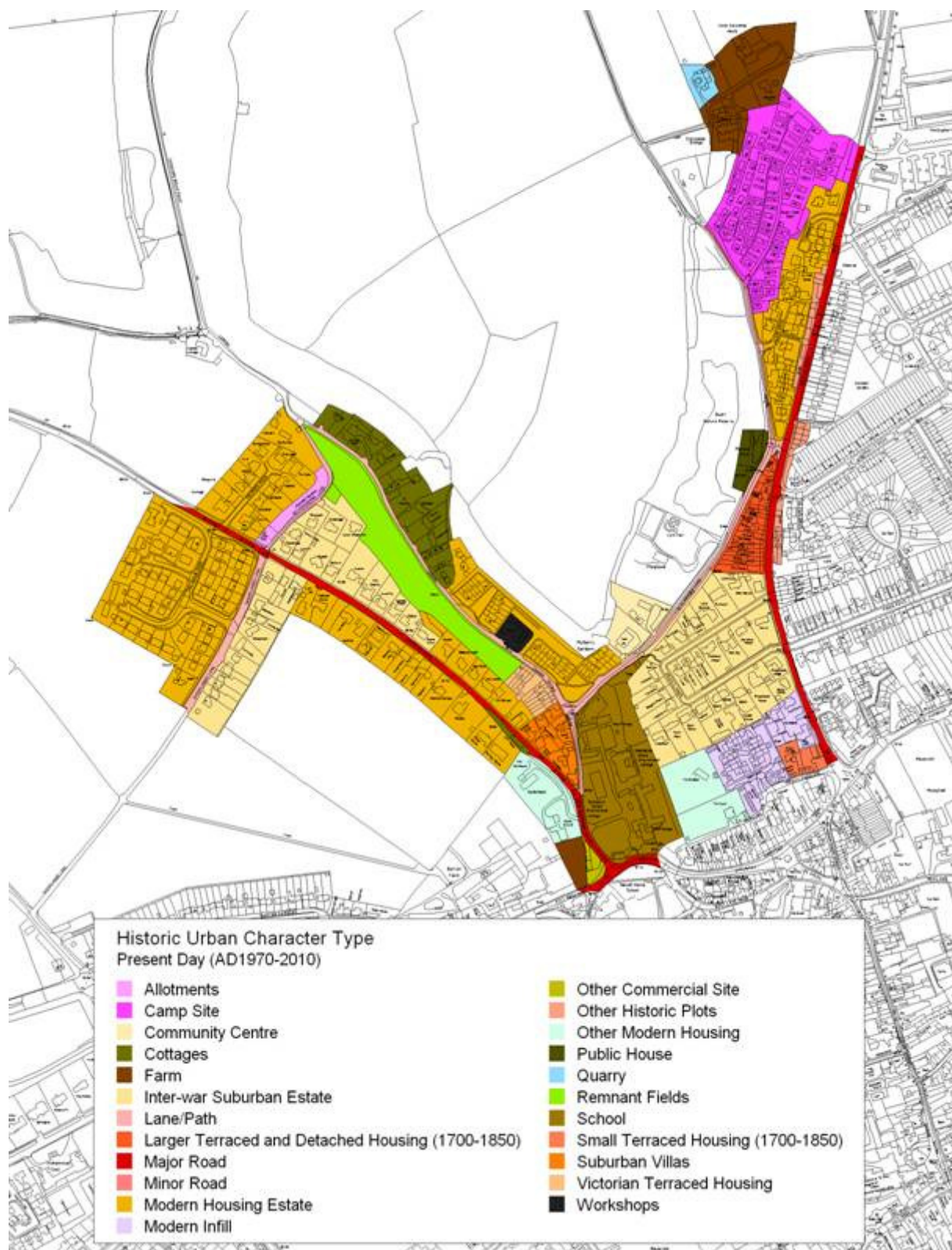


Sherborne Historic Urban Character Area 8 Nethercombe and Clatcombe



161: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 8, showing current historic urban character type

Sherborne Historic Urban Character Area 8 Structure of Character Area

Overview

This character area represents the three historic settlement cores of Nethercoombe, Golden Globe and Lower Clatcombe that have become combined and attached to Sherborne through ribbon development in the late 19th and 20th centuries. A key component of the area is Sherborne International College, on a site which may be the location of a medieval chapel.

Topography and Geology

This character area is defined by two narrow stream valleys converging at Newell. These valleys cut through and expose the inferior Oolite bedrock. Most of the building stone for the historic town is likely to have been quarried here. The valley floors have been cut back and widened, notably in the lower Clatcombe valley. The area rises from Newell to Clatcombe Farm.

Urban Structure

This character area comprises three formerly rural settlements, with Bristol Road being the main corridor along which development spread to incorporate the 18th century settlement at Golden Globe. Marston Road and Bristol Road mark the western and eastern limits of the area. In the 19th century ribbon development spread along Coombe Road from Newell. The major 20th century developments have been along Marston Road. Lower Clatcombe Farm is separated from Sherborne by former quarries.

Present Character

Figure 161 shows the present day historic urban character types. Marston Road is lined with modern and inter-war housing estates while Bristol Road has a mixture of terraced housing, other historic plots, with some modern and inter-war developments. The north of the area comprises Lower Clatcombe Farm and former quarries, one now a caravan park. Blackberry Lane connects the Bristol Road with Coombe

Road. Coombe Road has a mixture of cottages, workshops, a Victorian terrace (Figure 162), suburban villas and a small modern housing development. At the southern end of Coombe Road is the Sherborne International College (Figure 163).

Time Depth

Nethercoombe was recorded as a tithing of Sherborne as early as 1405 and may represent an earlier dispersed settlement. The location of the medieval settlement of Nethercoombe is uncertain. Lower Clatcombe may also represent an early dispersed settlement and retains a rural character. Architectural fragments of 14th century date come from the supposed site (Figure 164) of St Emerenciana's chapel. The settlement at Golden Ball lies around a 19th century toll house at the junction of Bristol Road and Quarr Lane (Figure 165). The name was popular for coaching Inns in the 18th century so the settlement here may date from that time.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

The settlement pattern is essentially ribbon development along the three entry routes of Bristol Road, Marston Road and Coombe Road. Bristol Road developed first and has 18th and 19th century buildings on the street frontage with modern estates behind. This busy corridor has a distinct urban feel. By contrast, Marston Road was not developed until the 20th century and is lined with large detached houses set back from the street in large rectangular plots. Its southern end is in a deep hollow way, and the north-western end opens out considerably to present a true suburban aspect. Coombe Road has the character of a narrow, winding country lane with unmade verges and cottages at its western end. The eastern end has hard pavements and some modern housing, as well as Victorian terraces with low front garden walls. Lower Clatcombe Farm is rural in character, in an area of large mature trees, and detached from the town.



Figure 162: Coombe Terrace, Nethercoombe



Figure 163: Newell Grange

Sherborne Historic Urban Character Area 8
Built Character

Building types

Emerenciana at the junction of Combe Road and Blackberry Lane, is an L-shaped block with a 14th century doorway and window that probably derive from the medieval chapel of Emerenciana; the chapel's exact site is unknown. The nearby Newell Grange, originally a 17th-18th century farmhouse, has been extended as the main block of Sherborne International Collage. 1-3 Priestlands Lane is an 18th-century style short row of small terraced houses. A possibly 15th century octagonal summerhouse to the rear appears to have been lost. There is an 18th-19th century stone barn at Lower Clatcombe (Figure 166).

There is a group of 18th-19th cottages to the south of and including Golden Ball house and a group of 19th century cottages on the north side of Coombe (Figure 167).

Building Materials

Historic buildings in the area are generally in local stone rubble with plain tile or slate roofs. Modern houses are in non-local materials. Newell Grange was built in local stone. Number 1-3 Priestlands Lane has stone rubble walls with a half-hipped pantile roof and brick chimney stacks. A late 19th century corrugated iron chapel is situated at the junction of Marston Road and Coombe (Figure 168).

Key Buildings

16th-early 19th century buildings: Emerenciana; Newell Grange, Clatcombe Barn; 1-3 Priestlands Lane; Golden Ball and Prospect Cottage; Cliff House, Marston Road; 105-108 Coombe Road.

Late 19th century buildings: Coombe Terrace; Fir Tree House, Bristol Road; Marston House, Marston Road; Former St Paul's Mission Church; Clatcombe Farmhouse.



Figure 165: The Golden Globe, Bristol Road



Figure 166: Clatcombe Grange, Lower Clatcombe



Figure 167: 105-108 Coombe, Nethercoombe



Figure 164: Detail of 14th century window reused in Emerenciana, Nethercoombe



Figure 168: View north west of the former Marston Road Tabernacle

Sherborne Historic Urban Character Area 8 Archaeology

Archaeological Investigations

No archaeological evaluations have been recorded in the character area, although a number of finds have been made from the quarries at Redhole and Quarr Lanes. These include a copper alloy ring with the image of St Bernard, possibly dating from the 14th century and a burial with a lead bullet in the skull, which may date from the civil war. The possible Palaeolithic engraving of a horse on a piece of bone has been shown to be a forgery, carved by a Sherborne schoolboy on a piece of 14th century bone (Gibb 1998).

Archaeological Character

The lack of archaeological investigation in this area does not necessarily reflect its archaeological character. There was medieval settlement at Nethercoombe, although its exact

location is unknown. There may also have been a medieval settlement at Lower Clatcombe. The position and layout of St Emerenciana's chapel is unknown. The steep north facing slopes of the valleys are unlikely to have been occupied at any point and a significant portion of the east facing slopes of Clatcombe has been quarried away. Nevertheless, deposits relating to this and earlier quarrying activity could make an important contribution to the industrial archaeological character of the area.

Figure 169 depicts historic boundaries visible on 18th and 19th century maps. The 18th century or earlier boundaries may be medieval in origin and are aligned with the prevailing late prehistoric rectilinear field system in the region.

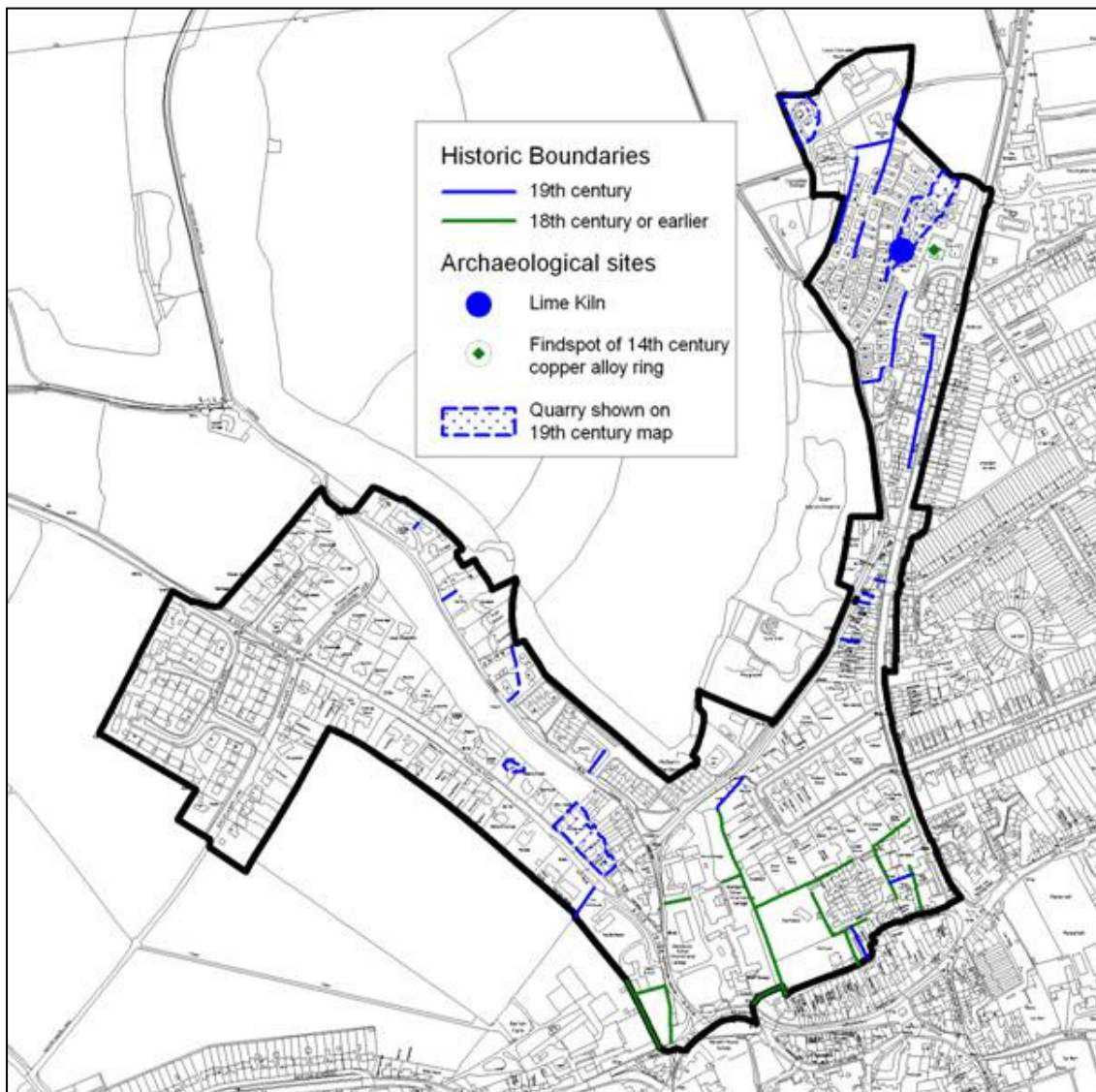


Figure 169: Archaeological Sites and Historic Boundaries in Historic Urban Character Area 8

Sherborne Historic Urban Character Area 8 Designations

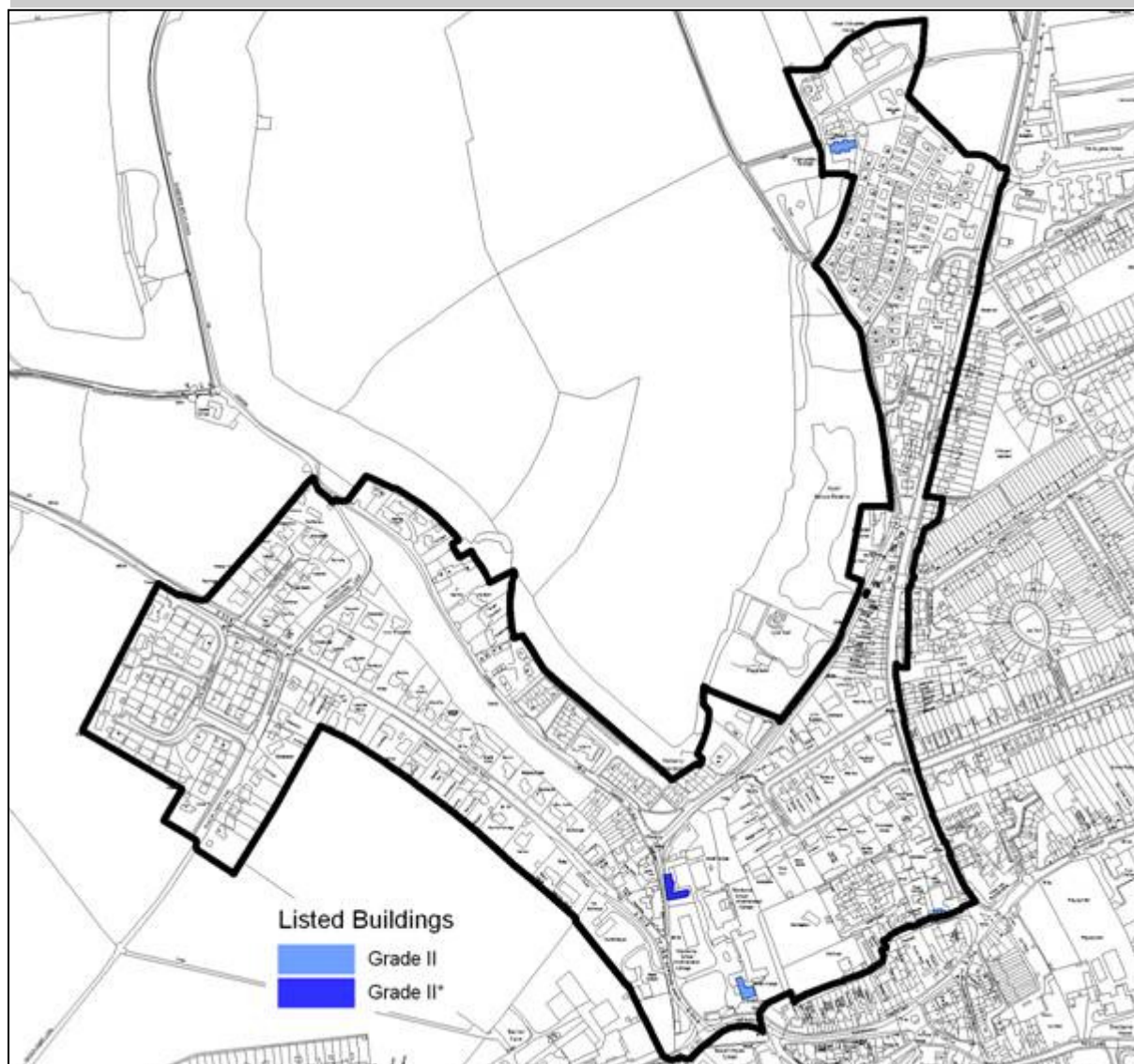


Figure 170 Listed Buildings and other designations in Historic Urban Character Area 8.

Listed Buildings

There are four Listed Building designations in the Character Area, one of which (Emerenciana) is Grade II*. The remainder (Newell Grange, Lower Clatcombe Barn and 1-3 Priestlands Lane) are Grade II (Figure 170).

Conservation Areas

Only the southern end of Marston and Coombe Roads lie within the 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 8 Evaluation

Strength of Historic Character

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **medium**. There is a strong contribution from historic buildings along Bristol Road, Priestlands Lane, Lower Clatcombe and parts of Coombe Road. However, this is counteracted by the large volumes of traffic and parked cars along Bristol Road. There is also significant modern development along parts of Coombe Road. There is also a strong contribution from the natural environment which is evident at Lower Clatcombe and on the slopes and former quarries around Nethercoombe. The historic quality of the quarries themselves is also a positive factor. Nevertheless, a significant part of the area is given over to modern housing estates. The Priestlands estate has some architectural merit, notably at Priestlands House and Lodge.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **medium** sensitivity to major change. It already contains extensive modern housing estates. Recent modern development at Sherborne International College has not had a serious detrimental impact on historic character because it has retained the extensive open frontage and playing fields which enhances the Newell area and the visual impact of other historic buildings such as the former Marston Road Tabernacle. However, it must be noted that a significant part of the area's historic character is derived from its origins as dispersed rural settlements. This makes Lower Clatcombe and Coombe Road particularly sensitive to major change. Modern housing along Coombe Road has had some negative impact.

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential of the area is considered to be **medium**. There is potential for deposits which will provide a better understanding of the extent, economy and development of medieval Nethercoombe, which is poorly understood at present.

The same can be said for both Golden Ball and Lower Clatcombe. A large part of the area has been quarried away, removing in situ archaeological deposits; this increases the relative potential of undisturbed areas. The quarries themselves, and limekilns at Lower Clatcombe offer the potential for better understanding the industrial development and economy of Sherborne and the surrounding rural areas.

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

- **Medieval and post medieval dispersed settlements**
- **19th and 20th century ribbon development**
- **Extensive former building stone quarries at Redhole and Quarr Lane**
- **A settlement pattern dictated by narrow valleys and major entry routes**
- **Rural fringe**