

5.3 Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Cranborne(1800-1913)

5.3.1 Historical Summary

Cranborne seems to have entered a terminal decline as a market town by the late 18th century, following the opening of the Salisbury to Blandford Turnpike Road. It is difficult to be certain of the exact population of the town during the 19th century because it was counted together with the parishes of Alderholt and Verwood until 1894. Desmond Hawkins estimated that the population of the town alone numbered 721 persons in the mid 19th century (Hawkins 1983, 11), and the population of the whole parish of Cranborne (without Alderholt and Verwood) numbered 687 in the 1901 census. These figures seem to confirm the reduced importance of the place during the 19th century. The situation is further attested by the demolition of the market house in 1828 and the cessation of the market by 1841. The two fairs continued a little longer but had been discontinued by 1868. Hutchins recorded that the weaving of ribbons had previously been an important industry in the town, however, by the late 19th century this had disappeared (Hawkins 1983, 11; Hutchins 1868, 375).

The 1831 census reveals that nearly three quarters of the working population in the joint parishes of Cranborne, Alderholt and Verwood were employed in agriculture and a quarter were employed in retail and handicrafts. The small remainder were a mixture of non-agricultural labourers, servants and others. The proximity of extensive woodland to the east in the region of Verwood may account for the high number of craftworkers (hurdle and besom makers for example). A small pottery for coarse earthenware is recorded in Cranborne in the early 19th century (Spoerry and Hart 1988, 10). Occupations recorded in the 1841 census include craftsmen, agricultural labourers, yeomen, tenant farmers, shopkeepers

(butchers, bakers and grocers), dressmakers, tailors, a saddler, a harness maker, cordwainers, a watchmaker, servants and jewellers. The 1844 Tithe maps give further clues to the economy of the town; smith's shops were recorded at Water Street opposite the First School, and on the west side of Wimborne Street; a cooper's shop is marked on the north side of Grugs Lane, close to the junction with Salisbury Street; a carpenter's shop is marked on the south side of Castle Street, west of the entrance to Cranborne Lodge; a hop garden occupied land between Crane Street and Penny's Lane and a malthouse was located on the north side of Castle Street, opposite the entrance to Cranborne Lodge.

The heavy reliance upon agriculture in the economy of Cranborne probably explains its further decline during the later 19th century following parliamentary enclosures and the mechanisation of the agricultural process. The later 19th century was certainly a period of agricultural depression but November 1830 was also a time of unrest in many rural areas of Dorset. Disturbances forming part of the wider movement of *Swing riots* are recorded for the surrounding villages at that time (Kerr 1975), although the mob were turned away from Cranborne itself by the Earl of Salisbury and a party of 40 men on horse (Mackenzie 1987, 95-7).

A Wesleyan chapel was founded in Cranborne in the 1820s and this may have been the earlier chapel reported to have stood by the stream in Cranborne prior to the construction of Cranborne Wesleyan Methodist Chapel on Swan Street in 1847. The primitive Methodist Ebenezer Chapel at 23 Salisbury Street was built in 1888 (Habgood & Moore 1950; Mackenzie 1983, 88). Cranborne Grammar school had ceased by 1841 (Hawkins 1983, 11). A National School was founded here in



Figure 19: View of the River Crane emerging from its culvert beneath Crane Street .



Figure 20: View of Cranborne CE VA First School, Water Street.

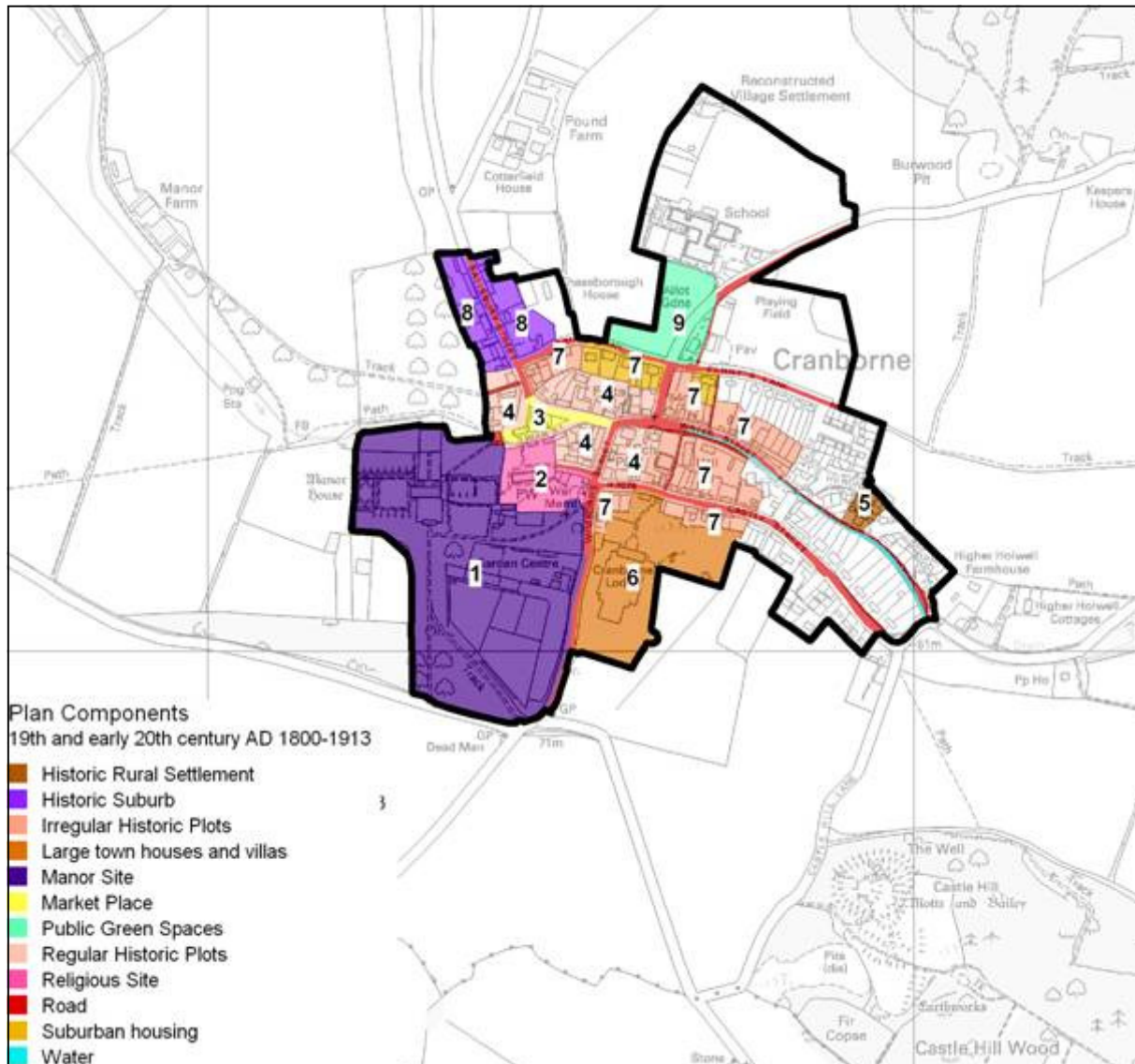


Figure 21: Cranborne 19th and early 20th century Town Plan Components.

1828 for boys and girls. It became a Cranborne Primary school in 1963 and in 1973, Cranborne CE VA First School.

The Cranborne Poor Law Union was formed in 1835 and comprised 14 parishes. It became the Wimborne and Cranborne Union in 1836. Cranborne lunatic asylum was situated in Salisbury Street in 1841 (Hawkins 1983, 14; Mackenzie 1987, 103). In 1872 the town had a post office, two inns, a Wesleyan chapel, and an alms-house (Wilson 1872).

The Poole, Wimborne and Cranborne Turnpike Trust was established in 1755-6. This first act allowed for the turnpiking of the road from Poole to Cranborne via Wimborne, entering the town along Wimborne Street. Another act of 1817-18 provided for the turnpiking of the road north from Cranborne to Salisbury (Salisbury Street) and a road west towards Sixpenny

Handley south of Bottlebush Down. However, a later act dated 1835-6 stated that these last two roads had never been repaired and allowed for their abandonment. A second trust, The Cranborne Chase and New Forest Trust, was established in 1832 and this turnpiked the current road across Bottlebush Down from Handley to Cranborne (Good 1966, 127-9, 146).

The River Crane (Figure 19) remained open through the entire town until 1841 when it was culverted (Mackenzie 1987, 106).

5.3.2 Town Layout

The 19th century street pattern of Cranborne was almost identical to that of the 18th century. Penny's Lane is not depicted on the Tithe map of 1844, although it does appear on the 1st edi-

tion Ordnance Survey 25-inch map in the late 19th century. There was a middle row of three houses in Swan Lane shown on the Tithe map. The course of Manor Drove was altered, being diverted to the north of the toll house on Wimborne Street. A new entrance was created to the south of the manor from the direction of Deadman's Corner, along a tree-lined avenue. The grounds of the manor were also extended to the north and south at this time and formal gardens created to the west of the house. There were developments to the east of the town centre, along Water Street and Dry Street (Castle Street) almost as far as Penny's Farm. These buildings included the new school (Figure 20) and some suburban semi-detached villas. The suburb to the north along Salisbury Street also developed to include a complete line of detached properties on either side of the road.

5.3.3 Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Century Town Plan Components

The main plan components of eighteenth and nineteenth century town are shown on Figure 21 and are listed below.

1. *Cranborne Manor*. During the early 19th century the manor house had been divided into two farmhouses. However, in 1863 a programme of repairs and alterations preceded the house being reinstated as the residence of the Marquess of Salisbury. Many garden features such as walls and gatehouses date from this period. Manor Farm had been established to the south of the church, close to the site of the former Priory.

2. *Cranborne Abbey and Priory*. The Church was restored in 1854 and chancel and vestry rebuilt in 1875 (Pitfield 1981). The vicarage was built in the early 19th century in a loosely Jacobean style in brick with a tile roof (Figure 22).

3. *Market Place*. The 17th century market house was pulled down *circa* 1828.

4. *High Street*. There appears to have been little change to the High Street plots between the 18th and 19th centuries.

5. *Penny's Farm*. The current Penny's Farm House seems to date from the early 20th century (Figure 23), but is built on the site of a 19th century or earlier building of the same name.

6. *Cranborne Lodge*. Extensions on the NE side date from the 19th century, as do the construction of the coach house and stables at the north gate. The northern part of the area, along Castle and Wimborne Streets contained a mixture of housing and industry, including two saw

pits on Wimborne Street and a carpenter's shop on Castle Street as well as a farmyard called Barton Yard.

7. *Grugs Lane, Water Street and Castle Street*.

This area continued to develop, particularly along Water Street and Dry Street (Castle Street) during the 19th century.

8. *Salisbury Street*. This suburb began in the late 18th century but it was during the early 19th century that the majority of the large detached villas were constructed. The area also included a Primitive Methodist chapel and Police Station on the west side of Salisbury Street.

9. *Grugs Lane Allotments*. Allotment gardens were established on the north side of Grugs Lane during the late 19th century in a field formerly known as Pig Oak. A *Ricardo Pig* is listed in the 1327 Lay Subsidy Roll for Cranborne (Rumble 1980, 91).



Figure 22: View of Cranborne Vicarage from churchyard.



Figure 23: Penny's Farm House.

5.4 Later 20th Century Cranborne (1914- Present Day)

5.4.1 Historical Summary

The decline of Cranborne continued into the 20th century. It can no longer be considered a town, but rather a large village. There has been some expansion to the east, where the settlement has developed into something of a dormitory village. It has remained a quiet place, largely hidden from view and attracting very few visitors. The population of the parish was 702 in 1911 and fell to a low of just over 500 in 1971. The current population of the parish stands at 779. Thus, although the modern area of Cranborne has expanded beyond its medieval limits, the population is possibly smaller today than during the medieval period.

The inter-war period following the First World War saw the beginnings of suburban development along Penny's Lane, but it was in the post-war period that the main suburban expansion took place to the east of the town. Initially development was along Castle Street and in the 1980s and 1990s the estates of Penny's Mead and Friday's Heron were built to the north of the river Crane. Cranborne Middle School and Cranborne Recreation Ground were built to the north of the town in the 1960s.

5.4.2 Town Layout

The major developments in the town during the twentieth century include expansion to the east comprising modern housing estates arranged in culs-de sac and the construction of the Middle School and recreation ground to the north of the town. This latter development also comprised the straightening of the road to Bellow's Cross.



Figure 24: Water Street with later 20th century housing in foreground and Edwardian houses behind.

5.4.3 Later Twentieth century Town Plan Components

The main plan components of the twentieth century town are shown on Figure 26 and are listed below.

1. *Cranborne Manor*. A garden centre was established in the walled garden (Figure 34).
2. *Cranborne Abbey and Priory*. No known change during this period.
3. *Market Place*. Some buildings visible on 19th century maps have been cleared from the market place, giving it a slightly more open feel at its eastern end.
4. *High Street*. There appears to have been little change to the High Street Plots between the 19th and 20th centuries.
5. *Penny's Farm*. The area of Penny's Farm and Penny's Mead was developed for housing during the 1980s and 1990s. Penny's Farm House was retained and incorporated into the development.
6. *Cranborne Lodge*. No known change.
7. *Grugs Lane, Water Street and Castle Street*. Development continued in this area with the construction of semi-detached brick houses in vacant plots.
8. *Salisbury Street*. The only major change to this suburb was the construction of Chaseborough House during the 20th century.
9. *Grugs Lane Recreation Area*. Public green space was extended to the north of the town through the construction of the playing field, pavilion and bowling green. The area of the Grugs Lane allotments has been reduced and a new road and surgery constructed there.



Figure 25: Friday's Heron, a 1990s housing development.

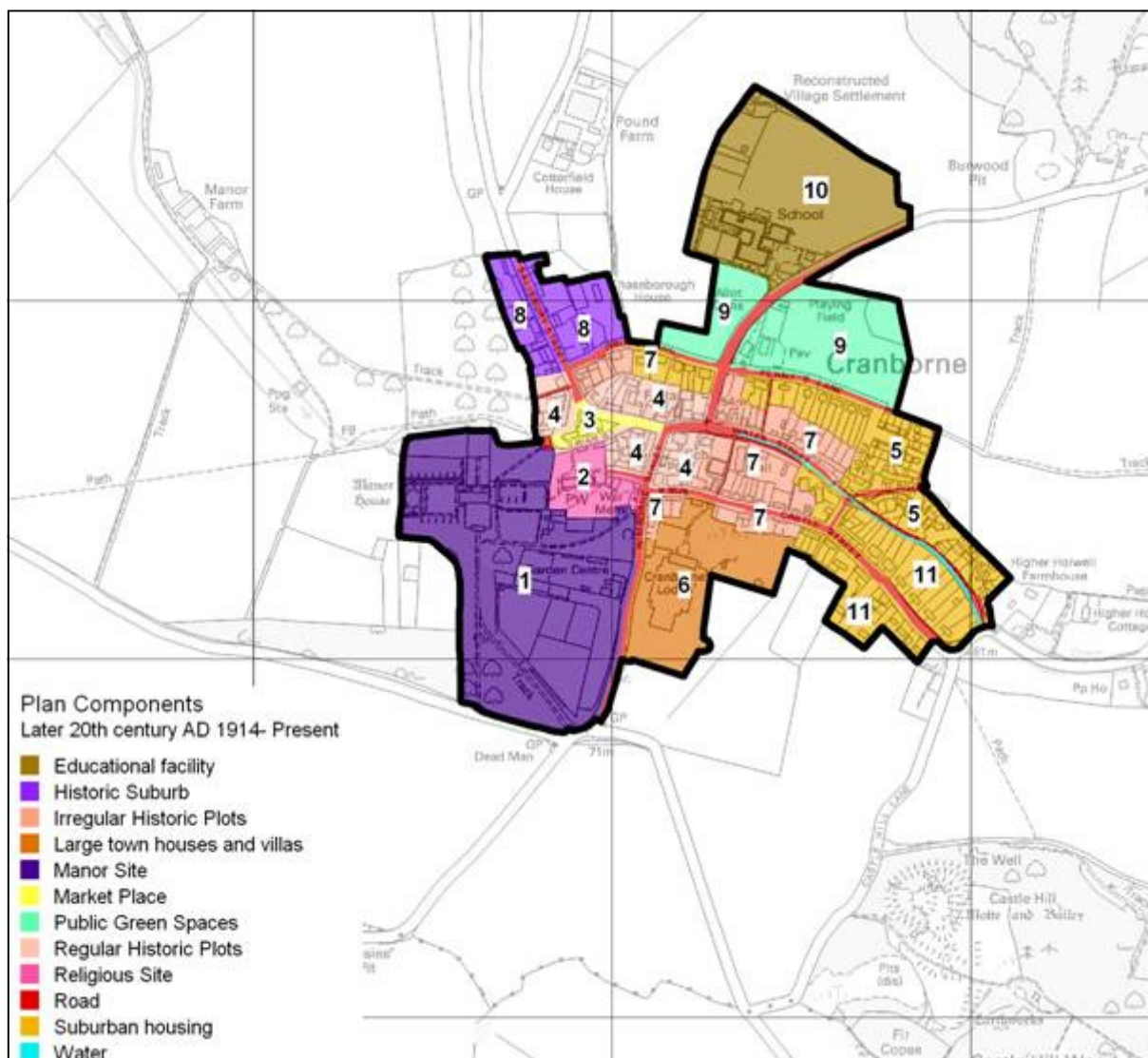


Figure 26: Cranborne later 20th century Town Plan Components.

10. *Cranborne Middle School*. Opened in 1961 at the northern edge of the town, beyond the recreation ground (Figure 27). It has extensive playing fields part of which incorporates the Ancient Technology Centre.

11. *Castle Street Modern Housing*. The eastern end of Castle Street was developed as semi-detached and detached brick suburban houses during the mid 20th century. Castle Close was constructed later on the site of a former egg packing factory.



Figure 27: View of Cranborne Middle School from the Mick Loader Recreation Ground .