

5.6 Early 20th Century Sherborne (1900- 1945)

5.6.1 Historical Summary

The earlier 20th century was a period of continued but slow expansion beyond the limits of the medieval and post-medieval town. This process began in the mid 19th century with industrial housing in the Horsecastles area and is perhaps best typified in the early 20th century by Edwardian terraced housing and suburban villas in Kings Road, Simons Road and Vernal's Road on the east side of Bristol Road. Sherborne Primary School (figure 67) was built around 1910 to cater for a growing population in this area. Inter-war suburban housing was added at Priestlands, Marston Road, Barton Gardens (figure 68) and King's Crescent. During the war a camp for American soldiers was set up on the fair field on Bristol Road and a Royal Naval hospital was built at Coldharbour. Sherborne endured wayward bombing raids directed at Yeovil and suffered some damage.

Splashbacks were constructed at the site of Sherborne's markets at The Green and The Shambles in an attempt to discourage public urination (Pitman, 1983, 72). A fair field was recorded during the 20th century at the junction of Coldharbour and Bristol Road and was probably associated with fairs held on The Green. The cattle market survived on the site of the present Hound Street car park until the 1960s.

The silk trade was depressed by 1890, although Westbury Mill continued to be a major employer in the town. During World War II the mill produced silk parachute material. As there was a shortage of silk, the mill switched to producing fabric woven from glass fibres for use in electrical insulation. This material became known as Marsden's glass (after the mill

owner, shortened to Marglass) and proved of great practical and commercial value, which allowed the mill to expand substantially in the post-war years (Marsden, 1980, 17-26). Brewing also seems to have declined in Sherborne during the 20th century. The site of the Dorsetshire Brewery on Long Street was taken over by South Western Dairies before being redeveloped for housing in 1983-6. However, a micro-brewery known as The Sherborne Brewery at 257 Westbury has re-established brewing in Sherborne since 2005.

The Lady Chapel, at the east end of St Mary's church, had been used as the headmaster's house for Sherborne School. In 1921-34 it was restored to a chapel, although the Tudor façade was left intact (Pitman, 1983, 10). Sherborne Baptist Church was built on North Road in the earlier 20th century (figure 70).

Sherborne Urban District Council was formed in 1895, occupying first Church House and then Ludbourne House until 1948. Other developments included the building of a Naval hospital at the east end of Coldharbour. The Yeatman Hospital continued to expand in the early 20th century (figure 71), a three-storey wing was added in 1938-9 (Barker, 1990, no 24).

5.6.2 Town Layout

Sherborne continued to expand slowly during the early 20th century, mainly by the construction of housing estates beyond the limits of the historic town. The most notable example was the Kings Road estates constructed circa 1910, together with Simon's Road School. This was a planned suburban estate outside the northern limits of the town adjacent to the Bristol Road and designed around a grid with a central crescent. Other examples include Priestlands on



Figure 67: Sherborne Learning Centre; formerly Sherborne Primary School, Simon's Road.



Figure 68: Barton Gardens.

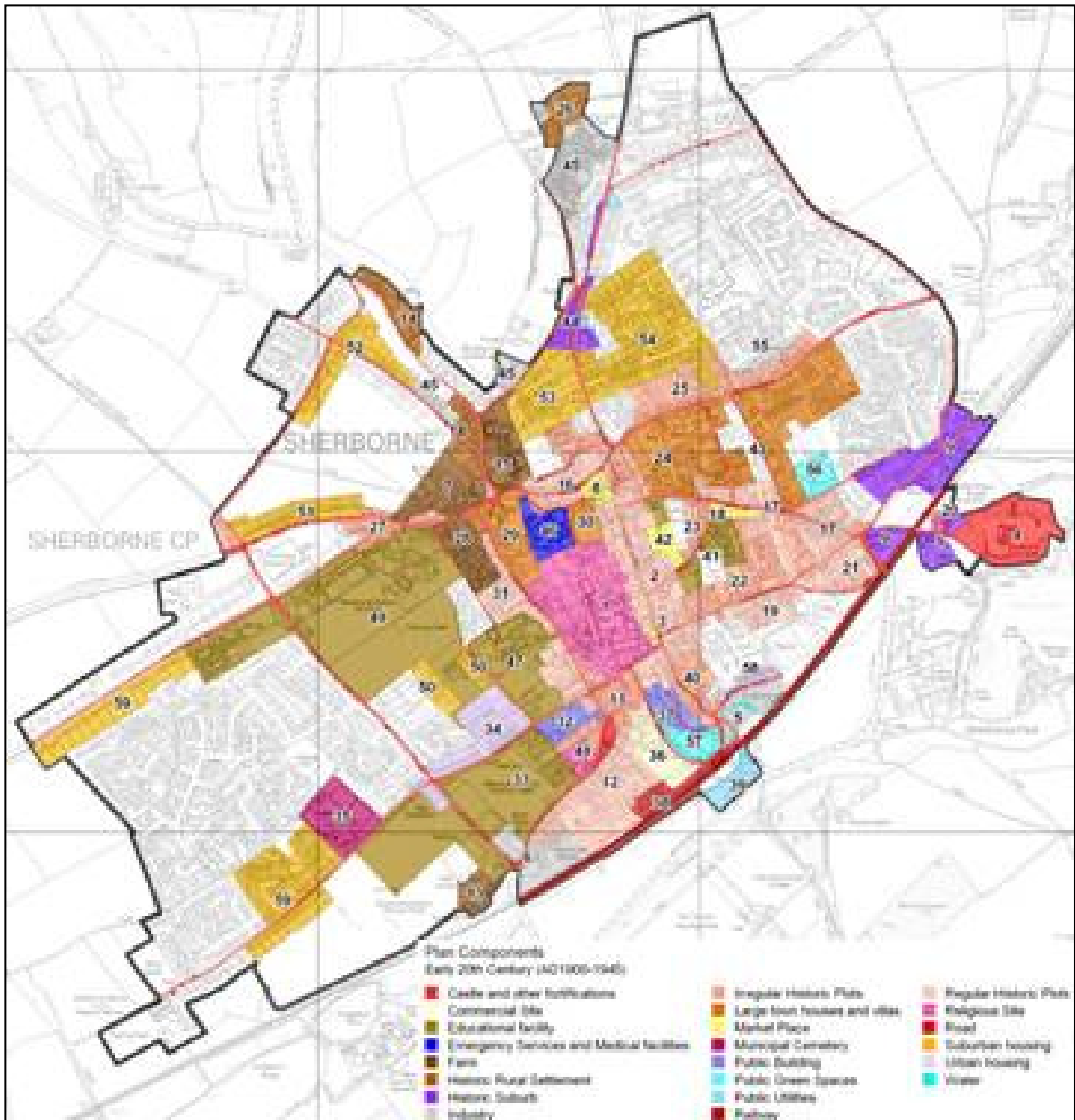


Figure 69: early 20th century Town Plan Components



Figure 70: Sherborne Baptist Church, North Road



Figure 71: The Yeatman Hospital from the south

the opposite side of Bristol Road and Barton Gardens. Urban terraces along Ludbourne Road also date from this period. There was also some industrial expansion at The Riverside Works. Large tracts of the Lenthay and Horsecastles area were taken up by Sherborne Girls School and Sherborne School playing fields. Public open spaces were also a significant development, notably at Pageant Gardens.

5.6.3 Early 20th Century Town Plan Components

The mainplan components of the early twentieth century town are shown on Figure 69 and are listed below.

1. *The former Abbey precinct and Sherborne School.* Sherborne School continued to expand throughout the early 20th century. The north block, on the north side of the Great Court was added in 1913 (Figure 72). An extension was built at the west end of the school chapel as a War Memorial in 1922.

2. *Cheap Street and South Street.* 20th century developments include the construction of Woolworths in 1937 at 55 Cheap Street. Potentially early Christian burials were found during ground works at this site.

3. *The Market.* The weekly Saturday market was held in the market place throughout the early 20th century.

4. *The Old Castle.* There was little discernible change to the Castle site during the early 20th century.

5. *St Andrews Mill.* By the inter-war period the stone buildings of St Andrew's Mill had been incorporated into a milk factory. Later the Wincanton Engineering works were established on the site. The expanded site included a railway siding.

6. *Westbury Mill.* The Mill converted from the

production of silk to the manufacture of glass fibres during WWII and the Marglass Company expanded in to the area of former burgage plots to the rear of Westbury now known as Riverside Works.

7. *Barton Farm.* There was little discernible change to Barton Farm during the early 20th century.

8. *The Green.* A fair field is recorded on 20th century maps at the junction of Bristol Road and Coldharbour. An American camp occupied this site during World War II.

9. *Castleton.* There was no significant change in Castleton since the construction of the railway in 1860.

11. *Trendle Street.* There were no significant developments in this area during the early 20th century.

12. *Westbury.* At the turn of the 20th century red brick terraces were constructed at the west end of Westbury at The Grove and Raleigh Place (Figure 73).

13. *Hyle Farm.* The first part of Sherborne School's playing fields was laid out to the north of the farmhouse during the 1920s.

14. *Nethercoombe.* There was little discernible change to Nethercoombe in the early 20th century.

15. *Newell Grange.* The glove factory appears to have closed during the early 20th century, although the buildings remained.

16. *Newland; Greenhill.* There was relatively little change during this period.

17. *Newland.* There was no significant change during this period.

18. *Newland Green.* There was no significant change during this period.

19. *Eastbury.* There was relatively little change during this period.



Figure 72: View North West of the Great Court, Sherborne School



Figure 73: Raleigh Place, Westbury

20. *St Mary Magdalene Church, Castleton.*

There was no significant change to the church during this period

21. *East Field.* Gradual residential development has continued to infill the area of the former Eastfield during the early 20th century. This mostly comprised houses fronting on the East Mill Lane, although Tudor Lodge on Long Street was also constructed at this time.

22. *Long Street.* The only development along Long Street during the 20th century has been the construction of occasional detached houses within isolated unoccupied plots. These include Culverhayes Lodge and St Maur. Osborne House lies at the Junction of Newland and Osborne Road, opposite Long Street.

23. *Hound Street.* There was little discernible change to these plots during the early 20th century.

24. *Sherborne House.* This was the home of Lord Digby's School for Girls from 1932.

25. *Coldharbour.* A row of terraced houses and semi-detached suburban villas was built between Coldharbour and the Steam Laundry during the late Victorian and Edwardian periods.

26. *Lower Clatcombe.* There was no significant change during this period.

27. *Kitt Hill Cottages.* Messrs Sawtells Printing works were constructed on Yeovil Road around the turn of the 20th century and extended in 1930 when possible civil war burials were found. These buildings survive today on the east side of the Oxley service station.

28. *Horsecastles Farm.* The farm expanded and a large milk and butter factory was constructed on its south side during the early 20th century.

29. *Cornhill Town Houses.* There was little recorded change during this period.

30. *Greenhill House.* There was little significant change during this period.

31. *Acreman Street.* There was little significant change during this period.

32. *Sherborne Poor Law Institution.* The Sherborne Union Workhouse Buildings were demolished in 1938 (Higginbotham, 2008).

33. *Sherborne School Playing Fields.* The playing fields were expanded to include land on the west side of Ottery Lane during the 1920s.

34. *Horsecastles Terraces.* A double row of terraced housing was added on Wingfield Road at the turn of the century.

35. *Lenthay Cemetery.* There was no discernible change to the cemetery in the early 20th century.

36. *Digby Hotel.* There was no discernible change to the Hotel in the early 20th century.

37. *Digby Road Public Buildings.* The Digby Memorial Church Hall was built in 1910. A club (now a day centre) and the Masonic hall were added between the memorial hall and the County Police Station by 1926.

38. *Sherborne Station.* There was no discernible change to the station in the early 20th century.

39. *The Gas Works.* The Gas works expanded during the early 20th century with the demolition of a small gas holder at the east end of the site and its replacement with a much larger one at the west end.

40. *South Street.* The site of the old county bridewell was a petrol filling station in 1930 (Barker, 1990, no 116). A row of semi-detached Edwardian villas were constructed at the south end of the west side of South Street.

41. *Hound Street Schools.* A collection of out-buildings, possibly classrooms, were added to the south side of Foster's Grammar School during the early 20th century.

42. *Cattle Market.* The cattle market continued in use during the early 20th century with the addition of a new ring, stalls and other buildings.



Figure 74: Sherborne School for Girls, Bradford Road



Figure 75: The Bandstand, Pageant Gardens.

43. *North Road/ the Avenue*. 20th century development along North Road has been restricted to the subdivision of larger plots associated with 19th century ornamental villas and the construction of large detached houses therein. The 19th century suburban character of the area has thus been preserved. In fact the whole of the North Road development lies within a former field boundary which dates back at least until the medieval period. The Avenue was mostly developed around the turn of the 20th century and large detached houses continued to be built in the period style into the early 20th century.

44. *The Golden Ball*. There was no significant change during this period.

45. *Lower Clatcombe Quarries*. The quarry on the south side of Red Hole Lane was worked in to the 1920s but had been closed by the end of WWII. The quarry on the south side of Quarr Lane was worked throughout the period.

46. *Yeatman Hospital*. A large three storey wing was added at the south end of the hospital, over the site of the former saw pit, during 1938-9 (Barker, 1990, no 24).

47. *Sherborne Preparatory School*. There was no significant change during this period.

48. *St Anthony's Convent*. There was no significant change during the early 20th century.

49. *Sherborne School for Girls*. The school was founded in 1899 and has been located at its present site on Bradford Road since 1903 following the construction of the two main buildings there. Aldhelmsted West is built in brick in the Queen Anne style and the main stone building was designed by Sir Reginald Blomfield in the Gothic revival style. The Clock tower was added in 1926 (figure 74). Various boarding houses were added during the early 20th century, notably Dun Holm at the western end of the complex with its series of gables and Chimneys also in the Queen Anne style (WDDC, 2007, 86-7).

50. *Richmond Road Suburban Housing*. A small group of detached and semi-detached suburban villas were built in the vicinity of Lyon House on Richmond Road in the Horsecastles area during the early 20th century. The earliest of these, numbers 11-15 (odd) Richmond Road were built around the turn of the century. The others, including Lyon House itself, date from the inter war period.

51. *Barton Gardens* (Figure 68). Barton Gardens were designed in 1919 as a series of alternate semi-detached houses and short terraces (Barker, 1990, no 21). The buildings are of generous dimensions, and rendered, with hipped slate roofs. They are set back from the Yeovil Road on a slip road. They represent a particularly early example of 20th-century suburban semi-detached housing developments popularised in the 1920s and 30s.

52. *Marston Road housing estate*. The earliest houses were a late 19th century semi-detached pair at 1 and 3 Sheeplands Lane. Ribbon housing development started along Marston Road and the south side of Sheeplands Lane in the inter-war period. This generally comprised large detached houses set back from the street frontage in rectangular plots.

53. *Priestlands housing estate*. Most of these large detached houses were built during the inter-war period and developed within a former field of the same name. It has been suggested that in the medieval period this land may have formed part of the glebe for St Thomas' chapel on The Green (Fowler, 1951, 129-134).

54. *King's Road Edwardian housing estate*. This estate of Edwardian terraces and suburban villas was built around 1910, along with Simon's Road school which was built to serve the needs of the expanding community. Simon's Road and Vernall's Road contain short terraces in red brick with yellow brick window and door arches. The three roads (King's Road, Simons Road and Vernall's Road enclosed a central square



Figure 76: The Old Fire Station and Ludbourne Terrace, Ludbourne Road



Figure 77: Inter-war housing, Lenthay Road

space which was later filled with the inter-war housing development of King's Crescent.

55. *Coldharbour Steam Laundry*. The steam laundry on Harbour Way was built in 1901 and still functions as a laundry. The laundry was set up by the then headmaster of Sherborne School, Canon Frederick Westcott to serve the school as well as local businesses.

56. *Tinney's Lane Playing Field*. A lawn tennis and croquet club was established here during the inter-war period. The outline of the original court is preserved in that of the modern games court on the east side of the Youth Centre.

57. *The Pageant Gardens*. The Pageant Gardens were created on land to the east of Digby Road in 1906 (Figure 75), paid for by money raised during the Sherborne Pageant of 1905 (Barker, 1990, no130). The bandstand is central to the garden and is an octagonal iron structure with a concave tented roof and weather vane (WDDC, 2007, 27).

58. *Ludbourne Road Terraces*. Ludbourne Road has four short terraces of red brick Edwardian style houses. The earliest, at the west end of the road, have stone rubble end walls and were built in 1913 (Figure 76). The adjacent old fire station is also red brick. Each house has two storeys and a dormer. The three eastern terraces lie closely adjacent to each other, are built in plain red brick and probably date from the inter-war period.

59. *Lenthay Housing Estate*. Work appears to have begun on the red brick semi-detached houses on South Avenue at some time prior to 1941 when a Palaeolithic stone axe was reported from house building works there (Bean 1950, 79). These houses are shown on aerial photographs taken by the RAF in the late 1940s, as are some of the detached houses on Lenthay and Bradford Roads (Figure 77).