



blandfordplus

Blandford Forum Design

Blandford Forum has developed over centuries, starting from the centre of town, where buildings are older, to the outskirts where building continues. Many housing styles and trends are incorporated in the buildings, although the town is famous for the excellent examples of Georgian architecture.

Georgian, Victorian, Edwardian Areas

Layout

Much of the Georgian area is in the town centre, where the lower floors of the buildings have been converted into shops. The upper floors have become residential flats. Although there is the large residential home occasionally interspersed.

Buildings face directly onto the street at back of the pavement.



Building Character and Form

Many of the central buildings are 3 storeys and terraced. Dormers are much in evidence. There are pitched roofs, as well as a few gabled frontages.

As the buildings move from the centre of the town, more detached and semi-detached houses appear.



Materials

Buildings are generally built with dark red brick, although there is some flint used, with red/brown roof tiles.

Hard Space

Most roads in the older parts of Blandford Forum are quite narrow and, apart from the main roads, parking is a difficulty, because few houses/flats have garages attached. There are, of course, mostly North Dorset District Council with

some DCC highway car parks on Sheep Market Hill & The Market Place, car parks providing shoppers with parking at a price! The car parks apart from Station car park are quite a distance from these older roads and residents are unlikely to park their cars for a number of reasons such as away from their houses.



Landscape

The town is surrounded by countryside, so open space is not very far away, but there are not many green areas in the centre, other than the Woodhouse Gardens.

Dorset Historic Towns Survey: Blandford Forum

Blandford Historic Urban Character Area 1 The Medieval Town

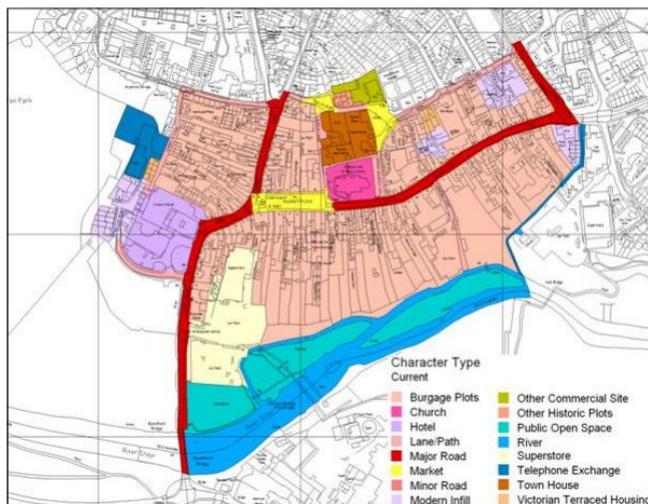


Figure 45: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 1, showing current historic urban character type.

Mid/late 20th Century Areas

Layout

There are several large estates, as building moves from the centre. Some have been developed in a grid pattern, while more recent building has brought more character by creating cul-de-sacs, which lead off the main through road.



Building Character and Form

Houses are a mix of 2, 3 and 4 bedrooms, and terraced, semi-detached and detached. Houses have very much been 'fitted' into the space available, so not all fronts open onto the road, in fact it is often the back gardens, which are adjacent to the pavement.

Whilst back gardens are enclosed by brick walls or wooden fences, front gardens are often open-plan.





Materials

Pale pink bricks are a strong feature of these areas, with darker pink/red roof tiles.

Hard Space

Tarmacadam roads are bordered by pavements.

Semi-detached and detached houses generally have single garages with driveways.

Landscape

There are very few mature trees in evidence. There are some smaller scale trees in evidence, but these have been planted by homeowners.

Blandford Historic Urban Character Area 2 Salisbury Street Post-medieval Suburb

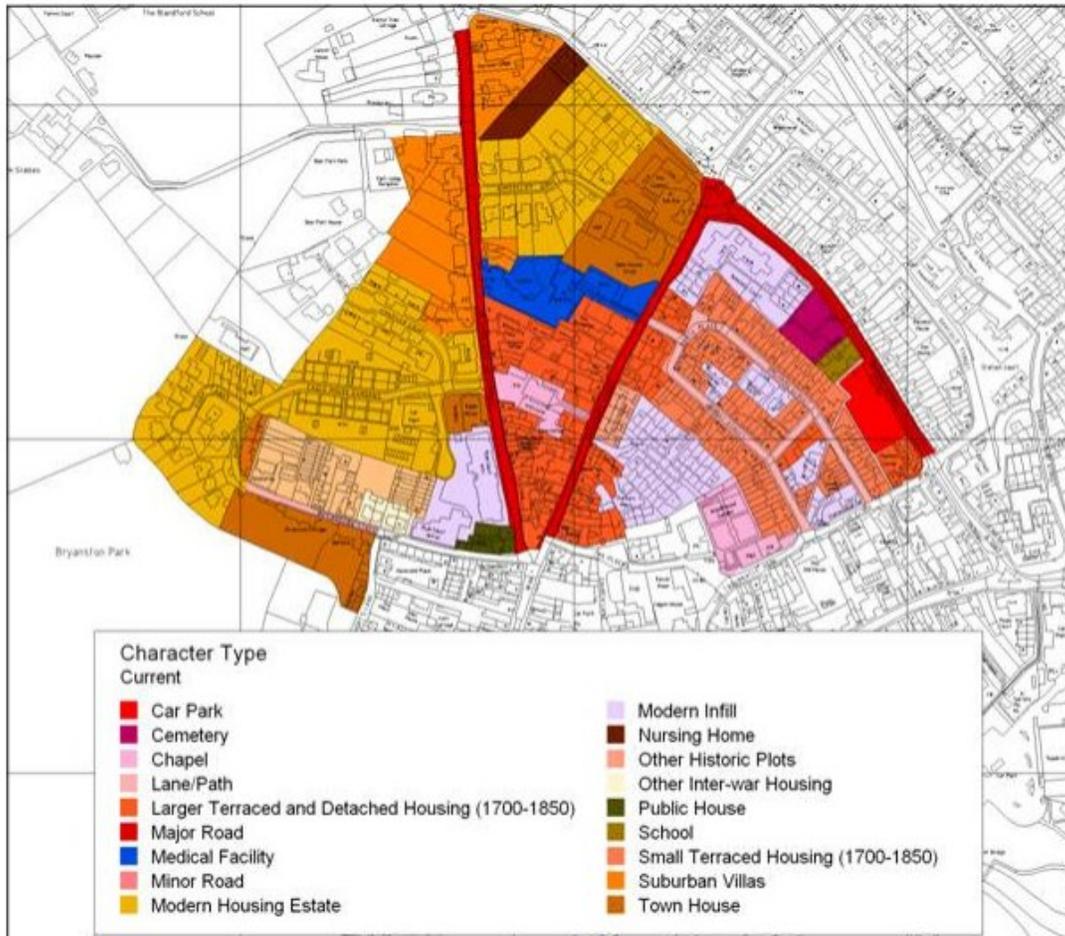


Figure 55: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 2, showing current historic urban character type

Blandford Historic Urban Character Area 3

Milldown Road

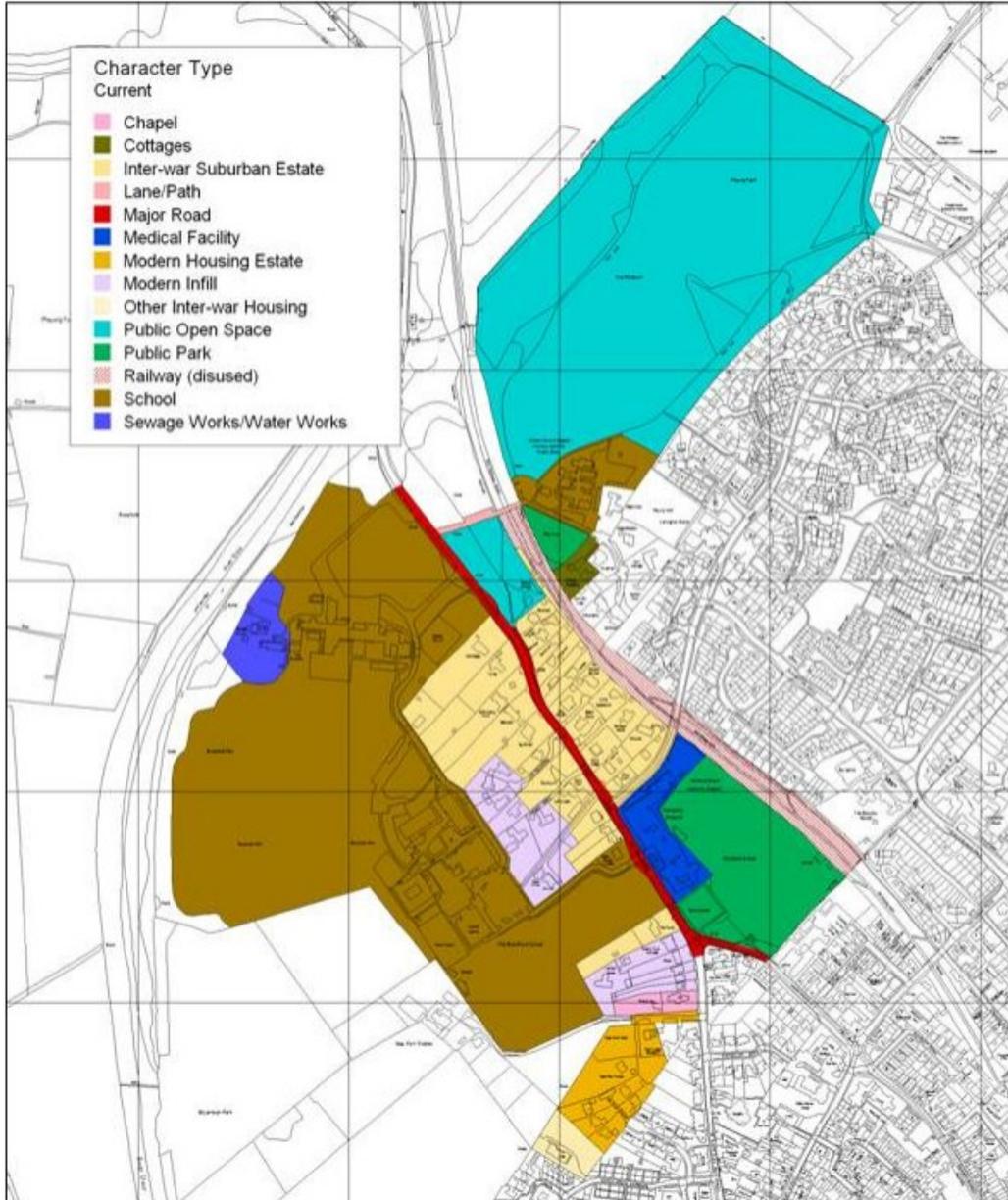


Figure 66: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 3, showing current historic urban character type

Blandford Historic Urban Character Area 4 The Railway Suburb

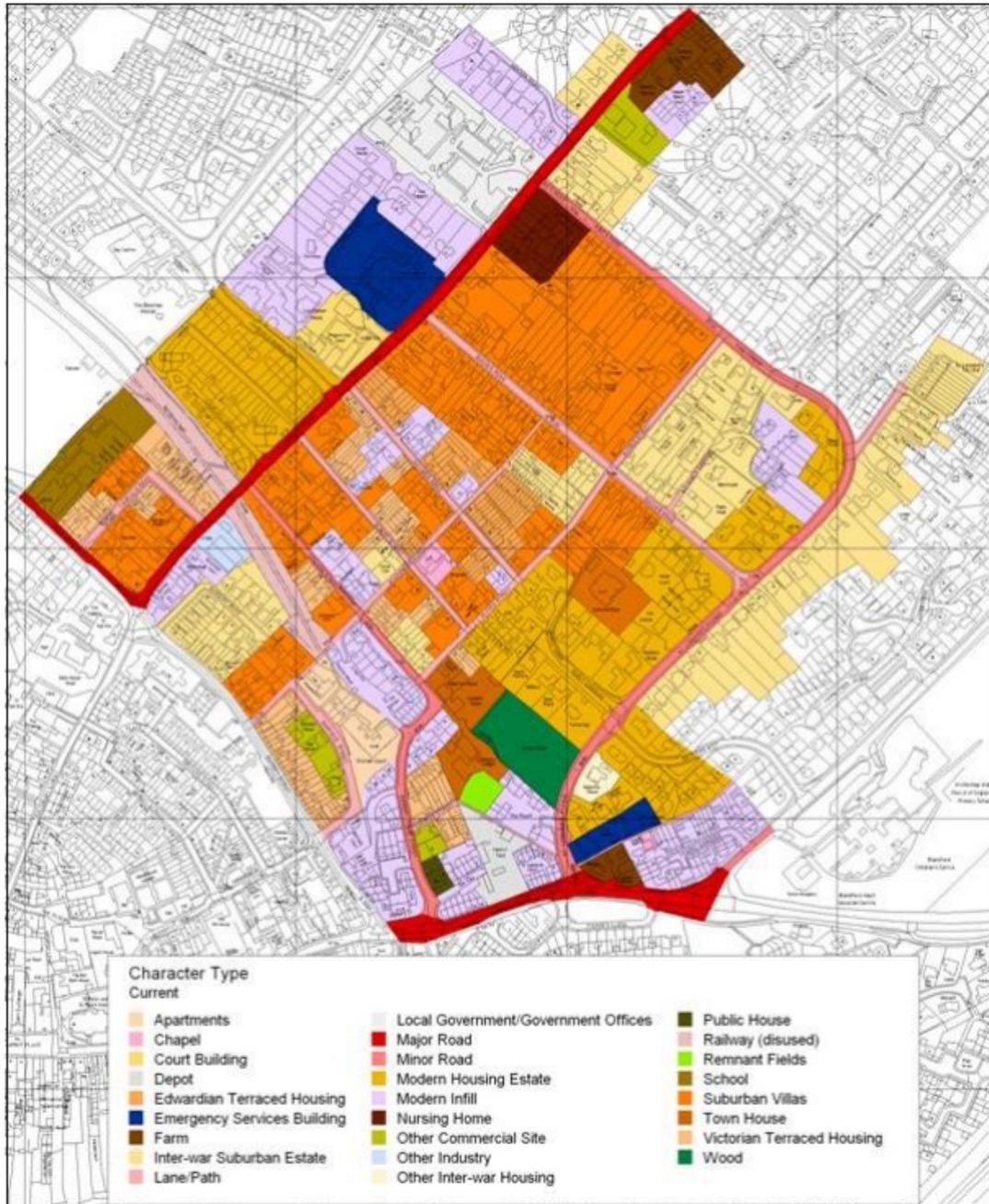


Figure 74: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 4, showing current historic urban character type

Recent Development e.g. Badbury Heights, Diamond Way, Magistrates Court

Layout

As with most modern design, the gardens on these developments are small and front gardens often non-existent. Many of the front gardens have a low wall, wooden fence or railings that separate them from the pavements. Back garden boundaries have wooden fencing or brick walls around them.

Building Character and Form

There is a mix of accommodation 2, 3 and 4 bedroom dwellings. The designer has sought to create an interesting texture by varying the style and the building materials. So there are semi-detached, terraced houses and flats.



Materials

Flint, red brick and render have been used to create variety and texture, with slate and red/brown roof tiles.

Hard Space

Most of the roads are tarmacadam, but in some areas a brick surface creates variety. The pavements are also mainly tarmacadam, although some have shingle added to the mix.

A few of the houses have a drive and also a garage. Generally though the roads are lined with 'layby' style parking, with some houses having designated parking bays directly at the front of their property.



Landscape

Although gardens on newer developments tend to be quite small, developers try to give the impression of space by creating communal open spaces, which are interspersed through the development. Not only do they look attractive, but they give children a place to play that is large enough for ball games and also for them not to be a nuisance to folk living nearby.



Trees have been planted at regular intervals and some landscaping on the open spaces also add interest.



Blandford Historic Urban Character Area 5 North and East Blandford

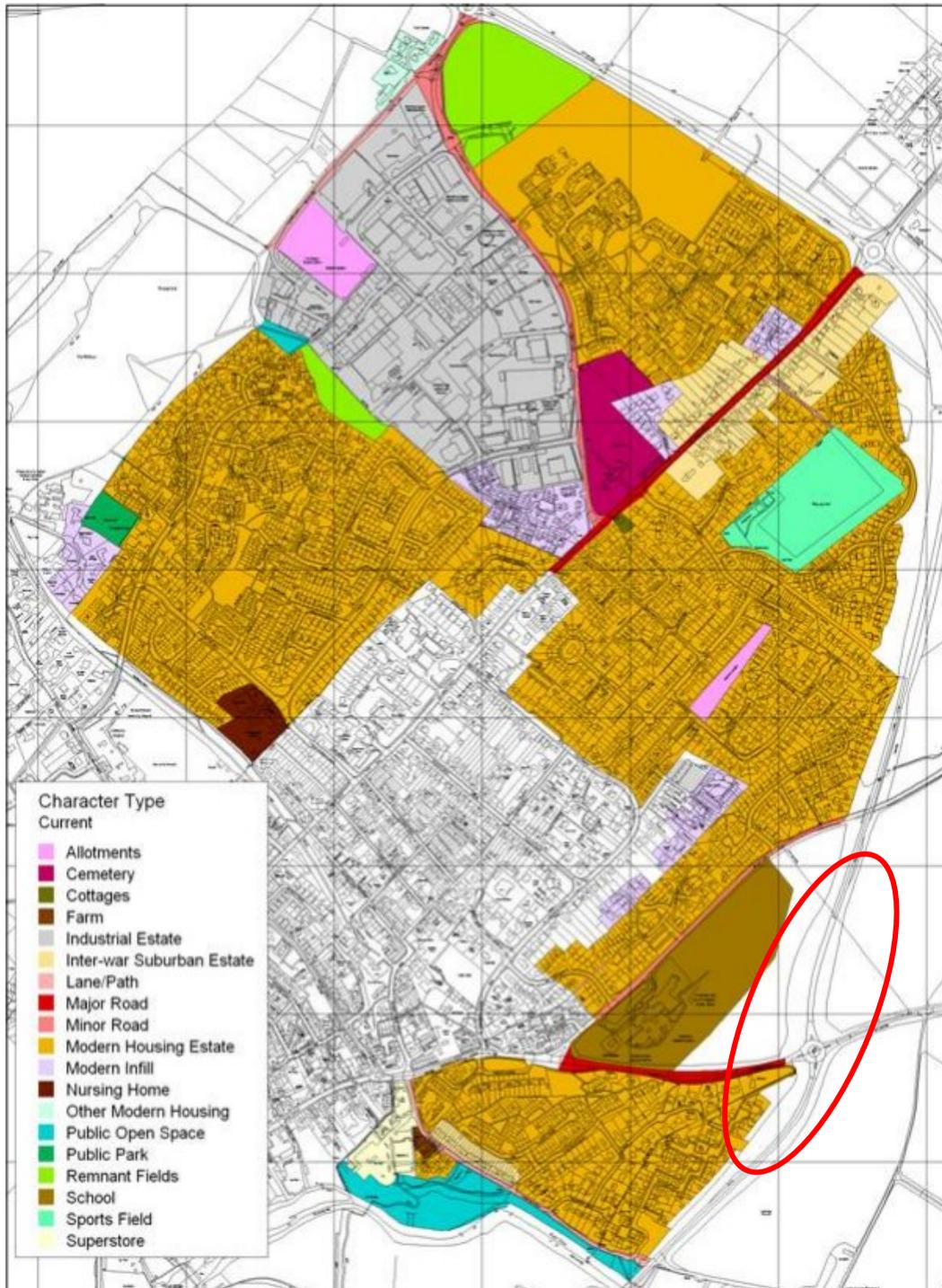


Figure 83: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 5, showing current historic urban character type

Diamond Way development circled in red above.