

Christchurch Historic Urban Character Area 23 Walkford

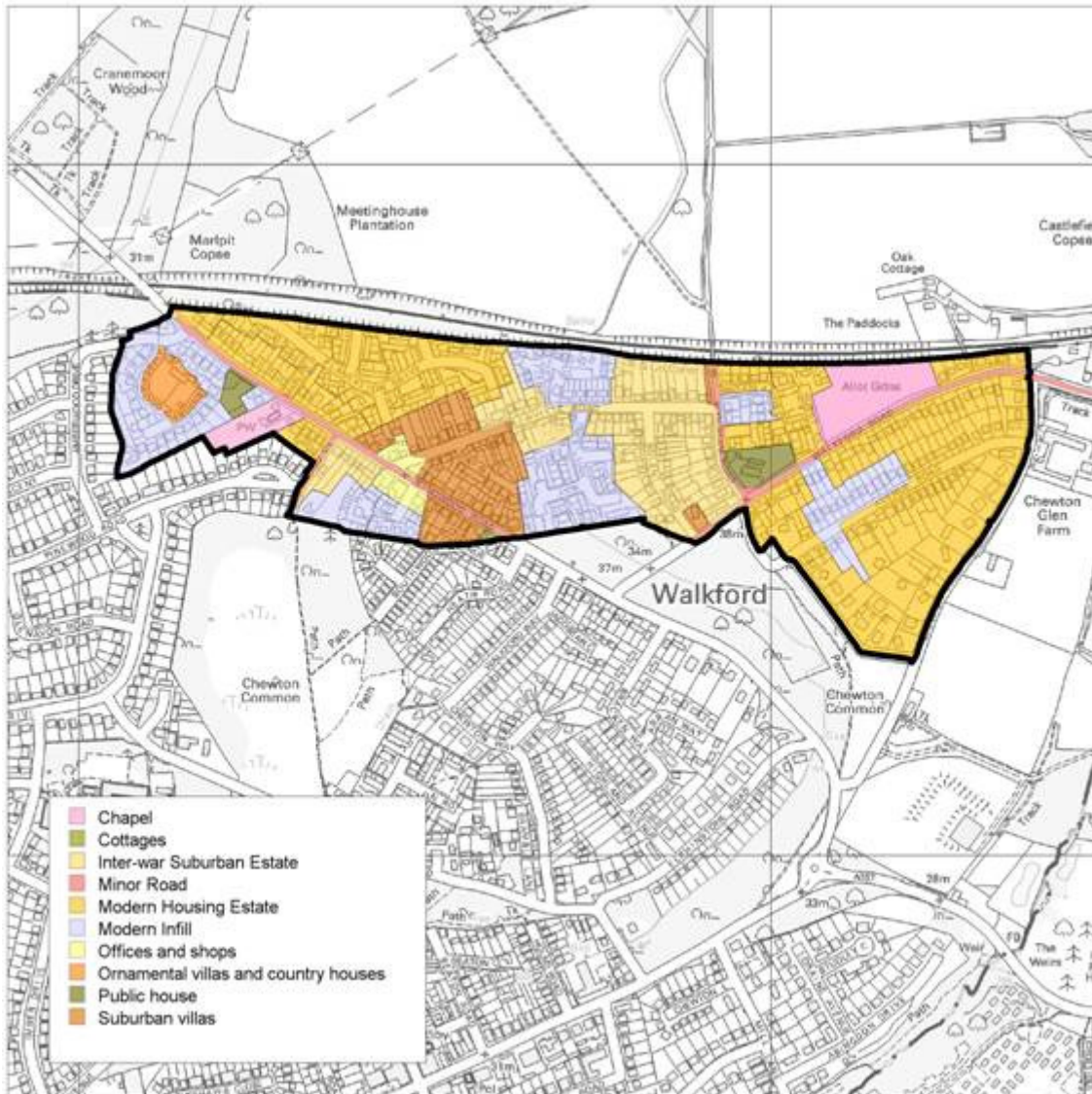


Figure 159: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 23, showing current historic urban character type.



Figure 160: : Amberwood House



Figure 161: Walkford United Reformed Church

Christchurch Historic Urban Character Area 23
Structure of Character Area

Overview

The name Walkford probably relates to a crossing of the River Chew in the NE corner of the area, and the name seems to have transferred to a new settlement in Christchurch at the end of the 19th century when the area of a small development on the edge of Cranemoor Common was named Walkford Glen.

Topography and Geology

This character area is relatively flat and topographically featureless. The geology of the area consists almost entirely of Barton Clay.

Urban Structure

This character area is structured around Ringwood Road with ribbon development along it and suburban housing estates running off it to the north. The historic fabric of the area lies in general along the Ringwood Road.

Present Character

Figure 159 shows the present day historic urban character types. Walkford now comprises a large housing estate north of Chewton Common and south of the LSWR railway line, centred on Ringwood Road. The former gardens associated with Amberwood House have been developed as a housing estate (Amberwood Gardens).

Time Depth

The name *Walkeforde* first appears in the 15th century in connection with Milton Parish (ibid. 124-7) which lies outside the study area to the east on the other side of the River Chew. This small settlement may have been originally associated with the Brickworks on Walkford Road, or possibly old gravel extraction sites in the area.

Parts of the north east corner of the character area were, until recently, part of Hinton in Hampshire and consisted of Common land (Cranemoor Common) and one or two pasture fields. The common fields of Hinton were enclosed in 1805 and a number of plantations were created shortly afterwards, including Meeting House Plantation, which falls within the study area and has recently been developed for housing as Plantation Drive.

Settlement Pattern and Streetscape

At the end of the 19th century a number of housing plots were marked out at the western end of Glenville Road, many of which survive today. It was not until the early-mid 20th century however, that the majority of the Walkford area was developed.

Christchurch Historic Urban Character Area 23
Built Character***Building types***

A small number of 18th or early 19th century houses which seem to date from the first phase of settlement along the Ringwood Road have survived; these are .

A 19th century house adjacent to a former brick making site on Walkford Road is listed as of local interest (1 Solent Road). Amberwood House is a 19th century villa at the northern end of the area on the west side of Ringwood Road.

Building Materials

The early 19th century 144 Ringwood Road with a stucco façade and hipped sate roof. The early 19th century Cranemoor United Reformed Church (now Walkford United Reformed Church) has a stuccoed façade and a Slate roof. Ivy Cottage (84 Ringwood Road) was built in the 18th-early 19th century from cob (now plastered over).

Key Buildings

Town Houses and Villas: 1 Solent Road; Amberwood House

Cottages: Ivy Cottage, Ringwood Road

Religious: Cranemoor (now Walkford) United Reformed Church

Civic and Institutional: pillar box, Ringwood Road

Christchurch Historic Urban Character Area 23
Archaeology

Archaeological Investigations

No archaeological investigations or finds have been recorded within this character area.

Archaeological Character

The lack of any below-ground investigation constrains the consideration of the archaeological resource.

**Christchurch Historic Urban Character Area 23
Designations**

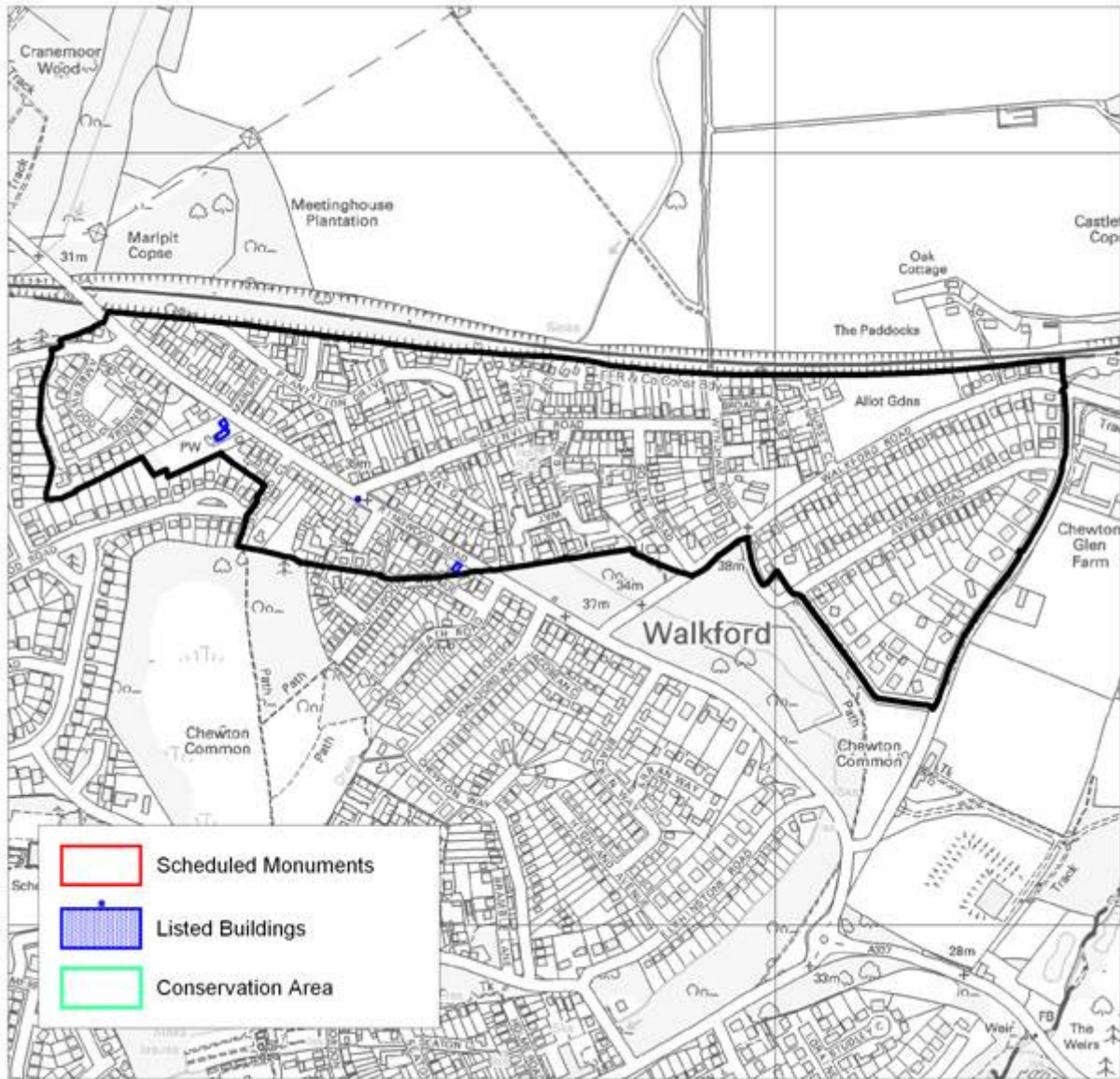


Figure 162: Listed Buildings and other designations in Historic Urban Character Area 23

Listed Buildings

There are three Listed Building designations in the Character Area, all Grade II.

Conservation Areas

There is no Conservation Area within the Character Area.

Registered Historic Parks and Gardens

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens

within the Character Area.

Scheduled Monuments

There are no Scheduled Monuments within the Character Area.

**Christchurch Historic Urban Character Area 23
Evaluation**

Strength of Historic Character

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **low**. However, the surviving elements of earlier settlement bring some historic character to parts of Ringwood Road.

Sensitivity to Large Scale Development

The area has a **medium** sensitivity to major change. Although 20th century suburban housing developments already characterise this area, it has retained some historic buildings and character, albeit fragmentary. Future development needs to be on a scale that does not further reduce the historic character of these areas.

Archaeological Potential

The archaeological potential of the area must be considered to be **medium**. It has probably

been common land on the edge of the New Forest for at least 1000 years. There is a low or background potential for archaeological deposits dating from later than the Roman period and earlier than the 18th century and a medium potential for deposits or artefacts dating from the Roman period or earlier.

The highest potential is associated with industrial sites such as old gravel workings marked on late 19th century maps at the eastern corner of Cranemoor Common and the brickworks on Walkford Road.

Key Characteristics

- Late 18th-early 19th century industrial settlement
- Green open space
- Industrial archaeology