

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 8 North Allington

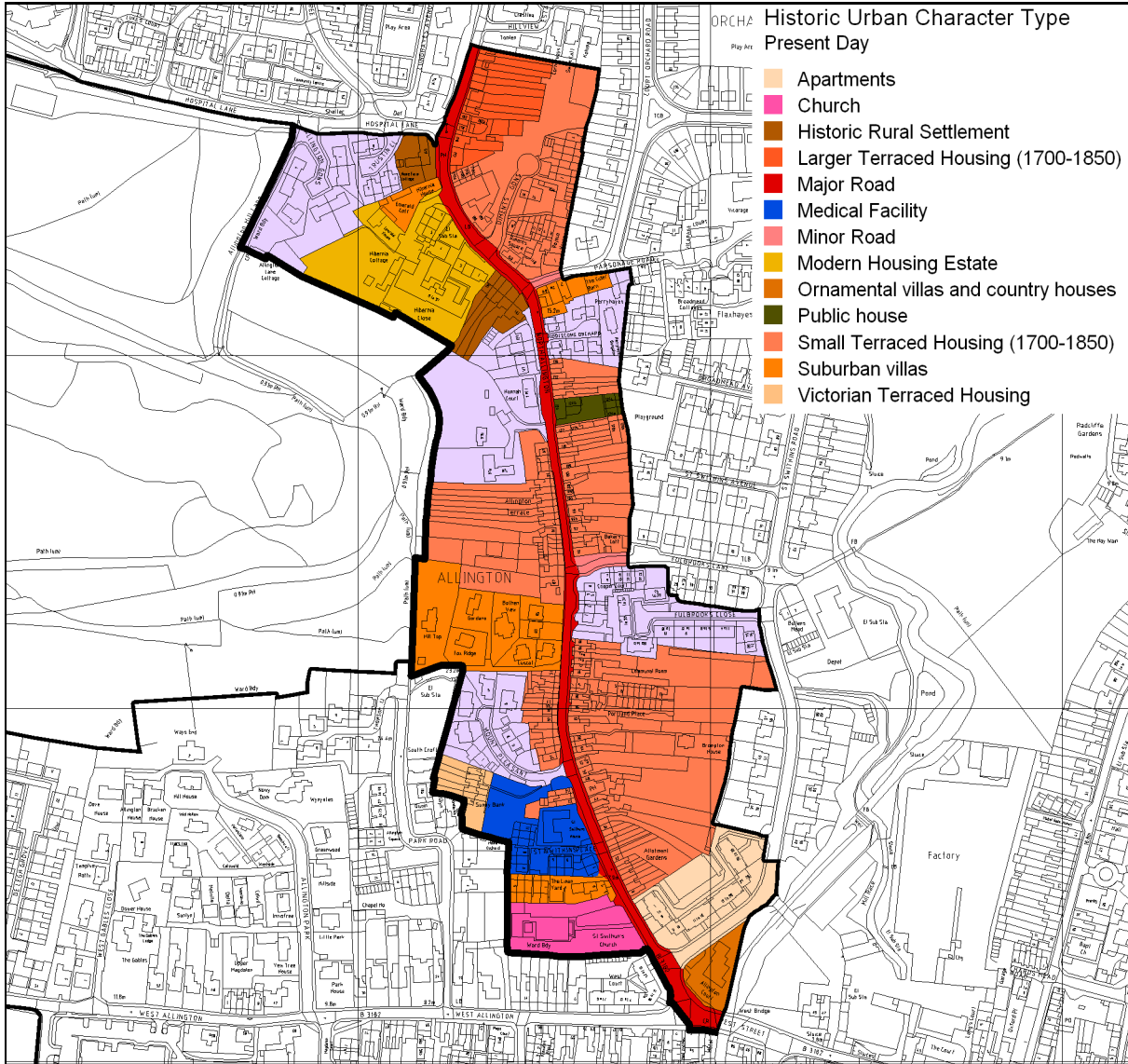


Figure 104: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 4, showing current historic urban character type



Figure 105: Houses on east side of North Allington.



Figure 106: Houses on west side of North Allington.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 8 Structure of Character Area

Overview

This character area lies in the northwest part of Bridport, between the historic core and the former historic village of Allington, along North Allington, an historic route and turnpike road to Broadwindsor and Crewkerne. Its character is based on its tightly packed, mainly attached, houses of 18th and 19th century date along this road, often with long narrow plots behind.

Topography and Geology

The area generally rises up to the north and the west side lies on the lower eastern slopes of Allington Hill, with the floodplain of the Brit to the east. The area lies on sandstone of the Bridport Sand Formation.

Urban Structure

North Allington forms the main axis of this area with a few side roads leading off to the east. The street is narrow and has a sinuous character. The plots are generally fairly regular long narrow rectangular or rectilinear in shape, interspersed with some areas of larger more irregular plots.

Present Character

Figure 104 shows the present day historic urban character types. The area has a series of blocks of Small Terraced Housing (1700-1850) interspersed with small areas of Suburban Villas, Larger Terraced and Detached Housing (1700-1850), Historic Rural Settlement, Public House, Church, Medical Facility and Modern Infill. Other minor historic urban character types include Victorian Terraced Housing, Apartments and Modern Housing Estate.

Time Depth

The earliest element is probably the road, which is of considerable antiquity and probably dates from at least the Saxon period. Most of this character area is formed of 18th and 19th century elements, inserted into a former agricultural landscape. A small number of early

former rural buildings survive to the north. Many of the fields along the length of the road appear to have been of some antiquity, perhaps dating to the late medieval or early post-medieval period. A number of former field boundaries can be identified within the modern built area, but these are not dominant. The main settlement elements are groups of long narrow plots of late 18th and 19th century date along both sides of the road, with terraces of worker's housing along the street frontage. Many of these formerly had spinning walks to the rear.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

The settlement pattern is high density housing in a ribbon development along North Allington. The generally two-storey houses are set directly on the street frontage on the east side and on the west side typically set back slightly from the road, with brick or stone perimeter walls. The historic buildings are broken up by several areas of more modern housing developments at Cooper Court, Hibernia Close and at the St Swithins Road junction, which are all set well back from the street frontage.

There are few significant open spaces in this area, but the steep slopes of Allington Hill rise up to the west. Trees and green spaces form only a small element, limited to small gardens and the churchyard.



Figure 107: 106-122 North Allington.



Figure 108: Warehouse, 80 North Allington.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 8 Built Character

Building types

Terraces of former factory and artisan's housing set along the street frontage on both sides of the road are the most numerous type of housing. A small number of terraces are set back behind short front gardens on the west side. The terraces have a range of different styles and many differing architectural details and comprise a mixture of brick, stone and rendered buildings. The plaque on Reform Place (Nos. 70-78) is a well-known local detail. Nos. 133-139 North Allington is a probable 17th century former rural vernacular building. The southern end of North Allington has two early 19th century stuccoed buildings, the neo-Greek St Swithun's Church, built on a new site in 1827 and the c. 1830s Allington Villa with its recessed Greek Doric columns on the porch. Both are set back from the road. The former Allington School building is a typical small 19th century stone school building set back behind its former playground. A small number of industrial buildings also survive in North Allington, including the net loft behind No. 5 and the warehouse at No. 80 North Allington.

The modern housing developments at Fulbrooks, Hibernia Close, Hannah Court, Biddecombe Court and adjacent to St Swithun's Road are generally set back within their own gardens and generally disrupt the historic pattern.

Building Materials

The terraces are a mixture of local stone, local brick and render. Both Bothenhampton stone and Inferior Oolite are used in many properties, including as dressed stone details in brick buildings. The roofs are mainly slate.

Key Buildings

Public Buildings: St Swithun's Church, Allington School.

Industrial Buildings: 5 North Allington, 80 North Allington.

Workers and Artisans Houses: 8-44 North Allington, 67-97 North Allington, 84-138 North Allington, Diments Square.

Former Rural Buildings: 133-139 North Allington, 145 North Allington.

Suburban Villas: Allington Villa.



Figure 109: St Swithun's Church, North Allington.



Figure 110: Reform Place, 70-78 North Allington.



Figure 111: Former Hospital, 67-69 North Allington.



Figure 112: Home Farm Cottage, 145 North Allington.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 8 Archaeology

Archaeological Investigations

There have been no archaeological investigations in this area.

Archaeological Character

The lack of any archaeological investigation constrains our knowledge of the archaeological resource and limits consideration of the archaeological character of the area. It lies beyond the historic core of the town and was agricultural land with farms and cottages before the 18th and 19th centuries. It may contain evidence for historic roadside development and for historic industrial archaeological evidence associated with the 19th century rope and twine manufacturing in this area.

The historic boundaries of nineteenth century or earlier as marked on the historic maps are shown on Figure 113 and include a number of fossilised field boundaries.

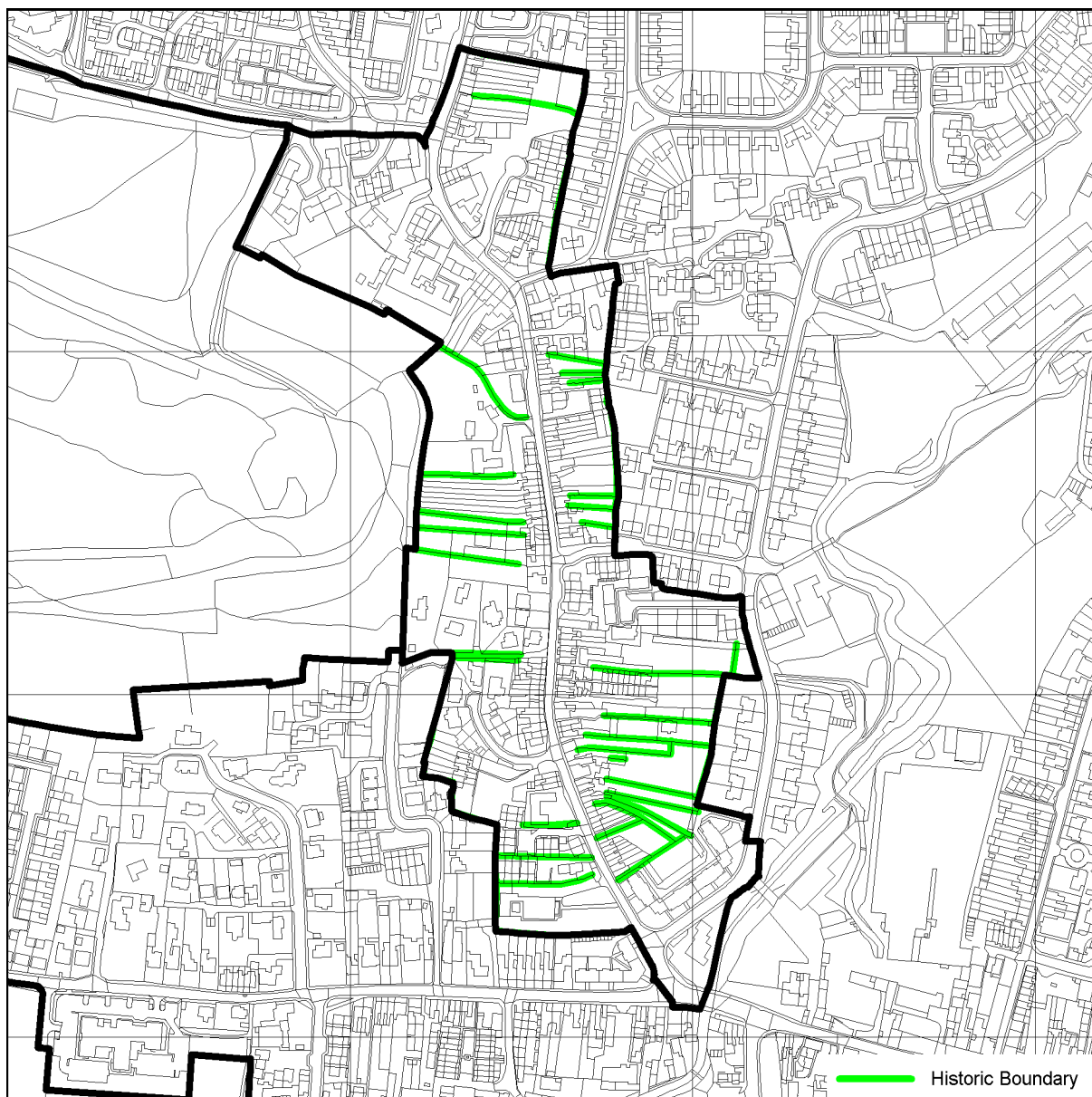


Figure 113: Archaeological features in Historic Urban Character Area 8.

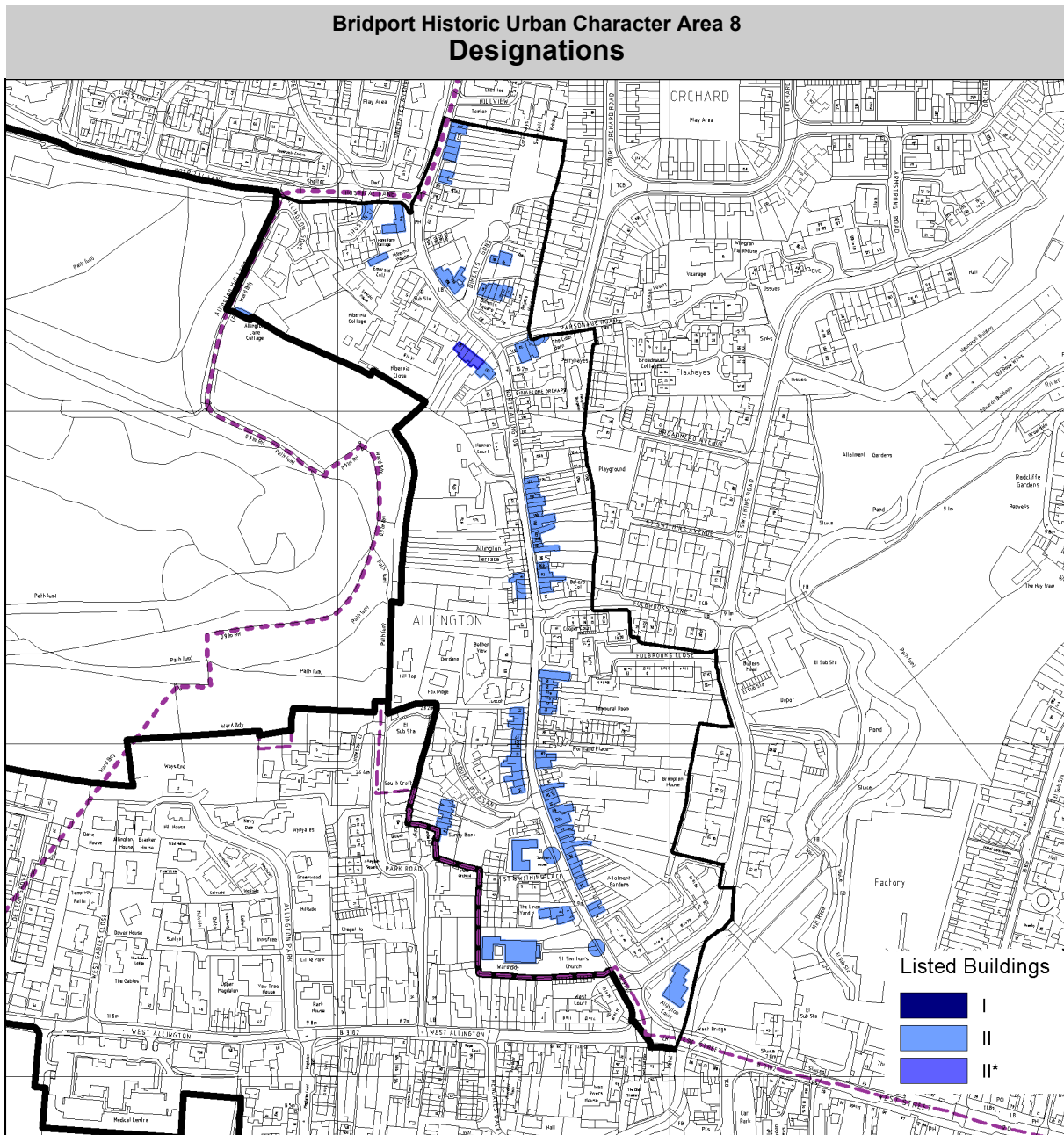


Figure 114: Listed Buildings and other designations in Historic Urban Character Area 8.

Listed Buildings

There are 34 Listed Buildings in the Character Area. St Swithun’s Church and 133-139 North Allington are Grade II* and the remaining 32 buildings and structures are Grade II.

Conservation Areas

Most 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.



Figure 115: Allington Villa.

Bridport Historic Urban Character Area 8 Evaluation

Strength of Historic Character

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **Strong**. It has good survival of historic plots, including some spinning walks, a large number of 18th and 19th century buildings, mainly worker's or artisan's houses with some survival of industrial buildings of the net and rope industry and some former rural buildings set along an historic route.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **high** sensitivity to major change. The character of the area is based on the large blocks of historic buildings forming the street frontage. There has been some erosion of the historic character through modern infill development, but in general the fairly unbroken rows of historic buildings are very sensitive to anything other than small-scale change and any opening up of the frontages would have a major impact upon the character.

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **Medium**. It has the potential to answer questions on the historic development of Allington, the historic industrial archaeology of Bridport and the development of industrial and artisan housing in Bridport. The survival of

archaeological deposits and features is assessed as low to medium.

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

Key Characteristics

- Historic terraces along street frontage
- Former rural vernacular buildings
- Former spinning walks in long rear properties