

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 5 Barrack Road and Bedford Place

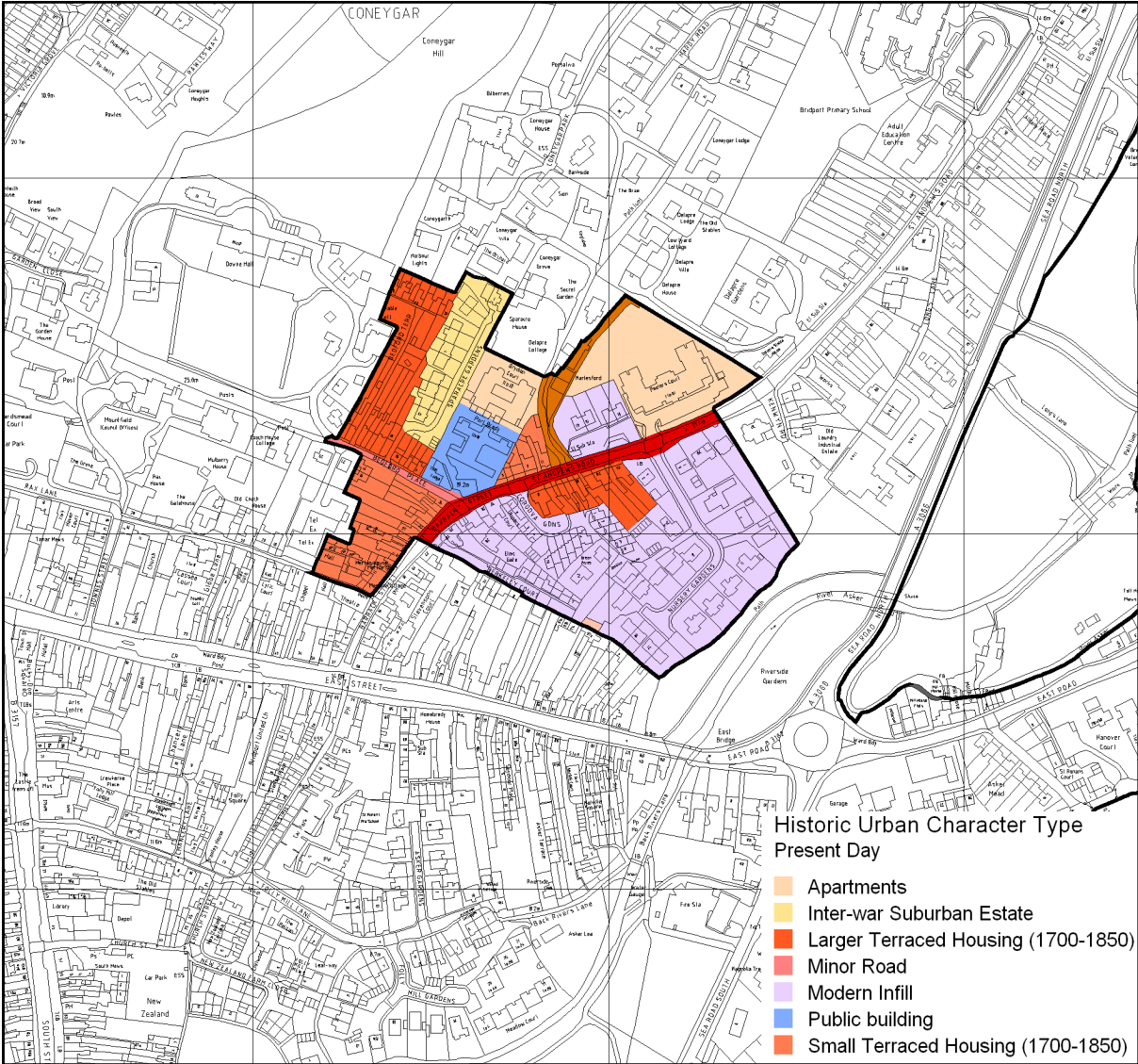


Figure 79: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 5, showing current historic urban character type.



Figure 80: Barrack Street, looking towards former workhouse.



Figure 81: Nos. 2-10 Bedford Place.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 5 Structure of Character Area

Overview

This character area lies immediately to the north of the medieval town along Barrack Street, the former road to Beaminster. It represents one of the earliest areas of 18th century expansion. It is defined by its location on the northern edge of the eastern part of the medieval town and by the concentration of 18th and 19th century workers housing.

Topography and Geology

Much of this area lies on the southeast slopes of Coneygar Hill and the ground dips down significantly to the east and to the south. The eastern edge meets the Asker floodplain. The northern part is on Bridport Sand sandstones and the southern part on siltstones and limestones of the Eype Clay Member.

Urban Structure

Barrack Street/St Andrew's Road forms the main axis through the area dividing the irregular rectilinear street layout to the west from the modern culs-de-sac street layout to the east. The housing estate in the east is suburban in character and does not relate to the main street. The properties along Barrack Street and Bedford Place are long narrow rectangular plots, but the plots become larger and more irregular further north.

Present Character

Figure 79 shows the present day historic urban character types. There are blocks of Smaller Terraced Housing and Larger Terraced Housing along Barrack Street and Bedford Place, with the former workhouse Public Building on the corner of the two streets. There is an inter-war housing estate on the site of the former Spar Acre twine and net works. The remaining part of the area west of Barrack Street is taken up with Apartments and Modern Infill. The eastern side of the area is largely taken up by a modern housing estate.



Figure 82: Nos. 16-29 Bedford Place.

Time Depth

The area represents an area of largely industrial expansion, with associated workers housing of late eighteenth and nineteenth century date along Barrack Street (formerly Stake Lane), the former main road to Beaminster and an ancient route, probably dating from at least the Saxon period. The late 18th and 19th century outworker's and artisan's housing along Barrack Street may have been associated with Joseph Balston's Twine works which formerly stood on the east side of Barrack Street, now under the modern housing estate. The artisan's housing along Bedford Place is probably associated with H E Hounsell's Spar Acre Twine and Net works, which is now covered by a 1920's housing development.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

The settlement pattern is of high density housing in a regular ribbon layout along the main historic streets, with medium density housing to the north and east. The historic streets have small and medium-sized attached and terraced houses on the street frontage similar to those found in the historic core and gives a seamless join with the town to the south. The houses along Barrack Street are directly on the street frontage, in contrast to those on St Andrew's Road and most on Bedford Place, which are set back. Visually dominating the streetscape is the early 19th century workhouse on the corner of Barrack Street and Bedford Place. The 20th century housing development is more suburban in character with a mixture of detached, semi-detached and attached houses set back from the frontage in the centre of their plots arranged along culs-de-sac.

There are no open green spaces in this area, but there are limited views up to Coneygar Hill and across to the countryside to the east.



Figure 83: Bedford Terrace.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 5 Built Character

Building types

The area is characterised by buildings largely of late 18th and early 19th century date, mainly small and medium-sized attached and terraced houses. The houses on the west side of Barrack Street are terraced and attached two storey houses of stone or brick and slate roofs. The former Seven Stars Public House at the southern end of Barrack Street is a typical rendered 19th century public house building. No. 26 Barrack Street is a good example of a late 18th century house of a modest merchant's or master's house. The houses on Bedford place are 19th century brick or rendered two storey terraced or semi-detached workers houses probably built for the former Spar Acre twine and net works.

The most visually imposing building in this area is the former Workhouse, built 1836 in a cruciform plan, on the corner of Barrack Street and Bedford Place. It has been converted into flats.

The 1920's housing estate on Sparacre Gardens is a small development of pebble-dashed semi-detached houses with hipped slate roofs. The modern housing estate on Berkley Court and Cordova Gardens is typical of modern housing estates with little local character in house form or building materials.

Building Materials

The former workhouse and some of the houses on Barrack Street are of stone, others on Barrack Street and Bedford Place are of red brick. Many houses are rendered. Some have Bothenhampton stone plinths. The roofs are mainly slate.

Key Buildings

Public Buildings: Workhouse.

18th and 19th century Houses: 21-37 Barrack Street, 26 Barrack Street, 30-32 Barrack Street, 2-10 Bedford Place and 32-46 Bedford Terrace.

Commercial Premises: Seven Stars Public House.



Figure 84: Former Bridport Workhouse.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 5 Archaeology

Archaeological Investigations

A single watching brief has been carried out in this character area. In 1994, two trial pits on the site of the former Cornick's Jam Factory were observed along the line of the present Berkeley Court (Figure 85, 4). The remains of a feature containing medieval pottery was observed in one pit and this has been tentatively identified as part of the 'murdige', the medieval town ditch defining the northern limit of this part of the medieval town.

archaeological remains from the former twine and net works.

Figure 85 shows historic boundaries depicted on 19th century maps.

Archaeological Character

The very limited investigation in this area constrains any consideration of the character of the archaeological resource. The area lies beyond the historic town core and is unlikely to have a great deal of pre-18th century archaeology. There may be buried industrial

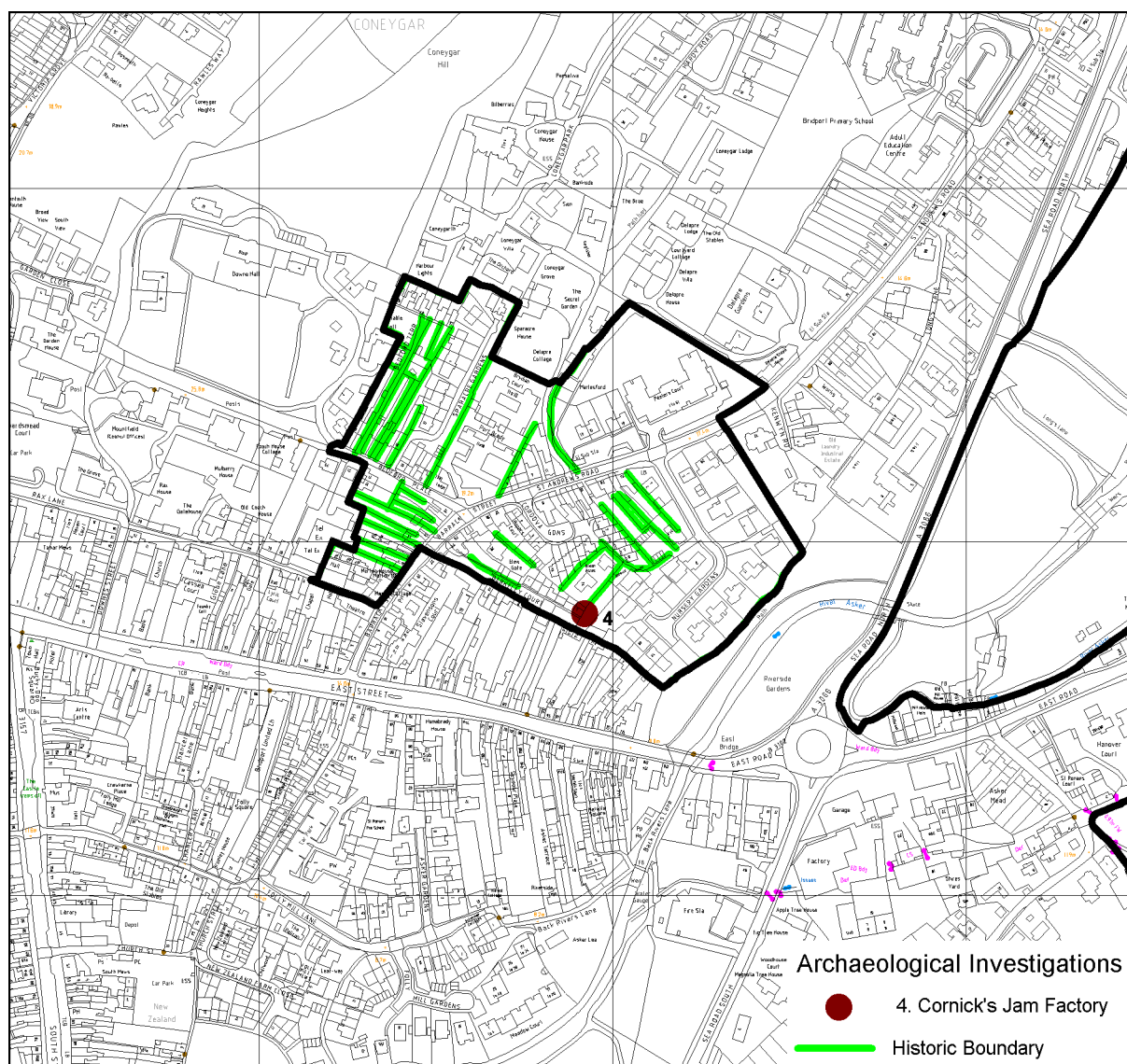


Figure 85: Archaeological Investigations and features in Historic Urban Character Area 5.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 5 Designations

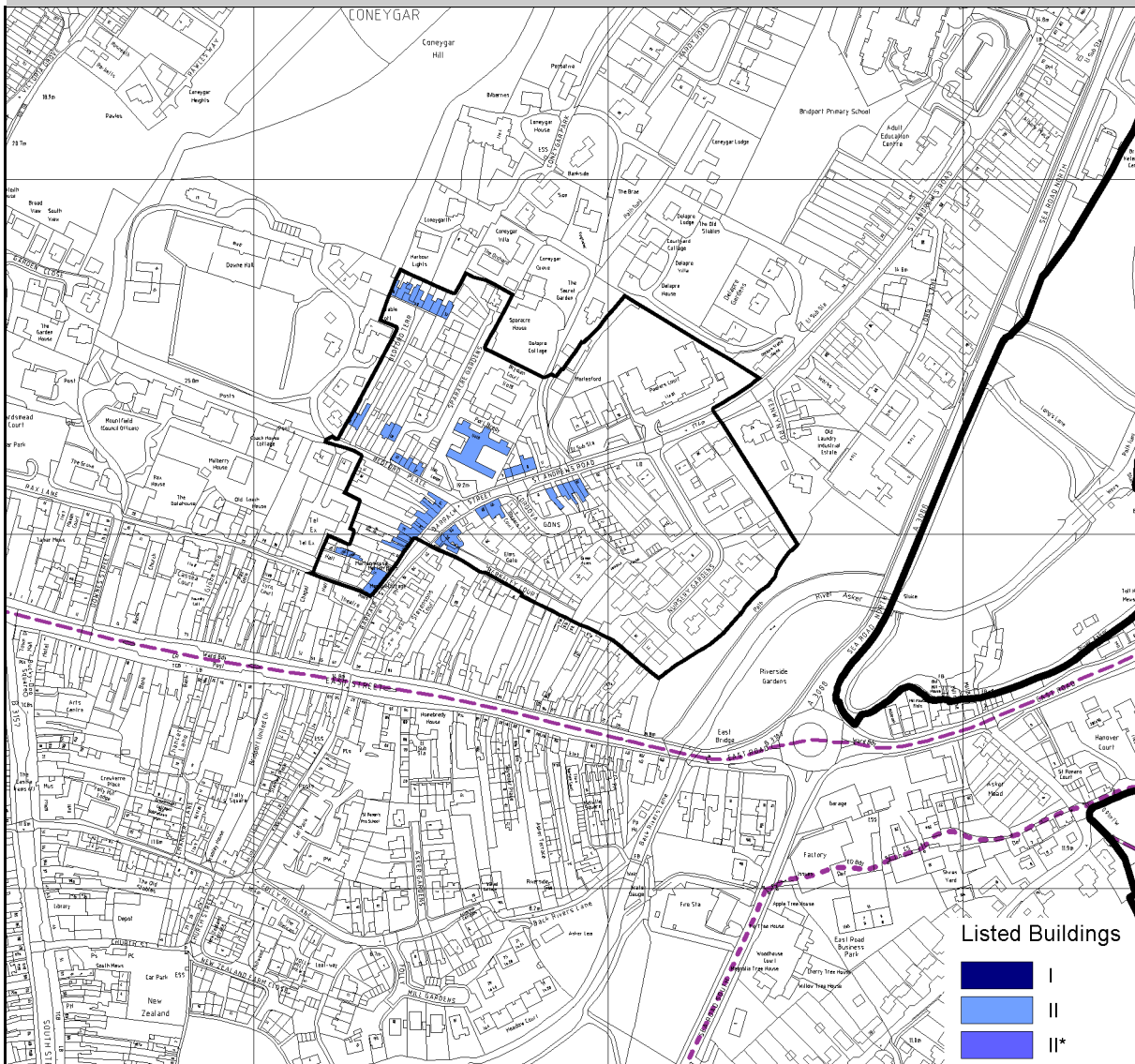


Figure 86: Listed Buildings and other designations in Historic Urban Character Area 5.

Listed Buildings

There are 18 Listed Buildings in the Character Area. All are Grade II.

Conservation Areas

Most of this character area lies within the Bridport Conservation Area, other than the eastern edge behind the Barrack Road/St Andrews Road frontage (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 5 Evaluation

Strength of Historic Character

The character of this area is judged to be **Strong**. The historic character is particularly strong along Barrack Street and Bedford Place where there is good survival of historic worker's housing associated with the former twine works. The changing streetscape moving from Barrack Street to St Andrew's Road neatly reflects the transition from the historic town core to later suburban development further north. The former workhouse building occupies a dominant position in this area. The historic character is diluted to the east and north by small modern housing estates and apartments. Nevertheless, these reflect the history of decline and disappearance of the once dominant rope and net making industry in the town.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **Medium** sensitivity to major change, but this includes areas of historic development along Barrack Street and Bedford Place which have a high sensitivity to major change and the modern housing estates to the east which have low sensitivity. The scale of the historic plots and housing directly reflects this area's origins in 18th and 19th century expansion as a result of the success of the rope and net industries. The street frontages formed mainly by historic buildings are very sensitive to

anything other than small-scale change and any opening up of these frontages would have a major impact upon the character.

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **Medium**. It lies beyond the historic core of the town and was largely developed in the 18th and 19th century, but is along one of the main routes into the town so may have evidence of earlier development along the road side. The southeast part of the area may have surviving buried remains of the medieval town boundary ditch and could provide information on the form and dating of this feature. It may also have buried industrial archaeological remains of the former Spar Acre works and Balston's twine works. The survival of archaeological deposits and features is assessed as being **medium**.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 25–29 (Part 7).

Key Characteristics

- Historic terraced housing and narrow plots related to former twine works
- Sites of former twine works replaced by suburban housing
- Former workhouse building
- Potential remains of medieval town boundary ditch