

# Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 9 Allington

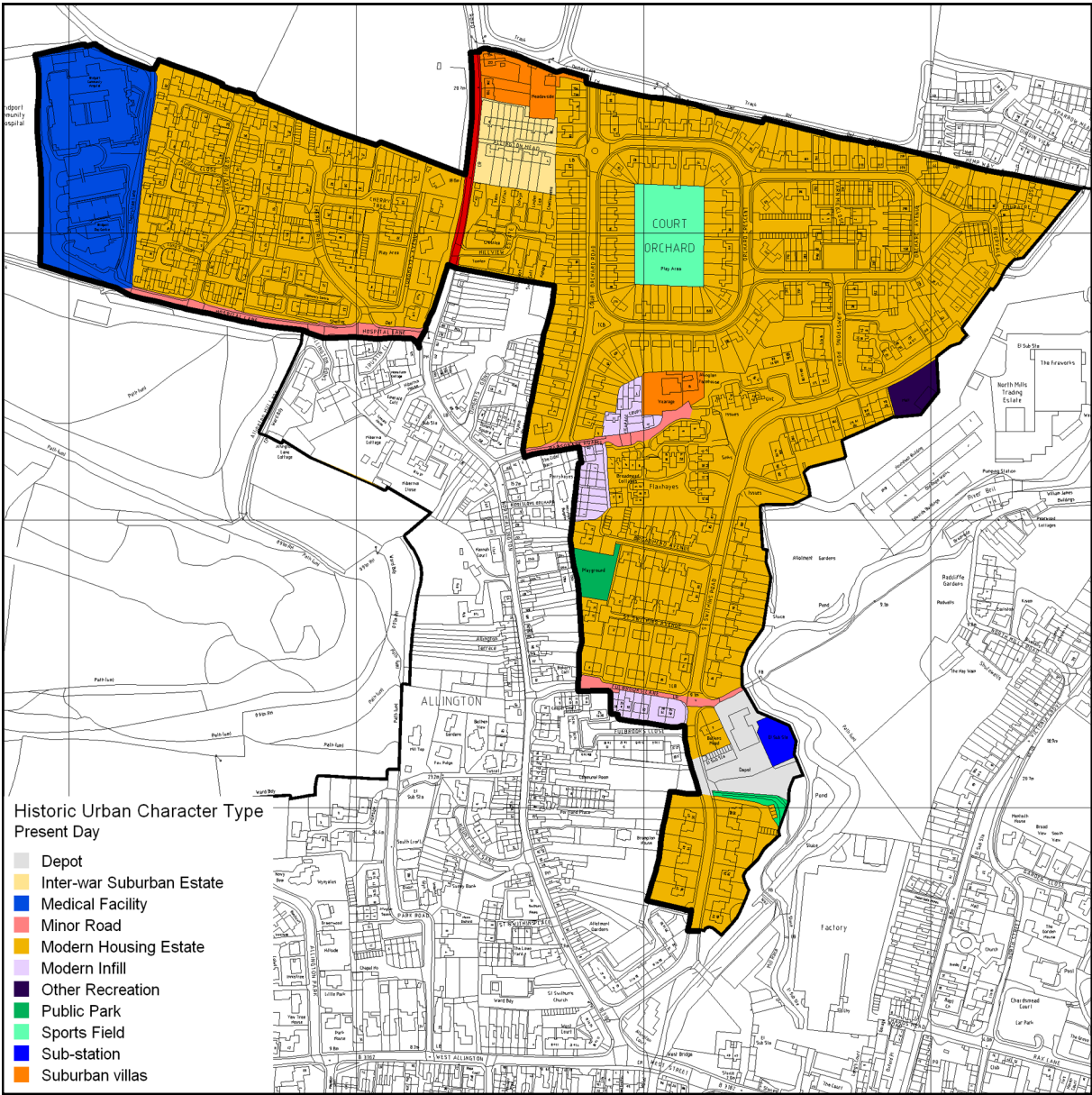


Figure 116: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 9, showing current historic urban character type.

## Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 9 Structure of Character Area

### Overview

This character area contains the historic settlement of Allington and the area of 20th century expansion along the west side of the Brit floodplain and the northern margins of the modern town.

### Topography and Geology

The ground is relatively flat along the river Brit floodplain, which forms the eastern edge of the area, with the ground rising up towards the north and west on the lower slopes of the two hills to the north. The geology is mostly sandstones of the Down Cliff Sand Member, Thorncombe Sand Member and Bridport Sand Formation with superficial deposits of alluvium in the Brit valley along the east side of the area.

### Urban Structure

The structure of the area consists of a number of housing estates laid out in typical modern suburban looped road and cul-de-sac networks accessed by roads leading off North Allington (St Swithin's Road, Parsonage Road and Hospital Lane). The properties are set back from the street frontage.

### Present Character

Figure 116 shows the present day historic urban character types. The area is predominantly Modern Housing Estates, with a Medical Facility in the northwestern part. There are small areas of Suburban Villas, Inter-war Suburban Estate and Modern Infill. Other minor historic urban character types include Depot, Sub-station, Public Park, Sports Field and Other Recreation.

### Time Depth

Allington has its origins as a Saxon manor and the historic core is focused on Allington Vicarage in Parsonage Road, the site of the original medieval church of Allington. There are a number of historic roads and tracks that cross this area including North Allington, Parsonage Road, Fulbrooks Lane and Hospital Lane (Mead

Lane). The area was mainly agricultural land with a largely 17th and 18th century field pattern, prior to the post-war period, but this field pattern is generally no longer visible within the modern settlement pattern. There is a small amount of 19th century housing, a small inter-war housing development at Allington Mead, on part of the Allington Brickworks and the former Bridport Borough electricity station on Fulbrooks Lane dates to 1930. However, most of the area consists of modern housing estates, with Court Orchard the first new estate built after the war and St Swithins Road following soon after in 1947. The housing east of Court Orchard dates from the early 1990s, as do the housing developments on the west side of North Allington. The 1993 Bridport Community Hospital is on the site of the former Bridport Isolation Hospital.

### Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

The settlement pattern is one of low and medium density housing in a rather open pattern, with the majority of buildings set well back from the roads behind gardens or open greens. The layout of the housing estates is fairly typical of their period, with largely curvilinear looped networks and culs-de-sac and the houses and apartment blocks laid out in a regular pattern along the roads.

There are few formal green spaces, other than the play area at Court Orchard and the playground at Broadmead Avenue. There are a number of street trees in Court Orchard and grass verges and open grassed areas between blocks of flats elsewhere. There are views towards Allington Hill and over the Brit valley.



Figure 117: View down along St Swithin's Road.



Figure 118: Remains of former flax barton at Allington Farm.

## Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 9 Built Character

### ***Building types***

There are only a small number of historic buildings in this area. Broadmead Cottages is an 18th-early 19th century stone cottage in the historic area of Allington. Both Allington Vicarage and Allington Farmhouse are large stone houses. The rather denuded remains of the former flax barton at Allington Farm, probably dating to the 19th century, still survive within the modern housing estate close to Allington Farmhouse, their rubble stone construction contrasting with the surrounding modern houses. Allington pound still survives on Parsonage Road, the stone walls now enclosing an electricity substation.

The predominant built character is of modern housing estates. The modern houses are typical of the changing styles of post-war suburban housing and are not distinctive, except, perhaps the red brick blocks with flat sloping roofs on St Swithin's Road at the southern end of the area. The houses of Court Orchard are pebble-dashed semi-detached blocks with hipped slate roofs.

### ***Building Materials***

The historic buildings are constructed from local stone rubble, with brick or stone dressings. The roofs are slate. The 20th century houses are of brick, many rendered or pebble-dashed and some with reconstituted stone cladding. The roofs are of clay and concrete tiles and slate.

### ***Key Buildings***

The key buildings are Allington Vicarage and Allington Farmhouse, Broadmead Cottages and the remains of the flax barton. The former electricity generating station is of local interest.



Figure 119: Court Orchard.



Figure 120: Former Allington Farm wall with Allington Farmhouse and Allington Vicarage in background.

### Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 9 Archaeology

#### **Archaeological Investigations**

Two archaeological investigations have taken place in this character area. In 1986, a watching brief was carried out at Allington Vicarage on the site of the medieval church of St Swithun during redevelopment and an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in 1993, in advance of the construction of Bridport Community Hospital.

Only very slight traces of the foundations of the church were revealed at Allington Vicarage, suggesting that the building and the presumed graveyard had been completely cleared. At the hospital site, two prehistoric ditches, possibly part of a prehistoric ditched field system, were found.

#### **Archaeological Character**

The archaeological work at the hospital site suggest this area was part of a prehistoric agricultural landscape and may contain further traces of field boundaries and small farms or settlements. Although almost all traces of the medieval church of St Swithun have been removed, other remains of the Saxon and medieval settlement of Allington may survive in this area.

The historic boundaries of nineteenth century or earlier as marked on the historic maps are shown on Figure 121 and are mainly fossilised field boundaries.

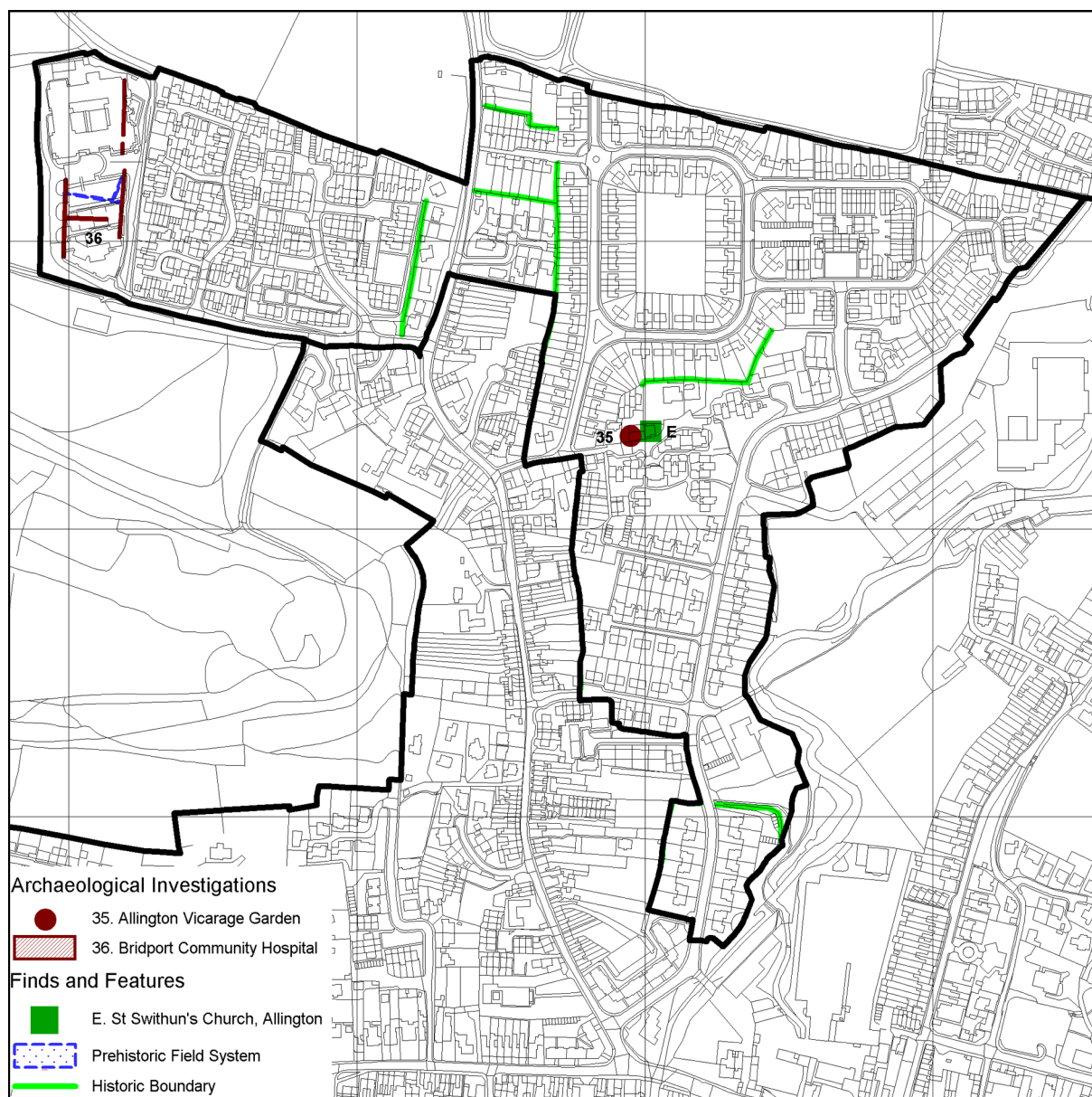


Figure 121: Archaeological Investigations and features in Historic Urban Character Area 9.

**Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 9  
Designations**

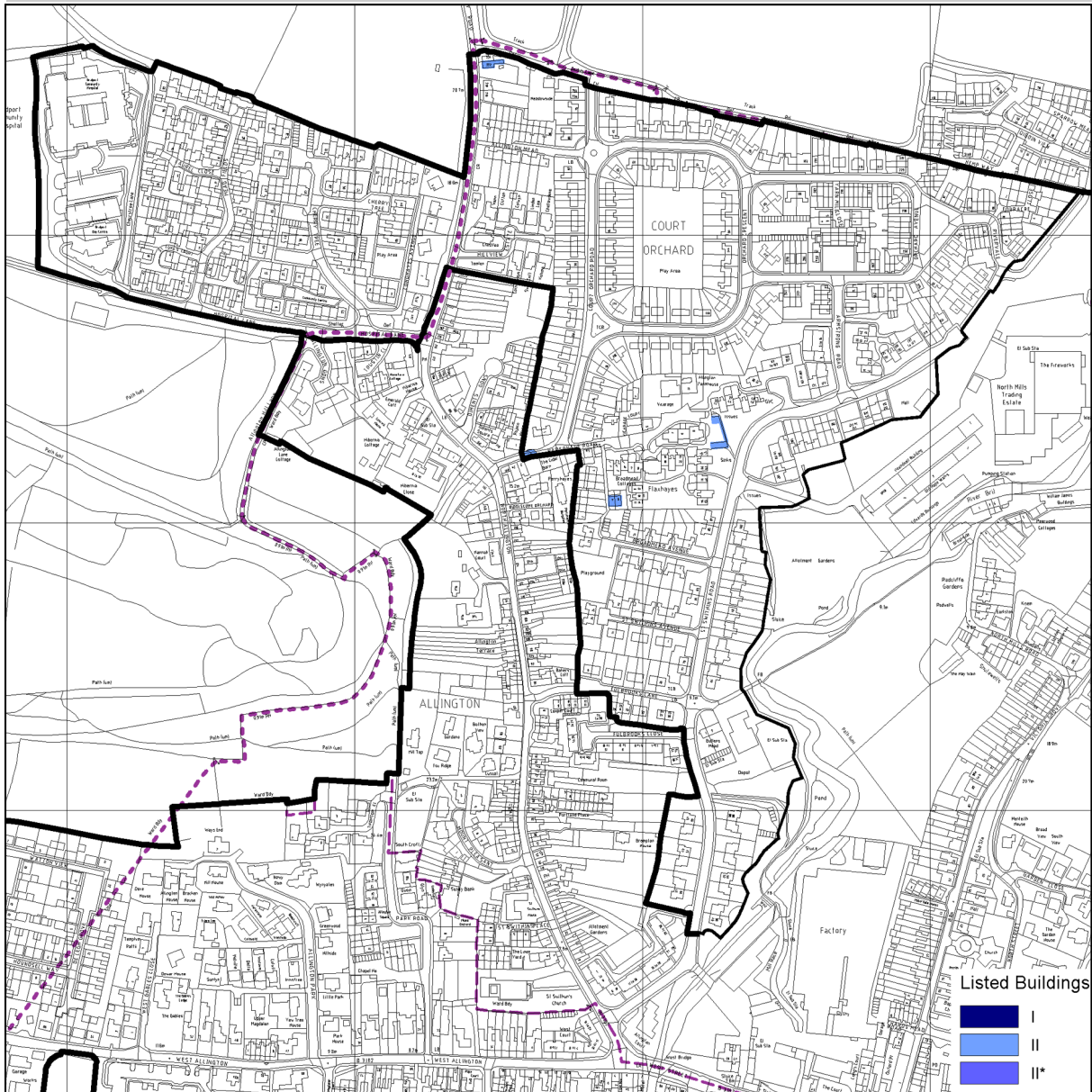


Figure 122: Listed Buildings and other designations in Historic Urban Character Area 9.

**Listed Buildings**

There are 3 Listed Buildings in the Character Area, all Grade II.

**Conservation Areas**

This Character Area lies outside the Bridport Conservation Area.

**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 9  
Evaluation**

***Strength of Historic Character***

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **Weak**. Much of this area was agricultural land until the second half of the 20th century and is now almost completely modern suburban housing estates that have little local or historic character. The few historic buildings are isolated from their context in a mass of modern development.

***Sensitivity to Large Scale Development***

The area has a **Low** sensitivity to major change, as it is almost completely modern suburban housing estates. There are very few significant historic features that would be compromised by large-scale change.

***Archaeological Potential***

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **Low**. Most of the area was agricultural land until the 20th century. The area around Allington Vicarage and Broadmead Cottages may contain buried archaeological remains, which could provide information on the form and character of the Saxon and medieval settlement of Allington.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Question 1 (Part 7).

**Key Characteristics**

- Potential buried remains of medieval settlement of Allington
- Remains of former flax barton at Allington Farm
- Former Electricity Station
- Court Orchard street plan
- Modern housing estates