Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 6
Folly Mill
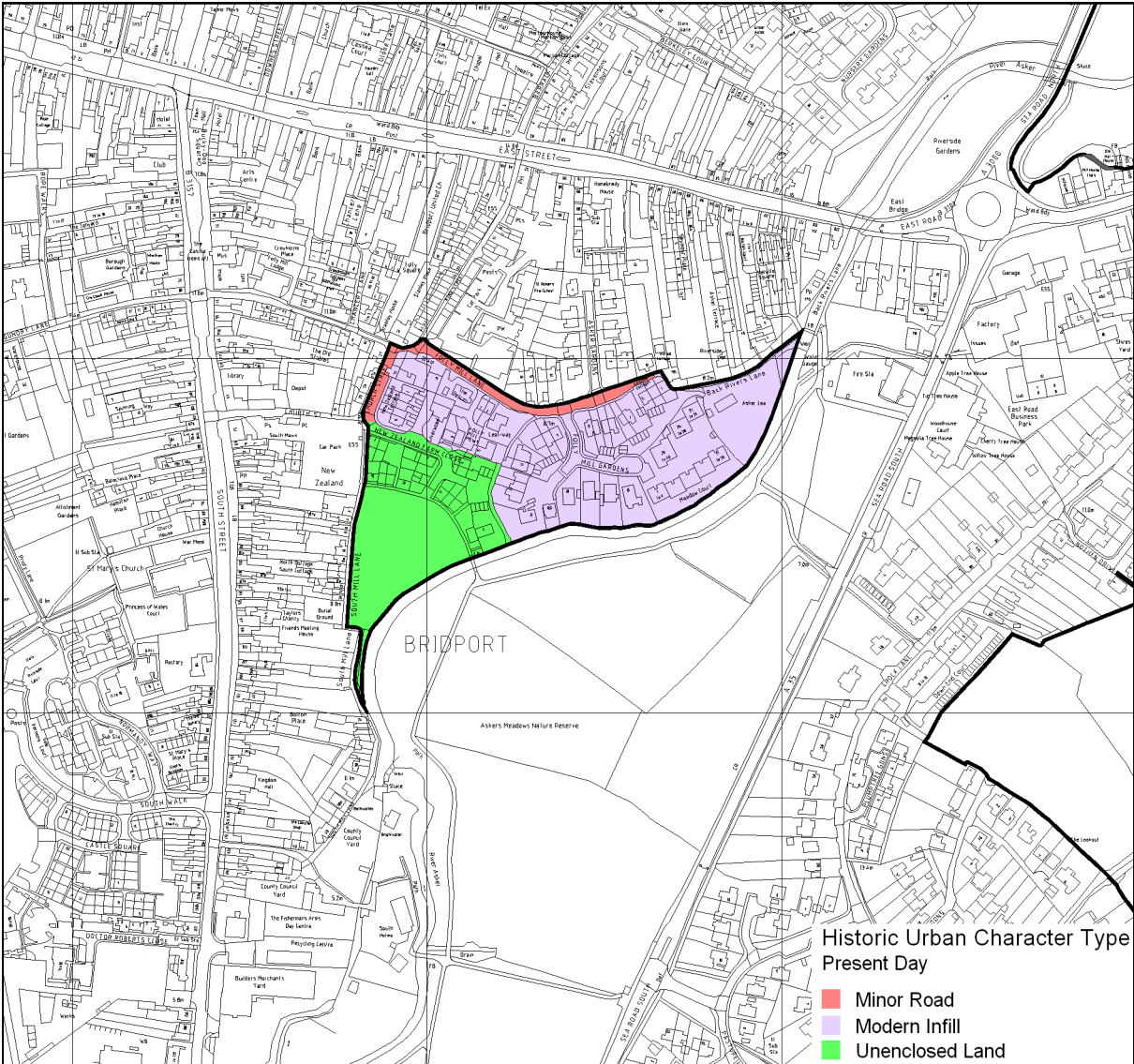

Figure 87: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 6, showing current historic urban character type.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 6
Structure of Character Area

Overview

This character area lies to the south and east of the Saxon and medieval town on the edge of the river Asker. Traditionally, it was an area of industry on the edge of the town, formerly containing Folly Mill, the Pelican net works and St John's rope and twine works, and a large hide and skin yard belonging to Bridport Tannery. The area is gradually being infilled with modern housing.

Topography and Geology

This area is on low-lying ground on the edge of the river Asker floodplain and is relatively flat, rising gently up to the north and west. The geology is siltstones and limestones of the Eype Clay Member with superficial deposits of alluvium on the eastern and southern fringes.

Urban Structure

The area lies on the edge of the urban area defined by historic back streets along the north and west edges. Most of the area is infilled with small modern housing estates with curvilinear culs-de-sac.

Present Character

Figure 87 shows the present day historic urban character types. The area consists of Modern Infill to the north and Unenclosed Land to the south.

Time Depth

This character area is largely formed from modern elements, except for the northern boundary of Folly Mill Lane and the western boundary of Church Street and South Mill Lane, which may be medieval or earlier in origin. The southern boundary is formed by the modern course of the river, straightened from its former route in the later 20th century. The modern Folly Mill Gardens housing estate includes the area of the former Folly Mill and its northern and western boundary follows the line of the former mill stream, now infilled

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

The settlement pattern is medium density housing arranged along a curvilinear cul-de-sac layout. The houses are set back from the frontage in a suburban housing estate layout. The open waste ground to the south is gradually being infilled, but there are views across the Asker floodplain from this area.

Figure 88: View of area of former St John's Works, New Zealand.

Figure 89: View along Folly Mill Lane with housing development on former Pelican Works.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 6
Built Character

Building types

There is a small area of mixed light industrial buildings and domestic housing in the northwest part, including some 19th century small houses. The majority of buildings are part of the modern housing estate of Folly Mill Gardens, mainly mixed detached and semi-detached houses and bungalows, typical of late 20th century housing in Britain.

Building Materials

The historic buildings are primarily of local Bothenhampton stone with slate roofs. The modern housing is of untraditional materials.

Key Buildings

Oaklea, Church Street, Gladstone Cottage, 76C East Street.

Figure 90: View along Folly Mill Lane looking towards former site of Folly Mill.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 6
Archaeology

Archaeological Investigations

There has been a single archaeological evaluation excavation in this area (Figure 91). In 2003, four small trial trenches were excavated in the northwest corner of the unenclosed ground close to South Mill Lane and Folly Mill Lane. These revealed nothing other than post-medieval and modern pits and services. One small trench was excavated across the line of the postulated Saxon town defences along South Mill Lane, but no traces of any defensive bank or ditch was revealed.

Archaeological Character

The area lies beyond the historic town core and is unlikely to contain a significant amount of medieval and earlier remains, other than structures relating to the medieval Killings Mill or the later Folly Mill. It may also contain buried remains associated with the post-medieval industry in this area.
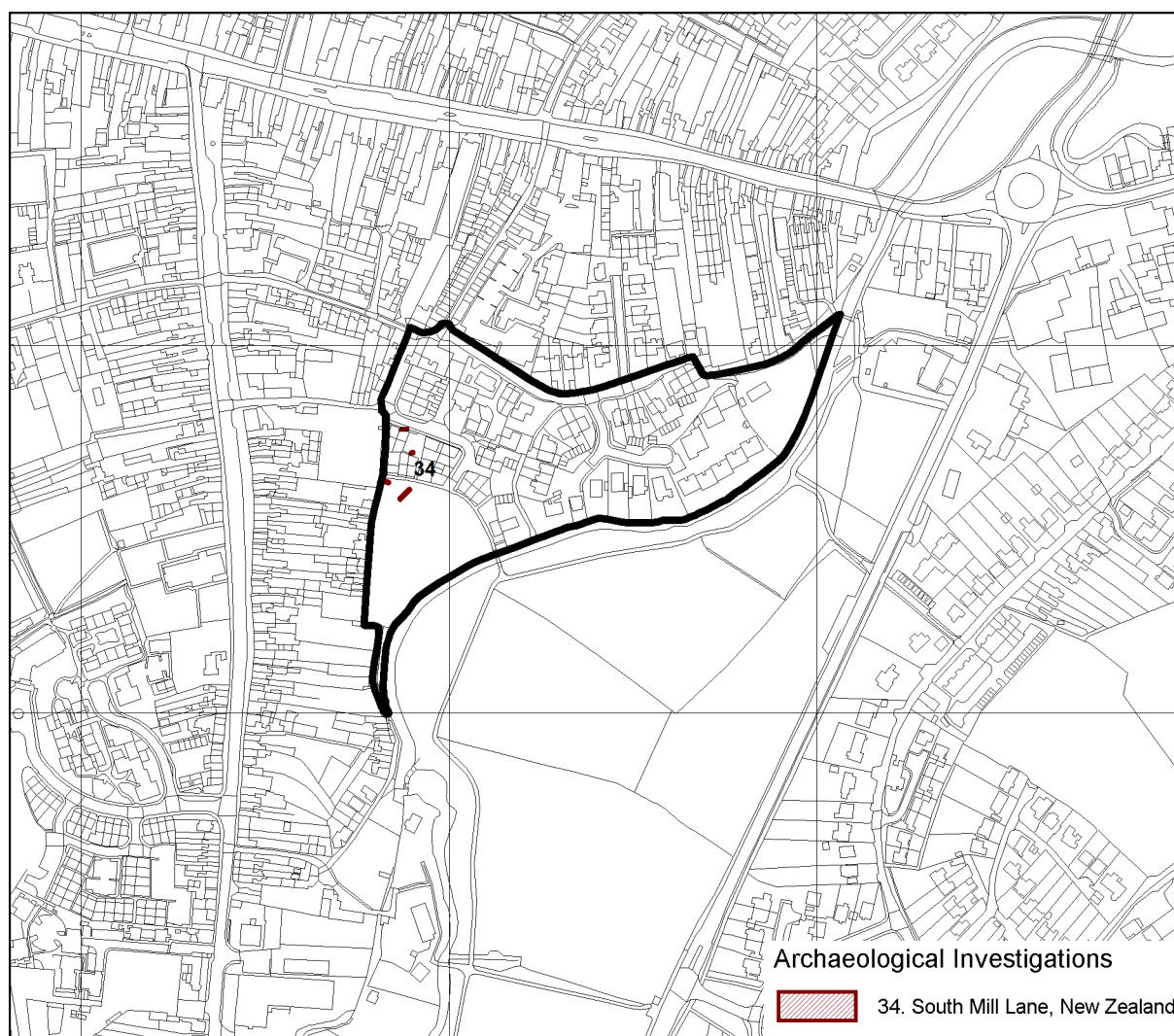

Archaeological Investigations

34. South Mill Lane, New Zealand

Figure 91: Archaeological Investigations within Historic Urban Character Area 6.

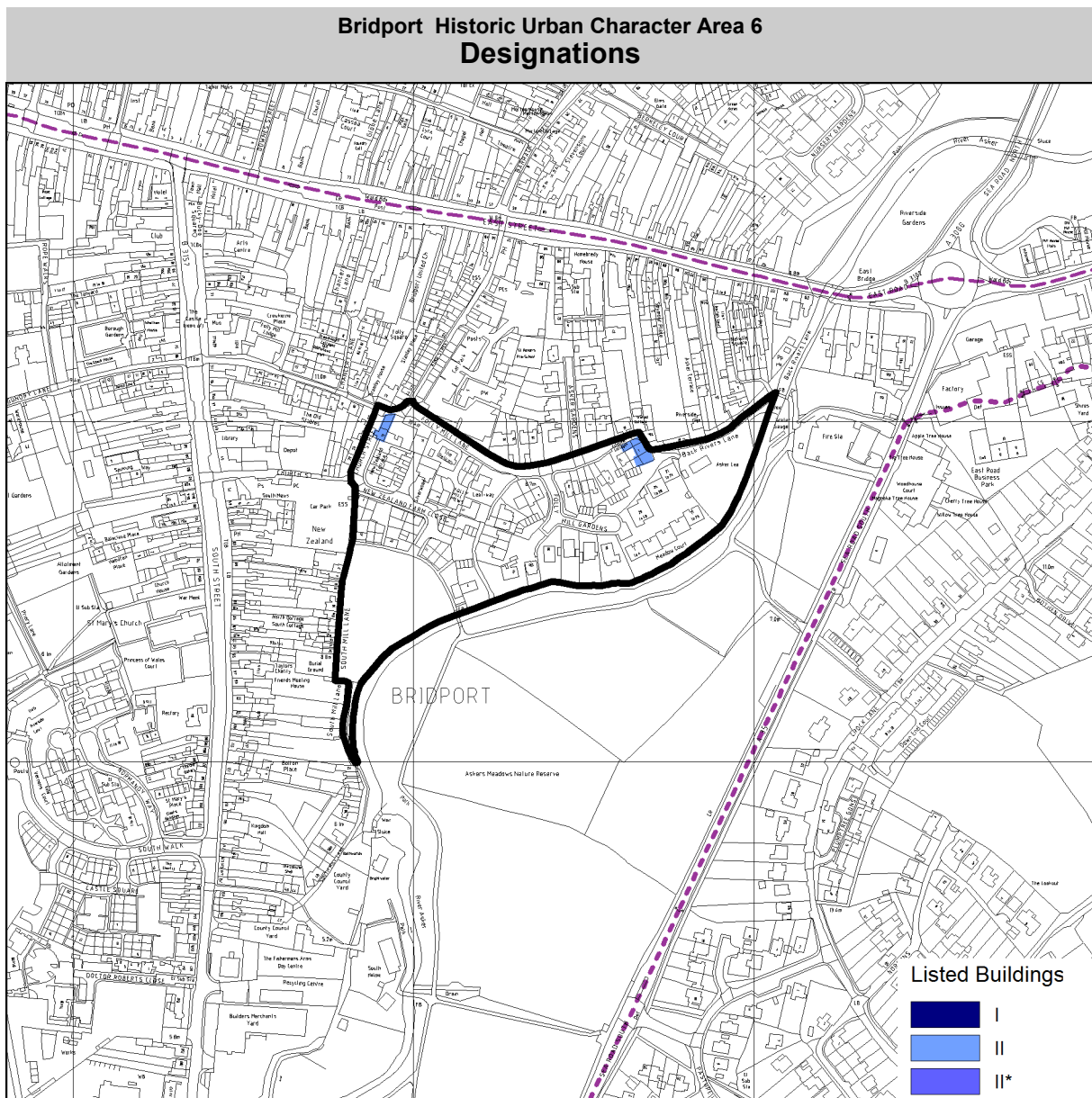**Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 6**
Designations

Figure 92: Listed Buildings and other designations in Historic Urban Character Area 6.

Listed Buildings

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

Conservation Areas

The whole of this Character 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 6
Evaluation

Strength of Historic Character

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **Weak**. It has a low survival of historic urban structures, plots and boundaries. Its present character derives mainly from modern 20th and 21st century housing development.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **Low** sensitivity to major change. Very little of the historic structure remains in this area which is largely modern in form. There is some sensitivity with regard to the urban edge against the open green spaces of the Asker floodplain.

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **Medium**. It lies beyond the historic town, in an area traditionally used for agriculture, then industry. However, it does have a greater potential to determine whether there were any Saxon town defences on the east side, the postulated line of which runs along South Mill Lane. Some buried evidence for the former industry in this area, and perhaps the remains of the medieval Killing's Mill (later Folly Mill), may survive below ground, but are likely to be disturbed by subsequent development. The survival of archaeological deposits and features is assessed to be low to medium.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 6, 19, 20, 26–28 (Part 7).

Key Characteristics

- Former location of historic Killings Mill/Folly Mill and millpond

- Former location of historic industry

- Modern housing estate