

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 18 River Asker Floodplain

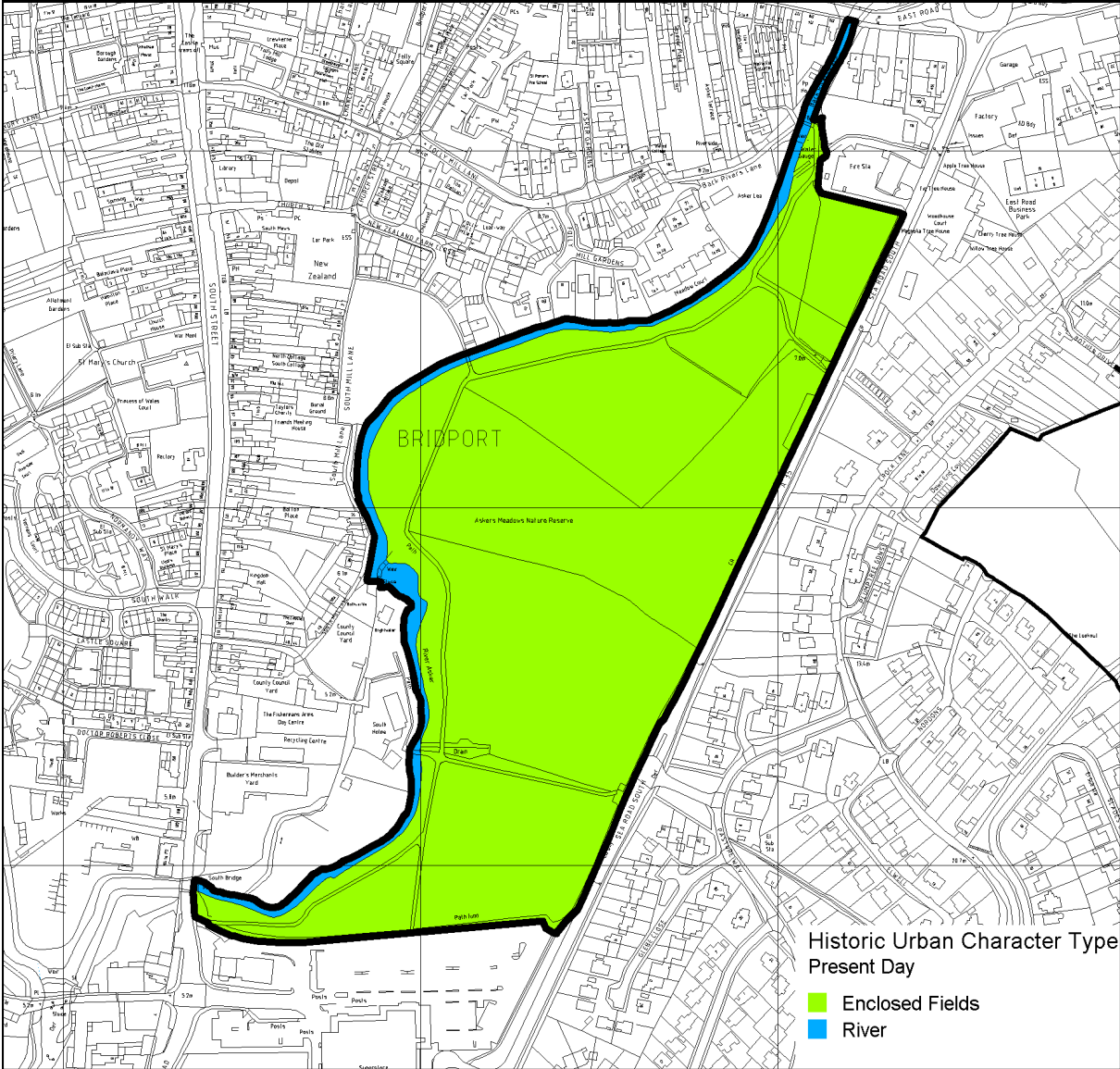


Figure 182: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 18, showing current historic urban character type.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 18 Structure of Character Area

Overview

This character area comprises the floodplain of the river Asker. It lies to the west of the historic core of Bridport and formerly was in the parish of Bothenhampton. It represents a remnant of former farmland, which has become absorbed within modern suburban expansion.

Topography and Geology

This area comprises flat low-lying land of the floodplain of the river Asker. It lies on siltstone and limestone of the Eype Clay Member and sandstone of the Down Cliff and Thorncombe Sand Members to the east, beneath superficial deposits of Alluvium.

Urban Structure

This area is not part of the urban structure. It forms an important green space on the east side of the town and forms a buffer between the historic medieval town and the more recent suburban developments of Bothenhampton. The western edge of the area is formed by the modern straightened course of the river and the eastern side by Sea Road South, which runs along the course of the former railway. There are a number of historic field boundaries still extant, and judging from the shape and size of the fields, they probably date to the 17th-18th century.

Present Character

Figure 182 shows the present day historic urban character types. The area consists of Enclosed Fields with its western edge defined by the River.

Time Depth

This character area represents a remnant of former farmland. There are a number of historic field boundaries still extant, and judging from the shape and size of the fields, they probably date to the 17th-18th century. The current straightened course of the river is modern.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

This character area does not form part of the streetscape but is an important green space on the east side of Bridport.



Figure 183: View across the Asker floodplain towards Bothenhampton.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 18
Built Character

Building types

This area is not characterised by built structures. Nevertheless, there is a surviving historic field wall and the remains of sluices survive in the river at the junction with the former mill race to South Mill (now infilled).

Building Materials

The built structures are of local Bothenhampton Stone.

Key Buildings

No key buildings.



Figure 184: Sluices in the river Asker.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 18 Archaeology

Archaeological Investigations

There have been no archaeological investigations in this character area.

Archaeological Character

The floodplain is likely to contain evidence of former channels of the Asker and may contain buried evidence in alluvial deposits for prehistoric, Saxon and medieval palaeoenvironments.

Figure 185 shows historic boundaries depicted on maps dating from the 19th century. These are the extant field boundaries.

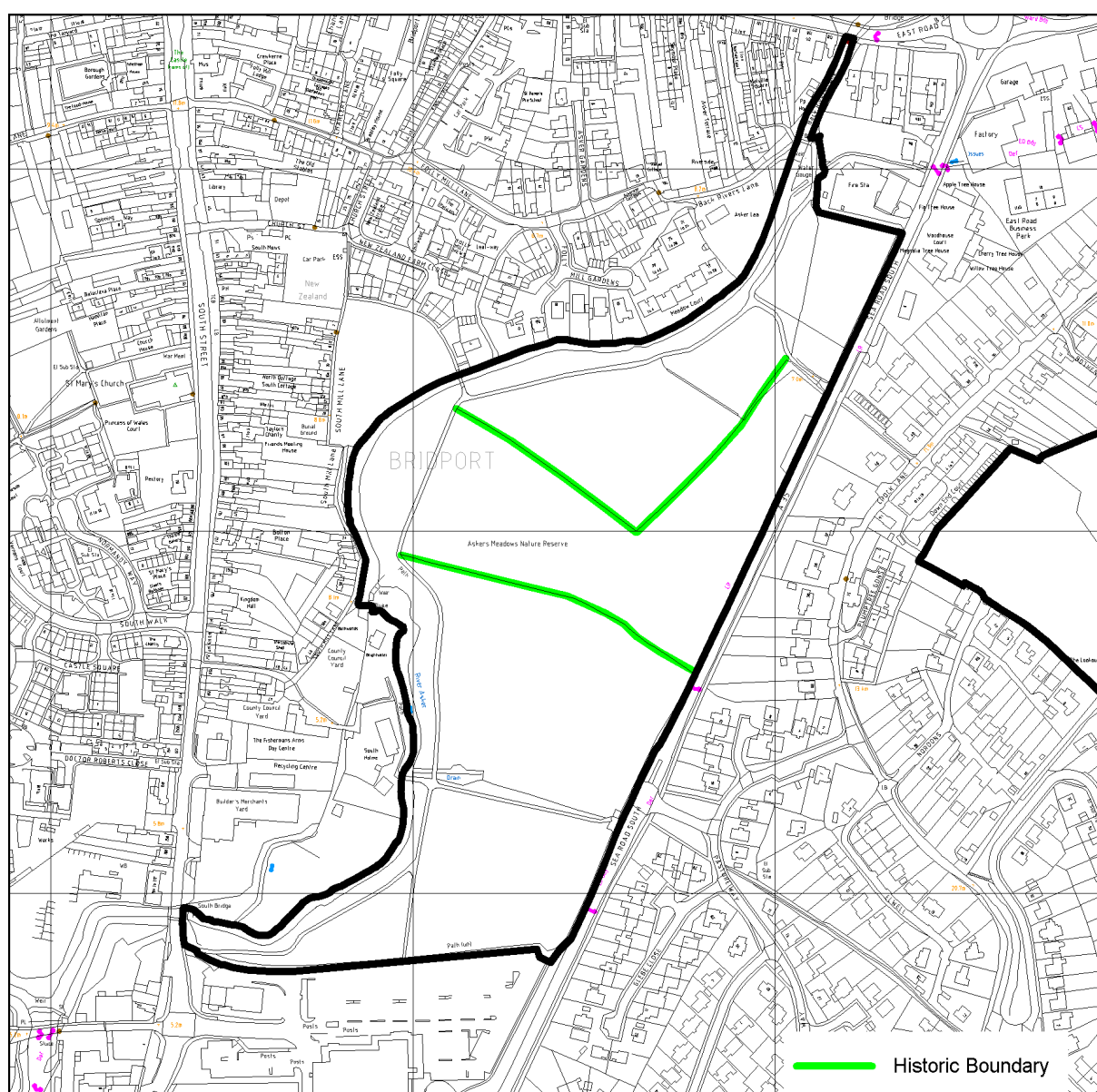


Figure 185: Archaeological features in Historic Urban Character Area 18.

**Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 18
Designations**

Listed Buildings

There are no Listed Buildings in this Character Area.

Conservation Areas

This Character Area does not lie within a 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 18
Evaluation**

Strength of Historic Character

The strength of historic urban character of this area is judged to be **Weak**. However, the survival of this relict farmland forms an important part of the framing of the historic core of Bridport and is a visual buffer between it and the surrounding more recent suburban expansion.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **High** sensitivity to major change. Any housing or other development would completely change the character of this area and destroy an important visual reminder (together with the green space along the Brit Valley) of the historic origins of Bridport as a settlement along a promontory between two rivers.

Archaeological Potential

This character area has a **Medium** potential for geoarchaeological investigation into the development of the alluvium in the river floodplain and for waterlogged palaeoenvironmental material, which could answer questions about the landscape and environment during the Saxon and medieval periods. The survival of potential archaeological deposits and features is assessed to be high.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 4 and 9 (Part 7).

Key Characteristics

- Historic fields and field boundaries
- River Asker floodplain
- Sluice gates in river