

Sherborne Historic Urban Character Area 10 Riverside Industrial and Commercial Area

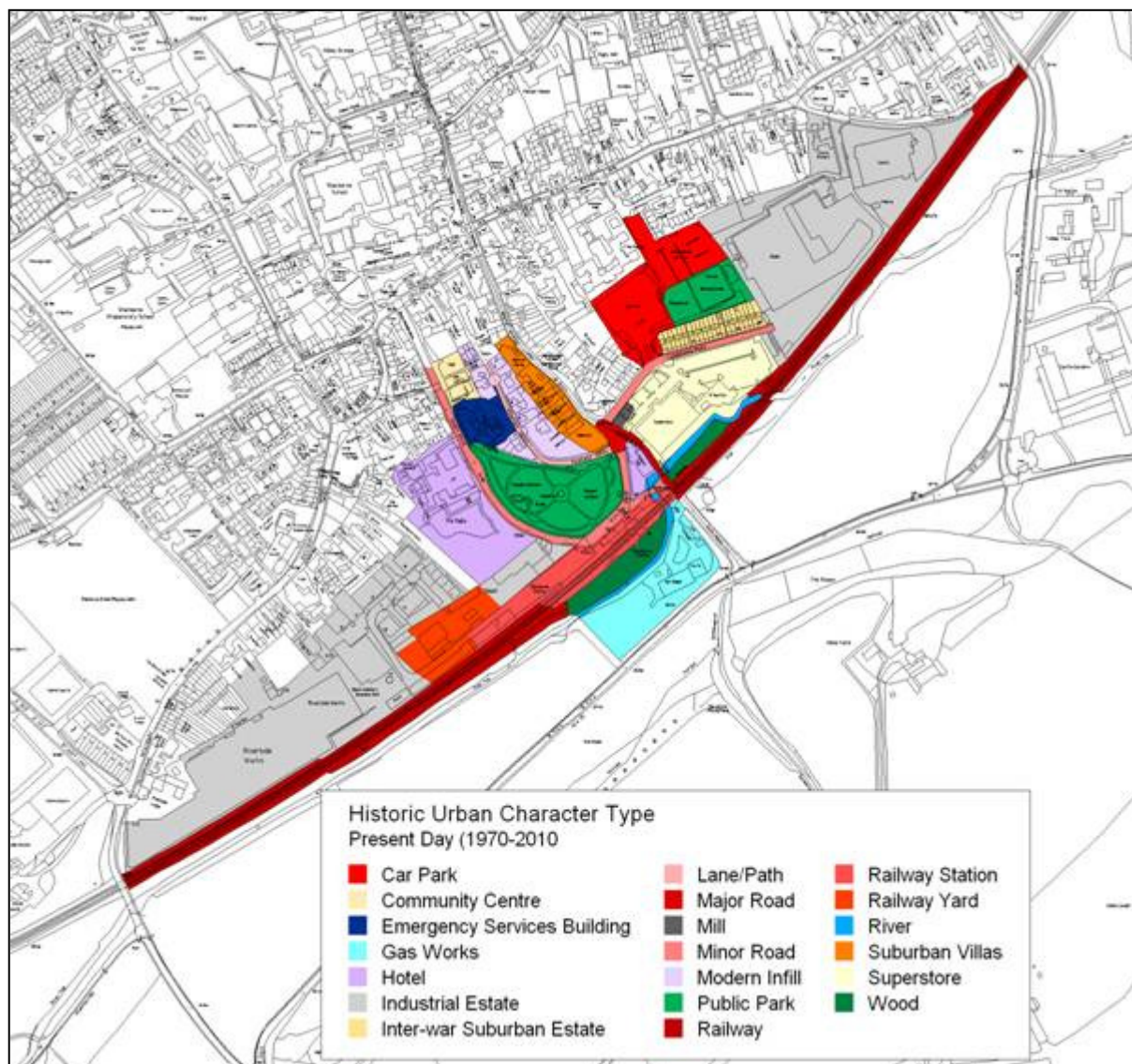


Figure 180: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 10, showing current historic urban character type



Figure 181: Sherborne Railway Station



Figure 182: The Digby, formerly the Digby Hotel

Sherborne Historic Urban Character Area 10

Structure of Character Area

Overview

This area occupies a narrow strip between the historic town of Sherborne and the River Yeo, as well as the Gas Works on the southern bank of the river. It was meadow and undeveloped until the arrival of the railway around 1860.

Key components include: the Riverside Works and Ludbourne Road industrial estates; the railway station and yard; Culverhayes car park and playground; Ludbourne Road terrace, Sainsbury's supermarket and site of St Andrew's Mill; and the Pageant Gardens.

Topography and Geology

The River Yeo flows alongside the southern boundary of this area, with the site of the former gas works on the south side of the river. The character area rises gently on the north side of the river but more steeply on the south. The geology is Fuller's Earth clay, and the north end of Culverhayes car park is on Inferior Oolite.

Urban Structure

This structure of this character area is essentially a product of the 19th century railway and 20th century industrial development. Nevertheless, the original medieval crossing point of the Yeo was at St Andrew's Mill. The medieval north-south route continued down South Street from Cheap Street, over the Yeo and up Gas House Hill towards Dorchester. Westbury Mill is just outside the study area but was the site of a second medieval crossing and the original focus for the development of the Riverside works. The railway led to the development of a new access route along Digby Road, associated public and commercial buildings and the impetus for the development of modern industrial estates.

Present Character

Figure 180 shows the present day historic urban character types. The railway forms the southern boundary of the character area, apart from the former gas works site which lies on the south side of the railway and the river Yeo. The station (Figure 181) is reached via Digby Road which encloses the Pageant Gardens within its curve. The Digby (Figure 182), Police Station and community halls line the Digby Road, with modern housing behind. South Street has a row of Suburban villas on its western frontage. Sainsbury's Superstore occupies the former site of St Andrew's Mill. Ludbourne Road provides access to it as well as Culverhayes car park and Hunt's Frozen Food factory. The north side of

Ludbourne Road is lined with three short rows of inter-war terraced houses.

Time Depth

The Riverside Works forms a part of the Westbury Mill complex that was extended in 1950-1 into former orchards at the back of the Westbury burgage plots. The Ludbourne Road industrial area was not developed until the 1970s. The first terrace of houses on Ludbourne Road was built in 1913. Sainsbury's supermarket was built on the site of St Andrew's mill which probably represents one of Sherborne's Domesday Mills. The 18th century Old Cottage is the only remaining building of the old mill complex (Figure 183). The railway arrived in Sherborne in 1860 and it was at this time that Digby Road was developed. The Pageant Gardens were added in 1906 following a fund raising pageant at Sherborne Castle to mark 1200 years since the founding of the bishopric in Sherborne (Figure 184). Digby Memorial hall was built in 1910.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

Settlement is a secondary component in this area after industrial and commercial activity. The two main areas of settlement are on the north side of the Pageant Gardens and on Ludbourne Road. The latter comprises three short rows of red brick terraced houses set back slightly from the street frontage and within narrow rectangular plots. Pageant Drive has a mix of large detached houses set within irregular plots and short terraced housing. Suburban villas on South Street are generally semi-detached within regular rectangular plots.



Figure 183: The Digby Memorial Church Hall (left) and Masonic Lodge (right), Digby Road

Sherborne Historic Urban Character Area 10 Built Character

Building types

The Digby Memorial Hall is one of a group of late 19th century public buildings along Digby Road in the 19th century Gothic revival style. It was built however circa 1910. The neighbouring Masonic hall and the Digby Hotel complete the group, but are in the Tudor revival style. The former Digby Hotel was completed in 1869 and forms a major feature of the town when viewed from the south. The Old Cottage is of two storeys with an attic in the vernacular style (Figure 11). It once formed part of a mill complex demolished in 1998 and now stands isolated on the edge of the Sainsbury's development.

Sherborne Station was designed by Tite and opened in 1860. The main block has Tudor revival gables and details. There is a separate timber boarded goods office and well preserved canopies with decorative ironwork.

Building Materials

The Digby Memorial Church Hall, along with the other public buildings on Digby Road, is built in Ashlar with a gabled slate roof. The Old Cottage was built in the late 18th-19th century in Sherborne Stone rubble but it may have re-used fragments of medieval masonry within its walls. It also has a stone garden wall with iron spiked railings. Sherborne Station is constructed in rusticated Sherborne stone. It has a ledged canopy with fretted edge supported by iron brackets and a slate roof. The Victorian suburban villas on South Street (Figure 186) and the terraces on Ludbourne Road are generally constructed in red brick with slate roofs.

Key Buildings

Late 19th to early 20th century public buildings: Digby Memorial Church Hall; The former Digby Hotel; The Masonic Lodge, Digby Road; Sherborne Railway Station; Former Gas Works, numbers 1-6 Hillside, Gas House Hill.

Vernacular buildings: The Old Cottage, South Street

Late 19th and Early 20th century suburban villas and terraces: 7-28 Ludbourne Road; Glencairn, South Street, Bainton House, South Street.

Late 19th century industrial buildings: Sherborne Station goods sheds; The Old Barn, Unit A1 South Western Business Park (Figure 187).



Figure 184: The Pageant Gardens



Figure 185: Numbers 7-28 Ludbourne Road



Figure 186: 19th century brick suburban villas, South Street



Figure 187: The Old Barn, Unit A1, South Western Business Park

Sherborne Historic Urban Character Area 10 Archaeology

Archaeological Investigations

Seven investigations have taken place in the character area (Figure 188; Appendix 3, Nos. 97-103).

Work at the Sainsbury's supermarket site [97-9] showed that medieval deposits associated with St Andrew's mill may survive on the site. Medieval or post-medieval ditches and a post medieval culvert, possibly the same as one seen by C E Bean in 1951 [100].

An evaluation partly in the study area on land next to Brecon House [101] revealed post-medieval terraces and a buried medieval soil. Bean observed a possible roundhouse associated with pottery from AD 60-180 in Culverhayes car park during ground works [102]. Bean observed construction of the Riverside Works and recorded a section of the old turnpike road from Sherborne to Dorchester [103].

Archaeological Character

Evidence for an early Roman roundhouse at Culverhayes is slight but the location is consistent with other late prehistoric and Roman settlements along the north side of the valley.

The evidence for medieval ditches from Ludbourne Road is in keeping with the area being largely meadow until the late 19th century. Medieval burgage plots extended from the south side of Westbury into the Riverside Works area until the 20th century. These plots were often the site of small scale industrial and economic activity in the medieval period.

Figure 188 shows two mills depicted on 18th century maps and historic boundaries visible on 18th and 19th century maps. The 18th century or earlier boundaries may be medieval in origin and are generally aligned with the prevailing late prehistoric rectilinear field system in the region.

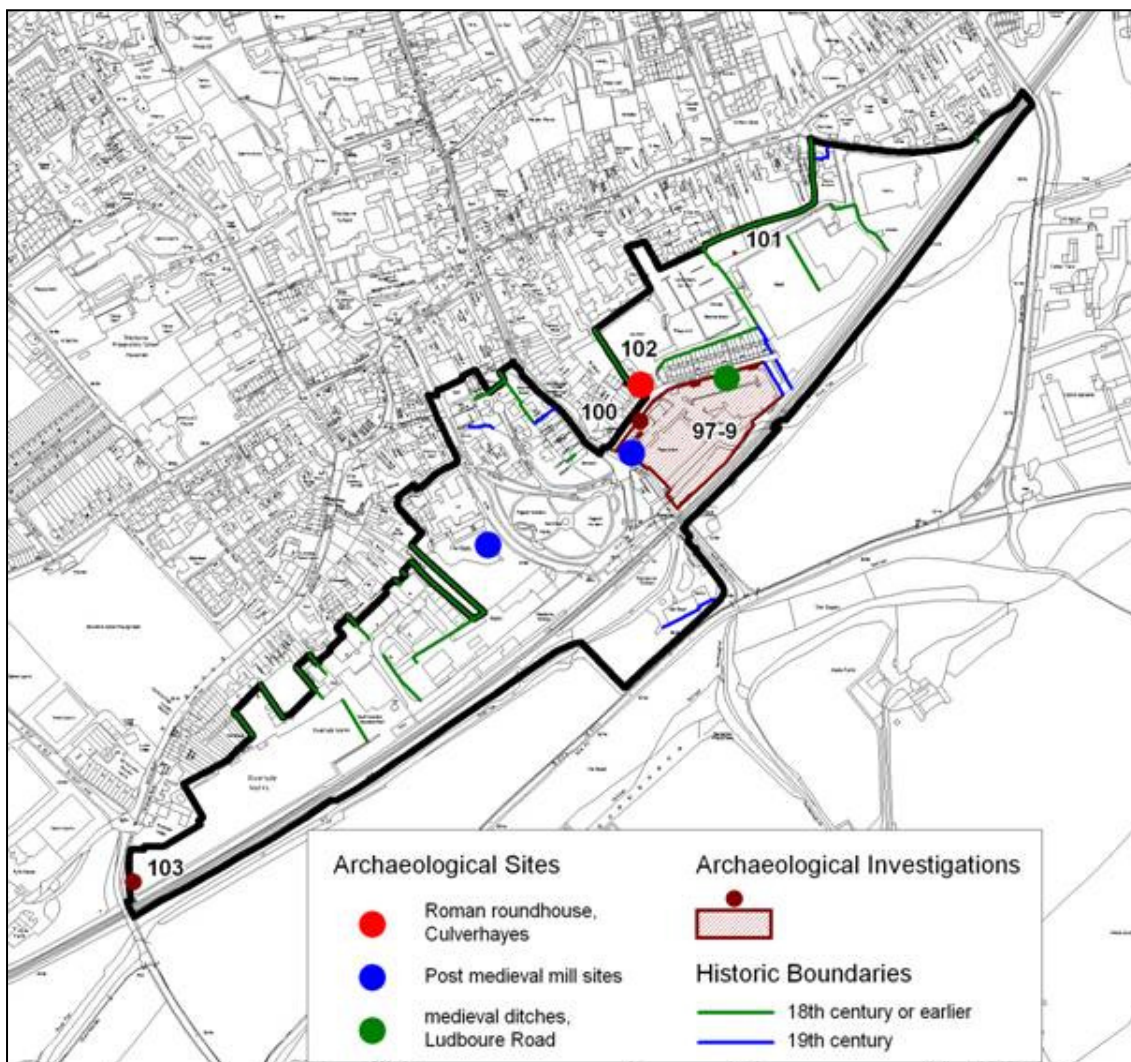


Figure 188: Archaeological Sites and Investigations in Historic Urban Character Area 10

Sherborne Historic Urban Character Area 10
Designations

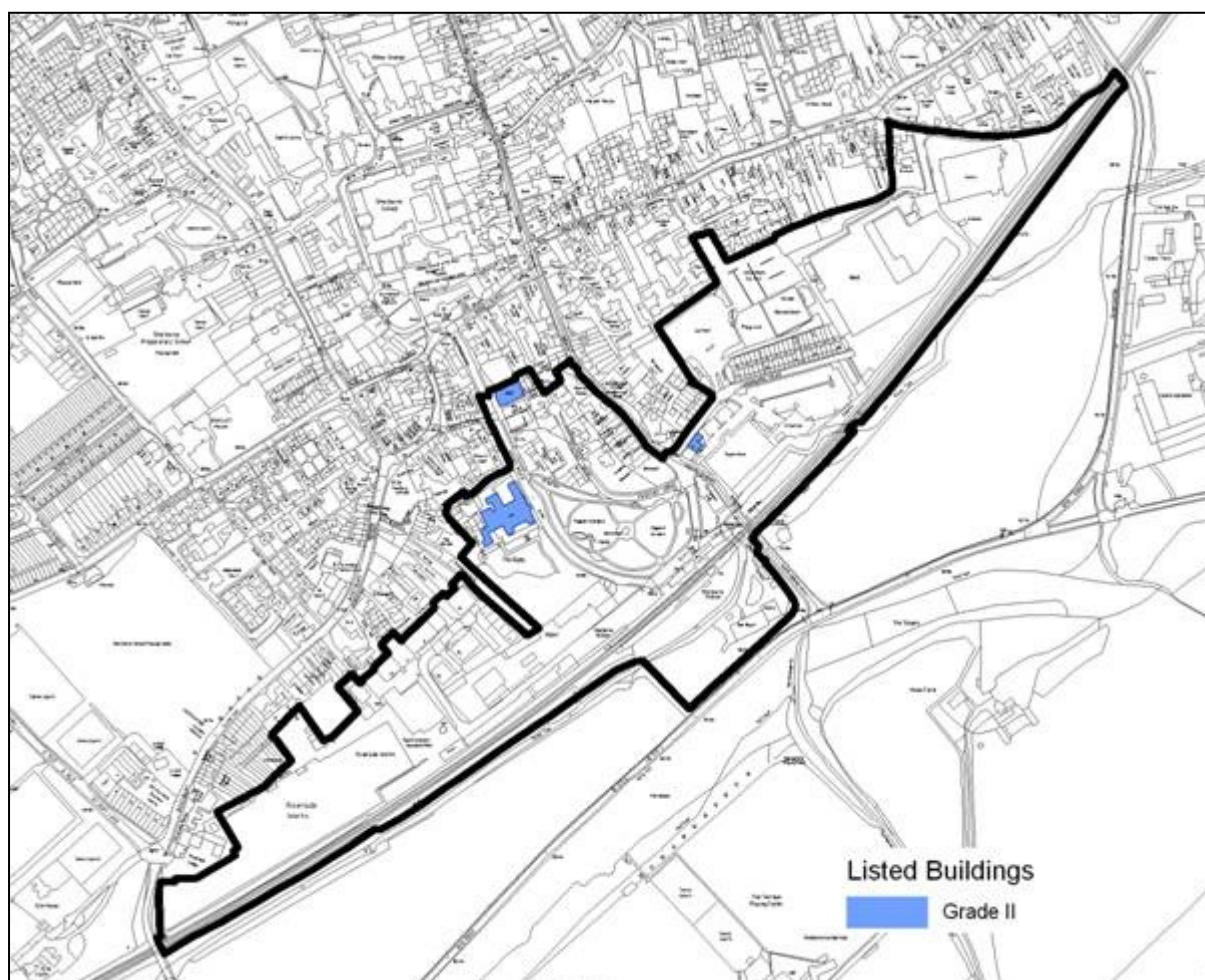


Figure 189: Historic Buildings in Historic Urban Character Area 10

Listed Buildings

There are three listed building designations within the character area (Digby Memorial Hall, the former Digby Hotel and the Old Cottage, South Street) all grade II (Figure 189).

Conservation Areas

Only the Railway Station, the Digby Hotel and the area between Digby Road and South Street lie within the Sherborne conservation area (Figure 88).

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

No Registered Parks and Gardens lie within the Character Area.

Scheduled Monuments

No Scheduled Monuments lie within the Character Area.

Sherborne Historic Urban Character Area 10 Evaluation

Strength of Historic Character

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **medium**. There is a strong positive contribution from the group of 19th century public and commercial buildings along Digby Road. The Pageant Gardens enhance the historic character of the area. There are also late Victorian suburban villas and inter-war red brick terraces along Ludbourne Road. The remainder of the area however is given over to modern industrial and commercial estates, a superstore and car park.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **medium** sensitivity to major change. Again, large scale modern development already typifies extensive parts of the character area. Fortunately much of this development is on low lying ground and shielded visually behind mature trees. This means that it has little visual impact on the historic townscape of Sherborne. Any future developments would need to retain this relationship with the historic town. Furthermore, the Digby Road and Station area has a number of large and historic buildings which can be viewed across open gardens spaces such as Pageant Gardens. This area is particularly sensitive to major change.

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential of the area is considered to be **medium**. It is clear that significant sub-surface deposits survive in pockets of this area, notably in the South Street/Culverhayes area. The possible Roman settlement at Culverhayes is particularly significant in terms of understanding the pre-urban origins of Sherborne. Medieval deposits also survive in the South Street/Ludbourne Road area and are important in understanding the development and expansion of the town. Deposits relating to Westbury burgage plots are also significant in this respect and may have partially survived development. There is also potential for the survival of deposits relating to Forrester's Mill under the gardens of the Digby Hotel and St Andrew's Mill, which has a complex but poorly understood early history.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 1-3, 11-14, 16-18, and 20-24 (Part 7).

Key Characteristics

- **Modern Industrial and Commercial Estates**
- **Medieval mill sites**
- **Westbury medieval burgage plots**
- **19th century railway, station and yard**
- **Late 19th and early 20th century public buildings and gardens**
- **19th century gas works**