

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 17 Skilling

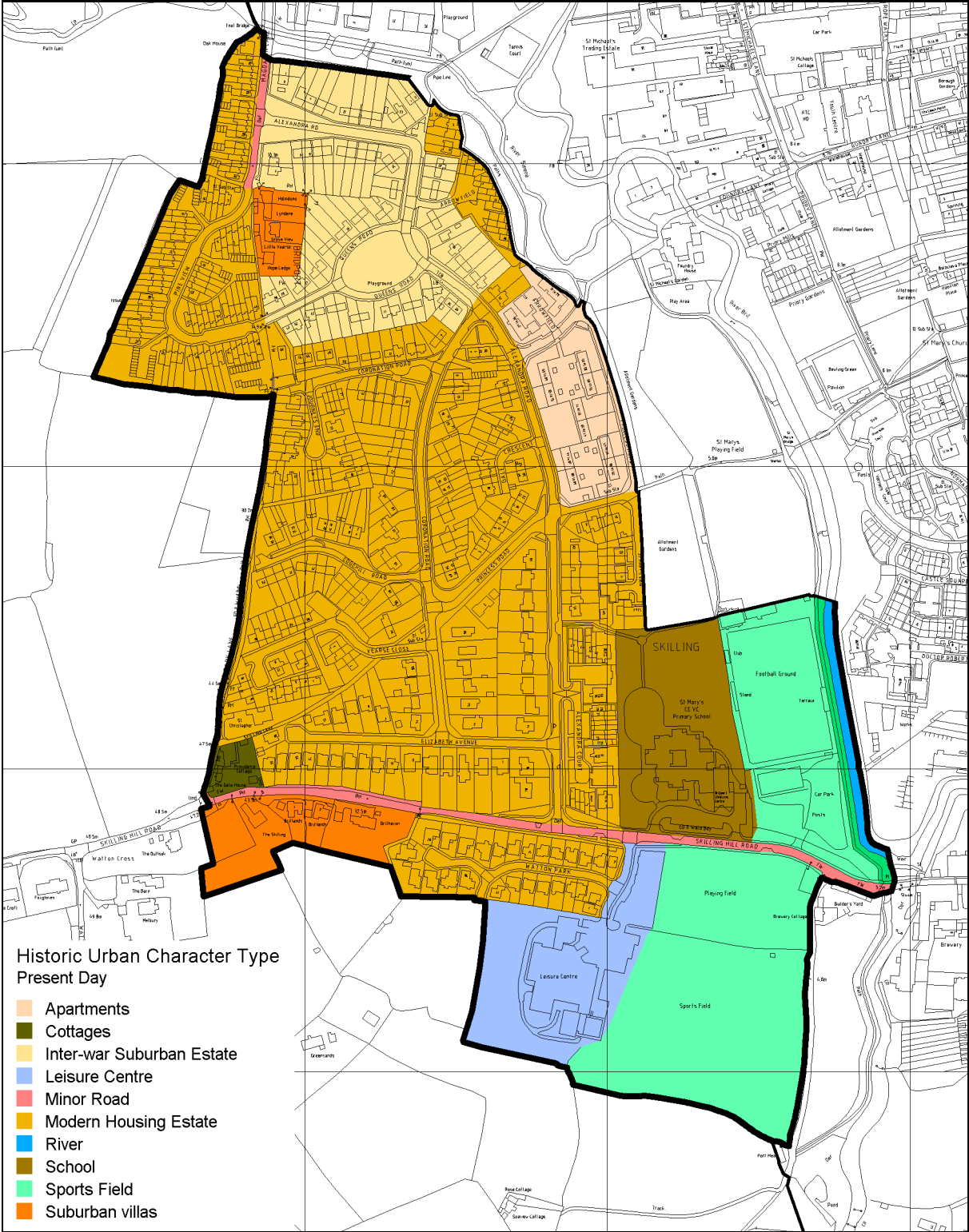


Figure 175: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 17, showing current historic urban character type.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 17 Structure of Character Area

Overview

This character area lies west of the River Brit outside the area of the historic town, on the slopes and summit of Skilling Hill. It represents an area of expansion of Bridport following the First World War. It is defined mainly by its 20th century housing estates.

Topography and Geology

The area lies to the west of the River Brit and south of the Simene and the ground rises from the low-lying river valleys onto the rounded slopes and summit of Skilling Hill. It lies on interbedded Siltstone and Limestone of the Eype Clay Member with Alluvium in the base of the Brit and Simene valleys along the east and northern edges.

Urban Structure

The area is largely cut off from the rest of Bridport with access from the north along Magdalen Lane and from the east along Skilling Hill Road which forms the only (minor) through route in the area. The housing does not relate directly to Skilling Hill Road but is focussed on a series of linear and curvilinear estate roads and culs-de-sac. Each individual phase of estate has its own character of road shape and plot size. The earliest phase of estate centred on the oval green of Queens Road was carefully aligned to integrate with the surrounding landscape features (Miller 1999).

Present Character

Figure 175 shows the present day historic urban character types. The main part of the area consists of Modern Housing Estates with an area of Inter-war Suburban Estate at the northern end and a block of Apartments to the east. In the south east part are areas of Sports Field, Leisure Centre and School. Minor areas of Suburban Villas and Cottages are also present.

Time Depth

This character area is former farmland of Skilling Farm and was gradually developed for housing from the 1920s onwards. The area continued to be developed after the Second World War, with the main period of house building in the 1960s-70s. A number of relict field boundaries can be traced in the settlement pattern of the present housing estates, representing the fossilisation of a probable 17th/18th century field pattern. There are a few historic roads and trackways crossing the area, namely Skilling Hill Road along the south, Magdalen Lane from the north and Skilling Lane. Two 19th century and earlier plan elements survive, the early 19th century Providence Cottage and the 19th century Skilling Cottages.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

The settlement pattern is one of low density housing within planned housing estates. The layout of the post-war estates is fairly typical, with largely linear or curvilinear roads and culs-de-sac and the houses laid out in a regular pattern along the roads. Most of the houses are set well back behind front gardens.

Skilling Hill Road survives as a narrow hollow way and has a distinctly historic rural feel. There are good views across the green space formed by the river Brit flood plain towards the historic core of Bridport. The oval green of Queens Road forms an important green space where there is an open feel with grass verges to some estate roads and occasional mature trees and hedges.



Figure 176: View down Skilling Hill Road.



Figure 177: St Mary's Playing Fields.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 17

Built Character

Building types

The historic buildings include Providence Cottage at Skilling Cross, an 1827 two-storey stuccoed house with iron trellis veranda and the 19th century brick Skilling Cottages and Hope Lodge.

The 1920s housing comprises semi-detached houses, pebble-dashed, with plain cement or brick band and low-pitched tiled roofs with overhanging eaves and some have interesting arrangements of windows.

The post-WW2 housing is less distinguished and comprises detached, semi-detached houses and bungalows, terraced blocks, and flats, typical of their period, using non-local materials.

Building Materials

Overall, the materials used in the buildings in this character area are non-local, stock brick and concrete pantiles. Most of the earlier buildings are also of brick, with slate roofs. Hope Lodge is of Bothenhampton stone.

Key Buildings

The key buildings are Providence Cottage and coach house, Skilling Cottages, Hope Lodge, and the 1920s housing estate along Alexandra Road and Queens Road.



Figure 178: Queens Road, Skilling.



Figure 179: 1920s houses designed by Barry Parker, Alexandra Road, Skilling.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 17 Archaeology

Archaeological Investigations

There have been no archaeological investigations in this character area.

Archaeological Character

The lack of any archaeological investigation in this area constrains consideration of the archaeological resource. Archaeological

investigation to the west of the area at Vearse Farm revealed no archaeological features (Currie 1995). Overall, the archaeological character remains unknown.

Figure 180 shows historic boundaries depicted on maps dating from the 19th century. These are former field boundaries fossilised within the present estate layouts.

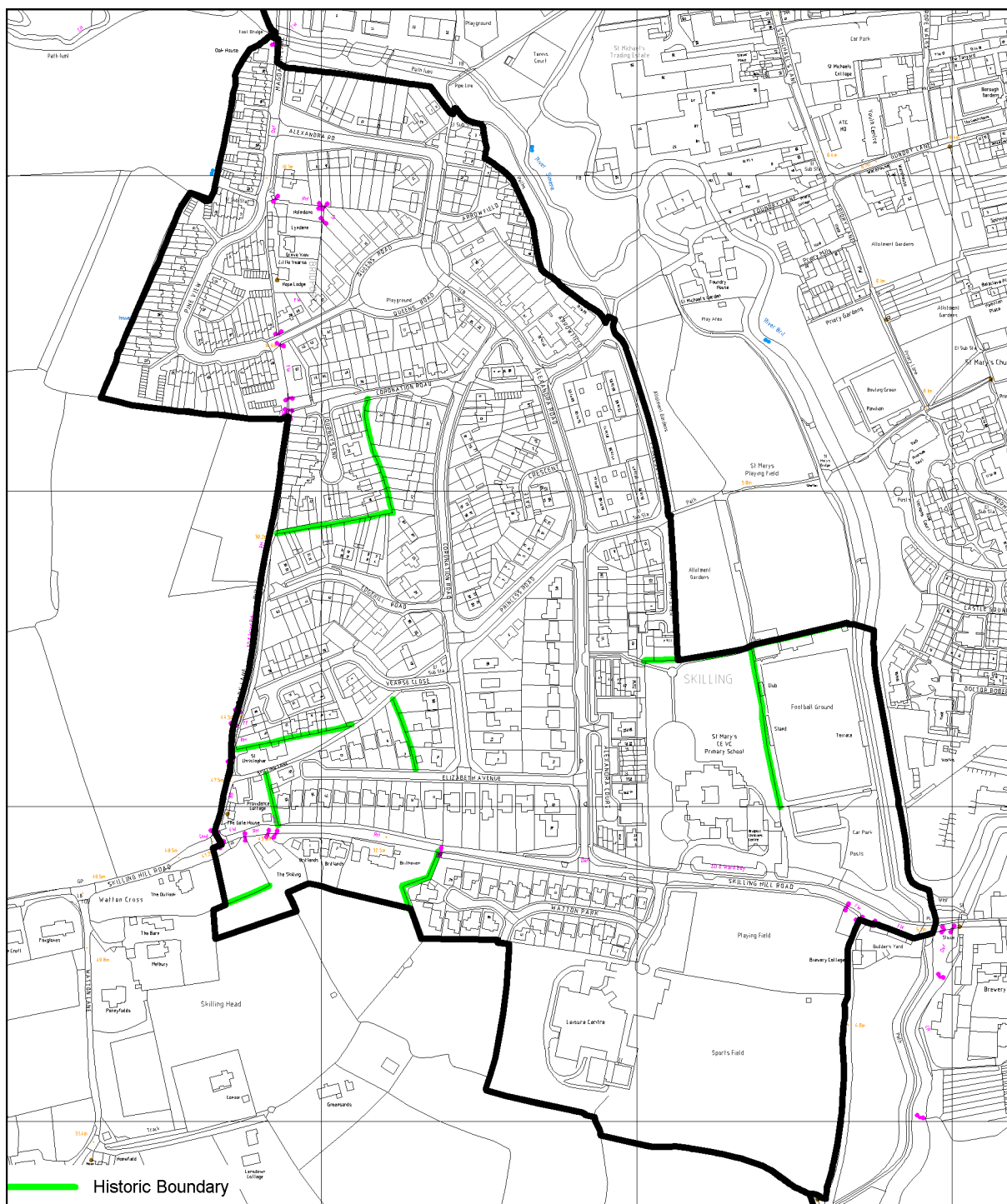


Figure 180: Archaeological features in Historic Urban Character Area 17.

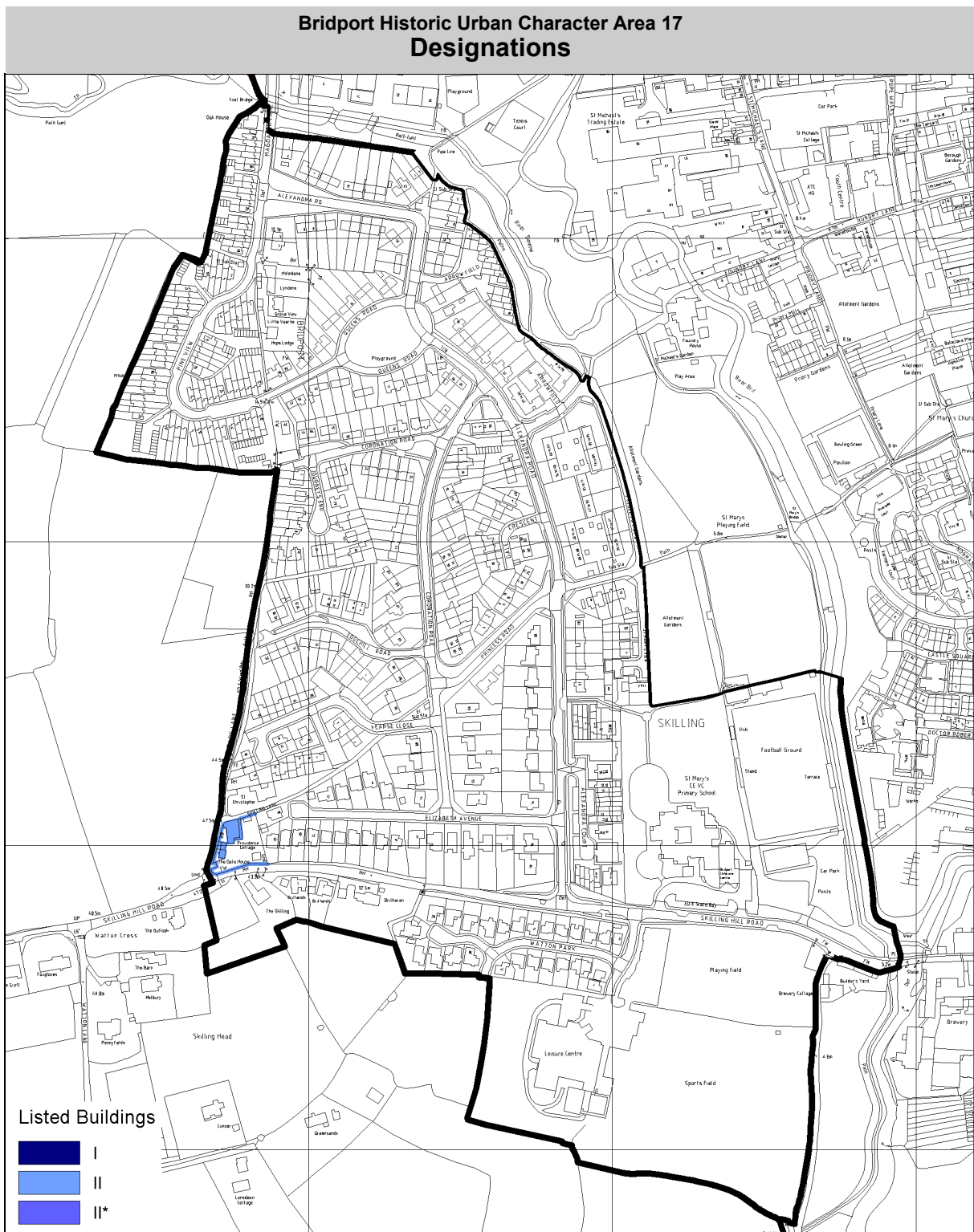


Figure 181: Listed Buildings and other designations in Historic Urban Character Area 17.

Listed Buildings

There are 2 Listed Buildings in the Character Area, both Grade II.

Conservation Areas

The northern part of this area lies within the Bridport Conservation Area (Figure 41).

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

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

Scheduled Monuments

No Scheduled Monuments lie within this character area.

**Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 17
Evaluation**

Strength of Historic Character

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **Weak**. Almost all of this area was farmland until after the First World War and much of it remained agricultural land until after the Second World War. There are few historic buildings and a small number of historic boundaries fossilised in modern housing estate layouts. The majority of this area is modern suburban housing estates. The exception to this is the 1920's garden suburb designed by Barry Parker, which preserves many features of its layout and construction and retains a significant degree of historic character.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **Low** sensitivity to major change. It lies beyond the historic town centre, separated from it by the buffer of the river Brit. It is largely characterised by twentieth century suburban housing estates. The area of greatest sensitivity lies within and adjacent to the 1920's garden suburb.

Archaeological Potential

This character area has a **Low** archaeological potential. It was agricultural land until the 1920s. Archaeological investigations at Vearse Farm, to the west, have indicated there is likely to be a very low level of archaeological activity in this area. The survival of archaeological deposits and features is assessed to be low to medium.

Key Characteristics

- Providence Cottage
- Skilling Cottages
- Inter-war garden suburb estate
- Modern housing estates