

## **Part 6: Historic Urban Character Appraisal**





## 6.1 The historic urban character of Gillingham

The urban character of Gillingham, like any town, is a product of many factors including topographic position, history of estate ownership and management, geographical relationship with other towns and resources and other historical events. The topographic position of Gillingham, at the centre of a geological bowl drained in a dendritic pattern of streams and rivers, has had a profound effect on the location, form, economy and character of the town.

The plan layout of the medieval settlement is a typical nucleated form, centred on the rectangular church enclosure, with a radial pattern of streets and a series of satellite settlements or suburbs. This radial pattern of streets, particularly the three historic main streets, follows the drainage pattern with the roads running along the ridges between the tributary streams of the

Upper Stour. The Saxon and medieval core of the town was founded on a slight ridge in the angle above the confluence of the rivers Stour and Shreen, a typical site for a Saxon Minster. The town developed around the church and possible adjacent market place(s), with the medieval borough of Newbury and the post-medieval settlements of Ham Common, Cold Harbour, Peacemarsh and Bay apparently developing through the enclosure of plots along the wide historic routes through the adjacent royal forest.

The railway line cuts through the southern part of the town and it promoted a second industrial and commercial focus in the town in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, reflected in the modern town by the extensive industrial estates around the station. The historic form of the town has been significantly altered by the construction of a new by-pass, Le Neubourg Way, which has truncated many of the historic plots and altered the course and importance of many of the ear-

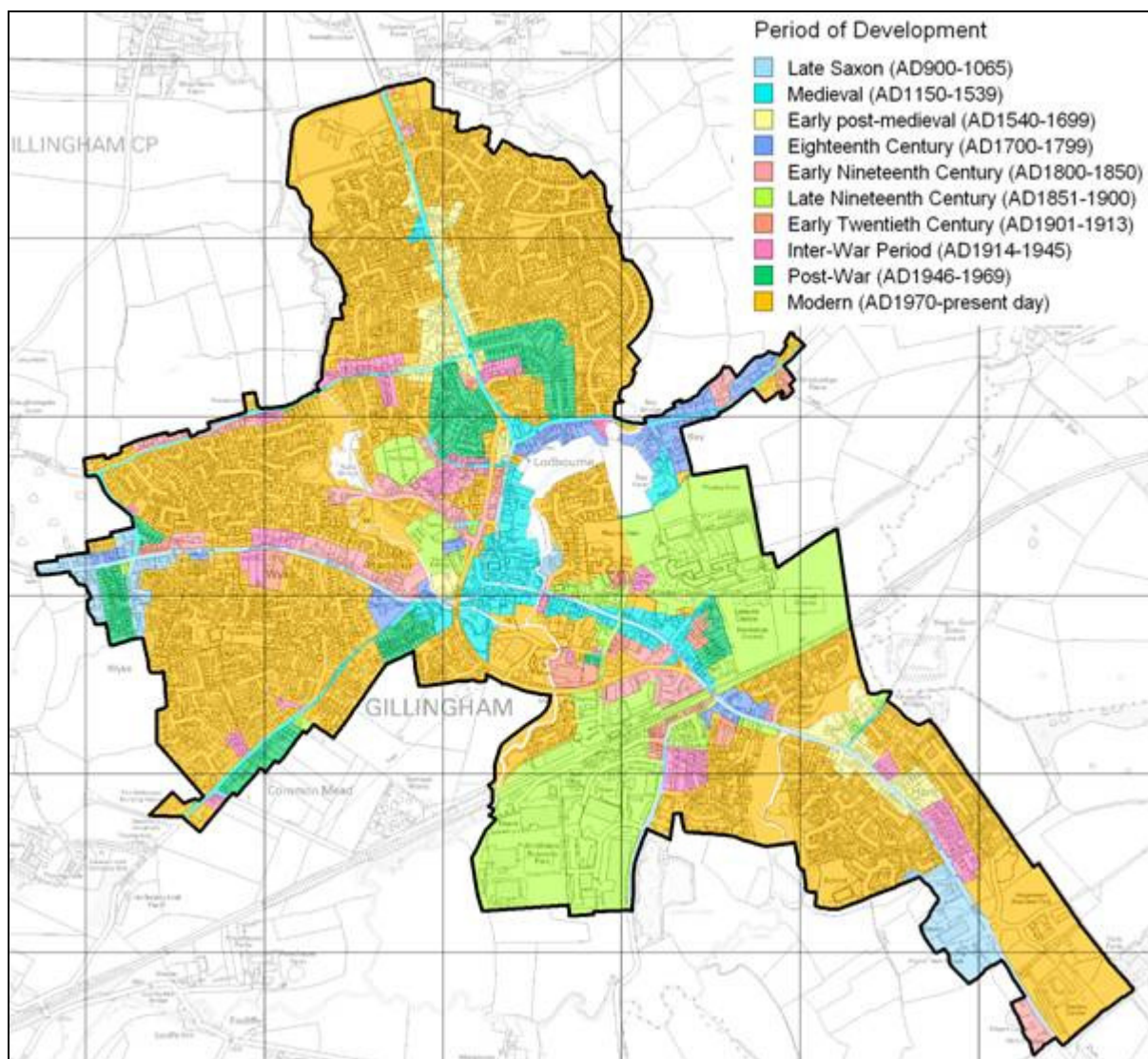


Figure 38: Map showing the major periods of development of Gillingham.



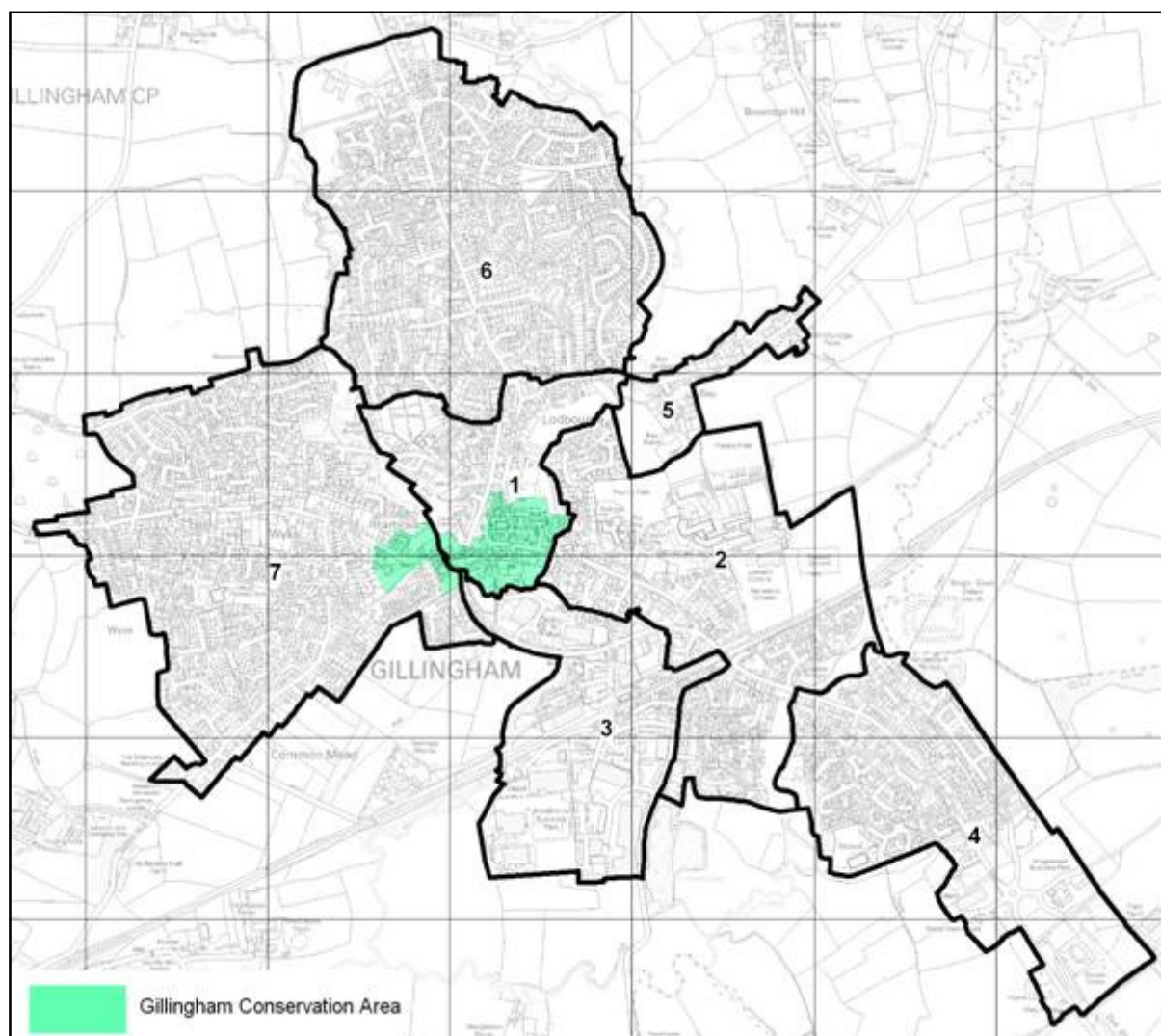


Figure 39: Gillingham Historic Urban Character Areas and Conservation Area.

lier streets and roads, reducing the 'readability' of the historic town layout, not least by the modern commercial and retail parks built along it. The historic focus of the Church of St Mary and the surrounding streets is now of diminished importance, tucked away behind the modern commercial developments.

There are comparatively few historic buildings dated earlier than the 18<sup>th</sup> century, thanks to a number of serious fires in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries which destroyed much of the town. The built character of Gillingham is typified by 19<sup>th</sup> century houses with little architectural pretension built from local brick. Extensive suburban housing development, largely from the 1970s onwards, is concentrated around the post-medieval rural settlements on the fringes of the town, diluting the town's surviving historic fabric between areas of modern development with little local distinctiveness.

Green spaces run through the town like arteries in the form of undeveloped meadows with open

access along the Stour, Shreen and Lodden.

## 6.2 Historic Urban Character Areas of Gillingham

A total of seven Historic Urban Character Areas have been defined for Gillingham as shown on Figure 39 and listed below. They comprise the historic core (Character Area 1), the medieval suburb of Newbury (Area 2), 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial expansion at Station Road and Brickfields (Area 3), and suburban housing estates centred on historic rural satellite settlements at Ham, Bay, Peacemarsh and Wyke (Areas 4-7).

- 1 Historic Town Centre
- 2 Newbury
- 3 Station Road and Brickfields
- 4 Ham Common
- 5 Bay
- 6 Peacemarsh
- 7 Wyke

# Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 1

## Historic Town Centre

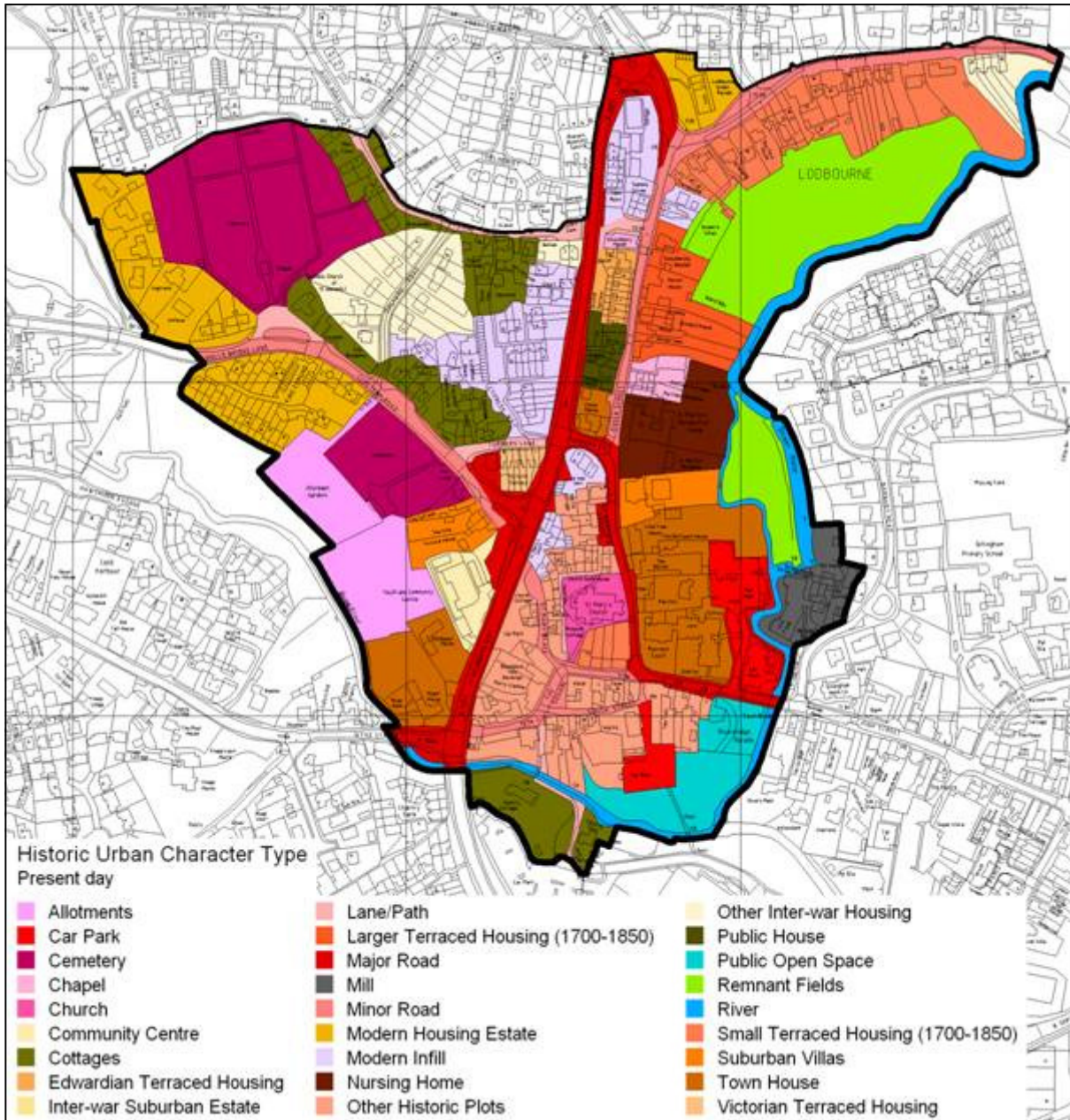


Figure 40: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 1, showing current historic urban character type.



## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 1 Structure of Character Area

### **Overview**

This area represents the core of the medieval and post-medieval town of Gillingham. It is defined primarily by its historic dimension.

### **Topography and Geology**

This area lies on a low spur between the two rivers immediately north of their confluence. The geology of the character area entirely comprises Kimmeridge Clay.

### **Urban Structure**

The area is bisected by the Gillingham relief road, disturbing the traditional road layout which comprised three main routes from the north, west and east converging on the church, with a number smaller lanes and roads running off them. The plots along these roads are varied, with densely-packed irregular rectilinear plots on the south side of the High Street and the west side of Queen Street, with small open spaces at The Square and St Martin's Square. The east side of Queen Street has larger more open plots, now subdivided. The plots along Bay Road are rectilinear but with variable widths. Larger open plots and fields are found along the Shreen Water floodplain. West of the relief road the structure is different and comprises a mixture of large open rectilinear areas and small irregular plots along road frontages, with the rest of the area filled with housing estates with local access roads and culs-de-sac.

### **Present Character**

Figure 40 shows the present day historic urban character types. This area has a very varied mosaic of character types. Irregular Historic Plots are focussed to the south and west of the church, with Town Houses to the east and north of the church. Small and Large Terraced Housing (1700-1850) lines part of Queen Street and Bay Road, with Cottages along the roads to the west of the relief road. Small areas of Victorian and Edwardian Terraced Housing and Suburban Villas are found on both sides of the relief road. The west side of the relief road has an Inter-war Suburban Estate and a large area of Modern Infill, Allotments and Cemetery. Smaller areas of Modern Infill occur in the east part of the area. Along the rivers are Remnant Fields, Public Open Space, Car Parks and Allotments. Other character types include Public House, Nursing Home and Mill.

### **Time Depth**

The earliest components are the historic routes

of High Street, Queen Street and Wyke Street, which may be prehistoric or Roman in origin. The church is medieval, but may be on the site of a Saxon Minster church. The plots along Queen Street, High Street and Wyke Road may be medieval in origin, but with many later alterations. The mill may be the site of a Domesday mill. The other areas along Queen Street and Bay Road are mainly 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century in date. The cottages are probably 17<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> century in origin and the cemeteries date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. The nursing home, car parks and modern infill date from after 1970.

### **Settlement Pattern and Streetscape**

The core of this area has medium to high density settlement in an irregular perimeter block or ribbon layout with the majority of buildings set directly on the street frontage. A number of the streets are relatively narrow with sinuous alignments or sharper angled changes in direction. This together with the variety in property width, height and roof alignment, gives a sequence of differing views throughout the area. There are a number of gaps in the frontage, either through modern development with associated car parking or where there are town houses set in larger grounds. There are two small open areas in the street pattern at The Square and St Martin's Square. This street pattern has been affected through the construction of Le Neubourg Way and the insertion of a corridor of modern development through the western flank of the historic core.

Green spaces and trees play an important part in this area, with the churchyard providing a central green area and with significant open green spaces along the course of the Shreen Water. The cemeteries also contribute to these green spaces. There are also a number of trees along the street and in larger gardens which make a positive contribution to the historic core.



Figure 41: View of The Square looking south.

## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 1 Built Character

### **Building types**

The area has a large number of traditional buildings characterised by their use of local brick for walling, slate and tile roofs and survival of historic detail. They generally date from the late 18th and 19th century. Only two medieval buildings survive: the chancel and north chapel of St Mary's Church date from the 14th century, the remainder being reconstructed during the 19th and 20th centuries. The historic building at Stour Motors at the north end of Queen Street appears to be of 16th century date with a surviving roof structure of five bays. Town houses on the east side of Queen Street date from the 18th-19th centuries. They tend to be large, detached and set back from the street frontage in large plots. They include the 19th century vicarage, now called Rawson Court (Figure 42) and the 18th century Lime Tree House. The 18th century Town Mill House survives and has been incorporated into a residential complex. Cottages to the south and west of the town centre rank among the oldest surviving houses in Gillingham, dating from the 17th-18th centuries. They are now interspersed with 19th century, inter-war and modern housing. Plank House is a 17th-18th century town house west of the town centre on Wyke Road (Figure 43). Buildings tightly packed around the town's two squares date from the late 18th to early 20th centuries, including The Slade Centre, built as a department store in 1905. There are two historic stone bridges, each with two semi-circular arches; Town Bridge over the Shreen Water is dated 1800 and Wyke Road bridge over the river Stour, dated 1807. The northern end of the character area, at Lodbourne, is dominated by 19th and early 20th century terraces and suburban villas (Figure 44).

### **Building Materials**

The earlier buildings dating from the 17<sup>th</sup> and early 18<sup>th</sup> centuries tend to be constructed in coursed rubble with ashlar and/or brick dressings. They frequently have brick chimney stacks and hipped tile or thatched roofs. The Vicarage Schoolroom has a tile roof with stone slate verges made from Coral Rag. Later 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>- early 20<sup>th</sup> century houses tend to be built in brick, occasionally with Greensand or Ham stone ashlar dressings and slate or tiled roofs. The later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century houses, during the period of the Gillingham Brick and Tile Co. frequently retain moulded brick or tile detail. The church of St Mary is built mostly in ashlar with some coursed rubble walls and ashlar dressings. The roof is in slate and lead.

### **Key Buildings**

*Public Buildings:* St Mary's Church, Cemetery Road Youth and Community Centre, Cemetery Chapel, Churchbury House, Portland Cottages.

*Medieval Domestic Buildings:* Stour Motors.

*Post-medieval Houses:* The Vicarage, Lime Tree House, Plank House, Chantry Cottage, the Cottage, Tower House, St Martin's (Gillingham Adult Education Centre)

*Post-medieval Industrial and Commercial Buildings:* Mill House, Phoenix Hotel, Queen's Head, The Slade Centre.



Figure 42: View of the Vicarage (Rawson Court), Queen Street.



Figure 43: Plank House (right) and River Gate (left), Wyke Road.



Figure 44: Elm View Terrace, Bay Road, Lodbourne.



### Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 1 Archaeology

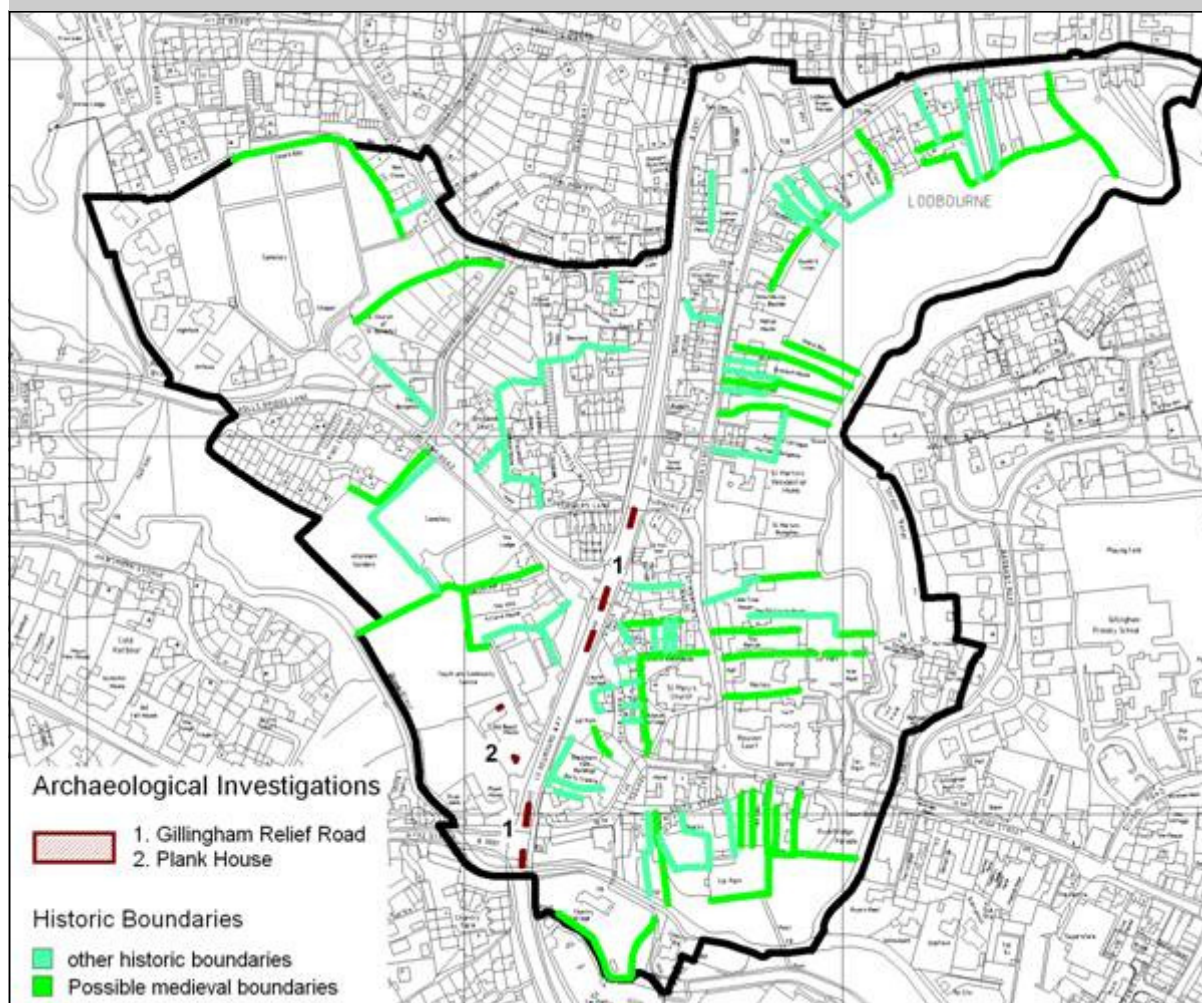


Figure 45: Archaeological Investigations and findspots in Historic Urban Character Area 1.

#### **Archaeological Investigations**

Two archaeological investigations have been undertaken in this character area (Figure 45; Appendix 3, Nos 1 and 2) comprising works in advance of the construction of the Gillingham relief road and an evaluation at Plank House. Six trial trenches were excavated along the route of the Gillingham Relief Road during 1989 and 1990. Five lay within this character area at the junctions with Turner's Lane, Cemetery Road and Wyke Road. In general this work demonstrated that the area of the medieval town has been disturbed and truncated by post-medieval and modern features, but at Cemetery Road, there was evidence for a substantial building aligned on the street frontage, probably of early medieval date (Heaton 1995). A single undated ditch was found during the evaluation of land adjacent to Plank House (Valentin 2000a).

#### **Archaeological Character**

The archaeological character of the area is predominately medieval and post-medieval in nature and can be expected to comprise pits, boundaries and structural features. These will be best preserved in the rear plots of properties in the central area, Chantry Ford, Queen Street, Lodbourne, Cemetery Road, Wyke Road and Town Mill. The relief road investigations have demonstrated that survival of medieval structural remains can be anticipated. Saxon remains could survive in the vicinity of the parish church and the back plots of properties fronting on to St Martin's Square and The Square.

Medieval and post-medieval industrial archaeological remains may survive at Town Mill, but probably damaged by recent development. The character of deposits in the Lodbourne Green area may be more in the way of unstratified finds associated with trading at Gillingham's annual fairs.



Historic boundaries depicted on Figure 45 are derived from the tithe map and the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey maps. The potential burgage boundaries are clearly visible on the east side of

Queen Street. It is also clear that the construction of the Gillingham relief road has destroyed many historic boundaries.

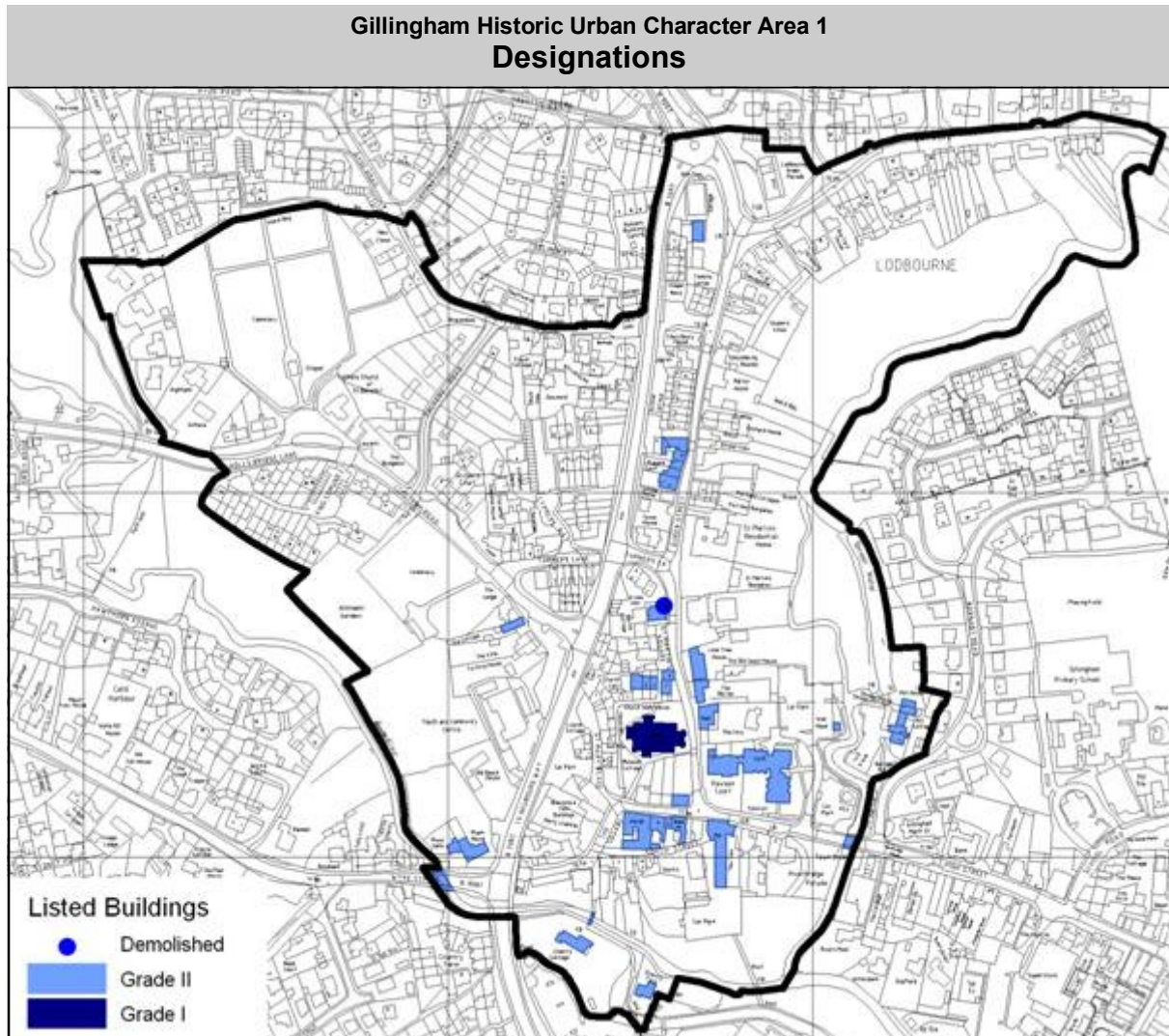


Figure 46: Listed Buildings in Historic Urban Character Area 1.

### **Listed Buildings**

There are 29 Listed Buildings in the Character Area, one of which is Grade I (St Mary's Church). The remainder are Grade II (Figure 46). One listed building; Broadhayes Cottage, Queen Street has been demolished.

### **Conservation Areas**

Only the southern third of this Character Area lies within the Gillingham Conservation Area, approximately south from St Martin's Square on the east side of the relief road and the

immediate vicinity of Wyke Bridge (including Plank House) on the west side of the relief road (Figure 39).

### **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.

## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 1 Evaluation

### **Strength of Historic Character**

The overall strength of character of this area is judged to be **strong**. The character of the medieval core is a combination of the positive contribution made by a very high number of historic buildings and the tight urban grain of a traditional market town. Nearly 60% of the buildings within the character area date from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century or earlier. This is the only part of the town to contain upstanding medieval structures. The widespread use of local materials is a unifying feature of the character area. Furthermore, there is good survival of potentially medieval plot boundaries. However, there is a caveat in that the area to the west of the medieval core has been substantially altered by the construction of a modern relief road with modern housing and commercial development in its immediate vicinity.

### **Sensitivity to Large Scale Development**

The area has a **high** sensitivity to major change. Modern development has been largely restricted to the Gillingham relief road corridor. The remainder of the area retains a significant proportion of historic fabric which is characterised by its consistent scale and use of local materials such as brick, limestone rubble and greensand ashlar. There are also significant areas of undeveloped meadow and 19<sup>th</sup> century cemeteries around the fringes of the character area. Thus the majority of the area has a high sensitivity to major change. The relief road corridor might be improved through

large scale development if this was sympathetic to the scale and character of the historic town.

### **Archaeological Potential**

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **high**. It forms the primary settlement component of Gillingham. Excavation in advance of the Gillingham relief road has demonstrated the potential for important information relating to the medieval development of the town. The relative lack of modern development in the historic core means that there is a high potential for the survival of deposits relating to the Saxon and medieval town. These have the potential to reveal details on the organisation, crafts, industries, economy and diet of the inhabitants. Furthermore, little is known of the origins of Gillingham and the potential for evidence of a Minster church adjacent to a pre-existing Roman road beneath the medieval town is of paramount importance in this respect. An outline for the development of the town plan has been suggested in this report, and yet there is very little dateable evidence to support or refute the scheme. The medieval core of the town provides the greatest archaeological potential to remedy this situation.

There is also potential for the survival of earlier structures hidden within later buildings in this area.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 1- 5, 7-14 and 16-25 (Part 7).

### **Key Characteristics**

- Primary settlement component of historic Gillingham
- Parish church located centrally in the town
- Possible medieval and post-medieval market and fair sites
- Possible site of medieval and Domesday Mill
- Significant numbers of historic buildings with contemporary detail
- Some surviving medieval plot boundaries
- Significant green corridors along rivers and in cemeteries

# Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 2

## Newbury

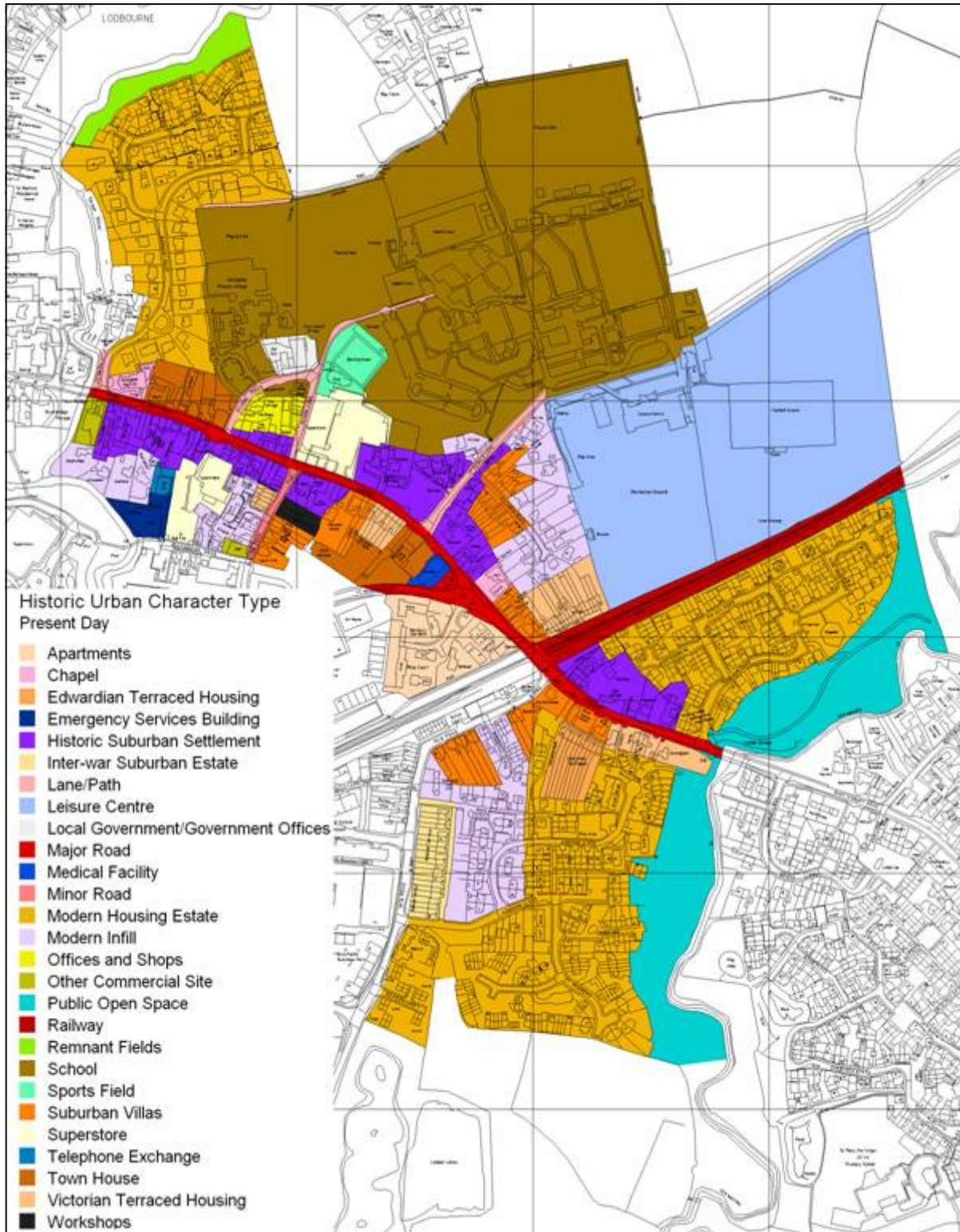


Figure 47: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 2, showing current historic urban character type.



## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 2 Structure of Character Area

### **Overview**

This area includes the medieval suburb of Newbury, together with Gillingham School to the north and modern housing estates to the south and east, as far as the River Lodden which forms a natural boundary between Newbury and Ham Common. The Shreen Water forms another natural boundary to the west. Thus, the area is defined partly by its historic dimension and partly by the geographical boundaries of the two rivers.

### **Topography and Geology**

The area lies on a slight ridge or spur running between the two rivers, with the highest point occurring at Gillingham School, which sits on a slight rounded hill at a height of just over 90m. The geology of the area is Kimmeridge Clay.

### **Urban Structure**

High Street or Newbury (the old Shaftesbury road) forms the spine of this character area with settlement along both sides. The area is also divided by the railway line. There are a series of short narrow rectilinear plots along both sides of the main road, together with some larger plots. Behind the road corridor are a series of housing estates accessed by a network of curvilinear culs-de-sac. The school and leisure centre form large plots on the north side of the character area. The area along the Lodden is undeveloped.

### **Present Character**

Figure 47 shows the present day historic urban character types. At the heart of the area is a narrow strip of Historic Suburban Settlement aligned on the main street. This is interspersed with sections of Victorian Terraced Housing, Suburban Villas, a Chapel and a Doctor's Surgery, all within plots that may have originally formed part of the suburban settlement. Supermarkets, Modern Infill, Workshops, Offices and Shops, Other Commercial Sites, a Telephone Exchange and Emergency Services Buildings lie in the plots immediately behind the historic suburb. A large area to the north of the suburb is taken over by Gillingham Grammar School and grounds, Gillingham Leisure centre and football ground, Gillingham County Primary School, police Station (Figure 52) and bowling club. The railway line divides the main part of the suburb from the south eastern part which is now dominated by extensive modern housing estates at Lodden Meads. A further extensive modern housing estate has been constructed at Barnaby Mead in the northwest part of the

character area.

### **Time Depth**

The main road represents the earliest structural element. This was originally a wide unenclosed track, which became enclosed during the 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> century. The oldest plots were long, narrow, and aligned with the main street, but became subdivided over time to form an unbroken street frontage within short plots, not typical of burgages. Settlement only developed beyond these limits from the 19<sup>th</sup> century with the construction of Victorian and Edwardian terraces, large villas, and the Grammar School. The railway split the suburb in two during the later 19<sup>th</sup> century. Limited inter-war development in the vicinity of New Road and Hardings Lane has spread in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century into large estates on meadows of both the rivers.

### **Settlement Pattern and Streetscape**

The settlement pattern is dominated by the axial road of Newbury upon which the settlement was founded. This is still the case today, with the road forming the unifying feature of the character area (Figure 48). Settlement along the main street tends to vary between tightly packed houses fronting directly on to the street, large town houses, detached cottages and suburban villas set back from the street, and short terraces within short narrow plots. Modern commercial and domestic developments have infilled the plots behind the historic settlement. Modern housing estates lie beyond comprising detached, semi-detached and short terraces within curvilinear culs-de-sac.

Open and green spaces form a large but peripheral part of this area, being restricted to the Lodden floodplain and the school and leisure centre grounds.



Figure 48: View West along High Street, Newbury.

## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 2 Built Character

### **Building types**

There is a wide variety of building type within the character area. These include some former rural buildings, early 19<sup>th</sup> century houses, Victorian and Edwardian terraces, town houses and suburban villas, late 19<sup>th</sup> century commercial buildings, non-conformist chapels and a range of 1920's-30's and modern residential properties and commercial premises.

The early 19<sup>th</sup> century houses tend to be symmetrical with shallow pitched hipped or gabled roofs (Figure 49). Later 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century buildings predominate along the main street frontage and include a range of different houses, some with shopfronts inserted, typical of the period. The Victorian and Edwardian houses include suburban villas, terraces and detached houses, many with moulded brick and tile detail (Figure 50). The 1900-1 Baroque Westminster Bank building (Figure 51) is a prominent building, as are the large Methodist Church and the Baptist Chapel.

Inter-war suburban semi-detached houses are plainer in style with hipped roofs. Modern housing stock tends to be varied in style but with little local distinctiveness. There is one historic bridge, Lodden Bridge, dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century, with two semi-circular arches and a modern parapet.

### **Building Materials**

The earliest buildings in the area tend to be constructed in coursed squared rubble, greensand or Corallian limestone, with slate roofs. Walls are plain, painted, rendered or stuccoed. Later 19<sup>th</sup> century houses are generally built in brick with slate or tiled roofs. Moulded and polychrome brick detail is common. The Baptist Chapel is brick-built with ashlar dressings. The Gillingham Methodist Chapel is built in rock-faced stone with ashlar dressings and detail. Twentieth century houses tend to be brick faced. Tiled roofs predominate at this time, although some imported slate is used on modern terraces. Lodden Bridge is built of squared rubble.

### **Key Buildings**

*Public Buildings:* Methodist Chapel, Baptist Chapel and Hall, Old School House, School Lane.

*Commercial Premises:* Lloyds Bank, NatWest Bank.

*Early 19th century houses:* The Laurels, Blackmore Vale House, Lodden Bridge Farm House, Newbury House.



Figure 49: Blackmore Vale House, Newbury



Figure 50: Lloyds Bank, High Street, Newbury.



Figure 51: National Westminster Bank, High Street, Newbury.



Figure 52: Gillingham Police Station and Town Hall, School Road, Newbury.



### Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 2 Archaeology

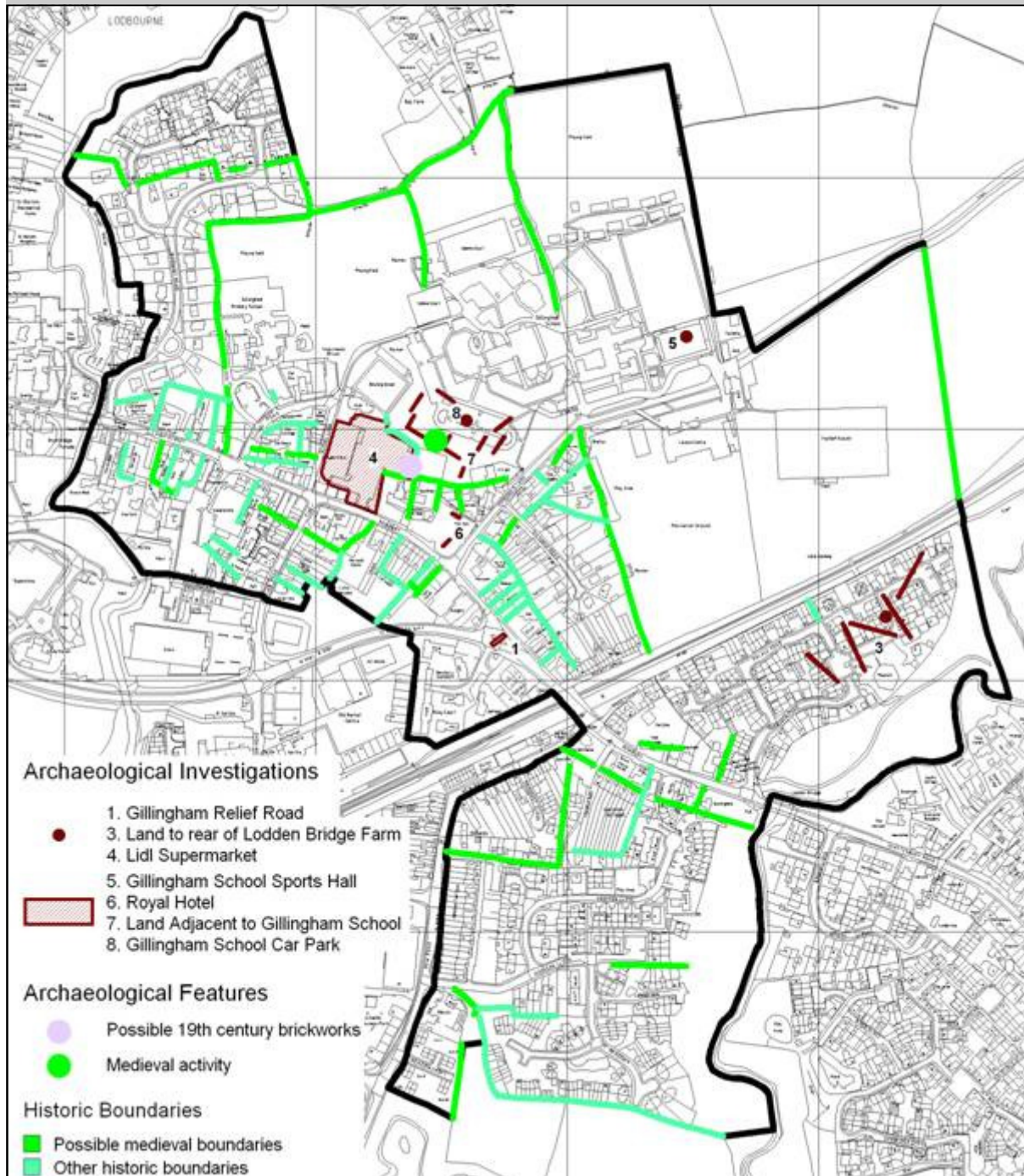


Figure 53: Archaeological investigations in Historic Urban Character Area 2.



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**Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 2  
Archaeology*****Archaeological Investigations***

Seven archaeological investigations have been undertaken in this character area, five evaluations and two watching briefs, all in advance of redevelopment (Appendix 3, Nos. 1, 3-8; Figure 53). It is only in the area of Gillingham School that significant archaeology was encountered. The two investigations in the southwest corner of the school grounds (Figure 53, 7-8) revealed evidence for medieval occupation, including a hearth, linear and discrete features and a large quantity of medieval pottery, dating from the 10<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> centuries (Robinson & Valentin 2005). Further evidence of this settlement was found during the watching brief on the Lidl Store, which also revealed some evidence for an early 19<sup>th</sup> century brick works comprising a brick clamp and clay pits (Bellamy 2003). The other investigations revealed very little archaeology, partly because of later disturbance. A field boundary ditch was found behind Lodden Bridge Farm (Robinson & Valentin 1999) and a 19<sup>th</sup> century stables on the site of the former Royal Hotel (Heaton 2004).

***Archaeological Character***

The results of the archaeological investigations in this area clearly demonstrate that the archaeological character of the area is closely bound with its history as a medieval suburb. The evidence supplements that derived from documents and maps to provide a clearer picture of the origin and development of the medieval settlement at Newbury. It appears that the settlement was earlier in its foundation than suggested by documents and that it extended along Harding's Lane from an early date. There is also evidence for post-medieval industry with the remains of a small brickworks found at the Lidl Store site.

Boundaries depicted on the historic maps and surviving in the modern townscape are shown on Figure 53. In general these represent field boundaries, some of which may be medieval in origin and plot boundaries associated with the medieval and post-medieval suburb. The backs of these plot boundaries probably represent the former extent of roadside common enclosed when the settlement was formed.

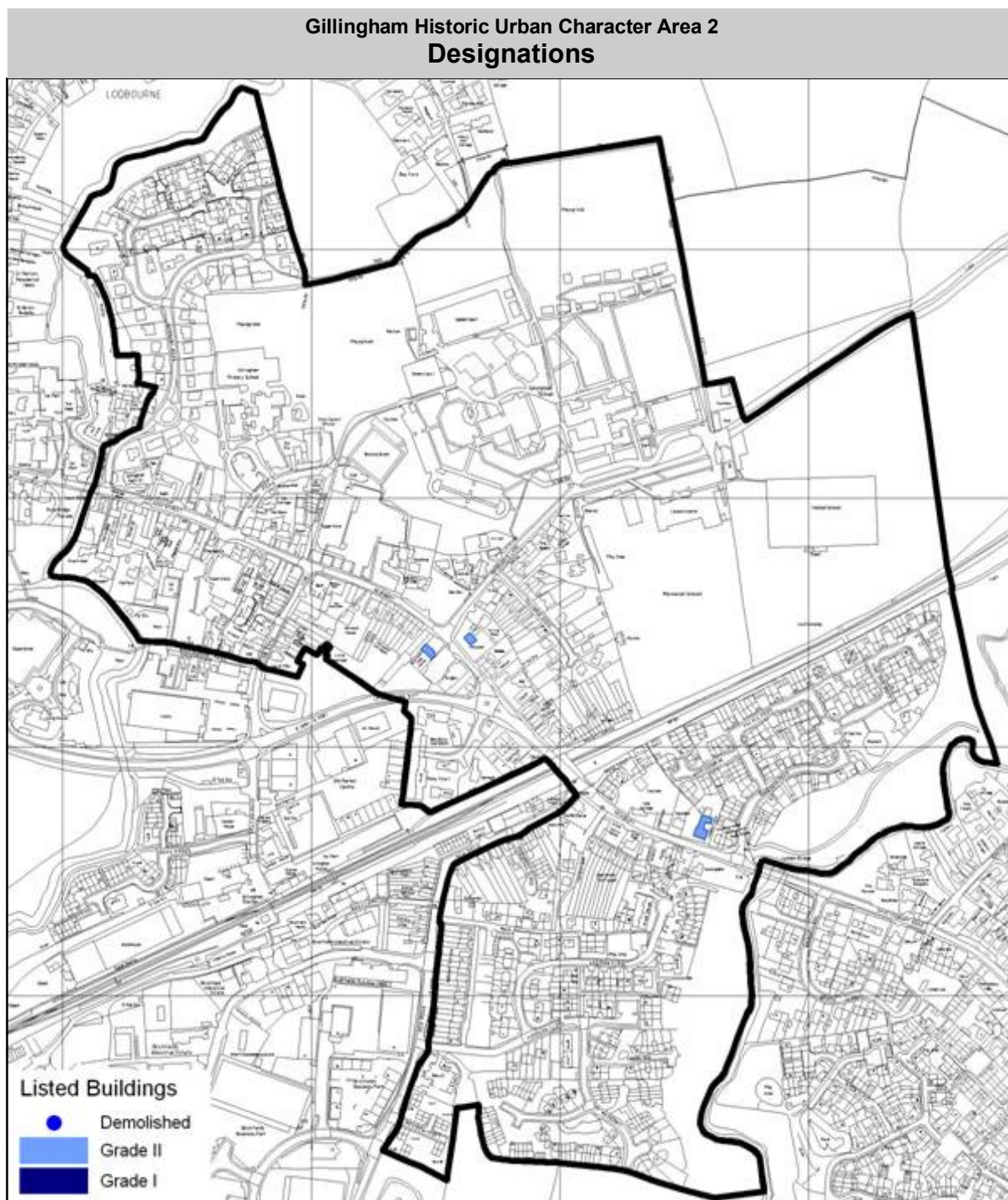


Figure 54: Listed Buildings in Historic Urban Character Area 2.

**Listed Buildings**

There are three Listed Building designations in the Character Area; all Grade II (Figure 54).

**Conservation Areas**

The whole of this Character Area lies outside the Gillingham Conservation Area (Figure 39).

**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.

## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 2 Evaluation

### ***Strength of Historic Character***

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **medium**. There is a strong contribution from the 19<sup>th</sup> century historic buildings on Newbury Road. Surviving elements of medieval plot boundaries and the pre-existing roadside common also add to the sense of historic character. However, this is counterbalanced by the large areas of 20<sup>th</sup> century development behind the historic street frontage, including supermarkets, modern housing estates, sports centres, schools and industrial and commercial developments. The western half of the area does benefit from the fact that main street no longer functions as a through route, following the construction of the Gillingham relief road.

### ***Sensitivity to Large Scale Development***

The area has a **medium** sensitivity to major change. Major development has taken place within the area during the modern era in the form of housing estates, modern infill and commercial and industrial development. Major development may have the potential to improve the historic character of the area providing development respects historic boundaries and enhances rather than overshadows the historic street frontage.

### ***Archaeological Potential***

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **high**. Newbury is a poorly documented medieval suburb of Gillingham. Little is understood about its origins, whether it was a planned royal borough planted in the 13<sup>th</sup> century or whether it grew in a piecemeal fashion from land enclosed from roadside

waste. A fairly high number of excavations have been undertaken in the area and they have demonstrated the potential for surviving medieval remains with the potential to inform this debate. Excavation has already shown that the settlement is likely to have originated earlier than indicated through documentary evidence, and that the junction of Harding's Lane and Newbury was at the hub of this development. This evidence appears to be concentrated at the rear of plots fronting on to Newbury and Harding's Lane and also has the potential to furnish us with details concerning the economy of the medieval town. Potential to further understand the post-medieval economy has also been demonstrated through archaeological work during the construction of Lidl Supermarket, where a suspected early 19<sup>th</sup> century brick clamp was recorded. The later 19<sup>th</sup> century brick industry of Gillingham is well documented, and yet the period before the instigation of the Gillingham Brick and Tile Co. is less well understood. This area has the potential to reveal much more on the earlier industrial history of the town. There is also potential for the survival of medieval structures hidden within 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings in this area, further adding to our understanding of the development of the suburb.

There is also potential for recovering archaeological information concerning pre-urban activity, considering the position of the area on a slight ridge between two rivers.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 1- 3, 10-11 and 15-25 (Part 7).

### **Key Characteristics**

- Medieval suburb
- Post-medieval industrial expansion
- 19th century street frontage
- 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban housing
- Medieval and earlier plot boundaries
- Site of former Grammar School



## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 3 Le Neubourg Way, Station Road and Brickfields

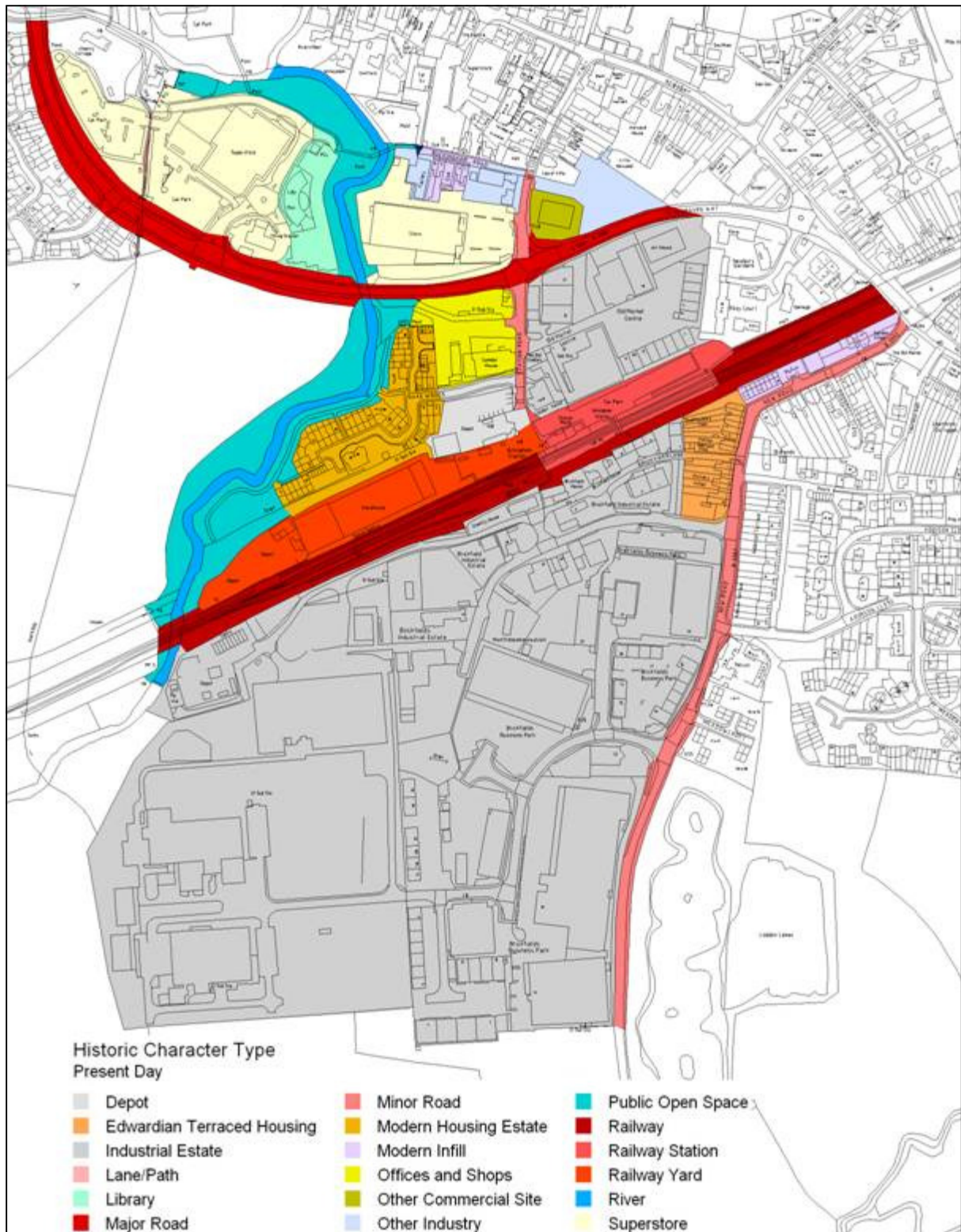


Figure 55: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 3, showing current historic urban character type

### Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 3 Structure of Character Area

#### **Overview**

This area is defined by the large areas of late 19<sup>th</sup> century and later industrial and commercial development to the south of the town, focused on the railway, together with modern commercial development along the Gillingham Relief Road. It includes areas of late 19<sup>th</sup> century industry (including the former brickfields) and the former medieval suburb at Chantry Fields.

#### **Topography and Geology**

This character area lies to either side of the River Stour as it flows to the south of the town. Thus, it includes a long stretch of the valley floor along with two raised areas to the east and west. The slight hill to the east of the Stour was location of the Gillingham Brick works (now the Brickfields Industrial Estate) and the railway station. The raised ground to the west is the location of Chantry fields, a former medieval suburb and now the site of Waitrose Supermarket. The geology of the area entirely comprises Kimmeridge Clay.

#### **Urban Structure**

The area is cut in two by the railway line running across the area, with the station on the north side. This is accessed by Station Road running from Newbury. Another minor road, New Road, runs along the south side of the railway then across the River Stour floodplain and forms the east edge of the character area. The relief road curves across the northern part of the area, crossing the River Stour that forms the western boundary of most of the area. There are small areas of housing along New Road, but the bulk of the area south of the railway comprises an extensive area of Industrial Estate and Business Park accessed by a number of curvilinear cul-de-sac. To the north of the railway, there are large plots containing small industrial estates, light industry and warehouses accessed from Station Road and a modern housing estate fitted behind Station Road and the River Stour. There are superstore developments within large car parks and landscaped grounds along the north side of Le Neubourg Road.

#### **Present Character**

Figure 55 shows the present day historic urban character types. The dominant character type is Industrial Estate, particularly in the southern part of the area. The northern part of the area includes Superstores and areas of Other Industry, Other Commercial Site and Depot. Residential areas are restricted to a Modern

Housing Estate, together with small areas of Edwardian Terraced Housing and Modern Infill. The main communication elements are the Railway and Railway Station, one Major Road (the relief road) and two minor roads. The River Stour cuts through the character area in a N-S direction, flanked by meadows used as public open space and Gillingham Library.

#### **Time Depth**

The majority of this character area comprised meadow and enclosed fields until the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century when the railway was constructed. Industrial sites developed rapidly in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century and thrived into the mid-late twentieth century. The area was redeveloped after 1990 when the Gillingham relief road was constructed. However, a small part of the character area, to the south of the town centre, had been the site of a medieval suburb, aligned on a possible Roman road which still exists as a lane running south from Chantry Ford through Waitrose car park. Earthworks associated with this suburb survived until the development of the Chantry Fields site in the early 1990s.

#### **Settlement Pattern and Streetscape**

The settlement pattern is typical of industrial and commercial edge of settlement areas with agglomerations of commercial and light industrial estates. Station Road forms the primary component of the development and contains the remnants of 19<sup>th</sup> century settlement and industrial activity interspersed with more modern development. There is little coherence to this streetscape, which has been truncated and altered by the relief road.

Trees and open green spaces are not dominant in this area, but are most evident along the Stour and along the line of the railway.



Figure 56: View south along Station Road.



**Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 3  
Built Character**

**Building types**

The area is characterised by a large number of modern industrial and commercial units, notably in the Brickfields and Old Market Centre industrial estates (Figure 57) as well as along Le Neubourg Way. The oldest standing buildings in the area date from the mid-late 19th century and are clustered around the southern end of Station Road. They include the Station building itself (Figure 20); London House, a former hotel on the site of the cattle market (Figure 27); the Old Stables associated with Gillingham Cattle Market; Somdor House which is the site of the cheese factory and a building to the south of it which represents the last vestige of the 19th century bacon factory (Figure 58). The station is a building of mixed levels with gables fronting on to the railway, and gables are typical of the other late 19th century buildings. There are a few surviving mid 20th century industrial buildings, the last surviving brick buildings from the mid-late 20th century can be found at the heart of the modern Brickfields Industrial Estate (Figure 59) and a few workshops and a garage survive to the north of Le Neubourg Way. Brick-built Edwardian houses and late 19th century villas survive on New Road, as well as a Brickfield House on Brickyard Lane (Figure 60). The modern industrial and commercial units are typical steel-framed sheds.

**Building Materials**

The 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings are built exclusively in brick with slate or tile roofs. The station building is in painted brick with a slate roof. It also has a surviving canopy with cast iron braces and pillars. The modern industrial buildings utilise non-local materials such as corrugated roofs, concrete, and glass. Modern housing at Oake Woods is built using non-local materials; pale brick fronted with slate or tile roofs.

**Key Buildings**

*Commercial Premises:* Gillingham Station, London House, the Old Stables

*19<sup>th</sup> century houses:* Gordon Villas, New Road



Figure 57: Old Market Centre Industrial Estate, Station Road.



Figure 58: J. H. Rose, last remaining standing building from the 19<sup>th</sup> century bacon factory.



Figure 59: Sigma Aldrich, Brickfields Industrial Estate.



Figure 60: Brickfield House, Brickyard Lane.



Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 3  
Archaeology

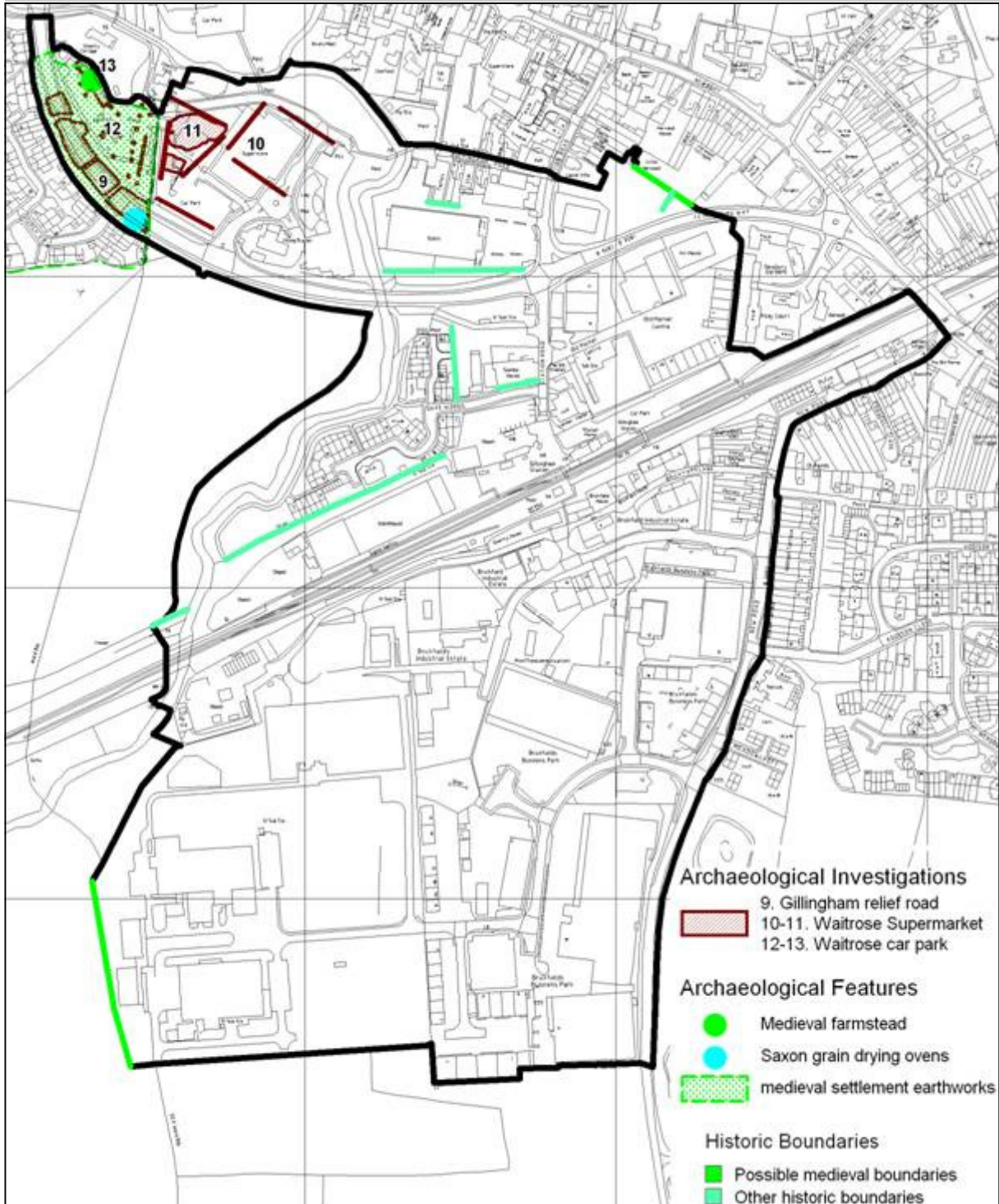


Figure 61: Archaeological investigations in Historic Urban Character Area 3.

### Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 3 Archaeology

#### **Archaeological Investigations**

Six archaeological investigations have been undertaken in this character area; three archaeological evaluations, all followed up by more extensive archaeological excavation (Appendix 3, Nos. 1 & 9-13). All the archaeological work was concentrated in the Chantry Fields area along the route of the relief road and on the adjacent Waitrose supermarket site (Figure 61). This work has revealed important evidence for Saxon activity in the form of two grain-drying ovens and other features, together with extensive traces of medieval settlement and agricultural activity (Heaton 1995). There is also a range of prehistoric and Roman finds recovered from the area.

#### **Archaeological Character**

Chantry Fields had a set of formerly well preserved earthworks, now destroyed through development, which represented the site of a medieval suburb on the south side of Chantry Ford. The discovery of middle Saxon corn drying ovens suggests that there was either industrial activity taking place here prior to the

establishment of the suburb, or that the suburb itself originates in the Saxon period. These findings are of considerable importance in understanding the origins of the town. The title map suggests that the rest of the character area comprised meadows and enclosed fields during the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. The archaeological character is likely to comprise a background scatter of medieval and Roman pottery derived from manuring over much of the site, although the Madjeston road ran north-south through the eastern edge of the area and may retain evidence for dispersed settlement, particularly on the higher ground between the rivers Stour and Lodden. Any such settlement might date from the Neolithic to medieval periods. However, it must be noted that large areas of this higher ground have been quarried away during clay extraction.

Boundaries depicted on Figure 61 demonstrate that very few historic boundaries have survived the wholesale conversion of the area into industrial sites from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards.

### Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 3 Designations

#### **Listed Buildings**

There are no Listed Buildings in the Character Area.

#### **Conservation Areas**

Only the north western tip of this character area lies within the Gillingham Conservation Area (Figure 39).

#### **Registered Historic Parks and Gardens**

There are no Registered Parks and Gardens within the Character Area.

#### **Scheduled Monuments**

There are no Scheduled Ancient Monuments within the character area.

### Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 3 Evaluation

#### ***Strength of Historic Character***

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **low**. Although there is an historical dimension to development here, very little survives to impart character to the area. The oldest surviving urban character dates from the late 19<sup>th</sup> century construction of the railway. The construction of a relief road, modern industrial estates, supermarkets and modern housing has destroyed almost all historic character across large parts of the area.

#### ***Sensitivity to Large Scale Development***

The area has a **low** sensitivity to major change. Large scale development already dominates this character area. Future large scale development might be beneficial to the historic character was it to comprise buildings constructed in a vernacular style from local materials, especially brick, and reinstate historic boundaries.

#### ***Archaeological Potential***

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **medium**. The potential of the Chantry Fields remains high. The density of archaeological features here means that significant archaeological deposits are likely to remain unexcavated and undisturbed by development. The potential of the south eastern part of the Brickfields site is low following the excavation of clay from large swathes of land in this area. Nevertheless, in terms of industrial archaeology, there is the possibility of remains relating to narrow gauge railways, kilns and workshops in this area. The vast majority of the area has a medium potential for deposits relating to almost any period from the Mesolithic onwards.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 1-3, 10-11, 16-25 (Part 7).

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Late 19th century railway and station
- Late 19th-early 21st century industrial area
- Modern relief road and supermarkets
- Site of late 19th century brick works and cattle market
- Site of Saxon and medieval suburban settlement site at Chantry Fields



## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 4 Ham

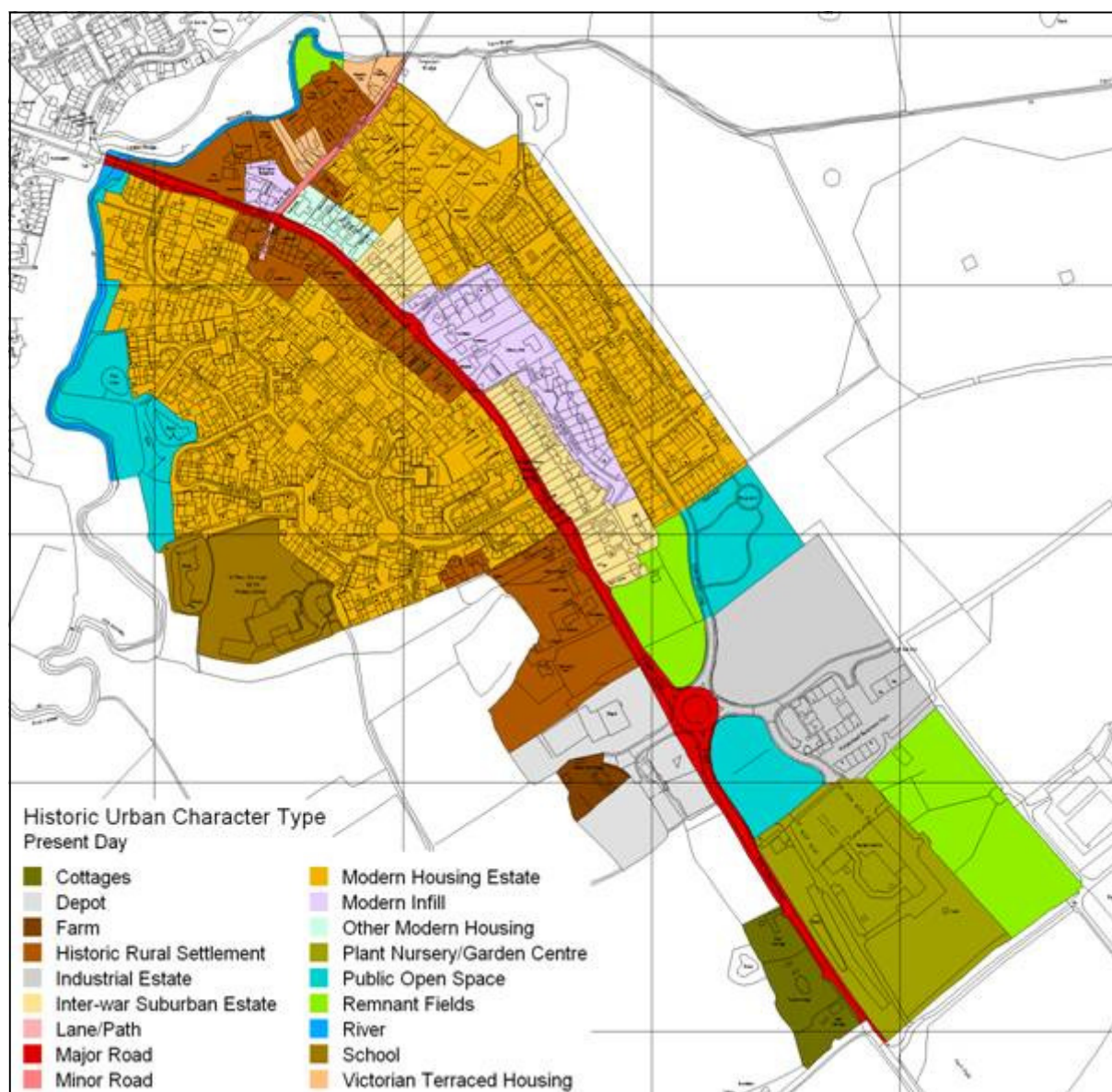


Figure 62: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 4, showing current historic urban character type.



Figure 63: View along Shaftesbury Road looking towards the town centre.



Figure 64: Higher Ham Farm House, Shaftesbury Road.

## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 4 Structure of Character Area

### **Overview**

This area comprises the southeastern extremity of the urban area of Gillingham and is centred on the historic rural manor of Ham, on the main road to Shaftesbury close to the medieval royal hunting lodge at Kings Court and the former Gillingham Park. It largely comprises modern suburban development, moving into semi-rural urban fringe environment.

### **Topography and Geology**

Ham lies to the east of the River Lodden at the northwestern end of a slight ridge which rises gently to the southeast, away from the Lodden. This ridge is formed between two small tributaries of the Lodden, the Fern Brook and the Meadow Brook. The geology of the area is composed entirely of Kimmeridge Clay.

### **Urban Structure**

There is a single major road running along the ridge forming the spinal element of this area. Along the northern end of this road there are a series of short plots. These are not continuous along both sides and comprise a series of different groups of plots of differing width and depth. Further south, there are a series of much larger open plots along the road, typical of urban fringe development, interspersed with a small number of small short roadside plots. There is one minor road in the northern part of the area, again with a number of discontinuous short plots along its length. A large part of the area comprises a series of housing estates which are largely focussed away from the major road, with either rectilinear grid or cul-de-sac layouts or with a more curvilinear dendritic pattern of local access roads and paths.

### **Present Character**

Figure 62 shows the present day historic urban character types. The northern part of the area is dominated by large areas of Modern Housing Estate, with a mixture of Cottages, Historic Rural Settlement, Inter-war Suburban Housing and Modern Infill along the line of the Major Road. The southern part of the area is dominated by Industrial Estates, a Garden Centre and Remnant Fields which are earmarked for development. A School and a small area of Public Open Space lie alongside the River Lodden.

### **Time Depth**

The earliest element in the area is the main road, which could be Saxon or earlier in date. The position of Lower and Higher Ham Farms

(Figure 64) probably indicate the sites of medieval farms. The cottages and Historic Rural Settlement along the Shaftesbury road and the junction with Kingscourt Lane probably originated in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries, though the majority of the historic buildings here date from the 19<sup>th</sup> century. There are small areas of inter-war housing, but the vast majority of development in the area belongs to the period after 1970.

### **Settlement Pattern and Streetscape**

The earliest settlement was set back from the road at the edge of the common and the Haywain still retains a small piece of the common in front of it (Figure 65). A number of the historic rural houses are aligned gable end to the road. The current settlement pattern essentially comprises detached, semi-detached houses and short terraced houses set back from the street frontage along Shaftesbury Road and Kingscourt Lane. Some inter-war semi-detached houses are set back a long way with long narrow front gardens. The modern housing estates behind the historic plots comprise mixed detached, semi-detached and short terraced housing set back within curvilinear and linear culs-de-sac.

There are a number of green spaces in the area, though most are remnant fields earmarked for development. There are a number of garden hedges and mature ornamental garden trees along parts of Shaftesbury Road (Figure 63).



Figure 65: The Haywain (formerly Grosvenor House), Shaftesbury Road.



## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 4 Built Character

### **Building types**

This character area primarily comprises suburban housing types of late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date, together with smaller numbers of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century rural vernacular buildings and some modern industrial and community structures.

The Haywain (formerly Grosvenor House) has a symmetrical front and central door, typical of 18<sup>th</sup> century vernacular farmhouses in the Gillingham area. Other 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular farmhouses and cottages include Kings Cottage, Kingscourt Road; Rose Cottage, Ham Lane; Shaftesbury View, a row of cottages aligned gable end to the road. The mixture of hipped and gable ended farmhouses and vernacular cottages has been repeated as pastiche in some of the modern estate housing.

The late 19<sup>th</sup> century suburban housing is of a form widespread in Gillingham and consists of semi-detached houses on Shaftesbury Road, opposite Rookery Close (Figure 69) and Kingscourt Road. The inter-war council housing is also semi-detached and is typical of the period. The modern houses are a mixture of detached, semi-detached and terraced houses, in typical late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century estate housing styles. The modern industrial buildings are typical steel-framed sheds.

### **Building Materials**

The 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century former rural buildings tend to be built of stone rubble with brick or rendered stacks and slate or plain tile roofs. The Haywain is thatched. Park Farm House is built in Greensand ashlar with brick and tile outbuildings and a timber porch structure. Later 19<sup>th</sup> century houses tend to be brick built, sometimes with polychrome decoration, and with hipped or gable ended slate or tile roofs. The mid 20<sup>th</sup> century council houses are brick built, often painted and with hipped tile roofs. The early 21<sup>st</sup> century housing estates are brick skinned with a mixture of slate and tile roofs. Modern industrial and commercial buildings are built from a variety of brick and non-local materials.

### **Key Buildings**

*19<sup>th</sup> century Farm Houses:* Park Farm, Higher Ham House, Lockwood Farm, Kings Cottage

*18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century rural vernacular houses:* The Haywain (Grosvenor House), Longways, Rose Cottage, Shaftesbury View.



Figure 66: Kings Cottage, Kingscourt Road.



Figure 67: Rose Cottage, Ham Lane.



Figure 68: Shaftesbury View, Shaftesbury Road.



Figure 69: A row of 19<sup>th</sup> century semi-detached houses on Shaftesbury Road, Ham.



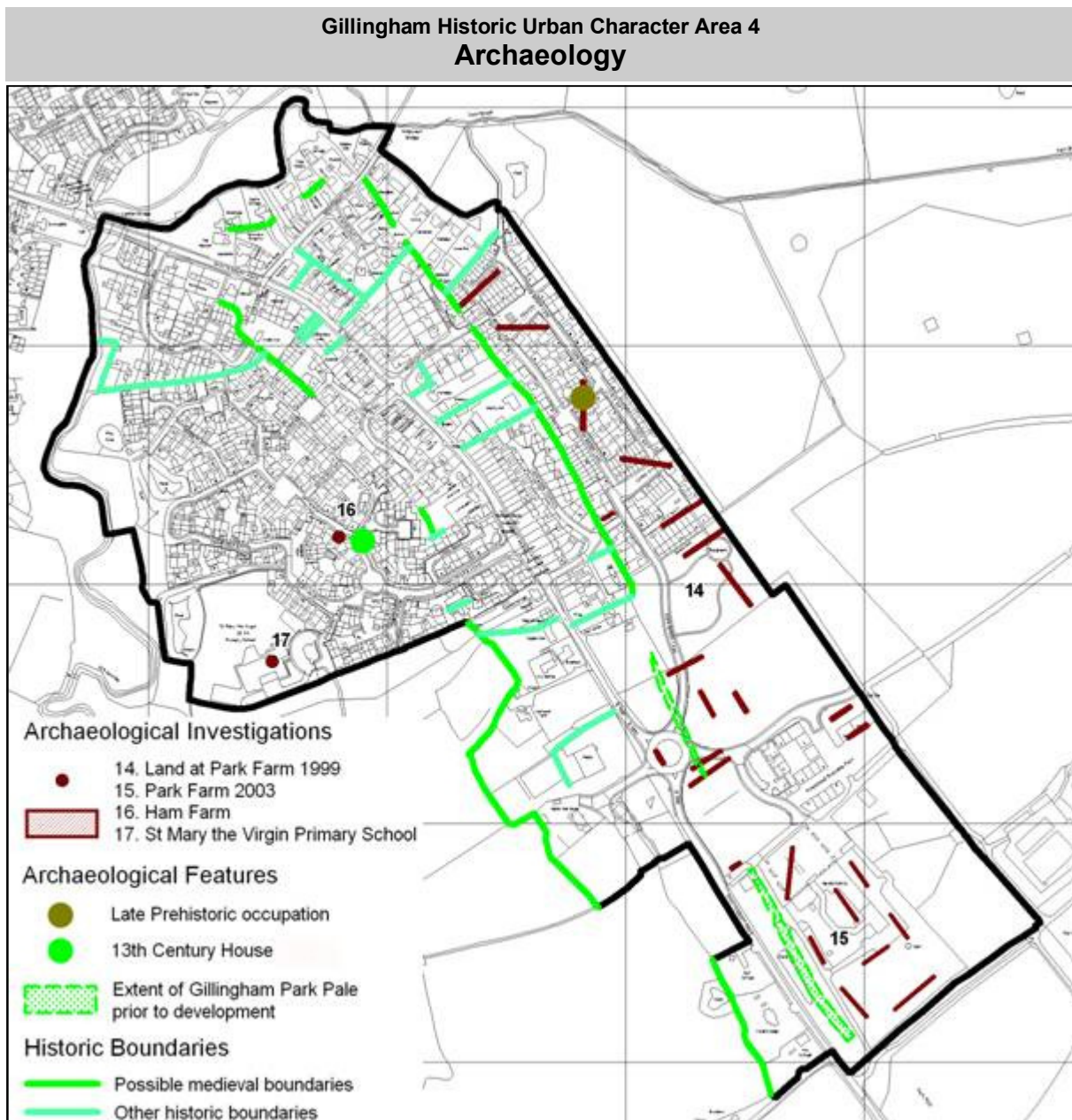


Figure 70: Archaeological investigations in Historic Urban Character Area 4.

### **Archaeological Investigations**

Four archaeological investigations have been undertaken in this character area, three evaluations and a watching brief, all in advance of redevelopment (Figure 70; Appendix 3, Nos 14-17).

The two evaluations at Park Farm (Figure 70, 14-15) revealed slight evidence for late prehistoric activity together with part of the medieval park pale (Hudson 2000; Robinson 2003b). The evaluation at Ham Farm (Figure 70, no 16) revealed evidence for a 13<sup>th</sup> century

building (Gardiner 2003). The watching brief at St Mary the Virgin Primary School revealed no significant archaeology.

### **Archaeological Character**

The archaeological interventions that have taken place within this area have demonstrated that the archaeological character is closely bound with the medieval settlement history of the place, as well as its location on the edge of the medieval deer park.

The evaluation at Ham Farm reinforces the information from historic maps in that the

**Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 4  
Archaeology**

medieval settlement was located up to 100m back from the modern street frontage, on the edge of a roadside common (Ham Common). Furthermore this settlement tended to be on the south side of the common because the deer park abutted the common on the north side. Higher and Lower Ham Farms are located on the site of houses depicted on the 1624 forest map and may retain evidence for earlier buildings within their fabric. The course of the park pale in the vicinity of Park Farm survived as a slight earthwork prior to the development of Kingsmead Business Park in 1999.

Slight evidence for late prehistoric activity has been found and it may be that a significant settlement site remains to be discovered on this low ridge.

A small number of historic boundaries are marked on Figure 70. These are the extant remains of the boundary of Ham Common, as well as later subdivisions within it following enclosure, recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map.



*Figure 71: Park Farm, Kingsmead Business Park.*

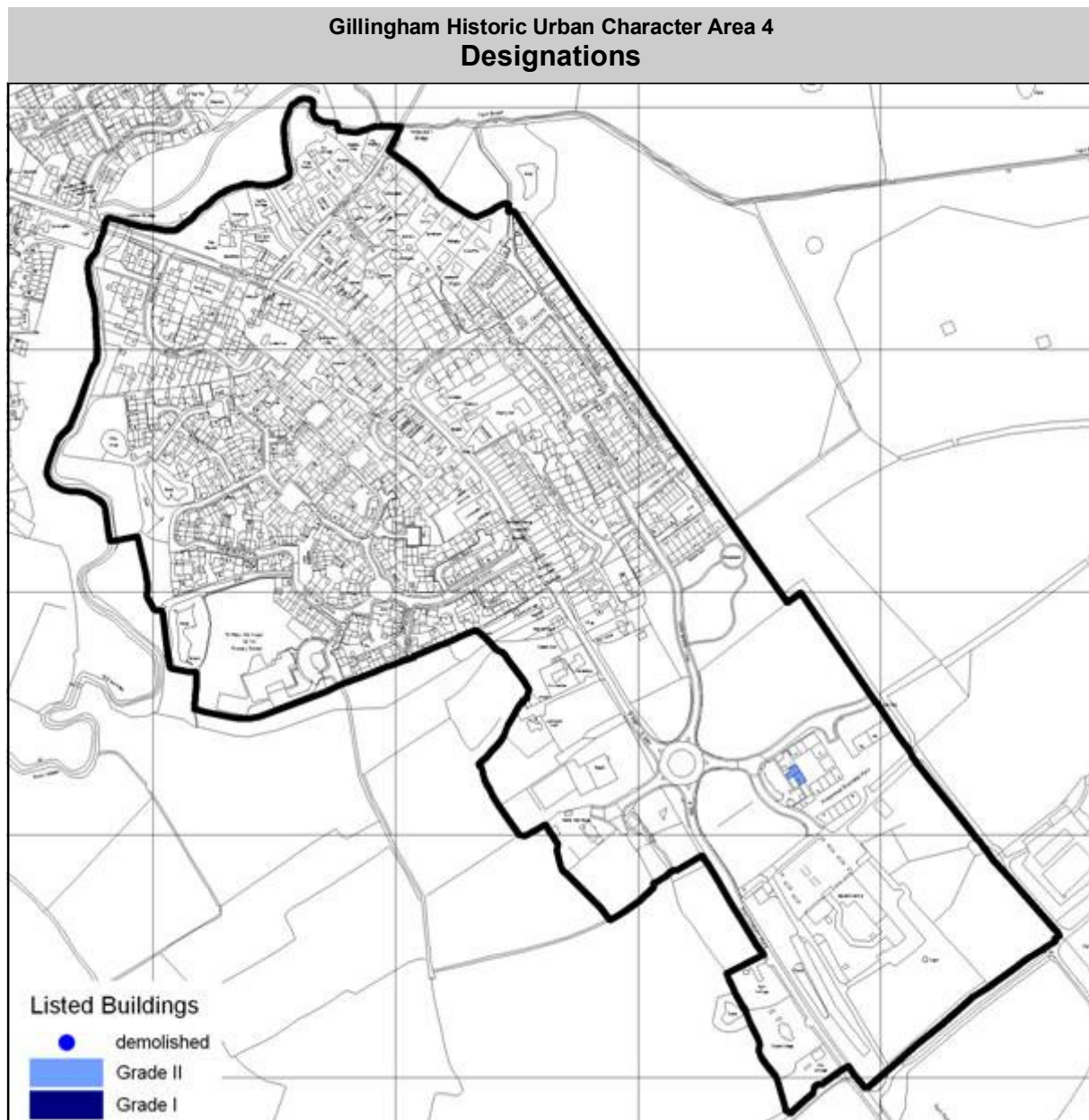


Figure 72: Listed Buildings in Historic Urban Character Area 3.

### **Listed Buildings**

There is one Listed Building in the Character Area; the Grade II Park Farmhouse which is now included within the Kingsmead Business Park (Figure 71).

### **Conservation Areas**

The entire character area lies outside the Gillingham Conservation Area (Figure 39).

### **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, although a well preserved section of the Park Pale is scheduled outside the study area to the east.



## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 4 Evaluation

### ***Strength of Historic Character***

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **medium**. Surviving historic elements have generally been subsumed and diluted within a wider modern development both domestic and commercial in nature. The historic street frontage has also been diluted by the insertion of modern and inter-war housing as well as the modernisation of the main road to include large roundabouts and a high volume of traffic. The area essentially has the character of a modern edge of town commercial estate and housing development. Nevertheless, the side streets of Kingscourt Road and Ham Lane have a decidedly different and well preserved historic rural character.

### ***Sensitivity to Large Scale Development***

The area has a **medium** sensitivity to major change, providing development does not visually impact on the historic townscape of Gillingham. It is possible that future development may enhance the historic character through the reinstatement of elements of the Common and street frontage. The historic farmsteads at Higher and Lower Ham and Park Farm, as well as the Kingscourt Road-Ham Lane area.

### ***Archaeological Potential***

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **medium**. The archaeological

interventions that have taken place have demonstrated the potential for remains relating to medieval settlement, particularly on the southern fringes of Ham Common south of the Shaftesbury Road. The medieval park pale also survives as an earthwork and there is the potential for more of it surviving as sub-surface deposits on the fringes of Ham Common north of the Shaftesbury Road. The origins of the settlement at Ham Common are not fully understood and archaeology has the potential to illuminate this question.

Archaeological investigations on the north side of Ham Common have also demonstrated the potential for the survival of deposits dating for the later prehistoric period. The evidence is slight, consisting of a few pits and ditches, but is suggestive of settlement activity within the vicinity. The prehistoric and Roman settlement pattern of the region is poorly understood. An enhanced knowledge of prehistoric and Roman settlement may help in the understanding of the pre-urban landscape from which the town of Gillingham and the forest emerged.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 1- 3, 11, 19-21 and 23-25 (Part 7).

### **Key Characteristics**

- Historic rural settlement of Ham Common
- Main Road to Shaftesbury
- Medieval Royal deer park and park pale
- Modern housing and commercial development



## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 4 Structure of Character Area

### **Overview**

This area comprises an historic rural settlement east of Bay Bridge across the Shreen Water on the road to Bowridge Hill and East and West Knoyle, on the eastern side of Gillingham. It is the only character area not to contain modern housing estates or modern infill, although there is a small area of modern detached houses on the edge of the settlement.

### **Topography and Geology**

Bay lies on the western slope, at the southern end of a N-S aligned ridge, known as Bowridge Hill, between the Shreen Water and the River Lodden. The geology of the area comprises Kimmeridge Clay.

### **Urban Structure**

Bay remains essentially a rural settlement appended to the edge of the urban area of Gillingham and linked to it by Bay Bridge. The limits of this settlement correspond closely with the original extent of the roadside common along Bay Road. It comprises an L-shaped settlement with one through road (Bay Road) and a smaller road (Bay Lane) running southwards at the west end. There are farms along both roads and large relatively shallow irregular rectilinear plots along both sides of Bay Lane and the north side of Bay Road.

### **Present Character**

Figure 73 shows the present day historic urban character types. The character area is dominated by Historic Rural Settlement along Bay Road and Bay Lane, with small areas of Other Modern Housing at the periphery of the settlement. There are two Farms and a Maltings (now converted to a nursing home). The eastern part of the character area comprises Remnant Fields and Paddocks on both side of the Shreen Water around Bay Bridge.

### **Time Depth**

The original rural settlement lay along the west side of Bay Lane on the fringe of a wide roadside common in similar fashion to Ham Common. Bay Lane was the northern extension of Hardings Lane in Newbury during the medieval period. Boundaries along the back of plots fronting on to Bay Road run along the boundaries of the medieval roadside common. These were enclosed following the deforestation of Gillingham Forest in the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. The maltings were active from at least the 1840s, though part of the malthouse building dates from the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Modern development has generally been limited to plots subdivided from earlier ones within the former roadside common.

### **Settlement Pattern and Streetscape**

The settlement pattern essentially comprises detached cottages, farmhouses and houses set centrally within large plots along Bay Road and Bay Lane. Some of these plots have become subdivided during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but still contain detached houses.



Figure 76: Bay Farm House, Bay Lane.



Figure 77: The Malthouse, Bay Road.



## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 4 Built Character

### **Building types**

Buildings in Bay include vernacular farmhouses and cottages, including typical Dorset long houses with steeply pitched gable ended roofs. Bay Farm, Baldrick's End (Figure 78) and Cherry End Cottage are good examples of this type. The Malthouse is a symmetrically designed Georgian style house with later additions including stables and the maltings themselves. There are a few 19<sup>th</sup> century suburban villas including Bay House (Figure 79) and Tresillian (Figure 80); symmetrical houses with hipped roofs. Modern housing in Bay tends to be in the form of detached bungalows and houses with a mixture of hipped and gabled roofs.

### **Building Materials**

The 18<sup>th</sup> and earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings tend to be built in coursed and/or squared Greensand or Corallian limestone rubble. Earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century suburban villas are built in coursed rubble with brick dressings and slate roof. Later 19<sup>th</sup> century semi-detached houses are built entirely from brick. In general the area displays a mixture of slate and tiled roofs. Later 20<sup>th</sup> century houses use a wider mixture of materials, including more of a non-local origin.

### **Key Buildings**

*17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular farmhouses and cottages:* Bay Farm, Cherry End Cottage, Baldrick's End, Riverside Cottage

*19<sup>th</sup> century villas:* Bay House, Tresillian

*19<sup>th</sup> century industrial buildings:* The Malthouse, The Old Stables



Figure 78: Baldrick's End, Bay Lane.



Figure 79: Bay House, Bay Road.



Figure 80: Tresillian, Bay Lane.

## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 5 Archaeology

### **Archaeological Investigations**

Two archaeological investigations have been undertaken, both of them in the river floodplain on the western edge of this character area (Figure 81; Appendix 3, Nos. 18-19). The evaluation in advance of housing development at Barnaby Mead revealed some evidence for late Saxon and medieval settlement and for a possible Roman trackway (Valentin 2001). Some evidence for Neolithic activity was recorded during the construction of a swimming pool for Gillingham Grammar School in 1912.

### **Archaeological Character**

The archaeological interventions that have taken place within this area suggest that the archaeological character is closely bound with the road, river crossing and medieval settlement history of the place. The evidence indicates that the eastern part of the current Bay Road is on the course of an earlier route, possibly dating from the prehistoric period, but probably from the Romano-British period. The line of Bay Road, prior to its diversion west to Bay Bridge seems to have continued further south, crossing the Shreen at a ford, now the site of a sluice north of Town Mill. From there the road may have continued through the centre of Gillingham

either in an easterly direction towards Cold Harbour and Wyke and/or a south westerly direction to common Mead Lane. Both routes pass through potential Romano-British settlement sites. The Late Saxon pottery from behind Bay Farm suggests that the settlement of Bay dates from before the conquest and it may be that evidence of Romano-British settlement also awaits discovery here.

A small number of historic boundaries are marked on Figure 81. These are the remnants of the edge of the roadside Common and later subdivisions within it following enclosure and recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map.

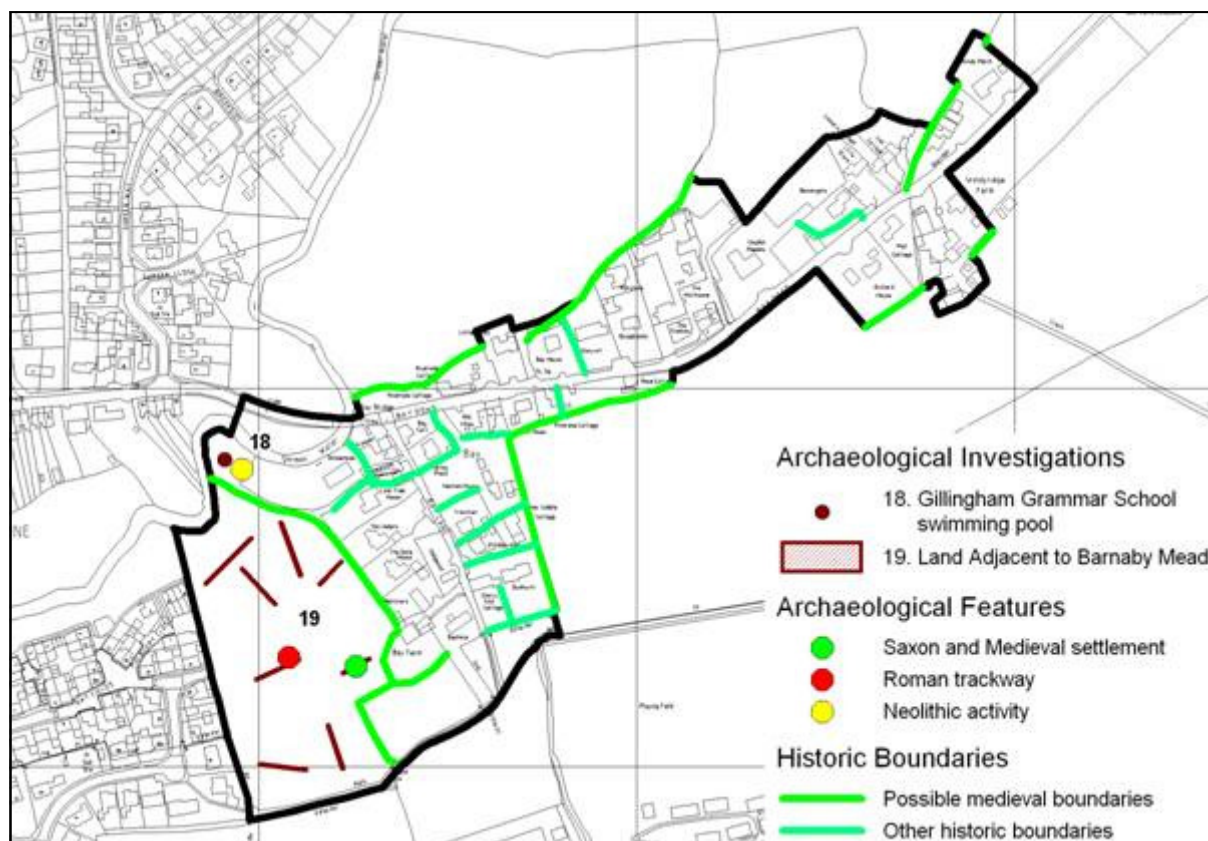


Figure 81: Archaeological investigations in Historic Urban Character Area 5.

**Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 5  
Designations**

***Listed Buildings***

There are no Listed Buildings in the Character Area.

***Conservation Areas***

The entire character area lies outside the Gillingham Conservation Area (Figure 39).

***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.



### Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 5 Evaluation

#### ***Strength of Historic Character***

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **strong**. The structure and layout strongly reflects its origin as a historic rural settlement. There are a number of well preserved historic buildings, including farm buildings and cottages and a former malthouse. Although there are a significant number of modern houses within the area, they are of a similar scale to the historic buildings and are set within plots subdivided from and preserving the boundaries of the pre-existing Bay Common.

#### ***Sensitivity to Large Scale Development***

The area has a **high** sensitivity to major change. The character of the area is one of single detached houses and cottages set within individual plots along the roads, reflecting the enclosure from the common. Any large scale development is likely to destroy historic plot boundaries.

#### ***Archaeological Potential***

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **high**. The archaeological

interventions that have taken place have demonstrated the potential for remains relating to the Neolithic, Roman, Saxon and medieval periods. In particular, there is significant potential for remains of settlement dating from the Roman to medieval periods surviving in the area. This provides the potential for answering questions not only on the origins of the settlement at Bay, but also on the development of Gillingham town from its pre-urban landscape setting. In particular there is the potential for understanding further the relationship of Gillingham town to a pre-urban track way and pre-existing dispersed settlement sites at Bay and Common Mead.

Archaeological investigations have also demonstrated the potential for the survival of prehistoric deposits in the area.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 1- 4, 11 and 19-25 (Part 7).

#### **Key Characteristics**

- Historic rural settlement of Bay
- Good survival of detached historic buildings
- Surviving boundaries of Bay Common
- Post-medieval maltings

## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 6 Peacemarsh

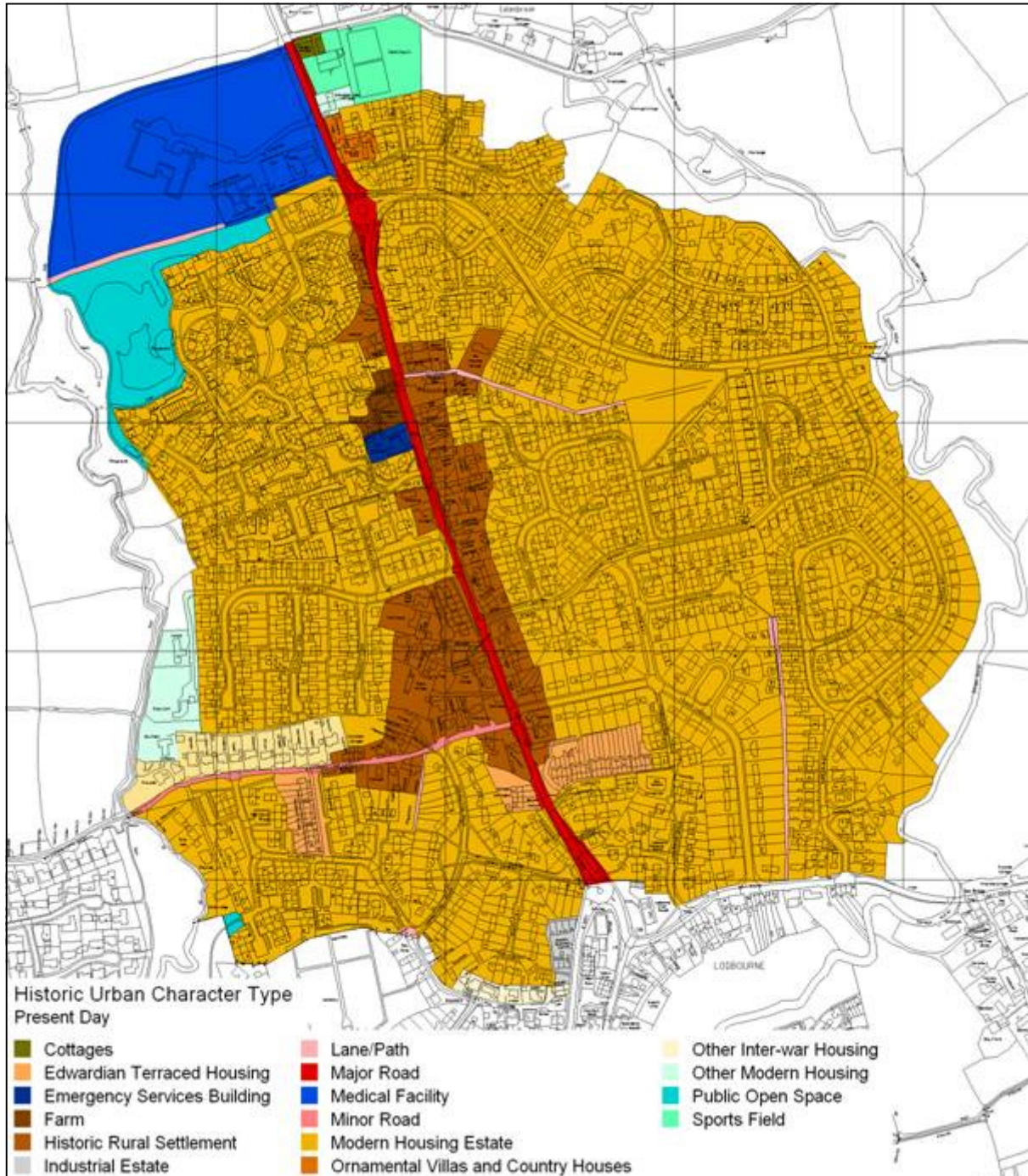


Figure 82: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 6, showing current historic urban character type.

## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 6 Structure of Character Area

### **Overview**

This area comprises the northern suburb of the town of Gillingham, centred on the historic rural settlement of Peacemarsh, which is itself aligned on the main road north of the town to Milton-on-Stour. Large modern housing estates lie on either side of the main road, behind the historic street frontage.

### **Topography and Geology**

Peacemarsh lies on a low rounded hill between the upper courses of the rivers Stour and Shreen Water in relatively flat terrain. The geology of the area consists entirely of Kimmeridge Clay.

### **Urban Structure**

There is a major road, Peacemarsh Road, running N-S and a minor road, Wavering Lane, joining from the west towards the southern end. A series of relatively shallow irregular plots line these roads in a discontinuous fashion. Almost the whole of the area comprises a range of different housing estate developments distinguished by their road alignments, plot sizes and linear boundaries between estates. The estate layouts range between relatively simple linear or curvilinear road arrangements to complex curvilinear looped networks and culs-de-sac and dendritic road patterns. A modern edge of town development has been constructed around Middlefield House, north of the housing estates.

### **Present Character**

Figure 82 shows the present day historic urban character types. The area is dominated by Modern Housing Estates. Along Peacemarsh Road and Wavering Lane are areas of Historic Rural Settlement, which form a large block in the angle between the two roads. There are small areas of Inter-war Suburban Estate in the southern part. At the northern end of the area is a group of larger plots comprising Medical Facilities, Sports Field and Public Open Space. Other character types along the main road include Cottages, Farm, Emergency Services Building and an Industrial Estate.

### **Time Depth**

The earliest element of this area is Peacemarsh Road, which was originally a track through Gillingham Forest and is probably of considerable antiquity. Peacemarsh is not named in early documents. The earliest mention appears to be in the 1624 forest map where its location is depicted but it is not clear whether or

not it represents a settlement or merely a landscape feature. Nevertheless, the form of the settlement is similar to others at Newbury, Ham Common and Bay, in which a medieval manor or farmstead developed through the enclosure and settlement of roadside commons into a large post-medieval hamlet. Peacemarsh Farm may represent the earliest component of the settlement, although this assertion remains to be proved. The historic rural settlement is probably post-medieval in date, and many of the cottages date from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. The earliest suburban housing dates from the 1920s-30s, with some post-war estates at the southern end of the area, but the majority of the suburban area was not developed until the late 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> centuries.

### **Settlement Pattern and Streetscape**

The settlement pattern along the two historic roads comprises low density housing in fairly shallow irregular rectilinear plots, with many of the houses set back from the street frontage on differing orientations with no common building line, which reflects their history as plots enclosed from a former open roadside common. This is particularly apparent at the junction of Peacemarsh Road and Wavering Lane where a former open triangular green is now subdivided into house plots. There are medium density short terraces of inter-war council housing along short straight roads at right angles to the historic routes. The post-war housing estates are low density semi-detached housing set well back from the street edge behind front gardens and with a number of greens incorporated in the road network. The modern housing estates are low to medium density housing set in typical modern suburban estate fashion. Along the edge of the river Stour are a series of larger houses set within large plots.



Figure 83: View north along Peacemarsh Road.



## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 6 Built Character

### **Building types**

The buildings of this area primarily comprise a range of 20<sup>th</sup> century suburban house types, together with some 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century rural vernacular buildings.

The 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular cottages include Dorset long houses with their gable ends presented to the main street; The Dolphin Inn and Peacemars Farm for example (Figure 84). The inter-war housing comprised short terraces (Figure 86). The modern housing estates behind the Peacemars Road frontage have been constructed over a long period of time, beginning in the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century with semi-detached council housing with hipped roofs arranged on the geometrically designed Fairey Close. This was followed in the 1960s and 70s with the development of semi-detached bungalows arranged around geometric culs-de-sac to the north of Fairey Close and on the west side of Peacemars Road at Wessex Way. Later 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century housing estates at the northern end of Peacemars comprise a variety of smaller detached, semi-detached and short terraced houses in smaller plots.

### **Building Materials**

The 18<sup>th</sup> and earlier 19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular houses in Peacemars are built in coursed Corallian Limestone rubble, usually with tile or slate roofs and the occasional surviving thatched roof. The late 18<sup>th</sup> century Lodbourne Farmhouse has an ashlar façade with chequerwork side walls in Corallian rubble and squared greensand blocks (Figure 89). Brick chimney stacks are common from the 19<sup>th</sup> century and brick is increasingly used in walling from the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century onwards. A mixture of slate and tile roofs is common in later 19<sup>th</sup> century houses with tile becoming more common in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Later 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century housing estates again have a mixture of slate and tile. Modern industrial buildings to the north of Middlefield House are in a prominent position and built with a blue roof and wooden walling (Figure 87).

### **Key Buildings**

*17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular houses:* Dolphin Inn, Peacemars Farm, The Thatched Cottage, Peacemars House, Knoll House, Lodbourne Farm House

*19<sup>th</sup> century Houses and villas:* Grosvenor House

*Inter-war council housing:* Peacemars Terrace, Lodbourne Terrace, Waverland Terrace



Figure 84: Peacemars Farm House and attached outbuilding, with modern housing to the rear (left).



Figure 85: The Thatched Cottage, Dolphin Lane.



Figure 86: View east along Lodbourne Terrace.



Figure 87: Neal's Yard Remedies, Peacemars Road.

Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 6  
**Archaeology**

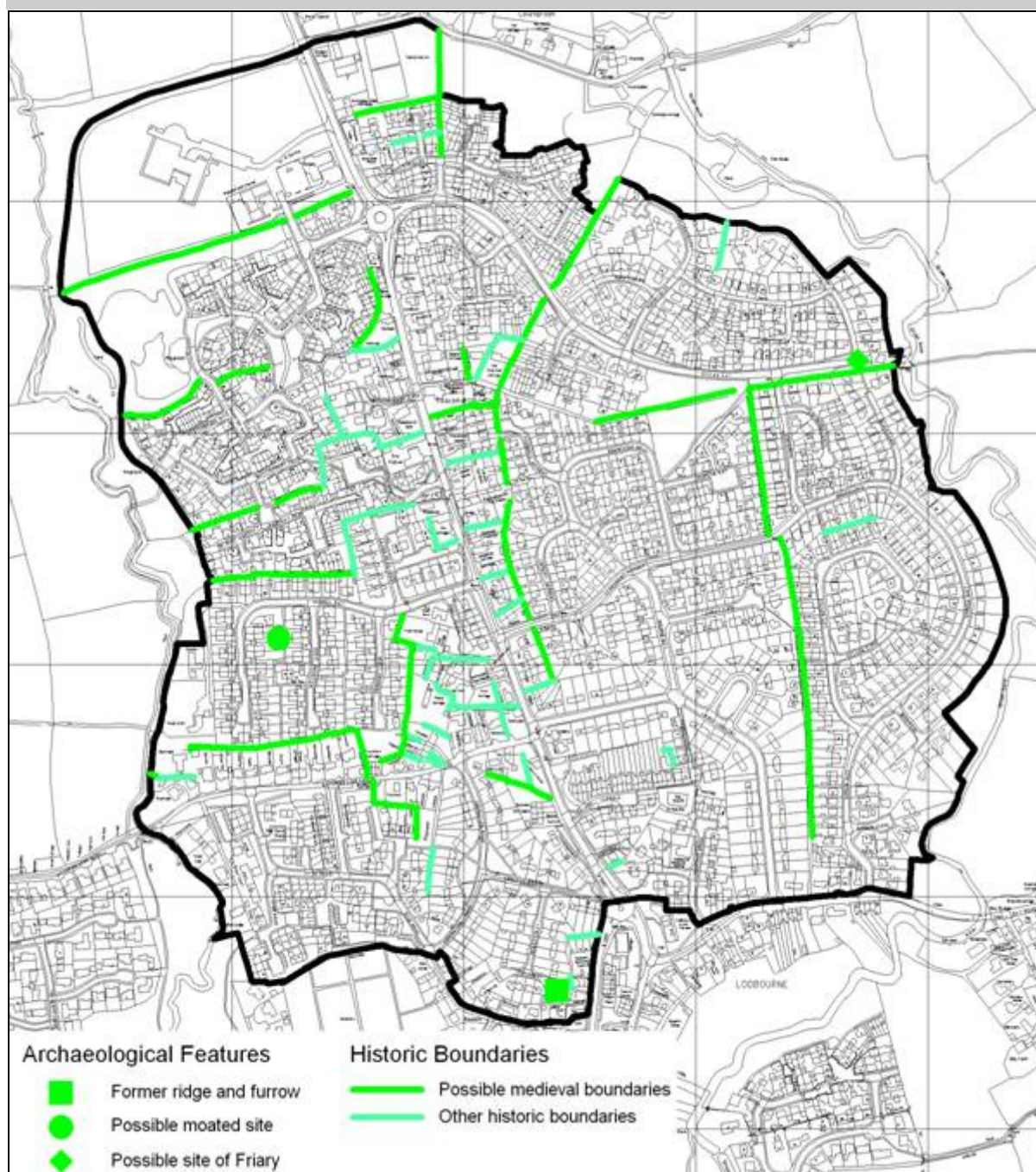


Figure 88: Archaeological investigations in Historic Urban Character Area 6.

**Archaeological Investigations**

No archaeological investigations have been undertaken in this character area.

**Archaeological Character**

Despite the lack of archaeological investigations in this area, the archaeological character can be expected to tie in with the medieval history of the area as a dispersed settlement, and as the location of one of the major medieval arable fields of the town. Gillingham had a number of

medieval arable fields, one of which appears to have been in the Peacemash area, to the west of the main road, where Middlefield field names abound. The area to the east of the main road was glebe land. Aerial photography has recorded the former existence of ridge and furrow cultivation remains, prior to the development of the Peacemash housing estates. Another feature visible on air photographs in this area has been interpreted as a possible moated site. The housing estates on the east side of the main road may also have



### Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 6 Archaeology

been the former location of a Dominican Friary, mentioned on the 1624 forest map. This was located at the modern Cherryfields, close to the point at which Dolphin Lane crossed the Shreen Water.

Settlement remains relating to Peacemash probably form the most significant aspect of the area's archaeological character and are likely to comprise pits, boundaries and structures. These could inform not only the history and origins of the settlement, but also its function and

economic base. The position of Peacemash, on a low hill between two rivers, is also a likely location for prehistoric and Roman dispersed settlement sites.

A small number of historic boundaries are marked on Figure 88. These are the remnants of the edge of the medieval roadside common and arable field boundaries (either medieval or later enclosure boundaries). Later 19<sup>th</sup> century subdivisions recorded on the 1<sup>st</sup> edition Ordnance Survey map are also shown.

### Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 6 Designations

#### **Listed Buildings**

There is only one Listed Building in the Character Area (Figure 89); the Grade II Lodbourne Farmhouse.

#### **Conservation Areas**

The entire character area lies outside the Gillingham Conservation Area (Figure 39).

#### **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.



Figure 89: Lodbourne Farm House, Lodbourne Green.



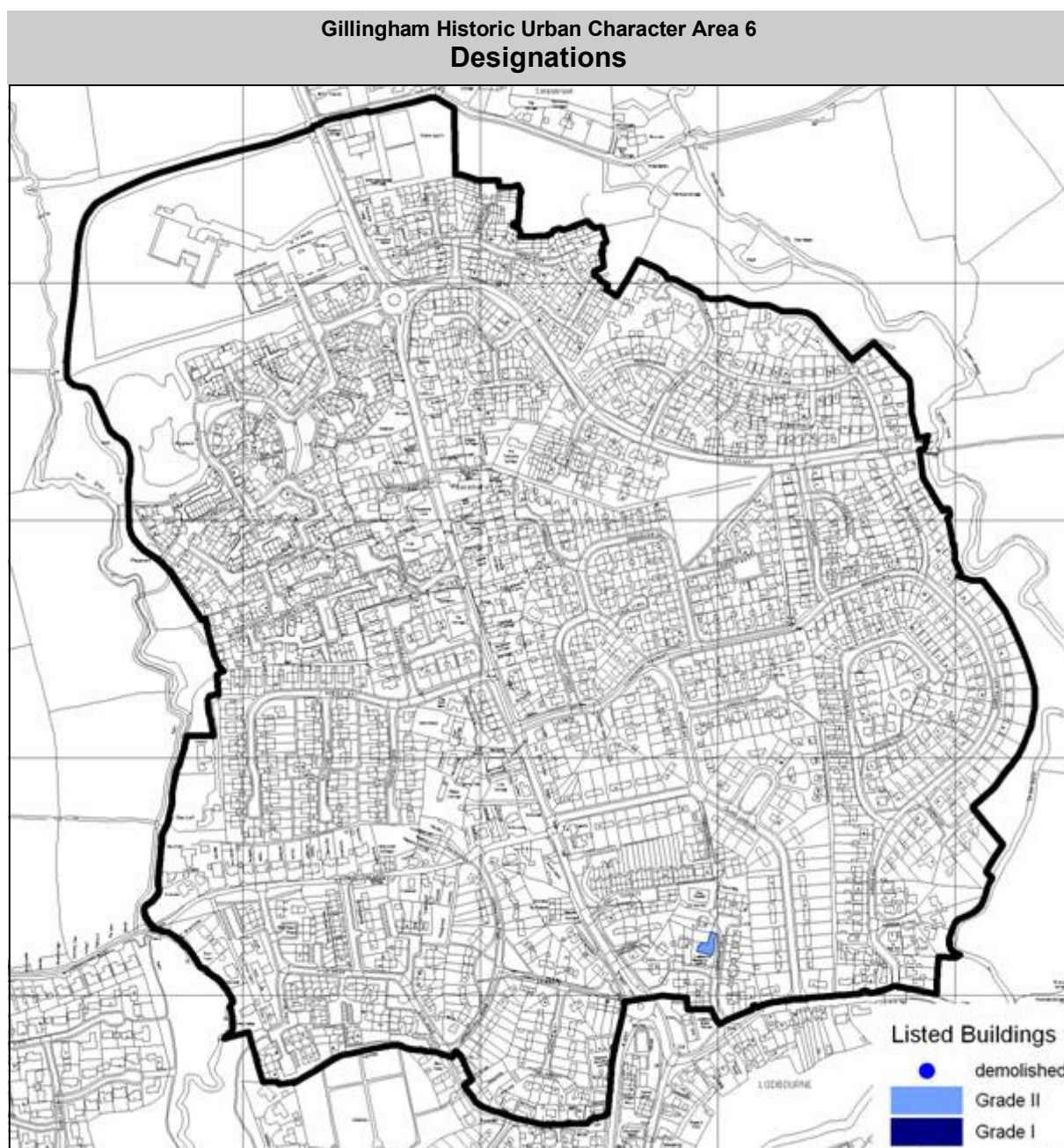


Figure 90: Listed Buildings in Historic Urban Character Area 6.

## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 6 Evaluation

### ***Strength of Historic Character***

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **medium**. This is a combination of a relatively high rating for the historic rural settlement core of Peacemarsh and a low rating for the modern housing estates behind. The historic settlement of Peacemarsh contains a rare concentration of 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings outside the town centre. The two foci of the Dolphin Lane/Peacemarsh Road junction and the Wavering Lane/Peacemarsh Road junction, both contain well preserved groups of stone built vernacular houses and cottages. The intervening frontage of Peacemarsh Road contains buildings from a variety of periods including modern, although the boundaries of the medieval roadside common is preserved in sections behind. Avering Lane and Dolphin Lane have a particularly well preserved historic rural character. The character of the modern housing estates retains little of an historic nature apart from the occasional former field boundary preserved in property boundaries.

### ***Sensitivity to Large Scale Development***

The area has a **medium** sensitivity to major change. Currently the street frontage along Peacemarsh Road retains its historic character because the housing estates behind do not impact upon it visually. This is partly due to the fact that the street runs along the crest of a low hill with the housing estates below it, but also because the modern building heights do not overshadow those of the historic buildings. Large scale development is likely to have a low impact on the historic character as long as its

scale does not impinge on the historic settlement. Care should also be taken in the region of inter and post war suburbs such as Lodbourne Terrace and Fairey Crescent which retain a character of their own.

### ***Archaeological Potential***

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **medium**. There is a high potential for information relating to the medieval settlement of Peacemarsh. Many parts of the settlement remain within medieval plot boundaries suggesting that pits, boundaries and structures may survive in the back of current plots fronting on to Peacemarsh Road. Because the roadside common was unlikely to have been enclosed until the 17<sup>th</sup> century or later, evidence for medieval structures will be behind the modern street frontage. This provides the potential for answering questions not only on the origins of the settlement at Peacemarsh, but also on its economy. There may also be surviving deposits relating to the Dominican Friary and a potential medieval moated site.

The topographic location of the area also suggests that there is potential for the survival of prehistoric and Romano-British deposits, which is significant considering that the history and distribution of dispersed settlement in the region is poorly understood.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 1- 3, 11, 14 and 19-25 (Part 7).

### **Key Characteristics**

- Medieval and post-medieval settlement of Peacemarsh
- Location of the medieval Middle Field
- Surviving medieval and post-medieval field boundaries
- Historic street frontage
- Modern housing estates

## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 7 Wyke

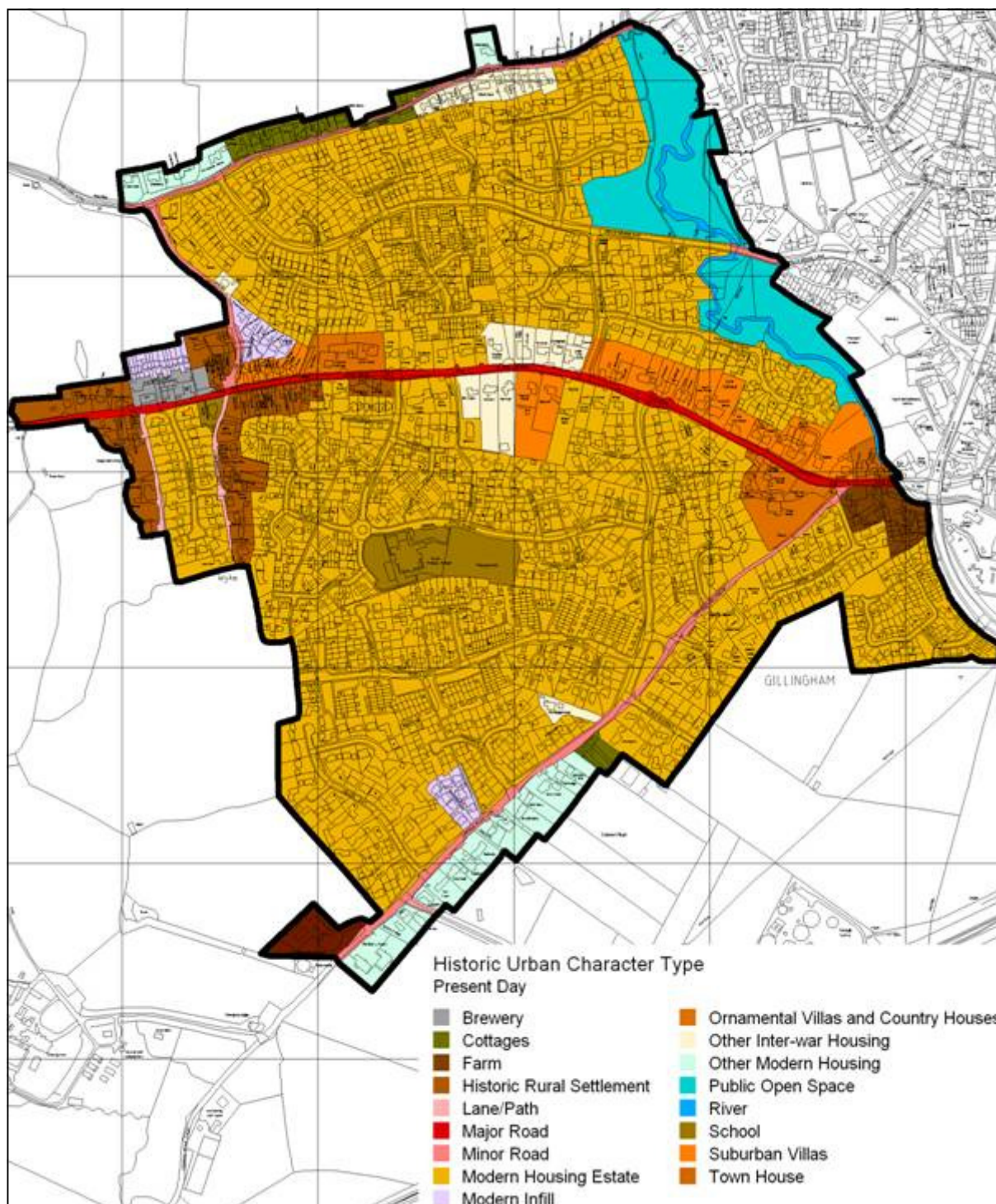


Figure 91: Map of Historic Urban Character Area 7, showing current historic urban character type.



## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 7

### Structure of Character Area

#### **Overview**

This area comprises the western suburb of the town of Gillingham. It sits between the historic rural settlement of Wyke and the town centre of Gillingham. Wyke Road (the modern B3081 to Wincanton) is the main axial route through the area. Large modern housing estates have developed to the north and south of it, behind the historic street frontage. The area is bounded to the north by Wavering Lane and to the South by Common Mead Lane.

#### **Topography and Geology**

The character area lies to the west of the Upper Stour. Essentially the land rises gently from the lowest point, 72m above sea level, at Wyke Bridge in the east to Wyke Village in the west at approximately 90m. The highest point of the area is at Wyke Primary school at just over 90m. The geology comprises Kimmeridge Clay, with Corallian Limestone at the western tip of the area.

#### **Urban Structure**

Four historic roads or lanes radiated out from the centre of Gillingham through this character area: Common Mead Lane, Wyke Road, Rolls Bridge Lane and Wavering Lane. Wyke Road forms the major route through the area. There is a discontinuous ribbon of rectilinear plots of differing shapes and sizes along its length and also some ribbon development of short rectilinear plots along Wavering Lane. Between the historic lanes are a series of curvilinear roads which link them together and give access to the extensive areas of suburban housing estates throughout the area with their complex curvilinear dendritic arrangements of local access roads and culs-de-sac.

#### **Present Character**

Figure 91 shows the present day historic urban character types. The area is dominated by Modern Housing Estates, with other character types only present around the fringes of the area or along the axial Wyke Road. The northern fringe, along Wavering Lane, comprises Cottages, Inter-war Housing and large modern detached housing. The eastern fringe comprises the river Stour and its meadows, now Public Open Space. The southern fringe along Common Mead lane comprises a few 19<sup>th</sup> century Cottages, isolated Inter-war Housing, Modern Infill, a Nursing Home and other modern housing. Wyke Road has the site of Chantry Farm at its eastern end together with a pair of early 18<sup>th</sup> century Town

Houses and the late 18<sup>th</sup> century villa, Knapp House. The Cold Harbour area of town lies to the west and comprises Suburban Villas (Figure 92) in a ribbon development dating from the late 18<sup>th</sup> century in the east to the early 20<sup>th</sup> century in the west, culminating in inter-war detached housing. The Historic Rural Settlement of Wyke lies at the extreme western end of Wyke Road and includes the site of the Wyke Brewery, Suburban Villas, an old school house and the 19<sup>th</sup> century villa, Wyke House, as well as patches of Modern Infill. The modern Wyke Primary School occupies the central part of the Common Mead estate.

#### **Time Depth**

The network of roads and lanes are the earliest elements of this area. Common Mead Lane may be Iron Age or Roman in date. Wyke is likely to represent one of the manors listed under the name of Gillingham in Domesday and Chantry Farm is the site of a medieval farm, established in 1331. The site of the farm was developed for housing during the early 21<sup>st</sup> century, although some of the original buildings have been retained. The housing along Wyke Road probably dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century onwards, and the brewery was also established in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. The suburban ribbon development of suburban villas and other inter-war housing dates from the late 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century. Wavering Lane had an almost continuous development of cottages and inter-war detached houses by the mid 20<sup>th</sup> century. The shape of the plots in which the houses were built suggests that they had been enclosed from a former roadside common, possibly from the 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries on a piecemeal basis. There are some small areas of housing estate development in the post-war period but the main period of suburban housing estate expansion starts in the 1970s in the Common Mead Lane area and has continued into the early 21<sup>st</sup> century.

#### **Settlement Pattern and Streetscape**

The historic settlement of Wyke originally comprised three rows of cottages arranged around a central rectangular green, which has been infilled with a modern housing estate. Ribbon development along Wyke Road and along Wavering Road, comprises detached or semi-detached houses either on or set back slightly from the street frontage. Modern housing estates arranged around curvilinear culs-de sac dominate the remainder of the character area.

## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 7 Built Character

### **Building types**

The majority of buildings in this area are post-war and modern suburban estate houses. There is also a range of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century buildings ranging from the ornamental Knapp House to the 19<sup>th</sup> century industrial Wyke Brewery building (Figure 13) and also including 18<sup>th</sup> century town houses and vernacular stone cottages and farm buildings along Wyke Road, Common Mead Lane and Wavering Road. There are 19<sup>th</sup> century semi-detached suburban villas along Wyke Road and a 19<sup>th</sup> century school house opposite the brewery in Wyke (Figure 26).

Twentieth century suburban houses include inter-war detached bungalows typical of the period. There are detached and semi-detached bungalows in the 1970s housing estates of Common Mead Lane. Later 20<sup>th</sup> and early 21<sup>st</sup> century housing estates at the northern end of the Wyke character area comprise a variety of smaller detached, semi-detached and short terraced houses in smaller plots.

### **Building Materials.**

The 18<sup>th</sup> century houses Little Chantry, Folly's End and Old Toll House are built in coursed rubble with tiled roofs. Knapp House has ashlar and rubble walls with a slate roof. Brewery House in Wyke is rendered with a tiled roof. Wyke Brewery is built in coursed squared rubble with a tiled roof and ashlar dressings. Later 19<sup>th</sup> century suburban villas and terraces are of local Gillingham brick. The inter-war houses are mainly rendered brick with slate roofs. Modern housing uses more non-local materials.

### **Key Buildings**

*17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century vernacular houses:* Chantry Farm, Old Toll House, Wyke Road; Thistledown Cottage, Wavering Road;

*18<sup>th</sup> century town houses and villas:* Knapp House, Wyke House, Brewery House, Folly's End, Little Chantry, Wyke Road.

*19<sup>th</sup> century industrial and community buildings:* Wyke Brewery, The Old School House, Wyke Road



Figure 92: Cold Harbour suburban villas, Wyke Road.



Figure 93: Inter-war housing, Wavering Lane.



Figure 94: View of 1970s Bungalows, Juniper Gardens, off Common Mead Lane.



Figure 95: Old Toll House, Wyke Road.



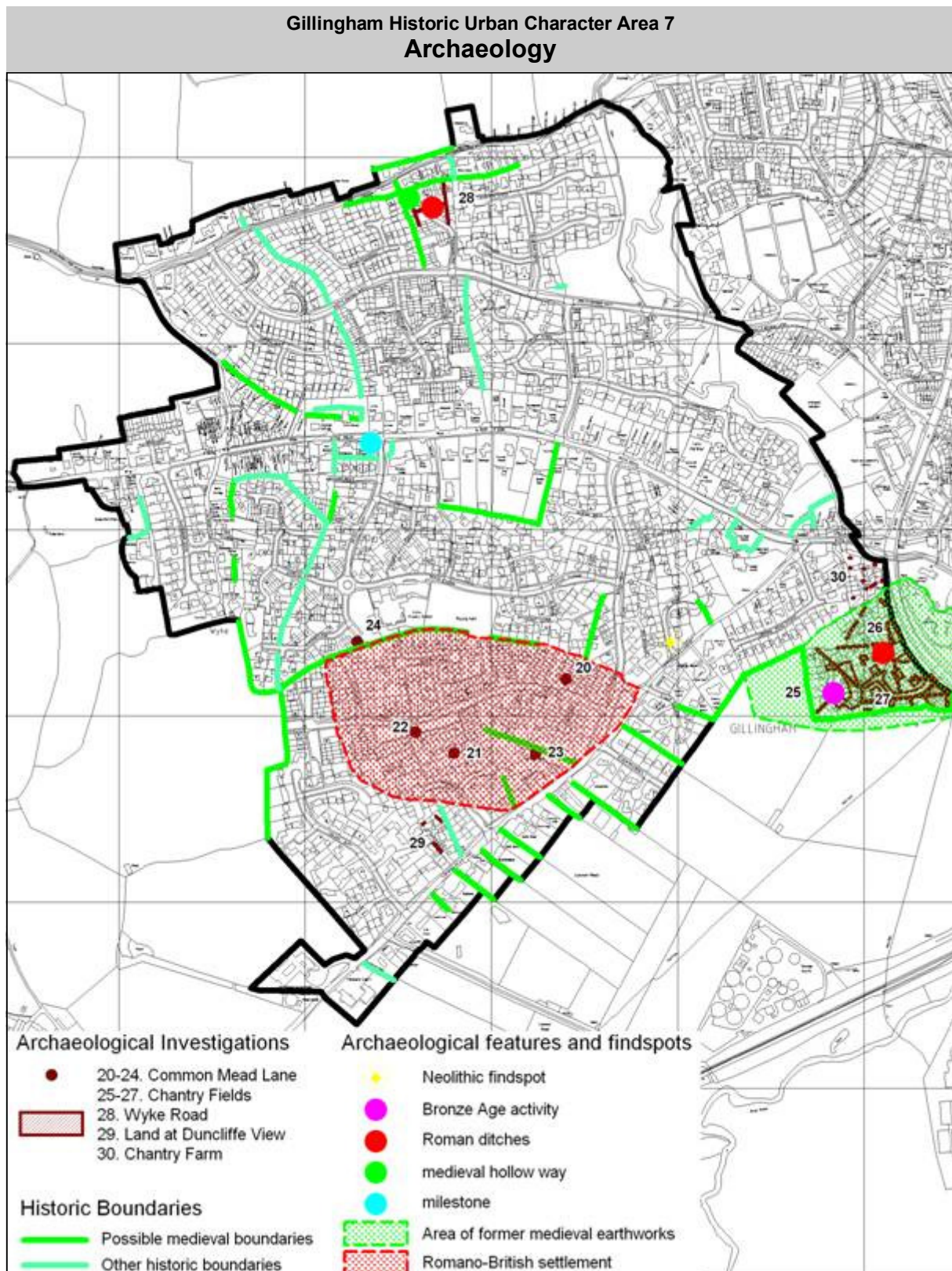


Figure 96: Archaeological investigations in Historic Urban Character Area 7.

**Archaeological Investigations**

Eleven archaeological investigations have been undertaken in this character area (Figure 96; Appendix 3, nos 20-30). This work has been focused primarily in two areas at Common

Mead Lane and at Chantry Fields.

The Shaftesbury and District Archaeological Society conducted excavations on the site of an extensive Romano-British settlement along Common Mead Lane in advance of housing



## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 7 Archaeology

development. The excavations have indicated that occupation probably started in the late Iron Age and continued into the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD (Figure 96 nos 20-24).

The Chantry Fields investigations (Figure 96 nos 25-27) revealed evidence for Bronze Age activity and for extensive medieval features and earthworks relating to the former medieval suburb which lay just to the east of this area on the Waitrose site (Appendix 3, no 10). Other peripheral medieval features were found during an evaluation at Chantry Farm immediately to the north (Figure 96 no 30).

Investigations have also taken place in two other areas. At the northern end of the area Romano-British ditches and a possible medieval hollow way were found during an evaluation off Rolls Bridge Way (Figure 96 no 28). In the southern part of the area, an evaluation at Duncliffe View revealed no significant archaeology (Figure 96 no 29).

### **Archaeological Character**

The archaeological character of this area is dominated by two important settlement sites from two different periods. The Romano-British settlement at Common Mead Lane was first discovered by chance during drainage work in 1869. The approximate extent of the site has been revealed through a number of small rescue excavations undertaken by members of the Shaftesbury and District Archaeological Group (SDAG) during the development of the Common Mead housing estate in the 1970s and 80s. Unfortunately the nature of the excavations, conducted under difficult conditions, means that we still understand very little about the nature of the settlement there,

except that it seems to have been occupied from the Late Iron Age and throughout the Romano-British period.

The medieval settlement at Chantry Fields is better understood. Well-preserved earthworks have been largely destroyed by development, although a record of their nature and extent from an earthwork survey shows that they were the remains of a medieval suburb under the site of the modern Waitrose supermarket and the associated gardens and paddocks. It is the latter aspect of the settlement which lies within this character area. Other investigations have revealed isolated ditches and hollow ways of Roman and medieval date, lying outside the main settlement areas but revealing an intensively used landscape divided into tracks and fields throughout the last two millennia.

There have also been isolated finds of prehistoric material, including a polished Neolithic flint axe near Common Mead Lane, slight evidence for Bronze Age activity in the southwestern part of Chantry Fields, and Late Iron Age material associated with the Common Mead Lane Roman settlement.

There is an 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century milestone on Wyke Road.

A small number of historic boundaries are marked on Figure 96. These are the remnants of the edge of the medieval roadside Commons on Wavering Lane and Wyke Road, arable field boundaries close to Common Mead Lane (either medieval or later enclosure boundaries) and later 19<sup>th</sup> century subdivisions.



Figure 97: Milford House (formerly Brewery House), Wyke Road.



Figure 98: Wyke House, Wyke Road.

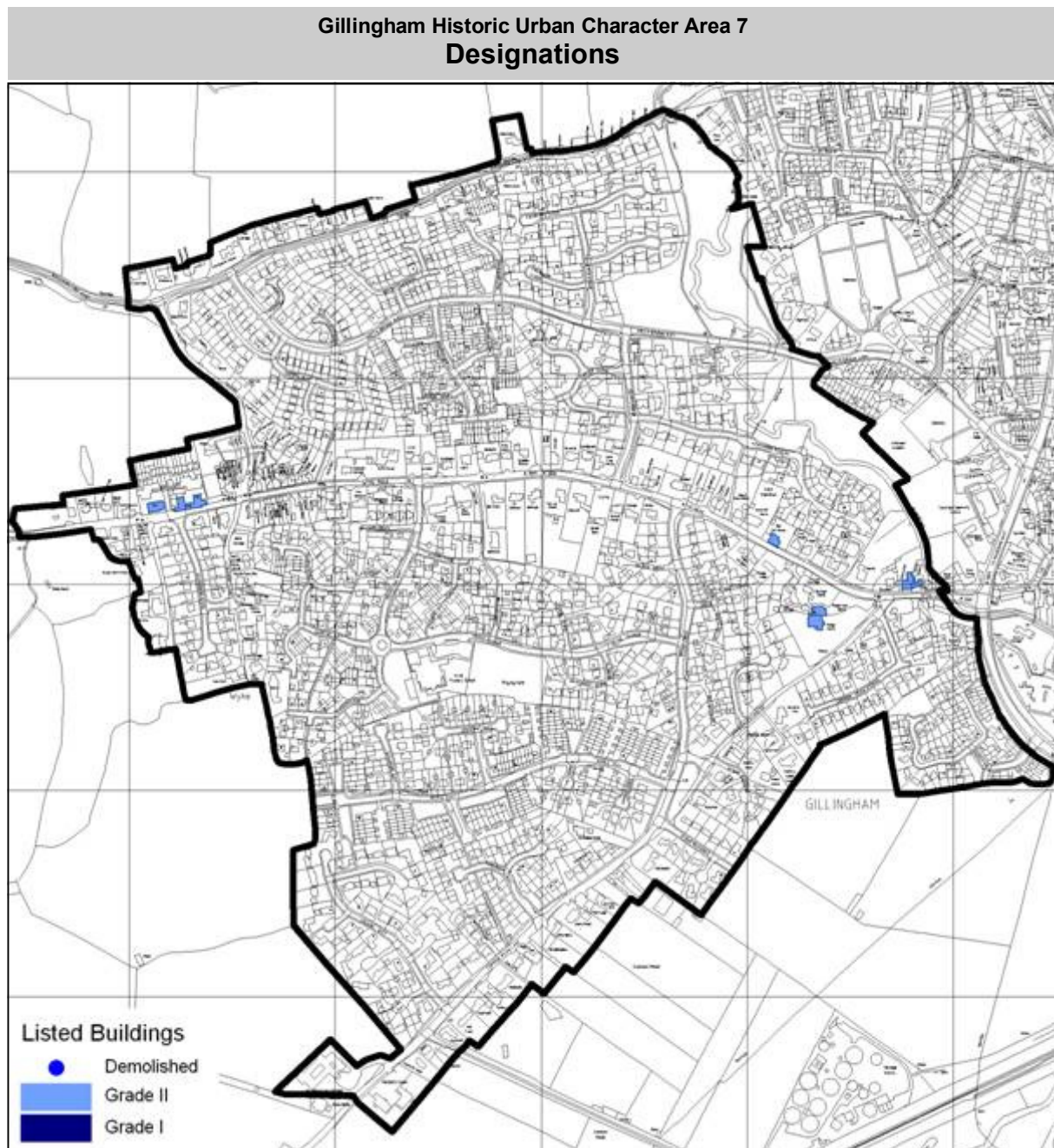


Figure 99: Listed Buildings in Historic Urban Character Area 7.

**Listed Buildings**

There are six Listed Buildings in the Character Area, all Grade II and all on Wyke Road.

**Conservation Areas**

The western end of the Gillingham Conservation Area lies within this character area (Figure 39).

**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.

## Gillingham Historic Urban Character Area 7 Evaluation

### **Strength of Historic Character**

The strength of character of this area is judged to be **medium**. This represents a combination of a relatively high rating for the historic rural settlement of Wyke and the historic suburb of Cold Harbour, and a low rating for the modern housing estates behind. Both historic foci on Wyke Road contain well preserved groups of stone-built vernacular houses and cottages, as well as larger 18<sup>th</sup> century villas. Furthermore the two foci originate in the medieval period or earlier. The intervening frontage of Wyke Road contains buildings from a variety of periods, although later 20<sup>th</sup> century infill is minimal. The character of the modern housing estates retains little of an historic nature apart from the occasional former field boundary preserved in property boundaries.

### **Sensitivity to Large Scale Development**

The area has a **medium** sensitivity to major change. This sensitivity is particularly high in the immediate vicinity of Wyke village and Cold Harbour. The housing estates on either side are less sensitive, although any work would need to take account of the visual impact on the Wyke Road street frontage, as well as the need to preserve the archaeological record in the Common Mead Lane and Chantry Fields areas.

### **Archaeological Potential**

The archaeological potential of this area is judged to be **high**. There is in particular a high potential for information relating to the Romano-British settlement at Common Mead Lane. Despite the numerous small interventions here, very little is known of the scale and nature of the site. There is also a high potential for the presence of archaeological deposits that will aid a better understanding of the origins of Wyke and the suburb at Cold Harbour. In particular, how they relate to the earlier Roman settlement, their date of origin and economy. It is possible that a closer examination of standing buildings in these areas may reveal medieval elements and that back plots may preserve medieval or Roman pits, boundaries and structures.

Archaeological investigations have also demonstrated the potential for the survival of prehistoric deposits. In particular the only evidence for Neolithic and Bronze Age activity in Gillingham has been recovered from this area.

This area has the potential to provide information which would contribute to Research Questions 1- 4, 6, 10-11 and 16-25 (Part 7).

### **Key Characteristics**

- Medieval settlement of Wyke
- Post-medieval suburb of Cold Harbour
- Historic street frontage on Wyke Road
- Modern housing estates
- Wyke Brewery
- Site of Romano-British settlement