

Shaftesbury Historic Urban Character Area 7

Enmore Green

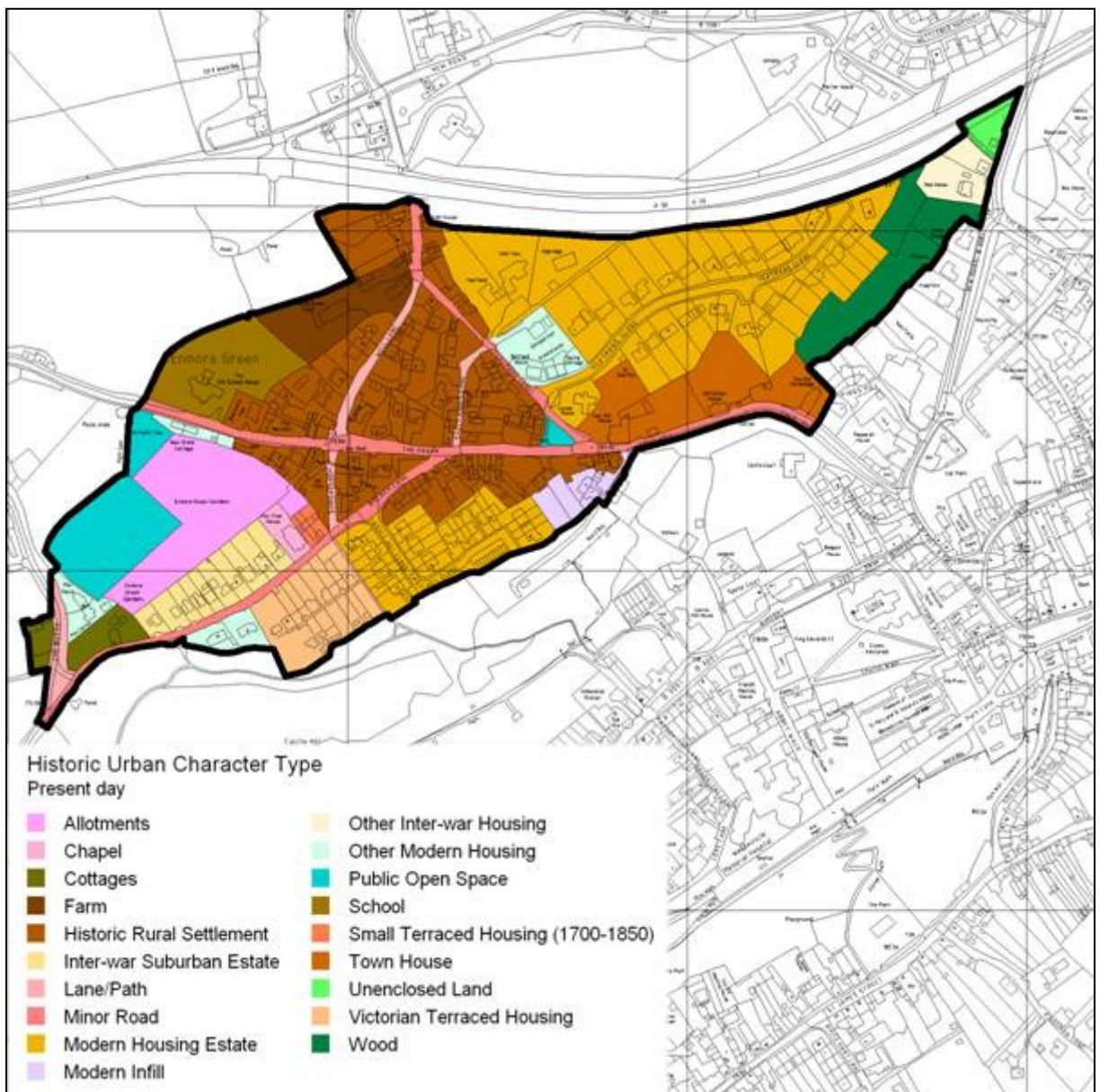


Figure 110: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 7, showing current historic urban character type.



Figure 111: Enmore Green from Castle Hill.



Figure 112: Breach Lane from Castle Hill.

Shaftesbury Historic Urban Character Area 7 Structure of Character Area

Overview

Enmore Green is a semi-rural settlement on the outskirts of Shaftesbury and historically was the source of the town's water supply. The area is primarily defined by its topographical location on the slopes north of the Greensand plateau.

Topography and Geology

Enmore Green lies at the foot of the northern scarp of the Upper Greensand plateau. The ground generally slopes gently down towards the northwest, although it undulates slightly. The settlement lies close to the spring line at the foot of the hill. The underlying geology consists of Gault Clay in the northwestern part and Upper Greensand in the remainder of the character area.

Urban Structure

This area is rural rather than urban in structure. It has been by-passed and contains no major roads. The central area has a triangle of roads formed by the historic routes to Sherborne and Gillingham with linking lanes between and further lanes connecting to St James to the southwest. The historic plots are irregular in size and shape, indicative of piecemeal enclosure. Many of the buildings are set back from the road frontages. The modern housing estates have a single cul-de-sac arrangement.

Present Character

Figure 110 shows the present day historic urban character types. The central part of the area comprises Historic Rural Settlement with adjacent areas of Small Terraced Housing (1700-1850), School, Farm and Cottages. There are Town Houses along Tout Hill. Much of the eastern half of the area is Modern Housing Estate. The southwest part has a Modern Housing Estate, Inter-War Suburban Estate and Victorian Terraced Housing. Allotments and Public Open Space form a significant part of the western end of the area. There is a strip of



Figure 113: View of cottages along Well Lane.

woodland on the steep slopes to the east. Other minor character types include Chapel, Other Inter-war and Other Modern Housing.

Time Depth

The roads are undoubtedly the earliest elements of this area. Tout Hill/The Knapp formed part of the main road to Sherborne and the west and is certainly at least Saxon in date, but is likely to be much earlier in origin. The other roads may be medieval in date, with some lanes perhaps belonging to the post-medieval period. The period of origin of the historic rural settlement arranged around the triangle of roads is not known, but it may have originated as piecemeal enclosure of common from the 17th century onwards. Development along Breach Lane dates from the second half of the 19th century and the inter-war years. The post-war and modern periods saw the development of suburban housing estates at Castle Close and Yeatmans Close.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

The settlement pattern is largely one of low density detached cottages and short terraces mainly set back from the frontage along the minor roads and rural lanes. The Victorian and Inter-war housing along Breach Lane is set back from the street frontage behind front gardens. The modern housing is set in typical suburban style around linear or curvilinear cul-de-sac.

There is a small triangular green in the centre of the village and further public green space and allotments at Enmore Green Gardens. The backdrop of the wooded green slopes of the Greensand plateau to the south, together with the views over the surrounding countryside, impart a semi-rural character. This is supplemented by the informal arrangement of rural cottages and the large number of trees and hedges within this area.



Figure 114: The triangular green, Enmore Green.

Shaftesbury Historic Urban Character Area 7 Built Character

Building types

The area is characterised primarily by 17th-19th century vernacular cottages, with some 19th century short terraces and some inter-war, post-war and modern suburban houses.

The 17th-19th century houses and cottages are mainly of two storeys and are all different in size, roof line, window arrangement and detail. A number have an irregular plan and window arrangement, but some have a symmetrical frontage. There are few architecturally remarkable buildings, but the general similarity in scale and building materials, together with the diversity of individual details gives them a pleasing group character.

The 19th century terraces on The Knapp and Breach Lane have gabled dormer windows. The mid 20th century houses on Breach Lane and within the village centre are mainly bungalows with hipped roofs.

The inter-war houses are typical 1920s-30s suburban designs with hipped roofs. Detached suburban bungalows typify the late 20th century housing estate at Yeatmans Close and on Castle Hill Close are typical 1960s two storey semi-detached houses.

Building Materials

The majority of the 17th – 19th century houses are built of Greensand, usually rubble but with some ashlar or rough ashlar. A number of houses have brick dressings. The roofs include thatch, slate and plain tile. A number of houses are painted or rendered. The Fountain Inn has a carved female head built in to the wall that may be re-used from the abbey.

The mid to late 19th century houses are more frequently built in brick, sometimes with ashlar dressings or in ashlar with brick dressings and slate roofs. The 19th century former Methodist chapel on Breach Lane is built from Greensand ashlar with non-local, possibly Ham Hill Stone, ashlar dressings (Figure 120). There is a cast iron war memorial enclosed by railings on The Knapp, opposite the junction with Well Lane.

Twentieth century houses tend to have non-local pale brick walls and tile roofs.

Key Buildings

Commercial and Public Buildings: former Methodist Chapel (Yew Tree House), The Old School House, The Fountain Inn.

17th to 19th century cottages: 7 The Bartons, 1-6 The Bartons, Enmore Green Farmhouse, 2 Well

Lane, 6 Yeatmans Lane, 8-12 Yeatman's Lane, 2-4 Sally Kings Lane, 9 The Knapp.

18th and 19th century Houses: Tout Hill House, The Old Parsonage, Old School House Tout Hill

Later 19th century terraces: 6-18 The Knapp, 4-18 Breach Lane



Figure 115: 7 The Bartons, a 17th century cottage.



Figure 116: The Fountain Inn, Enmore Green.



Figure 117: Terraced houses, 8-12 Breach Lane.

Shaftesbury Historic Urban Character Area 7 Archaeology

A single archaeological investigation has been undertaken in this character area (Figure 118; Appendix 3, 62). The Shaftesbury and District Archaeological Group (SDAG) investigated a structure in the grounds of the Fountain Inn, which proved to be a cistern built of brick with rendered internal surfaces (SDAG 1975).

Archaeological Character

The lack of archaeological investigation constrains the consideration of the archaeological character of this area. The cartographic evidence suggests that the area was unenclosed common until possibly as late as the 17th century. There is no evidence of medieval settlement, but the springs and wells in the area were used to supply water to Shaftesbury in the medieval period. On current evidence it is difficult to define the archaeological character of this area. There may be some remains associated with the medieval and post-medieval water supply, but it is unclear what form these may take. However,

in general, the archaeology of the area is likely to reflect low level rural activity. The presence of springs may have provided a focus for prehistoric activity, but no information on the possible form of this activity or its date has been obtained to date.

Figure 118 shows the surviving historic boundaries in this area. These are thought to date mainly from the 17th century and later. The irregular form of the boundaries undoubtedly reflect a process of haphazard piecemeal enclosure of the common.

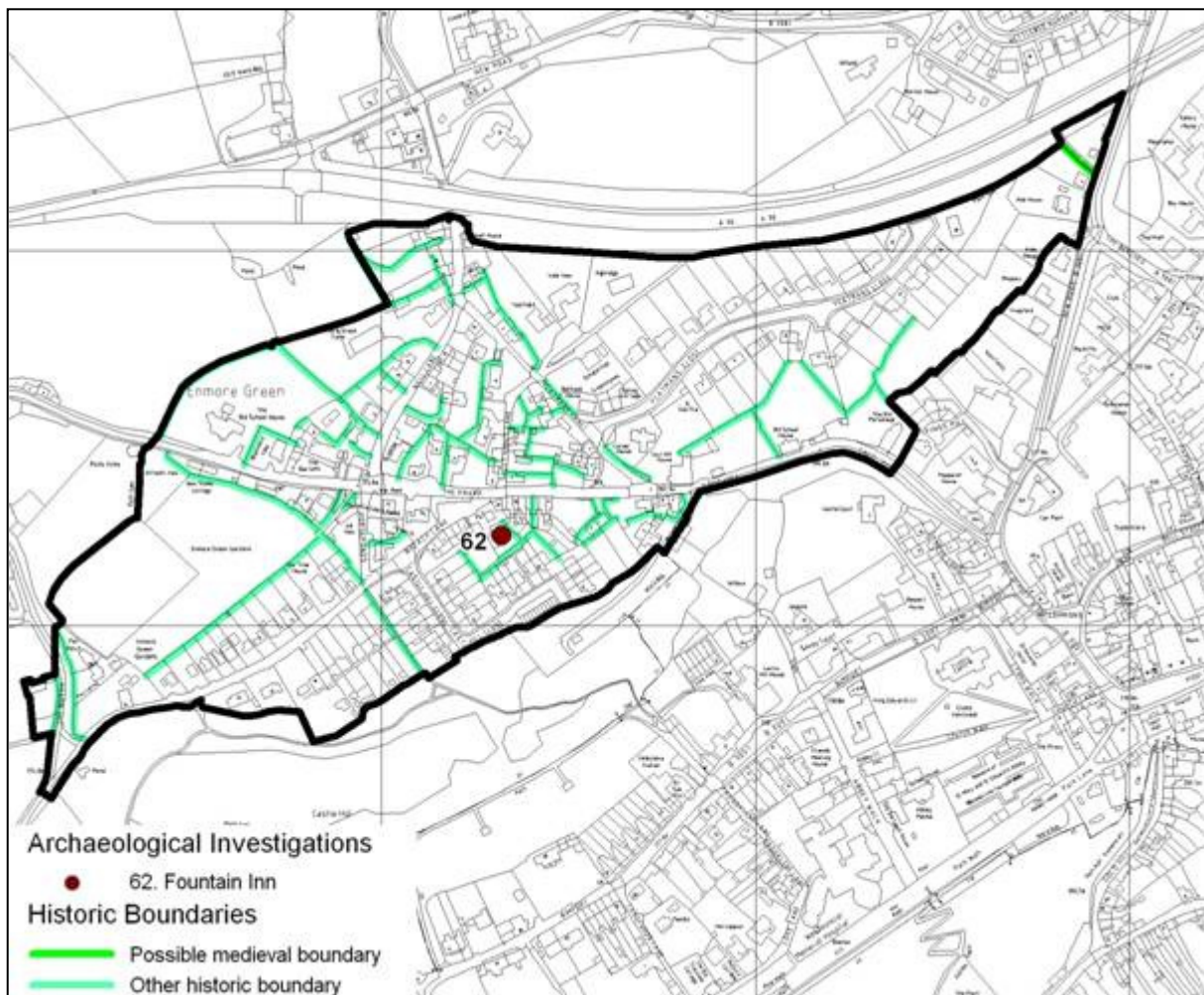


Figure 118: Archaeological investigations in Historic Urban Character Area 7.

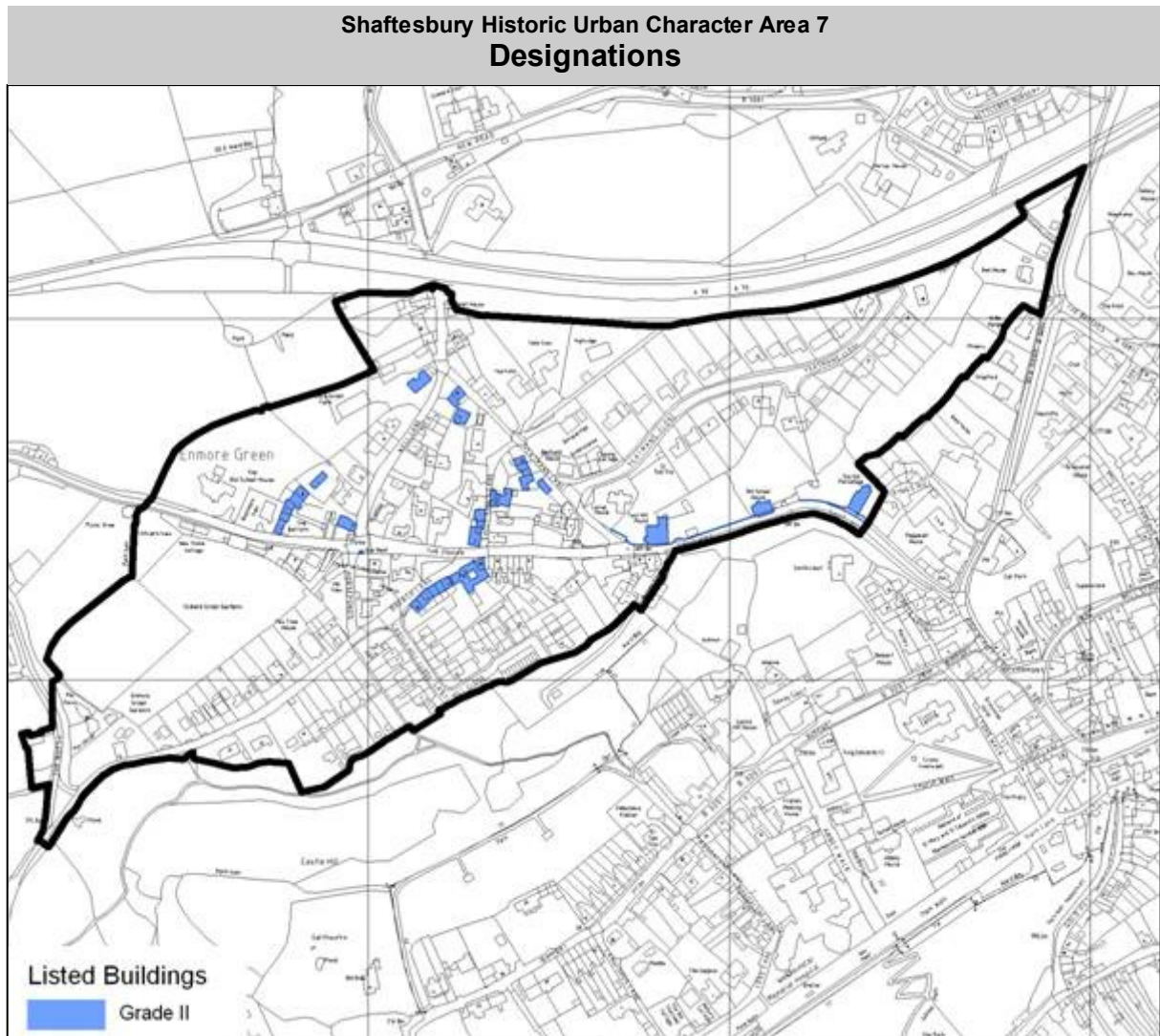


Figure 119: Listed Buildings in Historic Urban Character Area 7.

Listed Buildings

There are 21 Listed Building designations in the Character Area, all Grade II (Figure 119).

Conservation Areas

Much of this Character Area lies within the Shaftesbury Conservation Area. The modern housing estate at Yeatman's Close is excluded (Figure 54).

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.



Figure 120: Former Methodist Chapel, Breach Lane.



Figure 121: The Farmhouse, Well Lane.

Shaftesbury Historic Urban Character Area 7 Evaluation

Strength of Historic Character

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **high**. The rural village character of a settlement enclosed piecemeal from common is highly legible both in terms of plan form of boundaries and roads and of historic house type and arrangement in the landscape. The 17th - 19th century historic cottages and houses in the village centre make a major contribution to the historic character. This rural character is underscored by the topographic position giving good views to the northwest and with a prominent backdrop of the Greensand plateau to the south. Trees and hedges are important features of this area. The modern housing estates, particularly Yeatman's Close, are partly screened from the historic centre by the topography and mature trees and vegetation.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **high** sensitivity to major change. Its origin as a settlement formed by gradual piecemeal development on a small scale has created a distinctive form and size of plots. Any larger scale development in the centre of the area is likely to erode this character by virtue of its greater scale and the likely removal of historic boundaries. The topographic position of the area means that it

sits the foreground of views north from the historic town centre and major development would have a seriously detrimental visual impact.

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **low**. There have been few archaeological discoveries and the village may not have been occupied before the 17th century. Prior to this time the area probably had only a low level of rural activity. On the other hand, the position on the area on or close to a spring line means that this area may have been a focus for prehistoric settlement or activity and there is the potential for surviving archaeological deposits from almost any period from the Mesolithic onwards.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 1-3, 22-3 (Part 7).

Key Characteristics

- Post-medieval rural settlement site enclosed from former common
- 17th to 19th century vernacular cottages
- Mature trees and hedges
- Historically the site of Shaftesbury's town water supply