

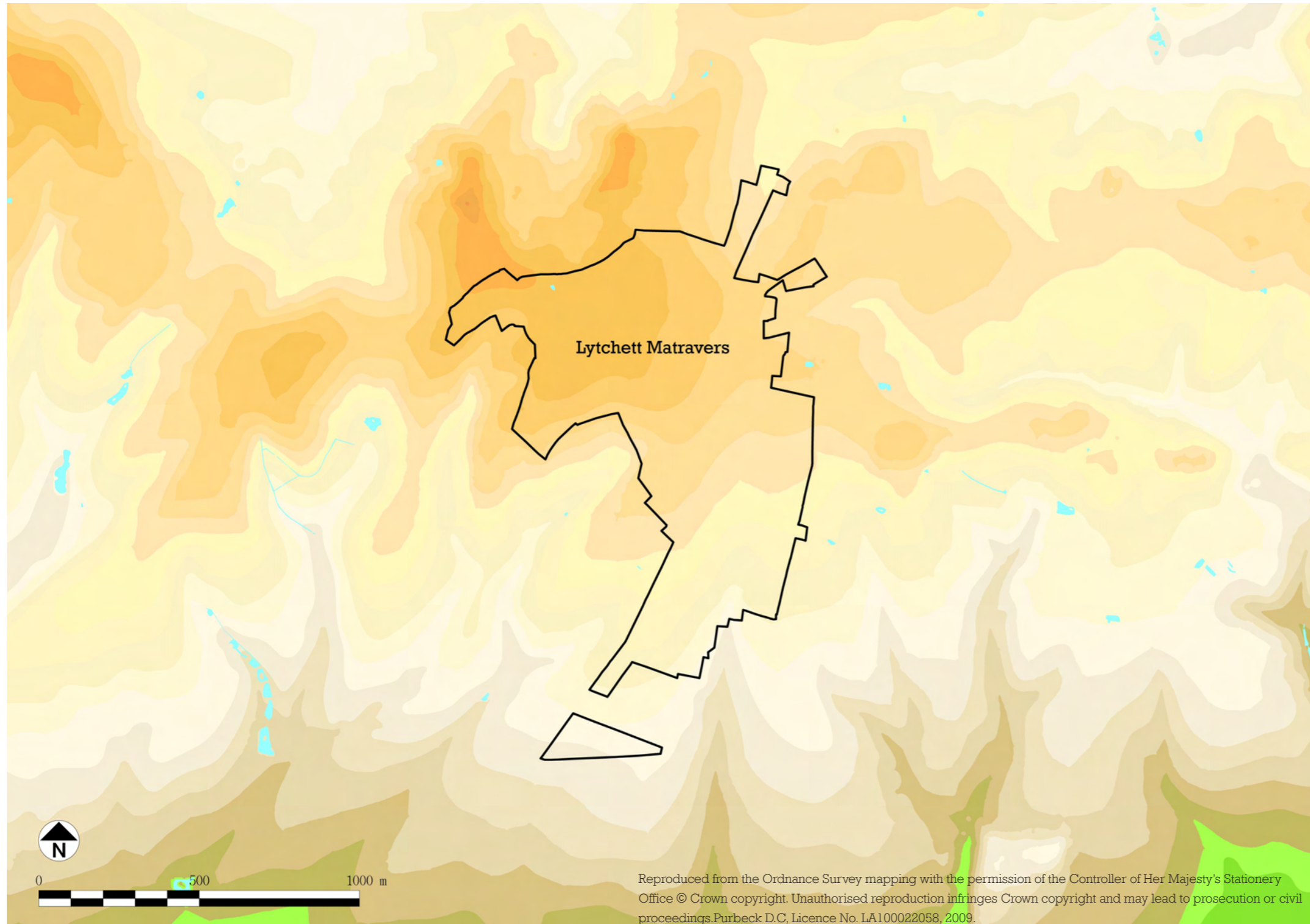


Lytchett Matravers

Town context

02.1

Geographical context



2.1.1 The geographical context map shows the topography of landscape around Lytchett Matravers. Generally the village lies in an elevated position with the north-west part of the village on the highest point. The land is mostly gently sloping in nature, although a number of relatively steeply sloping valleys and undulations are present, particularly on the western side of the settlement.



1. The elevated position of Lytchett Matravers provides distant views towards Poole Harbour. Old Pound Close.



2. To the north of the village the land falls generally northwards towards the River Stour. It will be noted how the rolling topography, trees, hedgerows and woodland close longer views to and from the village in this direction. Flowers Drive.

2.1.2 Poole Harbour is an outstanding feature of the east Dorset coast, representing a considerable area of sheltered, if shallow, salt water. Whilst it is readily accessible from the sea, it is however substantially protected from open water by the Sandbanks and Studland peninsulars.

2.1.3 Poole Harbour itself is contained within a broad basin of land composed mostly of sands and gravels, that slopes gently towards its deeply indented shoreline of small bays and creeks.

2.1.4 To the north, there is a low sandy ridge that includes Upton Heath, Corfe Hills, Broadstone, Canford Heath and the ridge on which Lytchett Matravers is situated.

2.1.5 To the south there is the clearly defined Purbeck chalk ridge dramatically interrupted at Corfe Castle and ending in the sea at the Old Harry Rocks (Handfast Point).

2.1.6 Inland, to the west, the land is gently rolling and less dramatic, and is principally defined by the shallow valleys of the Rivers Piddle and Frome that flow into the harbour near Wareham at its western extremity. The Sherford River that flows west to east about 2 km south of Lytchett Matravers discharges into Lytchett Bay that forms part of Poole Harbour.

2.1.7 Lytchett Matravers is situated on a broad ridge of relatively high ground about 4km north of the Wareham Channel. To the north the land falls generally towards the River Stour and to the south towards Poole Harbour. The elevated position allows some extensive views to the south towards Poole Harbour and the Purbeck Hills beyond. The village is situated about 3km beyond the western edge of the Poole/Bournemouth conurbation at Upton, although it is clearly influenced by its close proximity to a large urban area.

2.1.8 At Lytchett Matravers the geology is a mix of Reading Clay, London Clay and associated Lytchett Matravers Sand, which yields Lytchett Matravers Sandstone (a heathstone).

KEY POINTS

- Lytchett Matravers is located about 3 km beyond the western edge of the Poole/Bournemouth conurbation.
- The village is situated on a ridge of relatively high ground from which the land slopes north towards the River Stour and south towards Poole Harbour.
- There are views from the village towards Poole Harbour and the Purbeck ridge beyond.



Lytchett Matravers Town context 02.2 Landscape setting



Aerial photograph courtesy of Purbeck District Council - Getmapping.com

2.2.1 Although Lytchett Matravers contains some quite extensive suburban development, the character of the village, and particularly its boundaries, is nonetheless greatly influenced by its landscape setting. Most notably, the broad, elevated ridge on which the village is situated allows many views and glimpses south towards Poole Harbour.

2.2.2 Although the land is generally quite level on the summit of the ridge where the heart of the village is situated, there are some notable variations in the landform elsewhere. To north, west and east the landscape is undulating with a high incidence of trees and hedgerows. In the southern part of the village itself there are three small but well-defined valleys containing streams that have cut into the soft sands and gravels of the ridge. These are a distinctive feature of this part of the village and they help to define a number of attractive views. However the valleys become much less distinctive beyond the southern edge of the village where the landscape is characterized by a more consistent south-facing slope that falls south towards the A35, the Sherford River and Poole Harbour.

2.2.3 The countryside around Lytchett Matravers to the north, east and west is mostly well treed by virtue of a number of small woods and a close-knit pattern of unusually small fields and the relationship between these, especially on the western side of the village, is suggestive of 'ancient countryside' (i.e. ancient enclosure predating the main period of parliamentary enclosure). Hedgerows are characterised by mature trees, mostly oak. The combination of vegetation and the irregular topography does much to prevent views of the village, despite its elevated position, and this helps to integrate the houses into the landscape. The woodlands, fields and hedgerows around, and to some degree within, the village are therefore a most important element in defining its landscape setting and character.

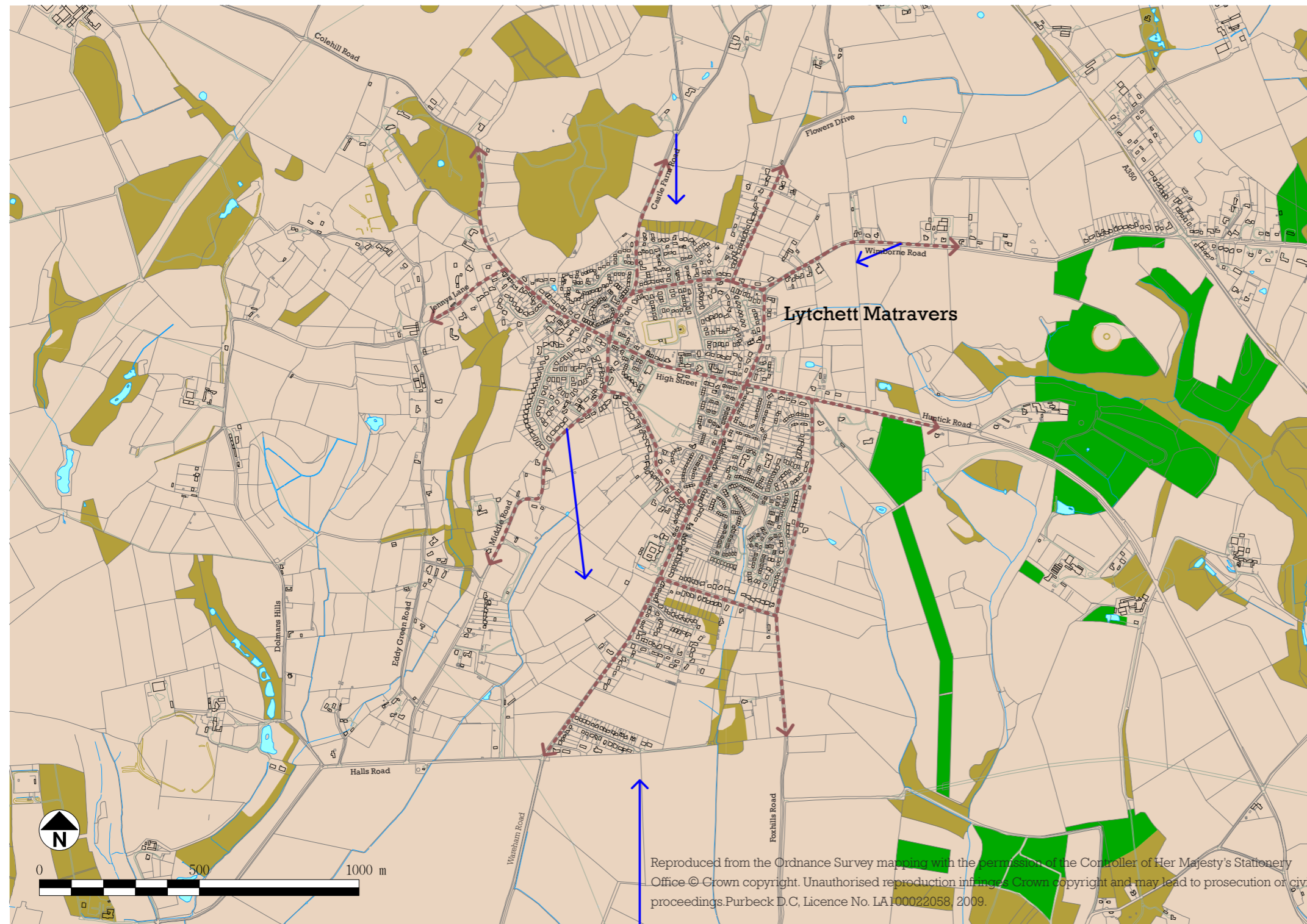
2.2.4 Also important in integrating the village into the landscape, and particularly some of the housing estates, is the dispersed pattern of dwellings around its margins which might also suggest ancient enclosure which could tally with the settlement shift after the Black Death. Reference to old maps reveals that historically the pattern of development at Lytchett Matravers has been very dispersed. Whilst much of the core area of the village has now been

infilled with residential development, most of the lanes approaching the village are still characterised by an incidental scattering of houses interspersed between small fields and hedgerows. Although there has been some intensification in recent times, the irregular juxtaposition of houses, small fields and well-treed hedgerows along narrow and winding rural lanes remains an important feature that does much to integrate the village into the surrounding landscape, and indeed define its character. Arrival in the village is therefore gradual and transitional and it is not marked by sudden changes in character and 'gateways', but rather by a gradual intensification of development, although recent development south along Wareham Road makes this entrance more apparent.

2.2.5 However, in contrast to the general containment of the village to north, west and east, the land to the south of the village is markedly different in character. Not only is the topography more uniform, but beyond the southernmost extent of the village the pattern of small irregular and organic field boundaries suddenly gives way to an area of large rectangular arable fields. Occasional field boundaries are mostly composed of fences and close-cut hedges and there are relatively few mature trees. This change in landscape character has the effect not only of opening up views from the southern part of the village, but of allowing views back towards the village from the south including Wareham Road, Foxhills Road and the A35 that is more than 1 km distant. Development near the southern edge of the village is therefore quite widely visible, as are its lights at night.

KEY POINTS

- The elevated position provides views south towards Poole Harbour;
- To the north, west and east the topography, trees and hedgerows do much to screen the village;
- To the south the landscape is more uniform and open, making it partly visible from the A35;
- Three small valleys in the southern part of the village are distinctive;
- Dispersed development around the margins of the village helps to integrate it into the landscape.



- Water feature
- Raised land above floodplains
- Coniferous plantation
- Mixed & deciduous woodland
- Historic route
- Principal view towards village from surrounding area



Lytchett Matravers

Town context

02.3

Landscape setting images



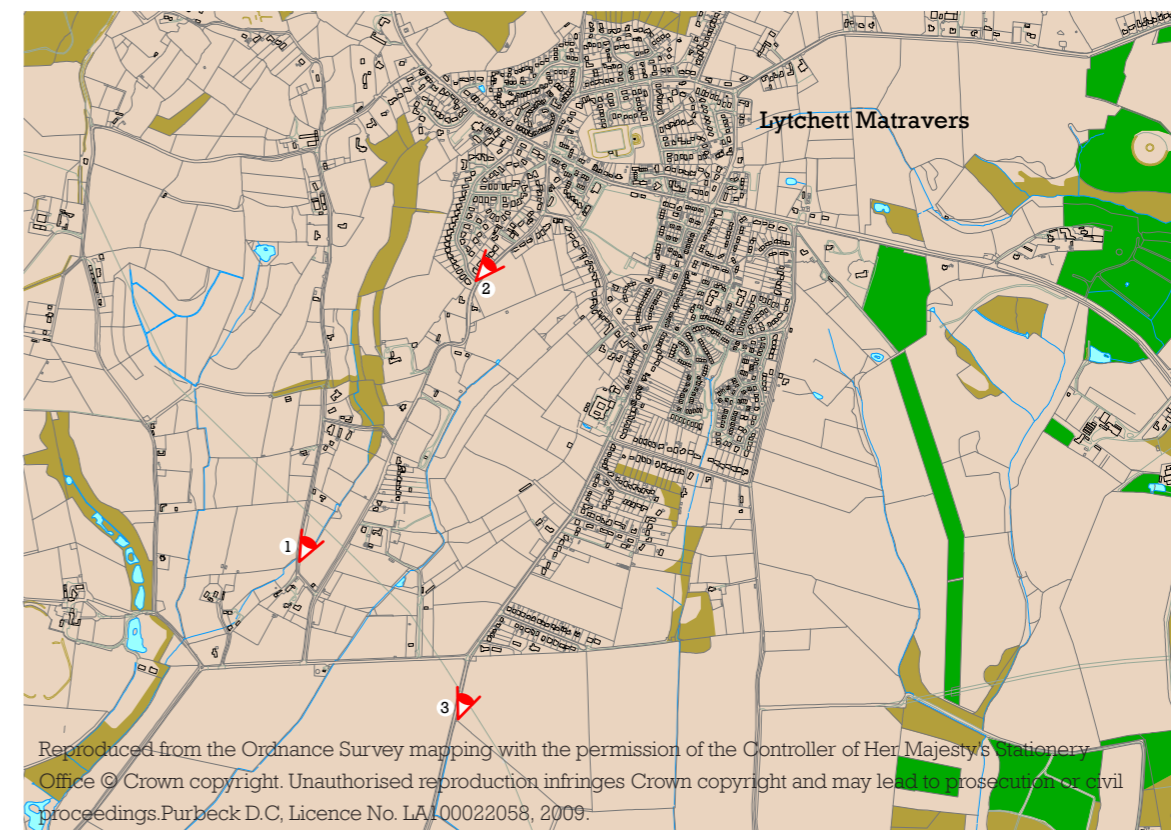
1. **Looking north towards Lytchett Matravers from Eddy Green Road.** An historic feature of the village is the dispersed nature of development, and the approach is defined by a gradual intensification of development. In this rural view a traditional thatched cottage can be seen in the middle distance whilst beyond on the right the roofs of more recent development are seen emerging on the skyline.



2. **The southern edge of Lytchett Matravers seen from Middle Road at the corner with Old Pound Close.** This view demonstrates the gradual intensification of development as the village is approached. The head of one of the small valleys is seen on the right, and the beneficial effect of vegetation in integrating development into the landscape can also be appreciated in this view.



3. **Lytchett Matravers seen from Wareham Road.** The open nature of the landscape to the south of the village is apparent in this view which makes houses on this side of the village widely visible.



Landscape map indicating the positions where photographs were taken.



Lytchett Matravers Town context

02.4 Historic background



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Purbeck D.C. Licence No. LA100022058, 2009.

OS 1901

Maps reproduced with kind permission of the Dorset History Centre, Dorchester



Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Purbeck D.C. Licence No. LA100022058, 2009.

OS 1924

2.4.1 This selection of drawings illustrates dramatically the largely static nature of development in Lytchett Matravers during the early years of the 20th century (1901 – 1924) and its marked intensification and enlargement in more recent times. Traditionally the village had a very dispersed form, lacking any clearly defined higher density core, but consisting of a loose scattering of buildings spread out along its various roads and lanes interspersed by a host of small fields.

2.4.2 New development over the post-war period has resulted in a significant intensification of development within the main body of the village with the consequent loss of openness that would have previously characterised the settlement. Although on the extremities of the village the earlier scattered and incidental nature of development survives, the main body of the village is now substantially characterised by small estate and infill development that belies the close proximity of the Poole/Bournemouth conurbation.

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Purbeck D.C, Licence No. LA100022058, 2009.



Lytchett Matravers Town context 02.5 Historic evolution

2.4.1 The name, Lytchett Matravers, has Celtic origins, Litchet meaning the grey wood. The Celtic element of the name would suggest some continuity of settlement and population in the vicinity of an extended period predating the arrival of the Anglo-Saxons. The second word, Matravers, is derived from the family name Maltravers, Hugh of that name being one of William the Conqueror's knights who was awarded land in the area. The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book and during the early medieval period it was situated half a mile west of its current position. A surviving feature of the former village is St Mary the Virgin Church which now stands isolated and remote from the present day settlement.

2.4.2 During the second half of the 14th century the Black Death severely depopulated the village, and the surviving inhabitants abandoned the village by the church and established a new settlement a short distance to the east to the top of the hill.

2.4.3 The village was situated on what was then the road between Poole and Dorchester via Upton, Lytchett Matravers, Winterborne Zelston, Bere Regis and Tolpuddle. The Chequers Inn fronted onto this route where it passed through the village. The pub is of uncertain date, but the name suggests that it could date from the 15th century. A green with a maypole used to be situated in front of the inn where a fair had been held until the end of the 19th century.

2.4.4 In 1774 the Methodist Society of Lytchett was formed and the present day Methodist church stands on land donated to the Society in 1824, by a local brick maker, John Parsons.

2.4.5 The present Rose and Crown public house was built in 1912, but ale was sold from a cottage there from the middle of the 19th century.

2.4.6 Around 1837 about 30 children attended a National Society School which had been built near to the higher crossroads. In 1875 education for all children became compulsory and the Board School was built. Children were taught there for 115 years before the present school for over 400 pupils was built on Wareham Road. The original building has now been converted to residential use.

2.4.7 The village used to be very much a working settlement with various rural trades listed in historical directories of the time. A 1915 Directory identifies

numerous farmers, a market gardener, a wheelwright, a blacksmith, a thatcher, a hurdle maker, a brick layer and two sand merchants. Facilities in the village also included two grocers, a post office and the Chequers and Rose and Crown public houses.

2.4.8 A number of 'Homes for heroes' houses were built in the village for men returning from the First World War, and some other new houses were built before the Second World War. Many of the old cottages were improved at that time. In 1901 there were 640 people living in Lytchett Matravers. Today, over a century later, the population is nearly 4000 people. In large part this is because the village now acts as a residential dormitory for the nearby Poole/Bournemouth conurbation.

KEY POINTS

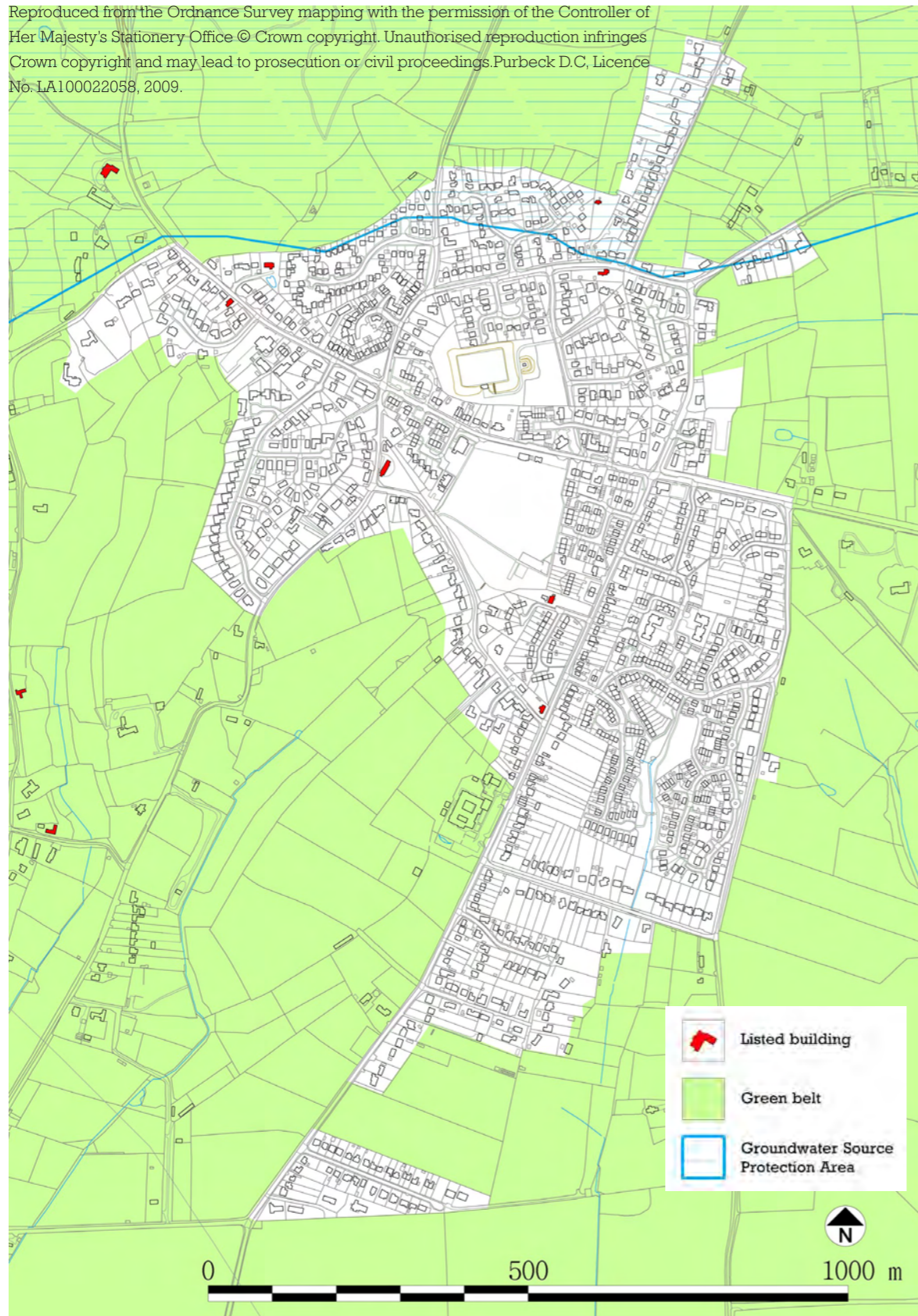
- The name of the village has Celtic and Norman origins.
- The Black Death caused the original village to be relocated from a site to the west of the existing settlement.
- The Chequers Inn may date from the 15th century. A fair used to be held on the green in front of the inn.
- The village formerly had a variety of rural trades.
- A number of 'Homes for heroes' were built after WWI and the population has significantly increased in the post-war period.



Lytchett Matravers Town context

02.6 Planning designations

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey mapping with the permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationery Office © Crown copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Purbeck D.C, Licence No. LA100022058, 2009.



1. Green Belt land surrounds the village.



2. Lytchett Matravers contains very few listed buildings.



3. Land to the north of the village is designated to protect groundwater resources from contamination.

2.6.1 The village is subject to only a limited number of planning designations affecting its landscape setting and historic environment. Green Belt land currently surrounds the whole village. This designation requires the openness of the Green Belt to be protected from inappropriate forms of development.

2.6.2 The second main planning designation is that of a number of listed buildings, which are recorded for their historic or architectural importance. Compared to many ancient villages, Lytchett Matravers has very few such buildings. It is notable that those which are present are widely scattered in different locations around, rather than concentrated together as is generally the case. In addition, there is no Conservation Area designation. This reflects the largely recent nature of many buildings in the settlement as a result of significant expansion over the 20th century.

2.6.3 The northern fringes of the village are identified as a Groundwater Source Protection Area. Such areas are essential for public water supplies. Within these protection zones it is necessary to consult with the Environment Agency for any development which could affect groundwater resources. These areas are protected from contamination from proposals which would or could potentially arise from new development.

KEY POINTS

- Lytchett Matravers is surrounded by Green Belt land.
- The village has few historic buildings and no conservation area due to its largely modern origins.
- A Groundwater Source Protection Area overlaps the northern edges of the village and new development must not affect underground water resources.