

Blandford St. Mary

Present day Blandford St Mary is adjacent to the town of Blandford Forum, but is keen to retain its identity.

Layout

The village of Blandford St Mary is broadly made up of 4 fairly distinct areas. There is the older part which lies mainly to the south side of the Blandford bypass. There is a mix of older detached houses and a few detached bungalows, which hug the A35.

The 'industrial area' comprises of the Hall and Woodhouse Brewery, Homebase, Tesco and a small office complex.



The main part of the village is made up of the 1980s and the 1990s housing developments.

Building, Character and Form

1980s housing

The housing here is either semi-detached or terraced, including a large number of semi-detached bungalows.



All dwellings have small gardens to both front and rear. The front gardens of the semi-detached houses access the pavements and are generally the length of a car and divided in half widthways to provide parking for one car. Many front gardens are bordered by a hedge.

1990s housing

The housing is a mix of semi-detached, terraced, and apartments, but the designer has attempted to provide texture by having an imaginative variation on the styling and layout.



Most houses have very small front gardens or none at all, with the building up to the pavements. Back gardens are also small, some enclosed by a brick wall.



Materials

1980s housing is predominantly red brick with red roof tiles, although some of the building is a paler pink brick.

1990s housing is a mix of rendered exteriors, flint and red brick, with both slate and red tile roofing.

Hard space

The roads, particularly in the newer areas of the village and Lower Blandford St Mary are rather narrow. Most are tarmac, although some have a few brick surface and generally well maintained. Roads are lined on both sides with pavements.



Parking in the 1980s area is either on the drive of each house, where there is enough room for one car or in areas allocated for parking for the terraced houses.



In the later development, garages are attached to a large number of houses where there is room for a car in the garage and one on the drive. In the evening and at weekends there is a feeling of overcrowding in the roads, mainly because the roads are so narrow.

Landscape

Blandford St Mary has a First School and a Pre-school, which adds character, as well as providing some open space.



Areas of housing are interspersed with areas of green space, which for the most part consist of grassed areas and young trees. This gives a feeling of space in an area where the housing is quite dense.



There is a children's play area amongst the 1980s housing.



Blandford Historic Urban Character Area 6 Blandford St Mary

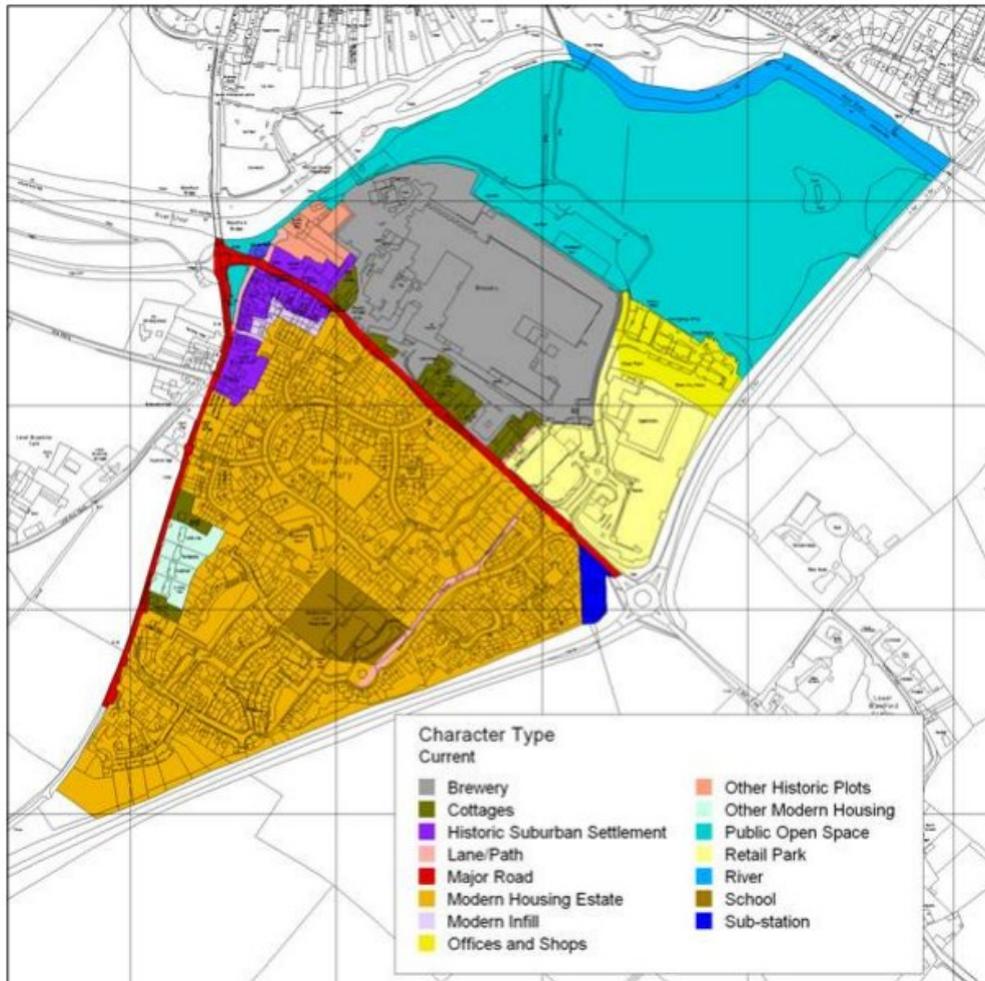
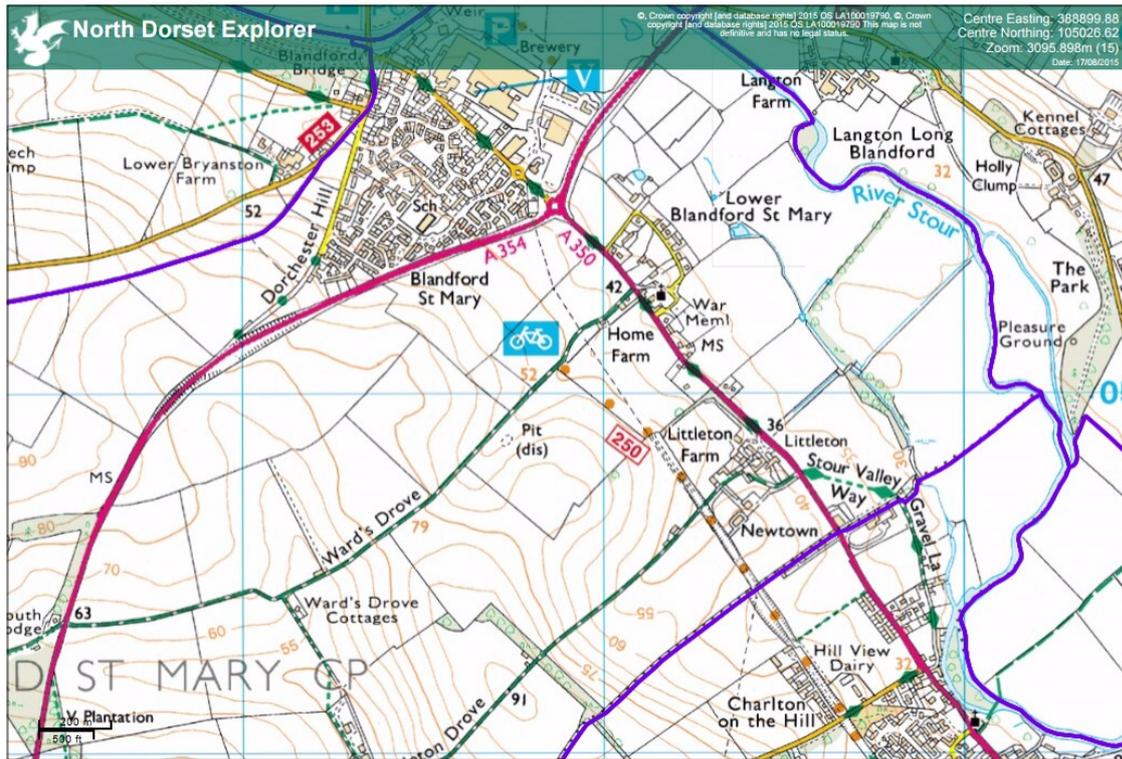


Figure 92: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 6, showing current historic urban character type



Lower Blandford St Mary and Littleton also forms part of Blandford St Mary. An historic assessment of the site can also be found at <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/rchme/dorset/vol3/pp40-46>

Any development in this area, albeit outside of the settlement boundary should adhere to the design guidelines of Blandford + (conserve, enhance, protect and match the surrounding area).