

Blandford Historic Urban Character Area 2 Salisbury Street Post-medieval Suburb

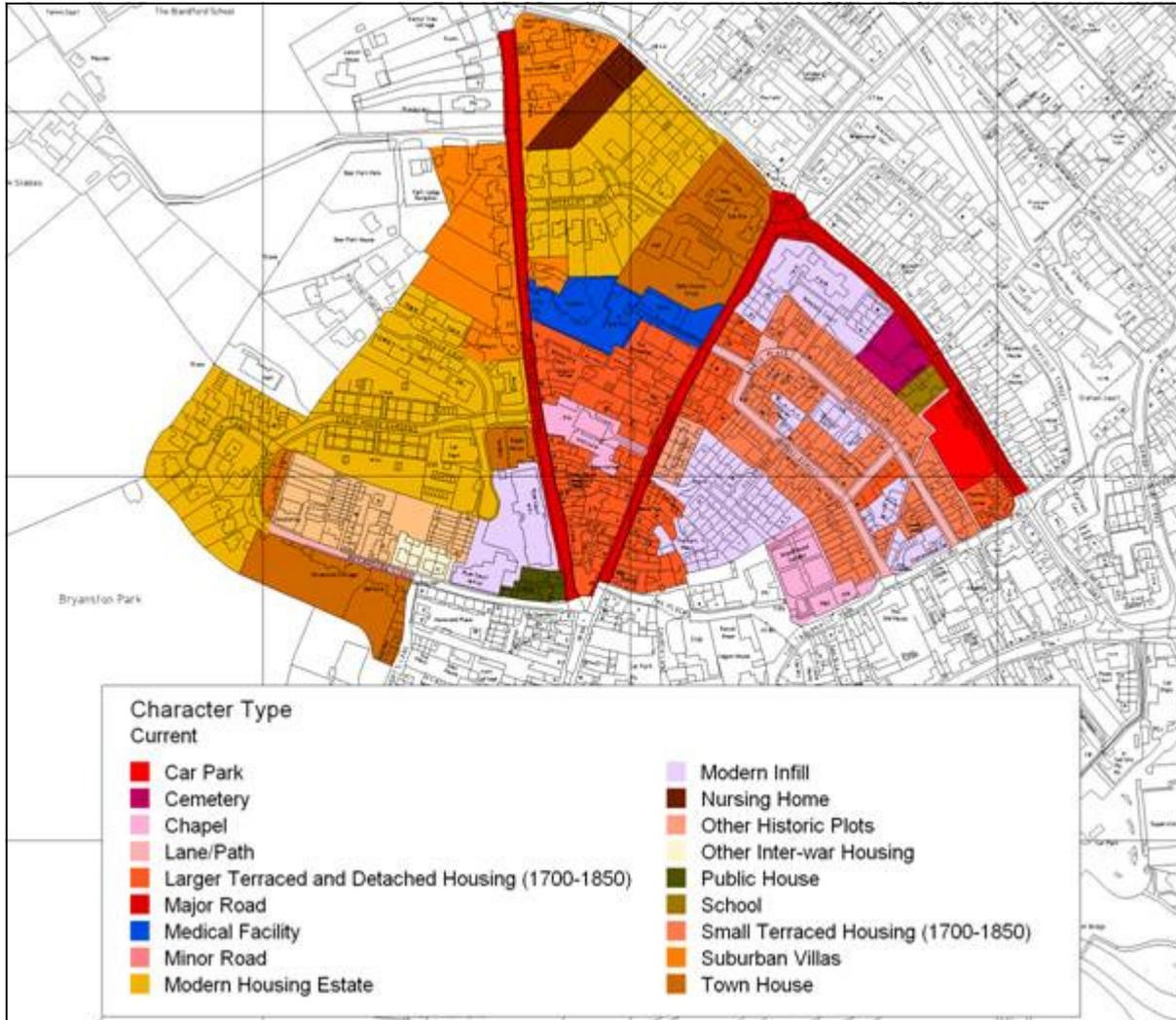


Figure 55: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 2, showing current historic urban character type



Figure 56: View north of Salisbury Street/ White Cliff Mill Street junction.



Figure 57: View north along White Cliff Mill Street.

Blandford Historic Urban Character Area 2 Structure of Character Area

Overview

This area lies immediately north of the medieval historic core and represents one of late 17th to early 19th century expansion. It is defined primarily by its historic dimension.

Topography and Geology

This area lies at the southwestern tip of a low chalk ridge extending down towards the river Stour. Salisbury Street runs along the crest of this ridge. The ground rises towards the north.

Urban Structure

The urban structure of this area comprises three radial routes converging at the junction of Bryanston, White Cliff Mill and Salisbury Streets. A number of roads giving access to housing estates run off these main routes. The local access roads include both linear street grids and curvilinear cul-de-sac layouts. The plots in this area vary between closely-packed rectilinear plots on Dorset and Orchard Streets, to much larger open plots in the northern part of the area.

Present Character

Figure 55 shows the present day historic urban character types. The southern part of the area mainly comprises Larger Terraced and Detached Housing and Small Terraced Housing, with significant areas of Modern Infill. Elsewhere Suburban Villas and Modern Housing Estates predominate. Other minor character types include Cemetery, Car Park, Medical Facility, Nursing Home, Other Historic Plots, Other Inter-war housing and Town House.

Time Depth

The major roads are the earliest features in this area and appear to be medieval or earlier in origin. Expansion of the town into this area

appears to have begun in the later 17th and early 18th century. Ryves Almshouses and Dale House are the only late 17th century feature surviving. The majority of this area dates to the 19th and 20th centuries. The larger houses in the southern part of the area are late 18th and early 19th century date. Eagle House is 18th century. Park House, at the west end of Bryanston Street was built in the early 19th century. The house was demolished in the late 20th century and the extensive grounds developed as modern Parkland housing estate. The small terraced housing estate on Orchard and Dorset Streets is early 19th century and the suburban houses on White Cliff Mill Street date to the mid 19th century. The later 20th century has seen much redevelopment of larger gardens and infilling of the area.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

The southern end Salisbury Street and the east side of White Cliff Mill Street are lined with closely packed urban housing. Larger detached town houses are more typical of the west side of White Cliff Mill Street and the north end of Salisbury Street. The 19th century suburban villas on White Cliff Mill Street are set back behind small open yards, Bryanston Street has a mixture of detached cottages, inter-war semis and modern apartments. Two rows of small 19th century brick terraces are arranged perpendicular to the street behind the northern frontage. Damory Street was formerly dominated by schools, a gas works and cemetery, although modern development and car parks are now more typical. The north side of The Close and The Plocks has fine Georgian buildings and a Wesleyan Methodist chapel with modern housing behind. The north side of the close is dominated by a large early 19th century housing estate of terraced houses fronting directly on to Dorset and Orchard Streets.



Figure 58: View north along Orchard Street.



Figure 59: View West along Bryanston Street.

Blandford Historic Urban Character Area 2

Built Character

Building types

Salisbury and White Cliff Mill Streets have a rather modest Georgian façade in comparison to the neighbouring town centre. The larger detached town houses on the fringes of the urban housing such as Eagle House and Dale House are of a much grander scale and conception however. They both have symmetrical fronts with five windows on the first floor and a triangular pediment above the central window. Dale House has a hipped roof, central chimney stack and attic dormers whilst Eagle House has a gabled roof and attic dormers with end stacks. The 19th century suburban houses along White Cliff Mill Street are mainly detached villas. They are generally built in a neo-gothic style with a combination of hipped and gabled ended roofs and gabled dormers. Deer Park Lodge is a mid 19th century picturesque cottage (Figure 61). Ryves Almshouses on Salisbury Street date from 1682 and comprises a single storey long brick range with projecting end wings and decorative detail including a central gable with cartouche bearing the arms of the founder. There are two non-conformist chapels in the area. The Wesleyan Methodist tabernacle and hall on The Close and the Congregational Chapel behind the Salisbury Street frontage (Figure 62). Terraced houses on Dorset and Orchard Streets provide a well preserved example of early 19th century urban housing (Figure 63).

Building Materials

The majority of the buildings in this area are of brick with tiled or slate roofs. Some prominent buildings have stone dressings. Blue vitrified brick dressings are a feature of properties on Salisbury Street and stucco is a feature of early 19th century terraces on Orchard Street. Eagle House has a polychromatic effect formed through the use of blue vitrified brick headers with red brick dressings and a plain tile roof. Deer Park Lodge has variegated brickwork and decorative bargeboards. The Congregational Chapel is in pale brick with red brick and stone dressings and a slate roof. Historic garden walls tend to be greensand with brick or stone piers.

Key Buildings

Ecclesiastical: Wesleyan Methodist Tabernacle, The Close; Congregational Chapel, Salisbury St

Pre-fire buildings: Dale House, Ryves Almshouses

Post-fire town houses and commercial premises: Eagle House; 2-3 The Plocks; The Kings Arms Hotel, White Cliff Mill Street; 81 Salisbury Street

19th and 20th century buildings: The Crown Hotel; 45-57 (odd) Dorset Street.



Figure 60: Ryves Almshouses.



Figure 61: Deer Park Lodge, White Cliff Mill Street.



Figure 62: Blandford Congregational Chapel, Salisbury Street.



Figure 63: Numbers 45-57 (odd) Dorset Street.

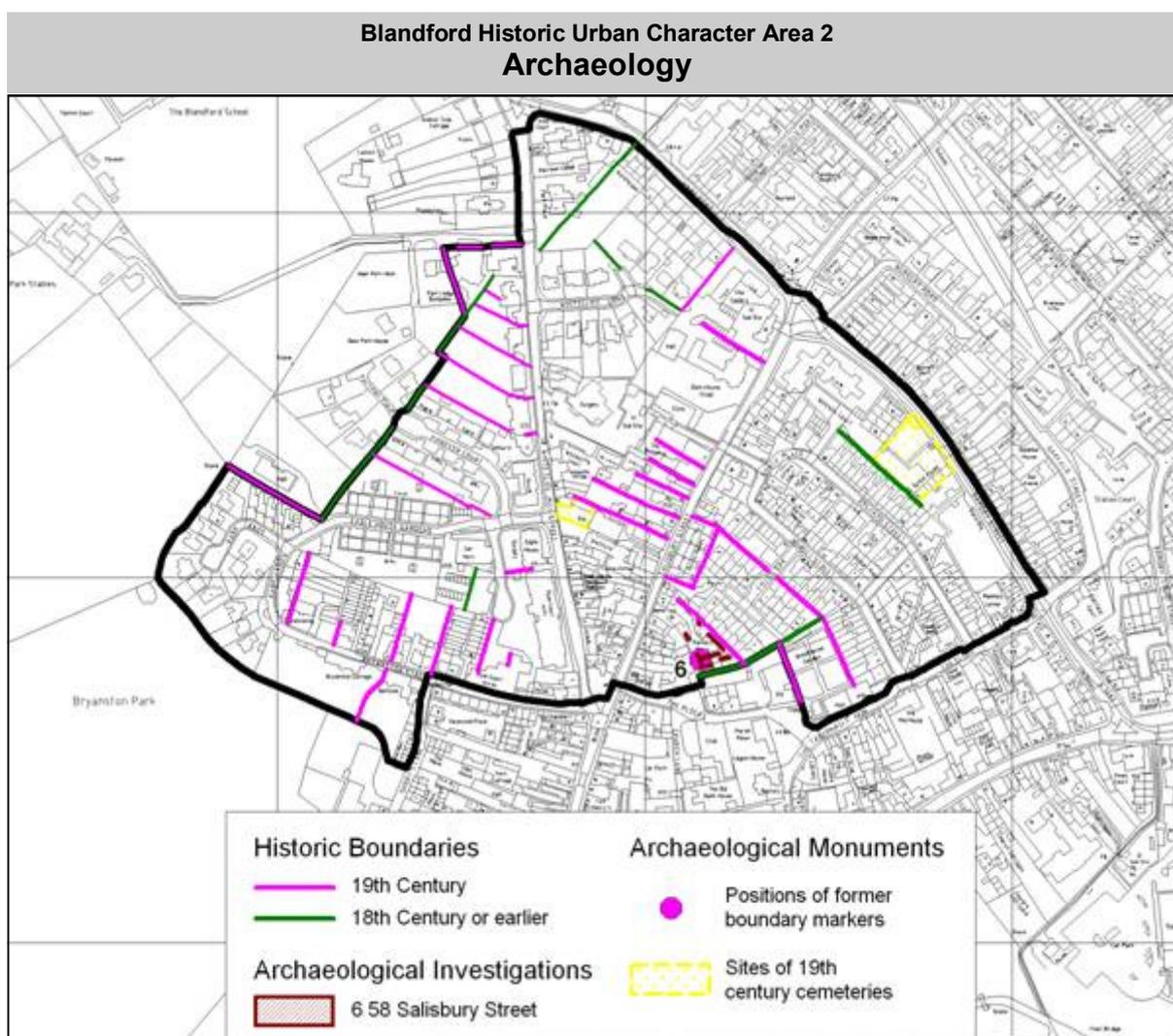


Figure 64: Archaeology of Historic Urban Character Area 2

Archaeological Investigations

Only one archaeological investigation has been undertaken in this character area (Figure 64; Appendix 3, No. 6). This evaluation at 58 Salisbury Street revealed only post-medieval pits and a soak away.

Archaeological Character

The lack of archaeological investigations in this character area constrains our understanding of its archaeological character. Maps and surviving buildings suggest that this area was not settled on an urban scale until the late 17th century, although this remains to be demonstrated archaeologically. Nevertheless, the location of the area, at the end of a chalk ridge and within a bend in the river Stour, suggest that it would have been an attractive site to man from the Mesolithic period onwards. Furthermore, landscape analysis of the region suggests that an extensive rectilinear field system existed at Blandford, potentially from the Bronze Age through to the post-medieval period (Dodd

1994).

The presence of disused 19th century cemeteries to the north of the medieval town centre should also be noted.

Figure 64 also depicts Historic boundaries visible on 18th and 19th century maps. The 18th century or earlier boundaries are shown on the title map and may be medieval or earlier in origin. Later, 19th century plot boundaries represent subdivisions of these earlier fields.

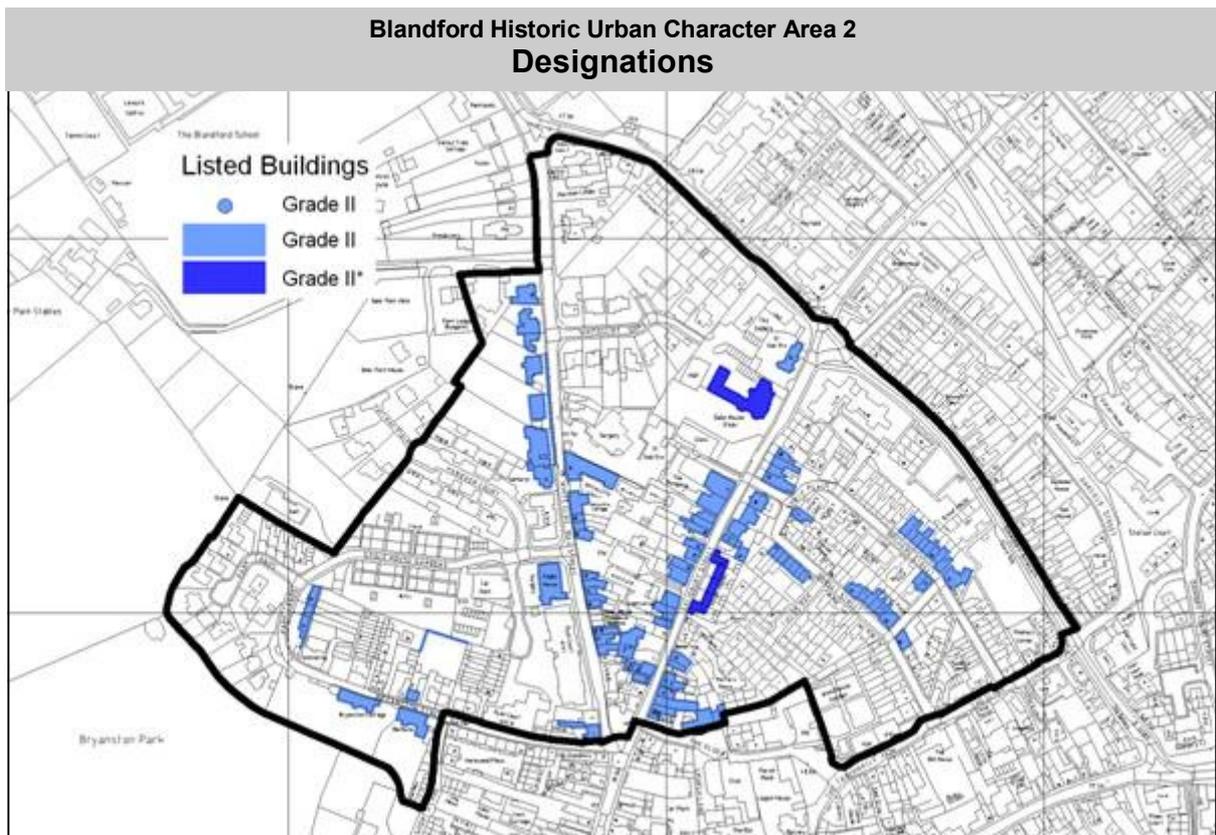


Figure 65: Listed Buildings in Historic Urban Character Area 2

Listed Buildings

There are 61 Listed Building designations in the Character Area, two of which are Grade II* (Ryves Almshouses and Dale House). The remainder are Grade II (Figure 65).

Conservation Areas

The whole of this Character Area lies within the Blandford Forum Conservation Area. (Figure 44).

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within the Character Area.

Scheduled Monuments

There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Character Area.

Blandford Historic Urban Character Area 2 Evaluation

Strength of Historic Character

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **strong**, being a combination of the significant historical background, time depth, and the positive contribution made by a very high number of historic buildings, approximately 78% of the buildings within the character area date from the late 19th century or earlier. This represents one of the highest concentrations of historic buildings outside of the medieval town centre for any of the Dorset towns. In general areas of modern development are hidden behind the historic street frontages, although large volumes of traffic and parked cars along Salisbury and White Cliff Mill Streets has a detrimental effect .

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **high** sensitivity to major change. This area has less protection in the form of listed building designations than the adjacent town centre. This has already led to areas of former schools and gas works on Damory Street and the north end of Salisbury Street being redeveloped in a way unsympathetic to the Georgian character of the town. Future development is likely, particularly along Damory Street. This could be conducted in a way that enhances the town's historic character.

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **medium**. This area appears to have not been incorporated into the urban area of the town until the late 17th century. There is potential for post-medieval archaeological deposits surviving in the vicinity of Salisbury, Bryanston and White Cliff Mill Streets. Any such evidence has the potential to reveal detailed information on the economy of the town during the 17th and 18th centuries, as well as confirm the date at which Blandford expanded in to this area.

Furthermore, Blandford lies on well drained gently sloping land with a south westerly aspect. The area is well placed to exploit a variety of resources and likely to have been a preferred site for at least a small settlement during the late prehistoric and Romano-British periods. The potential for remains dating to this period can be demonstrated through the high level of Iron Age and Roman activity in the surrounding area.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 1-2, 4-6, 8-11, 13, and 19-26 (Part 7).

Key Characteristics

- Post-medieval suburb
- Rare surviving 17th century buildings
- Occasional large houses and grounds, now largely infilled with modern housing
- Mid 19th century suburban villas
- Early 19th century terraced housing estate at Dorset/ Orchard Streets