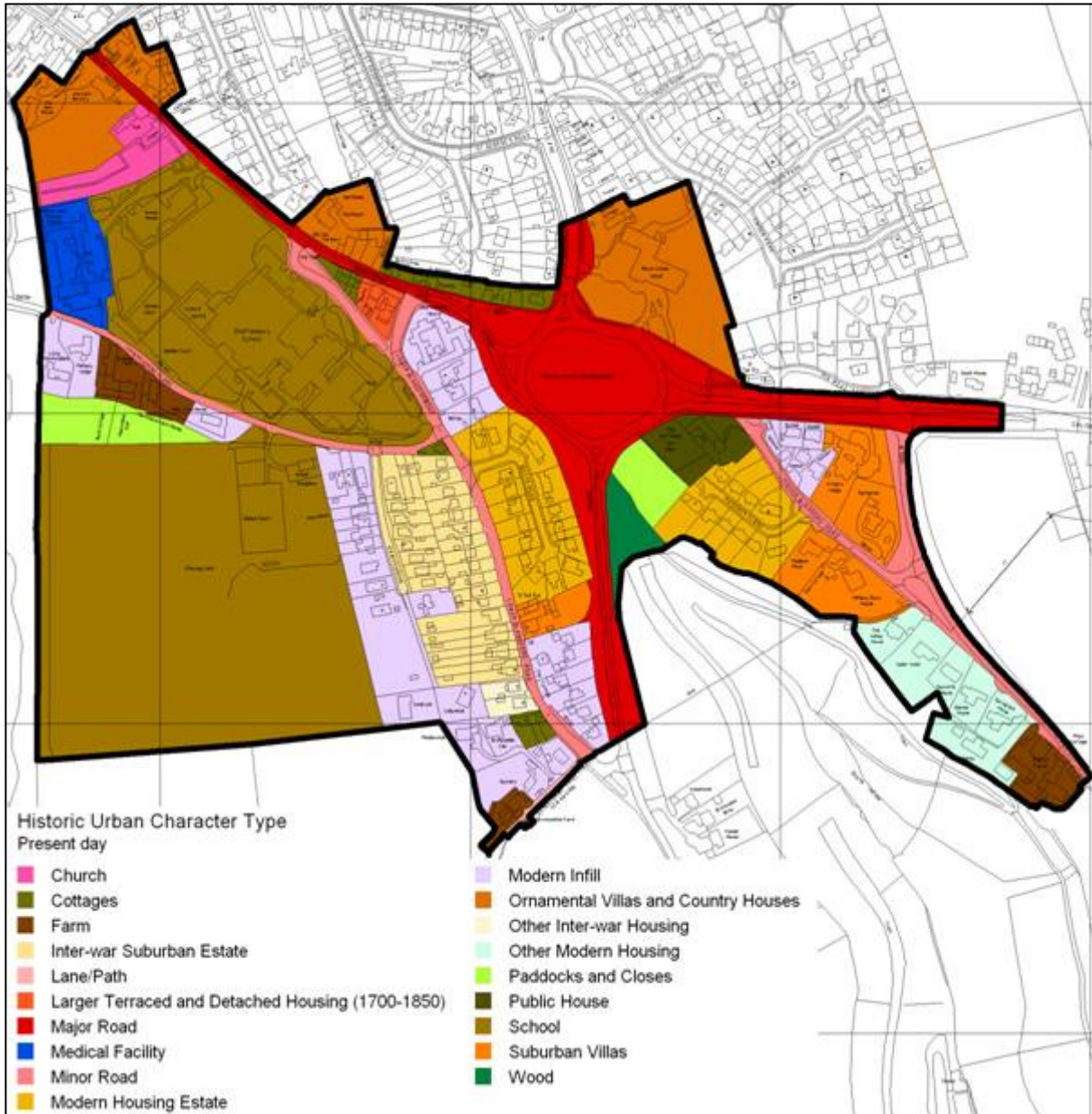


Figure 101: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 6, showing current historic urban character type.

Shaftesbury Historic Urban Character Area 6 Structure of Character Area

Overview

This area essentially comprises a modern suburb to the southeast of the historic town along the road to Salisbury and around the junction with the two roads to Blandford. Historically, it was part of the parish of Cann.

Topography and Geology

This area lies on the Greensand plateau to the southeast of the historic core of the town. The area is generally fairly flat but dips gently down to the southeast. The underlying geology is Upper Greensand.

Urban Structure

The centre of this area is dominated by the Royal Chase roundabout and the area is focused on the Salisbury road and the junction with the Higher and Lower Blandford roads. The modern road layout is altered from the historic one, leaving several 'orphaned' lengths of road. Development has taken place along the historic roads, with some small housing estates arranged around a single cul-de-sac. Very few buildings face directly on to the current main roads. The Shaftesbury School and playing fields form an extensive part of the western side of this area.

Present Character

Figure 101 shows the present day historic urban character types. The most extensive character types are School and Major Road. There are a number of small Inter-war and Modern Housing Estates, with some Modern Infill adjacent. Along the Salisbury road are several Ornamental Villas and Country Houses. Some Farms and Cottages are scattered across the southern part of this area. Other character types include Church, Larger Terraced and Detached Houses (1700-1850), Suburban Villas, Medical Facility and Public House.



Figure 102: View across Royal Chase roundabout to Salisbury Road.

Time Depth

The earliest surviving features are parts of the road network and St Rumbold's Church. Salisbury Road, Lower and Higher Blandford Road and Hawkesdene Lane probably date from at least the Saxon period and could be older. The Blandford roads and Salisbury Road were turnpiked in the 18th century. The current main road layout dates from the 1970s. St Rumbold's Church is probably a late Saxon foundation, though the present building is mid 19th century. The Old Cann Rectory dates from the 18th century and in the early 19th centuries a number of large villas and some smaller houses were built along Salisbury Road and Butts Knap. The Half Moon Inn is late 18th century in date. The farms are probably 18th or early 19th century in date. Shaftesbury School was established on its present site in the late 19th century, though most of the present buildings are late 20th century. The suburban housing dates from the Edwardian to the post-war and modern periods.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

The settlement pattern comprises a number of different elements, but is perhaps dominated by the large plots of the school, the Royal Chase Hotel and the adjacent open spaces of the Royal Chase roundabout. There are remnants of the former rural settlement pattern of dispersed farms, cottages and houses along the roads and lanes, which is particularly evident at Butts Knap. Also along the earlier road network is low density suburban housing, both arranged along the roads and in small estates arranged around a single cul-de-sac.

There are extensive open green areas, particularly around the Royal Chase roundabout and the school playing fields. The trees of the Royal Chase Hotel and Butts Knap make a major contribution to the character of this area.



Figure 103: Half Moon Inn.

Shaftesbury Historic Urban Character Area 6 Built Character

Building types

The built character of this area comprises mainly large 19th century houses, small 18th and 19th century farmhouses and cottages, and a range of inter- and post-war suburban houses.

The large houses are mainly early-mid 19th century in date, with symmetrical fronts and shallow pitch hipped roofs. The Royal Chase Hotel (formerly Belmont House) is the largest and most prominent of these. The small vernacular houses and cottages in this area also tend to have a symmetrical arrangement of windows.

Other historic buildings include St Rumbold's Church which was completely rebuilt in 1840 and consists of a combined chancel and nave with west tower and small south porch. The Shaftesbury Grammar School building is of 1898 and is an imposing two and three storey building with gabled dormer windows. In contrast, the former Cann National School is a small single storey Gothic Revival building of 1845. The Half Moon public house is a late 18th century gable-ended building, possibly built following the turnpiking of the Salisbury Road.

The inter-war and post-war houses are typical suburban houses of their era and include both one and two-storey detached and a small number of semi-detached houses. These houses have little local character.

Building Materials

Greensand is the dominant building material of the historic buildings, particularly those earlier than the late 19th century. Greensand is used both as rubble and ashlar, the former more common on the smaller houses, the latter in the large houses and villas. Some of the larger houses have been stuccoed or rendered. Slate is the main roofing material, though there are a number of thatched cottages and outhouses. Brick is most commonly used from the 19th century onwards. Brick and artificial stone is used in the 20th century houses. The majority of modern houses have tiled roofs.

Key Buildings

Commercial and Public Buildings: St Rumbold's Church, Half Moon Public House, Shaftesbury Grammar School House, Cann School.

18th-19th century villas and houses: Belmont House (Royal Chase Hotel), Cann Villa (St Denis Lodge), Cann Lodge, The Mount, Old Cann Rectory, Cornley (Salisbury Road).

18th-19th century vernacular houses: Mayo Cottage, Hawkesdene Farm, 5-9 Salisbury Rd.



Figure 104: Royal Chase Hotel (Belmont House).



Figure 105: Old Cann Rectory, Salisbury Road.



Figure 106: View along Butts Knap, with 5-9 Salisbury Road in background.



Figure 107: Mayo Cottage, Higher Blandford Road.

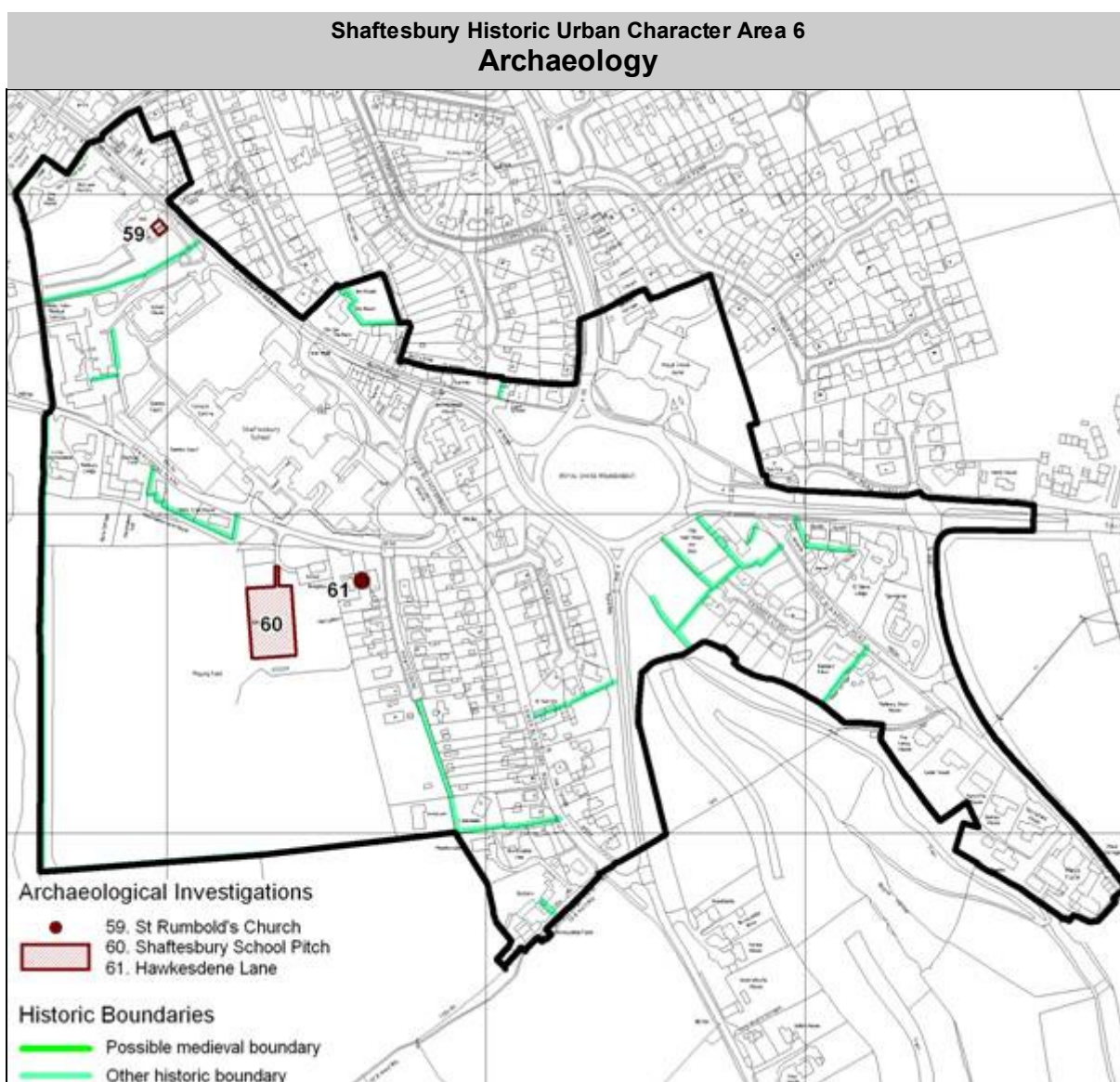


Figure 108: Archaeological investigations in Historic Urban Character Area 6.

Archaeological Investigations

Three investigations have been undertaken in this area, an excavation in St Rumbold's Church and watching briefs on Hawkesdene Lane (Figure 108; Appendix 3, 59-61).

The excavations in St Rumbold's revealed the remains of the earlier church demolished in the late 19th century. This building may date to the late Saxon period (SDAG1990).

No features were found during the watching brief on Shaftesbury School all weather sports pitch and during house building at Hawkesdene, but a scatter of medieval pottery and some prehistoric worked flint was recovered (Farrar 1949, 60; Martin & Valentin 2004).

Archaeological Character

In general, this area was largely rural until the 19th and 20th centuries, when it became

progressively suburban. The archaeological character, borne out by the limited number of investigations, reflects this fact. Background levels of medieval pottery should be expected in the fields surrounding a large medieval town. Also background levels of prehistoric worked flint can be expected on a well-drained plateau above a clay vale.

Nevertheless, there are isolated pockets of more intense activity. St Rumbold's Church has been a focus of activity probably from the late Saxon period. Interestingly two Iron Age silver coins are recorded as found at St Rumbold's (OS record sheet ST 82 SE 64).

A small number of historic boundaries are marked on Figure 108. These are the remnants of 19th century and earlier field and plot boundaries.

Shaftesbury Historic Urban Character Area 6 Designations

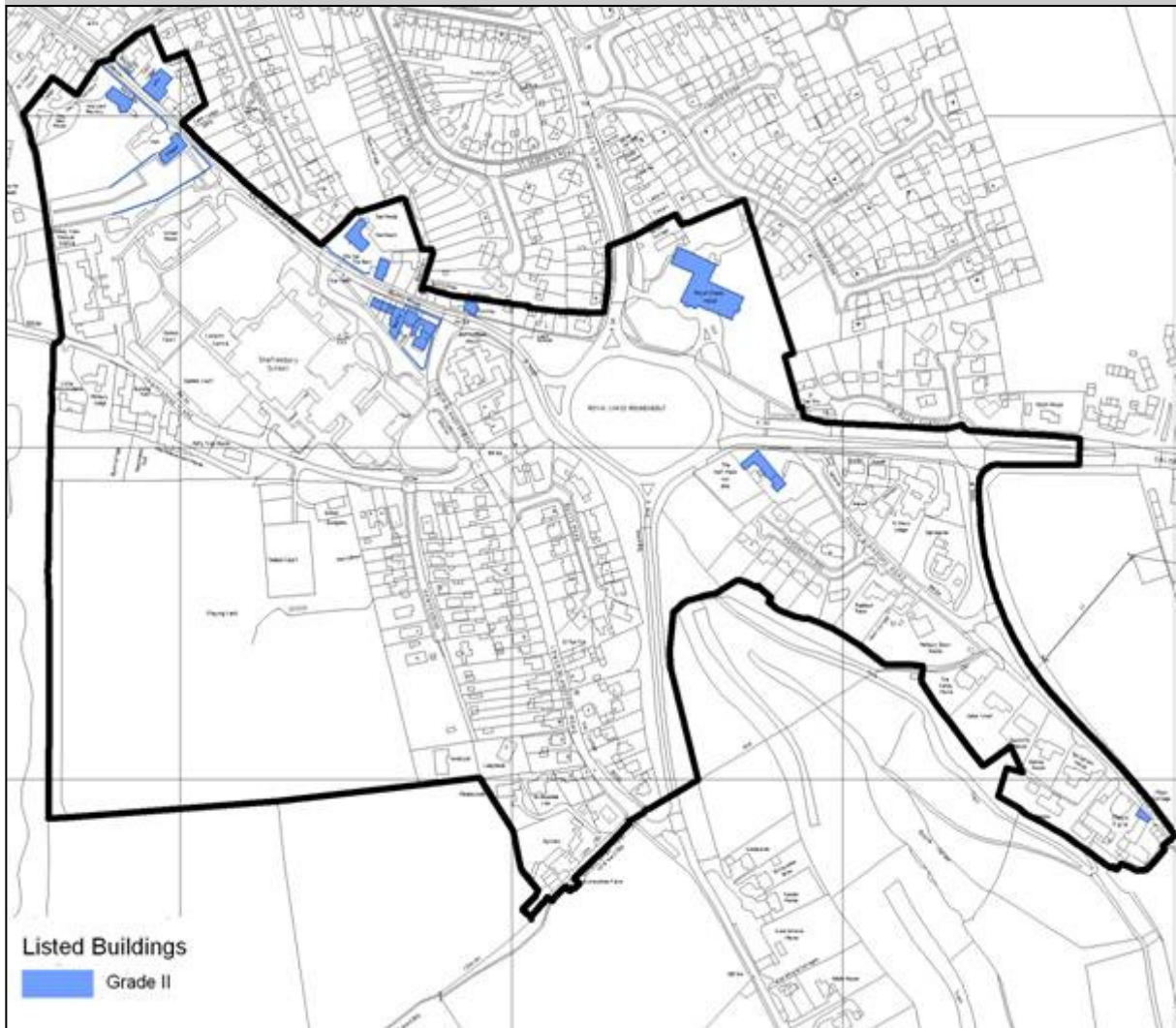


Figure 109: Archaeological investigations in Historic Urban Character Area 6.

Listed Buildings

There are 19 Listed Building designations in the Character Area. One is grade C (St Rumbold's Church) and the remainder are Grade II (Figure 109).

Conservation Areas

This area lies outside the Shaftesbury Conservation Area.

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

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

Scheduled Monuments

There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Character Area.

**Shaftesbury Historic Urban Character Area 6
Evaluation**

Strength of Historic Character

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **low**. There are a number of historic elements in this area, but it is dominated by modern road developments, particularly the Royal Chase roundabout. This has changed the legibility of this area, making it more difficult to read the historic layout and development. There are pockets of historic character remaining, particularly around Butts Knap, but, in general, many of the larger historic houses have been significantly altered and many historic buildings are surrounded by 20th century suburban housing.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **low** sensitivity to major change. The modern road developments have already disrupted the historic character and legibility of the area. However, there is a vestige of historic character along Salisbury Road and Butts Knap, which are very sensitive to further development.

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **low**. The area was largely agricultural land until the 20th century. St Rumbold's Church may have acted as a focus for medieval development and consequently there may be a greater archaeological potential close to the church. There is some potential for recovering information on 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- 3, 23-4 (Part 7).

Key Characteristics

- Dominated by the Royal Chase roundabout and modern road layout
- Formerly part of the medieval parish of Cann
- Former parish church of St Rumbold's
- Dispersed historic farmsteads, cottages and villas