

Lyme Regis Historic Urban Character Area 5 Woodmead Road

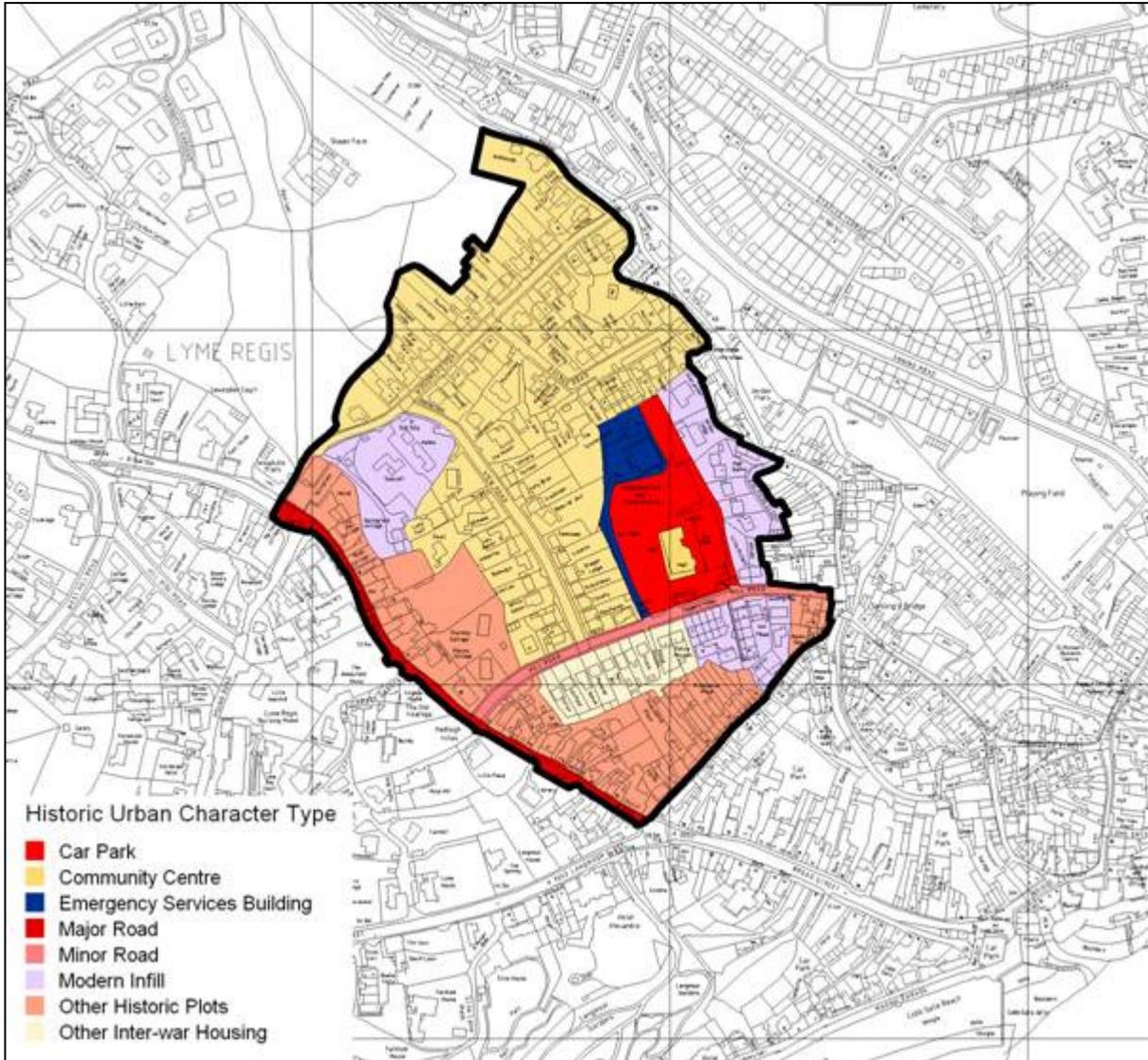


Figure 81: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 5, showing current historic urban character type



Figure 82: View up Silver Street at its southern end.



Figure 83: View northeast down Woodmead Road.

Lyme Regis Historic Urban Character Area 5 Structure of Character Area

Overview

This comprises the area immediately outside the historic core of the medieval town, and represents early post-medieval expansion along Silver Street, as well as the area behind the street frontage down to the river in the northeast. The area is defined by Silver Street and Sherborne Lane on the southwest and southeast sides, by the river to the northeast and by the farmland of Stiles Farm to the northwest.

Topography and Geology

This area dips down fairly steeply to the southeast along the line of Silver Street and also dips down steeply to the northeast into the base of the river valley. The whole of the area is on Lower Lias clays.

Urban Structure

The area has one major route, Silver Street, along its southwest boundary, with historic ribbon development along it and along the historic Sherborne Lane on the southeast edge. There are two roads linking Silver Street with crossings of the river (Hill Road and Woodmead Road) providing cross-town movement of traffic. Woodmead and Hill Roads are joined by View Road which runs roughly parallel to Silver Street. These roads provide access to the suburban housing developments which occupy most of this area, and form the main axes for the layout of the housing.

Present Character

Figure 81 shows the present day historic urban character types. There are historic plots along the frontage of Silver Street and along Sherborne Lane. The rest of the area is predominantly an inter-war suburban estate, with some small areas of modern infill along Hill Road, behind Mill Green and behind Silver

Street. Off Hill Road is a large block of land comprising a car park, police and fire stations and Woodmead Halls.

Time Depth

Sherborne Lane is an ancient route, probably in existence when the land was owned by Sherborne Abbey in the 8th century, though the development along it is much more recent. Silver Street appears to have been developed from the late 17th century. The plots along Silver Street probably date from this period, but there have been changes to the property boundaries and many of the buildings are more recent. The plots along Sherborne Lane are 18th or 19th century in date. Hill Road, View Road and Woodmead Road were laid out in the first decade of the 20th century, but the housing development along them largely dates to the 1920s. The car park and fire station are on the former site of the grammar school and were developed from the 1960s onwards.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

The settlement pattern consists of several different elements. Along the lower part of Silver Street is high density housing on the street frontage presenting a fairly unbroken building line. Further up the street beyond the junction with Hill Road, the housing is less dense, with larger houses, some set back from the frontage giving a much more varied building line. Along Sherborne Lane, the small houses are set back from the lane with small front gardens and long narrow rear plots. The rest of the area is formed of an interconnected network of through roads with the buildings set forward near the front of the regular, mainly rectangular, plots.

The only open space in this area is the rather barren expanse of the car park, but there are good views over the town and the coast.



Figure 84: View along Silver Street north of junction with Hill Road.



Figure 85: View east down Hill Road.

Lyme Regis Historic Urban Character Area 5

Built Character

Building types

There are a range of historic buildings along Silver Street and Sherborne Lane, from large early 19th century villas to modest 18th century cottages. A small number have surviving 17th century work and there are also some modern buildings along these street frontages. In the remainder of the character area, the majority of buildings are inter-war suburban estate houses.

Silver Street has a mixture of two and three storey attached and detached houses, some with shopfronts, together with a number of two storey suburban villas mainly of early 19th century date. A single large villa (Springfield) is found off the northern part of Silver Street, of three storeys, rendered, with a shallow-pitched hipped roof with bracket eaves cornices (Figure 86). The Mariner's Hotel was formerly two cottages, one of which is probably of 17th century date. The Baptist Chapel of 1850 has typical tall round-headed windows, roughcast walls and a hipped slate roof.

Along Sherborne Lane are a number of small two storey cottages, some thatched and a large three storey house (No 6), which form a pleasing group with many individual differences in roof pitch and window arrangement.

The inter-war houses are typical suburban estate houses of the period; of two storeys, mainly semi-detached with some detached, many having two storey bay windows. The modern houses behind Mill Green are typical suburban houses of two storeys with stone cladding.

Building Materials

Most of the historic buildings are constructed from the local Blue Lias limestones, but because of its poor weathering properties, the majority are rendered, roughcast or pebbledash. The roofs are mainly slate, with a small number of tile. Some houses on Sherborne Lane have thatched roofs.

The inter-war buildings are of brick and mainly rendered, or with red brick ground floor and rendered above, some tile cladding. The roofs are mainly clay tile. The modern houses are of brick or stone clad, mainly with concrete tile roofs.

Key Buildings

Public Buildings: Baptist Chapel.

Early 19th century villa: Springfield.

17th century buildings: Mariner's Hotel

18th century houses and cottages: 6 Sherborne Lane, 8-10 Sherborne Lane, 13-19 Sherborne Lane.

19th century houses: Rose Cottage, Silverleigh, Woodmead, 46 Silver Street, 47 Silver Street.



Figure 86: Springfield, an early 19th century villa on Woodmead Road.



Figure 87: Historic Cottages along Sherborne Lane.



Figure 88: Inter-war houses on Hill Road.

**Lyme Regis Historic Urban Character Area 5
Archaeology**

There has been a single archaeological watching brief at 2 Sherborne Lane (Appendix 3, No 9), which revealed elements of an earlier house on the site (Draper 2008). The existing house was built in 1927.

lies between the town and the Royalist headquarters at Haye House.

Archaeological Character

Much of this area would have been agricultural land until the early 20th century, part of Woodmead Farm. A number of historic field boundaries are fossilised in the modern estate boundaries (Figure 89). These field boundaries probably date from the 17th century onwards. A large number of musket balls were found in a bank which was removed prior to the construction of cottages in the early 19th century (Roberts 1834, 197) and which probably date to the Civil War period. There may be other evidence for Civil War activity in this area as it

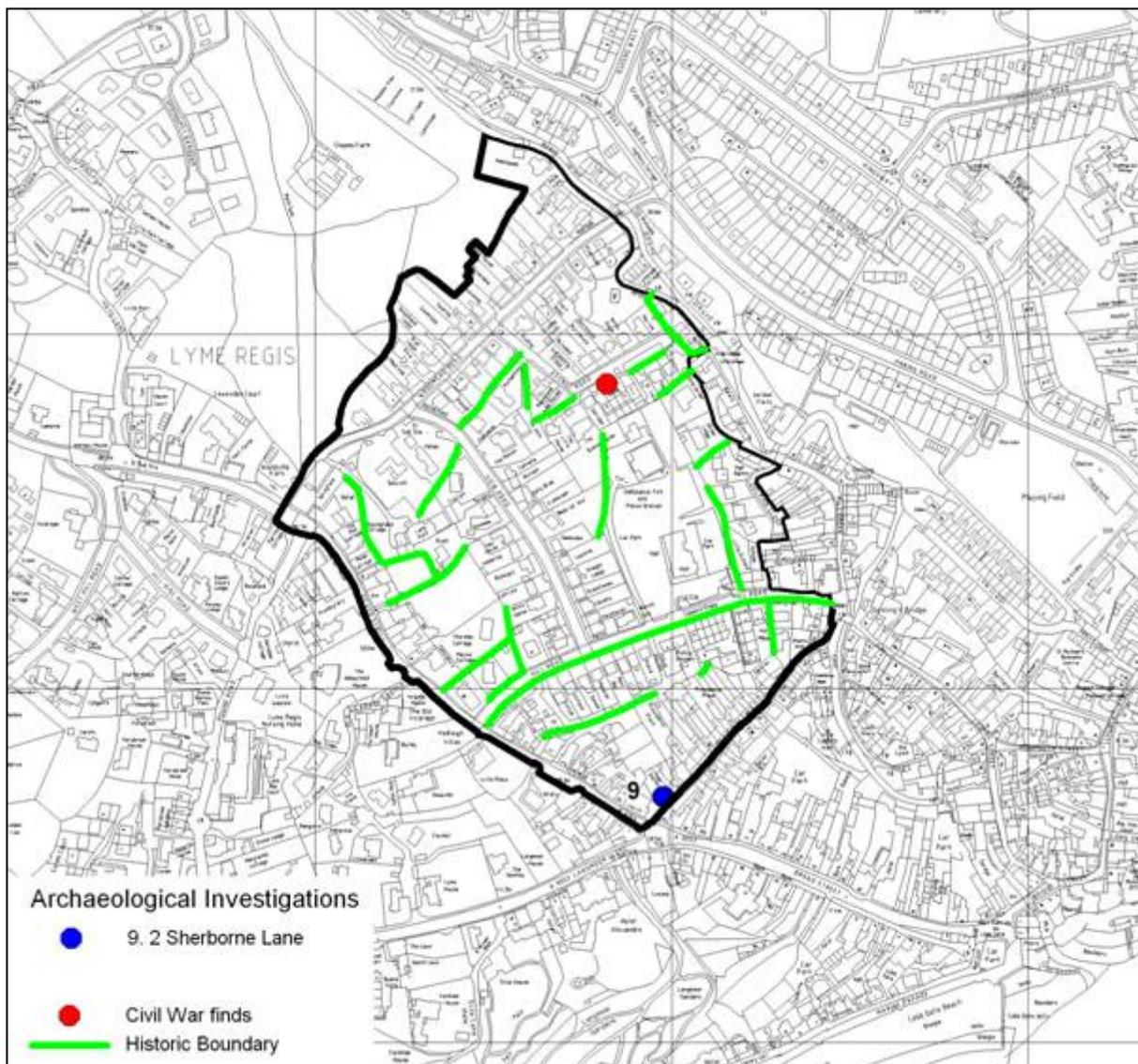


Figure 89: Archaeological features in Historic Urban Character Area 5.

Lyme Regis Historic Urban Character Area 5 Designations

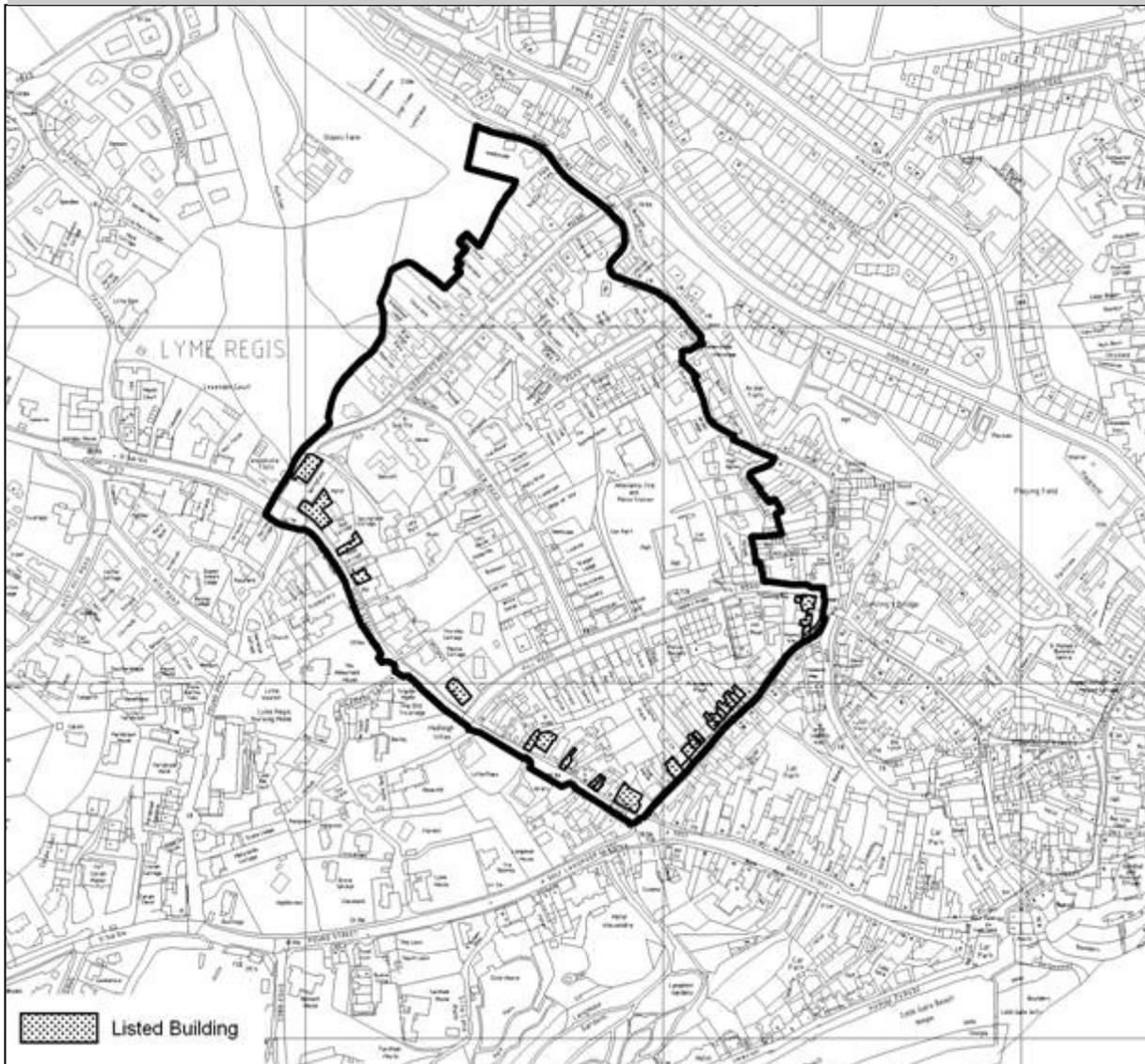


Figure 90: Listed Buildings and other designations in Historic Urban Character Area 5.

Listed Buildings

There are 16 Listed Buildings in the Character Area. All are Grade II.

Conservation Areas

A small part of this area, comprising the frontage of Silver Street, Sherborne Lane and some land behind Mill Green, lies within the Lyme Regis Conservation Area (Figure 36).

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 91: Lyme Regis Baptist Church, Silver Street.

Lyme Regis Historic Urban Character Area 5 Evaluation

Strength of Historic Character

Overall, the strength of character of this area is judged to be **medium**. Although the Silver and Sherborne Lane frontages have some good quality historic buildings, much of the area was developed during the 20th century and the housing and street layout is typical of its period.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **medium** sensitivity to major change. The historic frontages along Sherborne Lane have a relatively high degree of coherence and the property boundaries are of distinctive proportions, which would be very sensitive to major change. The historic frontage of Silver Street lacks a certain coherence, but has a range of different scales of buildings and plots, which are less sensitive to change compared to a more unified regular street frontage. The rest of the area has a defined building rhythm which would need to be considered in any major change.

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **medium**. Although it lies outside the historic core, it is the area of the earliest expansion beyond the area of the medieval

town and the buildings and plots have the potential to reveal details on the nature of this suburban development. A number of the historic buildings have a high potential to provide detailed information on the survival of earlier structures hidden behind later frontages.

There is some potential for the survival of the remains of Civil War activity, highlighted by the discovery of a concentration of musket balls in the 19th century, as the area lies between the town and the Royalist outposts of Haye House and Colway Manor.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 1, 2, 4, 9, 18, 24 (Part 7).

Key Characteristics

- Historic post-medieval Silver Street frontage
- Historic buildings along Sherborne Lane
- Inter-war housing estate
- Good views over the town and the coast