

## 5.7 Later 20<sup>th</sup> Century Sherborne (1946- Present Day)

### 5.7.1 Historical Summary

In the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, Sherborne began to expand rapidly through the construction of large suburban housing estates at Lenthay and to the north and east of the town. These estates were essentially complete by the end of the 1970s. Since then the population has continued to increase, but through development within the maximum urban area established at that time. This includes the redevelopment of sites such as the Former Fosters school playing fields (1990s) and smaller infill developments in areas of earlier suburban villas.

Commercial developments have been important in sustaining the viability of this medium-sized modern market town. These include Hunt's Frozen foods and other businesses on the Ludbourne Road business estate built in the 1980s. The Coldharbour hospital was redeveloped as a business park during the 1990s, and Sainsbury's supermarket was built on the site of the former St Andrew's Mill in 1998-9.

The Cattle Market survived on the site of the present Hound Street car park until the 1960s. The fair field recorded on the opposite side of Hound Street may have been associated with this site or the St Swithin's fair, but was developed for The Digby Hall and Library during the 1970s (Figure 78).

The modern industrial development of the town was spearheaded by Marglass; the successful conversion of the Westbury Silk Mill to the production of glass fibre brought about the expansion of the site in the post war period into the area known as Riverside Works (Marsden, 1980, 26). Marglass, now Interglass Technologies manufacturing glass fibre cloth such as fire retardant curtains and wall coverings, were the major employer and still employ a signifi-

cant part of the town's workforce. The company occupied the Riverside Works and Ottery Lane sites until the late 20<sup>th</sup> century, although the Ottery Lane site is now a small business centre (Figure 55). The area of former railway yards and part of the garden of The Digby Hotel has also become a small industrial estate. The Railway buildings and Marglass buildings were constructed in red brick, later additions are in modern materials. A further small industrial estate has been established to the east of the former St Andrews Mill site. This site is occupied by Baumann Springs Ltd and Hunts Frozen Foods. Hunts began as a local Dairy which branched out into ice cream manufacture in 1948. It moved to its current site on Ludbourne Road in 1974 and branched out into more general frozen foods. It has continued to expand throughout the SW into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, although the head office remains at Ludbourne Road. Baumann UK was founded in May 1989. The UK headquarters and main manufacturing plant is on East Mill Lane in Sherborne and specialises in research, development, production and sale of industrial springs and other wire forms (Figure 79).

The former naval hospital on Coldharbour was also converted to an industrial estate during the 1990s. However, the largest employment sector for Sherborne's 4,800 strong workforce is public administration, education and health, with 41%. Manufacturing industries employ only 8% of the working population.

The historic character of Sherborne is of such significance and quality that the town is now a significant tourist destination. This has an important impact on the trade with 72% of visitors making linked visits to the town. This is now an integral part of the continuing success of the town as a service and retail centre and enables retail trade to thrive within the town in the face



Figure 78: Digby Hall and Library, Hound Street



Figure 79: Baumann Springs, East Mill Lane

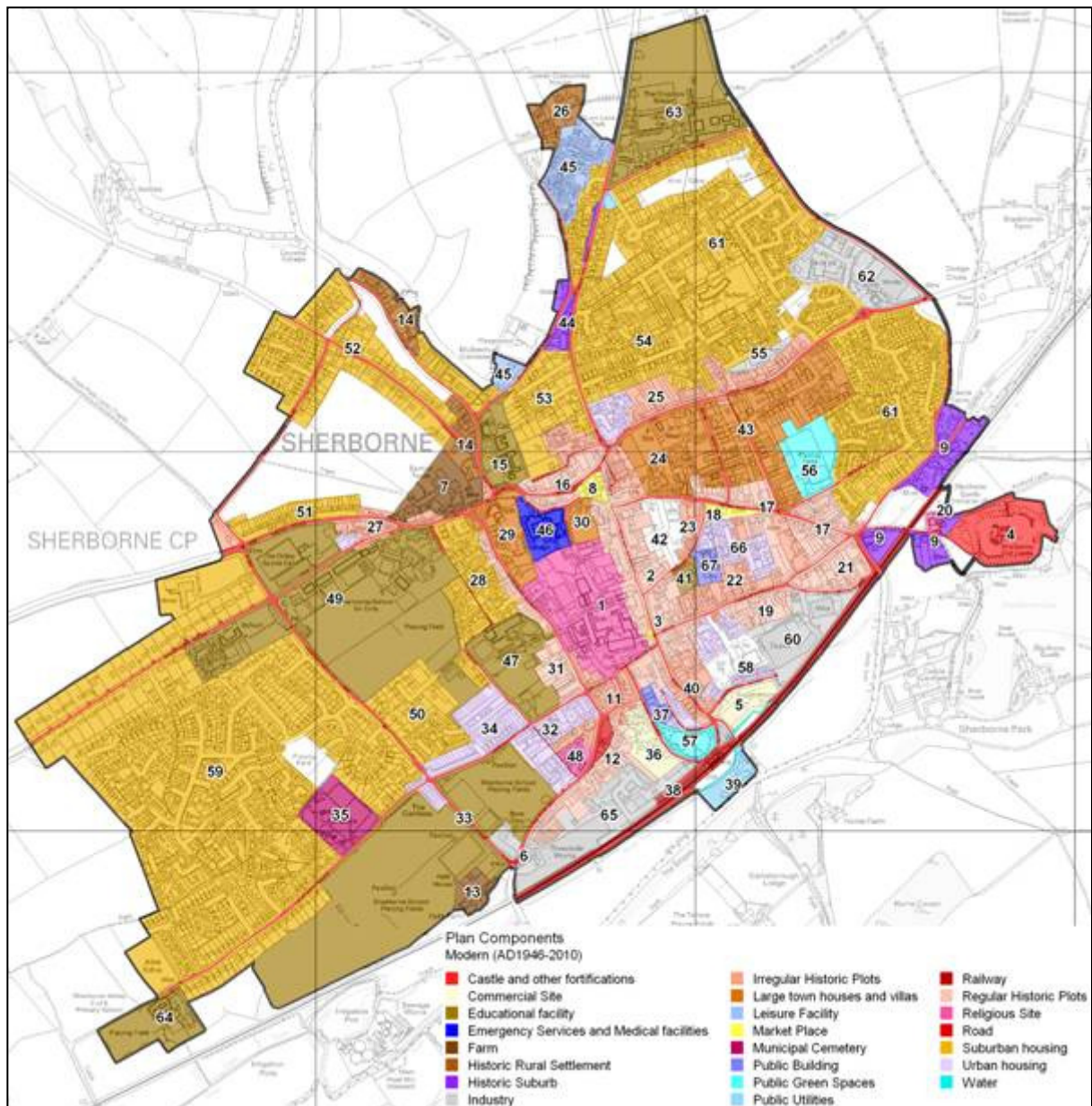


Figure 80: Modern Town Plan Components

of substantial competition from the neighbouring larger retail centre at Yeovil.

Sherborne Urban District Council moved from its purpose built premises at Ludbourne House (figure 81) to the Manor House during 1948 (figure 36). In 1974 the UDC was merged with other boroughs and rural districts to form the West Dorset District Council, who continue to occupy the Manor House.

### 5.7.2 Town Layout

The late 20<sup>th</sup> century has seen a large number of major developments. In particular, the development of the Lenthay housing estate and the NE Sherborne housing estates has had a significant impact on the town layout. Other sig-

nificant developments include the growth of Sherborne's three major industrial and commercial estates at Riverside Works, Ludbourne Road and Coldharbour Road. These modern developments have had a minimal impact on the historic core of the town, and they do not impinge on any of the significant historic vistas and townscapes.

The only significant changes to the Sherborne Road network after the turnpikes was the construction of New Road by Lord Digby in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, and the construction of the A30 Yeovil-Sherborne dual carriageway in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.



### 5.7.3 Modern Town Plan Components

The main plan components of the late twentieth century town are shown on Figure 80 and are listed below.

1. *The former Abbey precinct and Sherborne School.* Sherborne School continued to expand during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Medlycott Building (Figure 82) was added on the east side of the Great Court in 1955. Archaeological observations by C E Bean during its construction revealed early Christian burials dating from the 8<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. The school expanded into the northern parts of the former Abbey precinct. The school sports hall now occupies the area of the former monastic fishponds and a new music room in Abbots Acre, to the west of Hospital Lane.

2. *Cheap Street and South Street.* The strip of town centre car parks, behind the east frontage of Cheap Street, are a rare late 20<sup>th</sup> century development in the town centre. They are accompanied by modern buildings such as a supermarket, telephone exchange and community hall and library opposite on Hound Street. The site was a market and garages.

3. *The Market.* A weekly Saturday market is still held in the market place.

4. *The Old Castle.* Sherborne Old Castle is now in the care of English Heritage and open to the public.

5. *St Andrews Mill.* Now the site of Sainsbury's supermarket, following demolition of the Wincanton Engineering works and the filling in of the mill leat in 1998 (Figure 83).

6. *Westbury Mill.* The Marglass Company occupied the Riverside Works and Ottery Lane sites until after 1980. The latter has recently been converted into a small business centre, retaining the 19<sup>th</sup> century stone buildings (Figure 55). An industrial and commercial estate now occupies the land between the Riverside Works and

Sherborne Railway Station.

7. *Barton Farm.* Barton Farm remains a functioning farm and many of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and earlier buildings survive in use. A number of large modern barns, outbuildings and silos have been added at the rear of the site.

8. *The Green.* There has been little discernible change to The Green in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, apart from the addition of a traffic island.

9. *Castleton.* There has been no significant change in Castleton during this period.

11. *Trendle Street.* There were no significant developments in this area during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

12. *Westbury.* After World War II Westbury Mill expanded into Riverside works, destroying the southern part of the Westbury burgrave plots.

13. *Hyle Farm.* In 1967 Hyle Farm and the remainder of the playing fields were donated to Sherborne School.

14. *Nethercoombe.* Short terraces of houses were built at Mulberry Gardens during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century, and some larger detached houses, resulting in continuous linear settlement along the bottom of the coombe.

15. *Newell Grange.* The sites of Newell Grange and the Chapel of St Emerenciana have been incorporated into Sherborne International College. This college, established in 1977, transferred to this present site in 1991, when new school buildings were constructed.

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

17. *Newland.* The major development during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century has been the construction of apartment blocks; Newland Flats and Chrysanthemum Flats, at the junction of Newland and Tinney's Lane

18. *Newland Gardens.* Newland Gardens was created on the site of the former Newland mar-



Figure 81: Ludbourne House, South Street



Figure 82: Medlycott Building, Sherborne School

ket to commemorate George VI and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. The public garden contains a small stone monument recalling the site of the former stone cross base. Paddock Gardens has also recently been created on the south side of Newland, opposite Sherborne House.

19. *Eastbury*. The Dorsetshire Brewery building was occupied by South Western Dairies in the later 20<sup>th</sup> century but then lay derelict for many years until it was re-developed in 1983-6 as residential apartments called *The Maltings*.

20. *St Mary Magdalene Church, Castleton*. There was no significant change to the church during this period.

21. *East Field*. A number of small infill developments have taken place during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century truncating the rear of former plots. These new developments front on to East Mill Lane and include East Mill Court, Eastfield Garden and a new surgery.

22. *Long Street*. The only late 20<sup>th</sup>/early 21<sup>st</sup> century development along Long Street is that of Somerled House in the grounds of Brecon House.

23. *Hound Street*. There was little discernible change to these plots in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

24. *Sherborne House*. Lord Digby's School for girls became a grammar school following the education act of 1944, and closed in 1992. The future of the building is in the balance. Part of the house has been used as an arts centre during the early 21<sup>st</sup> century although the current state of disrepair means that access is limited.

25. *Coldharbour*. During WWII an American camp was established on the former Fairfield at the junction with Bristol Road and a hospital was established at the eastern end of Coldharbour at the junction with Castle Town Way. The site of the camp became a job centre in the post war period and has recently been re-developed

as residential apartments (Figure 84).

26. *Lower Clatcombe*. Although the hamlet of Lower Clatcombe retains much of its rural charm, it is now connected to the urban area of Sherborne by the Quarr Lane residential caravan park in a former quarry.

27. *Kitt Hill Cottages*. Recently a new garage and sports centre have been developed to the west of the former printing works. The field to the NW of Barton Farm has been earmarked for housing development.

28. *Horsecastles Farm*. Two of the farm out-buildings survive and have been converted to residential use. The remainder of the site, together with that of the Dairy Factory on the south, has been developed for modern housing. These developments extend westwards into former fields associated with the farm. Houses on the north side of the former farm complex are generally large, detached and date from the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. There are also some large modern detached houses south of the former dairy site at Powys Green. The remainder comprise small houses arranged in short terraces.

29. *Cornhill Town Houses*. The Drill Hall has been demolished and replaced with a mixture of large detached houses and an apartment block at Hillbrook Court.

30. *Greenhill House*. A new wing was built extending from the south west corner of Greenhill House during 1998-9.

31. *Acreman Street*. Historic plots fronting on to the west side of Acreman Street were truncated further during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century through the construction of modern housing estates at Acreman Court, Culvers Close and Powys Green.

32. *Sherborne Poor Law Institution*. The workhouse buildings were demolished in 1938 (Higginbotham 2008), and an estate of geometrically-arranged short terraces with hipped roofs built at Durrants Close in 1946. Housing ex-



Figure 83: Sainsbury's Supermarket, South Street



Figure 84: Fairfield Heights, Coldharbour.

tended westwards in the early 21<sup>st</sup> century at Old School Place and Abbey Mead Court.

33. *Sherborne School Playing Fields*. These playing fields were extended to their current size following the donation of fields associated with Hyle Farm in 1967.

34. *Horsecastles Terraces*. There was no discernible change to these terraces during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

35. *Lenthay Cemetery*. There was no discernible change to the cemetery during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

36. *Digby Hotel*. The hotel was converted to use as a boarding house for Sherborne School in the mid 1960s. A former stable block on the north side of the hotel has been converted to domestic housing. A new housing development has recently been constructed on the west side of the stable block on the site of a former garage. The south end of the former gardens are now part of an industrial estate.

37. *Digby Road Public Buildings*. The Old Police Station was replaced by a modern flat-roofed building housing both the police station and magistrates court during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. Modern housing was also built along Pageant Drive at the rear of the station.

38. *Sherborne Station*. Whilst there has been little change to the station itself, the site of many of the associated goods sheds and cattle pens has been given over to a new industrial estate.

39. *The Gas Works*. Three large gas holders were removed during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century and the works closed in 1957 (Barker, 1990, no 104). It is not clear to what extent buildings survive from the former gas depot. The site is now used as small industrial estate.

40. *South Street*. The rear of the former County Bridewell site has recently been redeveloped for housing.

41. *Hound Street Schools*. Foster's Grammar School closed in 1995 and the site has been redeveloped for housing. Harper House has been a boarding House for Sherborne School throughout the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

42. *Cattle Market*. The cattle market closed in the 1960s and has been replaced by a car park, telephone exchange, depot and supermarket.

43. *North Road/ the Avenue*. The only major development in this area during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century has been the construction of a cul de sac of short terraced and detached housing in the former grounds of Hill House at the east end of The Avenue.

44. *The Golden Ball*. Later 20<sup>th</sup> century development in this area includes the red brick Mermaid Hotel, Queen's Terrace on the east side of Bristol Road and Quarr Drive in the angle between between Quarr Lane and Bristol Road.

45. *Lower Clatcombe Quarries*. All stone quarries in Lower Clatcombe and Quarr Lane were closed by the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. Former quarries on Quarr Lane now serve as a nature reserve and a caravan park.

46. *Yeatman Hospital*. The hospital has expanded further through the construction of the new Stuart Wing and The Willows, opened in 2001.

47. *Sherborne Preparatory School*. Acreman House has recently been substantially extended .

48. *St Anthony's Convent*. St Anthony's school was moved to Leweston and the convent buildings sold for housing development during the late 20<sup>th</sup>/early 21<sup>st</sup> century. The convent continues at numbers 5-6 Westbury Terrace. The Catholic church and original school house also survive.

49. *Sherborne School for Girls*. The girls' school expanded rapidly during the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, a process which continued in to the mid-late 20<sup>th</sup> century with the addition of Aldhelmsted East, a boarding house on Bradford Road west of Horsecastles Lane. The school expanded further during the early 21<sup>st</sup> century with the new Oxley Sports Centre on the north side of Bradford Road, opposite the main school buildings.

50. *Richmond Close and Half Acres Suburban Housing*. There has been a two-phase expansion of suburban housing in the Richmond Road area. Firstly, during the post-war period an estate of large detached houses with hipped roofs was built on Richmond Close. During the later 20<sup>th</sup> century a small estate of bungalows was built around the curvilinear cul de sac at Half Acres.

51. *Barton Gardens*. There has been little discernible change to Barton Gardens during the later 20<sup>th</sup> century.

52. *Marston Road housing estate*. The development of large detached houses along Marston Road continued into the post-war period. This included the addition of culs de sac at Highmore Road and Nethercoombe Lane. During the later 20<sup>th</sup> century a local authority depot opposite Highmore Road was converted to a modern housing estate called *The Sheeplands*.

53. *Priestlands housing estate*. Only three of the plots on Priestlands remained undeveloped by 1947. Basils, Hillsteps and Faliron all date from the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. The most recent addition has been the modern development at Joselin Court on the south side of Priestlands.



54. *King's Road Edwardian housing estate.* There has been little change to the King's Road estate during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. A cul de sac of semi-detached houses has been built at the furlongs on the site of a former water reservoir. This site also includes a small commercial estate at Westernways Yard and a group of four large detached houses at Cooper's Court.

55. *Coldharbour Steam Laundry.* The Coldharbour steam laundry still functions as a working laundry.

56. *Tinney's Lane Playing Field.* The lawn tennis and croquet club was replaced by playing fields for the Tinney's Lane campus of Foster's Grammar school in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The school closed in 1992 and the old brick school buildings have been demolished. The site has been partly developed for housing, partly left as public playing fields and Youth Centre. The housing development is in a mock Georgian style (figure 85).

57. *The Pageant Gardens.* There has been little discernible change to the Pageant Gardens during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century.

58. *Ludbourne Road Terraces.* There has been little change to the Ludbourne Road terraces themselves during the late 20<sup>th</sup> century. However, Culverhayes car park, immediately behind the terraces, contained barracks during WWII. The car park now has modern urban housing around its fringes at Raleigh Court, Calder's Garden and the Hayes nursing home.

59. *Lenthay housing estate.* This housing estate was built on the former Lenthay Common. The first houses include some large red brick detached and semi-detached houses on Lenthay Road and South Avenue, constructed before World War II. The majority of the estate was developed in the post-war era. Approximately half of the area had been developed by 1971, comprising curvilinear culs de sac to the rear of Horsecastles Lane and Lenthay Road. Generally houses and bungalows were constructed in non-

local materials. Later developments comprise smaller houses set within smaller plots. A small shopping centre and community buildings occupy a central position in the estate.

60. *Culverhayes Industrial Estate.* This site remained meadow until 1974 when Hunt's Frozen Foods built new premises at the eastern end of Ludbourne Road. Baumann UK moved to the adjacent plot on East Mill Lane in 1989.

61. *NE Sherborne Housing Estates.* This area is subdivided into two large blocks of modern housing by Coldharbour Road. The plots south of Coldharbour tend to be detached bungalows arranged in curvilinear culs de sac. The estates north of Coldharbour comprise a mixture of short terraces, semi-detached and detached houses. The whole was largely developed prior to 1971, although there have been numerous later 20<sup>th</sup> century episodes of reconstruction on previously developed sites including the former Coldharbour hospital (figure 86) and Foster's School on Tinney's Lane. The result is a very varied mix of periods and styles within a coherent block of land.

62. *Coldharbour Business Park.* A large Royal Naval hospital occupied the site of the present Coldharbour Business Park during World War II (Barker, 1990, no156). The site was converted to a psychiatric hospital in peace time, but was demolished and developed as a business park during the 1990s

63. *The Gryphon School.* The Gryphon school was established at the northern end of the NE Sherborne housing estates in 1992. A sports and leisure centre is attached to it. The buildings are set within extensive playing fields and are constructed from pale brick with grey tile roofs.

64. *Sherborne Abbey Primary School.* The new Sherborne Abbey primary school was developed on a Greenfield site at the western end of Lenthay Road and opened during 2000. The new buildings are constructed from red brick and other modern materials.



Figure 85: School Drive, Tinney's Lane



Figure 86: Lamb's Field Housing Estate, Coldharbour

65. *Riverside Works*. The Westbury Silk Mill converted to the production of glass fibre during World War II; this led to the expansion of the site during 1950-51 into the area of old orchards at the rear of the medieval Westbury burgage plots. This site was known as Riverside works (Marsden, 1980, 26). More recently the area of former railway yards and part of the garden of The Digby Hotel has been added to create a small industrial estate. The railway and Marglass buildings were built in red brick, while later additions are in modern materials.

66. *The Wilderness/ St Swithin's Close*. Large areas of paddocks and gardens remained undeveloped between Long Street and Newland until the later 20<sup>th</sup> century. These areas are now filled with modern urban housing estates along St Swithin's Road. The site of the former Foster's Grammar School on Hound Street has also recently been redeveloped for housing.

67. *Digby Hall and Library, Hound Street*. The Digby Hall was built in 1972 with an extension in 1990 on the site of a former market on Hound Street. It functions as a community hall and library with a 50 space car park.