

WEST DORSET SITES

LCA22 BRIT VALLEY

Location & landscape setting

This area runs for 15kms from the sea, at West Bay, up the flood plain of the River Brit, through Bridport, to Netherbury and Beaminster.

It is a contrasting corridor of developed coastline; reedy lower reaches of the river; the large town of Bridport (with distinctive green spaces along the river running into developed areas); an inland landscape of rounded hills; and Beaminster, attractively set in a bowl of higher hills, below Buckham Down and White Sheet Hill. The mature parkland of Parnham House abuts Beaminster on its southern edge and forms a fine entry into the town.

Settlement form & pattern:

- The corridor contains the largest settlement in the area, Bridport, which grew as a route centre, market and industrial town (notably for rope, cordage and net production); it is nucleated around a former market place and shows evidence of a Saxon and medieval planned layout;
- West Bay developed from a small fishing hamlet to the port for Bridport and, from the late 19th-century, as a small pleasure resort; it is still nucleated around the Harbour but has spread north on the West Bay Road and up onto West Cliff;



Pymore, former mill complex

Parnham House;

- Pymore, to the north of Bridport, was a self-contained industrial complex, related to the processing of flax and the manufacturing of rope and net and is nucleated around its mill;
- Netherbury is a small, nucleated village at a minor route centre on a river crossing;
- Beaminster is a small market town, nucleated around its Square, again at a route centre of the main north-south road (A3066) and the east-west B3163 and several minor routes to the surrounding area; it has grown along several road ribbons but is constrained to the south by the proximity of

Edges of settlements are influenced by historical and physical factors. The two smaller settlements, Pymore and Netherbury, have well defined edges. The larger ones have tended to spread over their adjoining landscapes: West Bay has very conspicuous adjuncts at West Cliff and in the form of a large camping and caravan site. The southern part of Bridport has extended along West Bay Road to leave only a small undeveloped gap. East Road has a pre-War ribbon, as far as Lee Lane; the NE spur along St Andrew's Rd extends as far as Gore Cross. To the west, modern development has gone to the slopes of Skilling Hill; there is a large suburb east of Sea Road South, north of Bothenhampton, which compromises the impact of Hyde Hill as a landscape feature. The northern edge tends to be neater, with little extension beyond the historic core of Allington or the Victorian ribbon of Victoria Grove.



Bridport is surrounded by flood plains and high hills, which have limited development, apart from the Hyde Hill and Skilling Hill areas. Where the topographical elements are respected, the edges are clear and well defined.



Beaminster is closely defined by river channels and Parnham to the south; there are obvious ribbons along the radial roads to the west, north and east but there are two wedges of green space, at Manor Park and the playing fields, either side of Fleet St, which prevent several ribbons from coalescing.

Important buildings & groups are:

- The historic core of Bridport, with a wide range of assets, notably the plan form, medieval Parish Church, Georgian Town Hall, large groups of Georgian town houses in South and East Streets, substantial remnants of the rope and net industries and pleasant Victorian suburbs at St Andrew's Road and North and West Allington;
- A mixed group of buildings, mainly 19th-century, around West Bay harbour, with some stone warehouses and notable Arts and Crafts examples;
- Pymore, a good example of a purpose-built industrial village, with remains of a flax mill, school and workers' housing;
- A grouping of medieval church, cottages and river crossing at Netherbury, set in an attractive landscape, with some particularly fine trees;
- The fine group of buildings around The Square in Beaminster, along with the progression down Church St and up North and Fleet Streets. The Parish

Church's west tower is of superlative quality; the Manor House, a number of other important "gentry" houses and details like segmental bowed shop fronts all contribute to a historic core of consistent quality:

- The 16th and early 19th-century Parnham House, together with its ornamental gardens and wider landscaped grounds.



Key townscape characteristics are:

- The use of a characteristic range of local materials, notably two limestones (see below), render and brick and sett paving;
- In the larger towns, and parts of Netherbury, assemblages of flat facades to the edge of the highway or pavement, up to three storeys in height and relying on proportion of openings to wall and minimal decoration (fanlights, cornices,

plat bands, ironwork) for their effect; Bridport, in particular, has few busy skylines, dormers or displays of chimney stacks;

- An industrial style, based on three or four storey stone mills and sheds, with minimal decoration, regular patterns of openings and window to wall proportions;
- In West Bay, a maritime or seaside style, characterised by decorative details such as balconies, tile hanging, bay windows, the use of render and definite “Art Nouveau” touches;
- Strong boundary walls, of stone or brick;
- In Bridport, through passages from the main street to back land, in long, thin plots, with arched entrance openings and, often, ranges of buildings at right-angles to the street; some passages give access to riverside and open space;
- The creation of informal spaces in linear streets by curving building frontages opening out the street space or association with public buildings or structures;
- The importance of views out of streets and spaces to the sea or the surrounding countryside.

Types are very varied, including medieval churches; an unspoilt Regency example at



North Allington; Nonconformist chapels (including a simple Friends Meeting House in Bridport); a Georgian town hall; a major Tudor house, with Nash alterations in Parnham; Georgian/Regency town houses in Bridport and Beaminster; and smaller cottages in Bridport suburbs and Netherbury. The area has an important industrial heritage, with the harbour and warehouses at West Bay, multi-storey warehouses and mills, rope sheds and walks, water mills and workers’ housing at Bridport and Pymore. There is also an attractive former railway station, built by the Bridport Railway, at West Bay.



Materials are rich and varied. The area benefits from two usable building stones, Inferior Oolite (an orange/cream limestone, capable of being worked into ashlar, from local quarries like Mangerton and Horn Park) and Forest Marble (grey/blue, harder and quarried at Bothenhampton, thus known as “Baunton” stone). The latter was used for walling and for stone sett paving. There is some excellent paving in Bridport alleys, notably Gundry Lane. The two stones often appear in combination, with Inferior Oolite above a plinth of Baunton stone.

Bricks from local sources were introduced about 1720, with seven brickyards in and around Bridport. Many Bridport and Beaminster buildings display high quality red/orange brickwork, with “rubbed and gauged” window and door lintels. Brick also appears in combination with ashlar stone (quoins, keystones) and rubble. Victorian brickwork may employ polychromatic colours and patterning.



There is a strong element of smooth stucco, in Regency architecture, with Greek detailing, in the east, west and southern approaches to Bridport. Tile and slate hanging also appears in side elevations and Victorian and Arts and Crafts buildings in West Bay.

Roofs are predominantly of slate and plain tiles in the more urban areas and thatch is evident in Beaminster and Netherbury.

There is some good architectural ironwork in West bay, Bridport and Beaminster, some originating from the five foundries known in Bridport.



Issues include the wirescapes and underused warehouses at West Bay and the opportunities that will arise from the current regeneration initiatives; the uncertainty over future building management and planning in the South West Quadrant at Bridport; the wirescape at North Allington and Netherbury; the poor-quality repairs and alterations to a number of Listed Buildings and to unlisted but good quality buildings; and the present use of The Square, at Beaminster, as a car park, overwhelming the Victorian memorial and diminishing the important space, which could, with some redesign, accommodate cars and visual amenity.

LCA23 POWERSTOCK HILLS

Location & landscape setting

The area extends from Lewesdon Hill to Stoke Abbott and the SW edge of Beaminster, with a gap created by the Brit Valley, and continues from the SE edge of Beaminster south to West Milton and Powerstock and to Loders and the A35, east of Bridport.

The landscape consists of rounded, steep hills, cleft by deep valleys, drained by the Rivers Asker and Mangerton. The villages are set mainly on valley sides, above the watercourses, with some development on the hilltops. Stoke Abbott is a spring-line settlement, on a narrow valley floor. Mapperton Manor is set on a level spur, with its superb gardens in terraces down a steep slope.

Settlement form & pattern:

- There are a number of small-to-medium sized villages in the area. Stoke Abbott is nuclear in form, set along a double right angled turn of a minor lane from Beaminster towards the B3162 Brit valley route;
- West Milton and Powerstock are sited on the Mangerton River and are both nucleated around a central focal point but with ribbons of development following route ways and the topography of the surrounding area;
- Loders is a linear village, with houses built along the foot of a steep hill and above the River Asker. Yonderover is a smaller linear offshoot, to the south;
- Mapperton Manor, church and estate buildings are an isolated group in the north of the area, on a lane south of the B3163. It represents the site of a former, deserted village.



Edges in Powerstock and West Milton are defined clearly by the river and the steeper slopes but trees and undeveloped areas blur the transition from buildings to countryside, creating an informal, loose texture. Yonderover and Loders are both defined by steep slopes and a watercourse. The former railway bridge separates the two settlements. New developments are reasonably well related to the older elements and, although Loders is long and linear, it is firmly stopped by the

bridge at its eastern end and the parish Church and Loders Court, at the western end.

Stoke Abbott is very closely dominated by the mass of Waddon and Lewesdon Hills and its edges are consequently well defined. The NE approach, for example, is a deep, narrow gorge that severely constrains development.

Important buildings & groups are:

- The Grade 1 16th/17th-century Mapperton Manor House, grouped with its church and two early Classical stable blocks and garden walls and gate piers and early 20th-century terraced gardens;
- The group of the elevated Parish Church, its retaining wall and churchyard Yews, and cottages around the crossroads in Powerstock, including Glebe House and The Old Vicarage, all set within a rolling, well-treed landscape;
- Small groups of 17th/18th-century houses and cottages, set amongst fine trees and a pleasant river crossing in West Milton;
- The main street of Loders, with an almost continuous run of good buildings on both sides, up to the impressive Parish Church, Loders Court and superb trees;
- Stoke Abbott's unspoilt sequence of Parish Church, set by a large stone and thatch farmhouse, smaller cottages and larger houses (notably Lower Farm, on one of the right angled bends and Stoke Farm, to the south of the Church).



Key townscape characteristics are:

- The use of orange-hued Inferior Oolite building stone;
- The importance of strong boundaries such as stone walls and hedges;
- The grouping of rows of terraced properties, of differing sizes and details, on or near to the highway edge;
- The presence of native trees within gardens or on boundaries and the avoidance of exotic hedging species.

Building types & materials

Types include medieval churches (Mapperton's is closely related to the Manor House and Loders has some 12th-century details that may relate to the Alien Priory cell founded here); large houses, notably Mapperton; 17th/18th-century "gentry" and larger farm houses; a wide range of smaller cottages; Victorian village schools; public houses; and a mill, at Loders.



slate.

Materials include Inferior Oolite rubble, from local quarries such as Mangerton, Waddon Hill and Chiselcombe, near Loders Cross, with Inferior Oolite and Ham Hill stone ashlar details on some of the higher status buildings. Brick appears in the 19th-century as window and door lintels. Roofs are of stone tiles (e.g. Mapperton), plain tiles, pantiles (Double Roman and a flatter, angular type), thatch and

Modern infill has used brick and render, artificial stone and Marnhull Corallian limestone has been used as a substitute for Inferior Oolite.

Issues are apparently derelict buildings in Powerstock (The Old School House); wires at Yonderover, Loders and West Milton.

LCA24 MARSHWOOD VALE SLOPES

Location & landscape setting

The area consists of a hollow circle, running along the ring of hills around the Vale, rising up to over 200 metres. The Slopes include Old Warren Hill, to the NW of Bridport, the large village of Whitchurch Canonicorum and, to the west of the valley of the River Char, the landmarks of Coney's and Lambert's Castle and a large arc to the south of the B3164 Birdsmoorgate to Broadwindsor road and to the west of the B3162 Broadwindsor to Bridport road.

The setting has a complex geology and the landscape is comprised of dramatic slopes, particularly on the western and northern parts. There are extensive views into the undulating lower ground of the Vale.

Settlement form & pattern: there are no large settlements on the generally steep slopes. There is the hamlet of Ryall, mainly a loose scatter of modern housing, set in a network of lanes, on the slopes of Hardown Hill. It has merged with the northern part of Morcombelake.

On the eastern rim, there is a very small ribbon of modern housing off the B3162.

Edges tend to be poorly defined, with Ryall's individual plots being set along lanes in an apparently random manner. The mature trees and sunken lanes have softened the impact of development in the landscape.

There are no apparent **important buildings & groups or key townscape elements**. **Building types** are mainly modern detached houses and bungalows. **Materials** are predominantly brick, artificial stone and render, with concrete tiled roofs.

LCA25 MARSHWOOD VALE

Location & landscape setting

The area lies to the north of the A35, from Wootton Cross, east to Whitchurch Canonorum and to the NW edge of Bridport; thence northwards, parallel to the B3162, around Salway Ash, to Pilsdon, Bettiscombe and southwards, under Lambert's and Coney's Castles towards Wootton Fitzpaine.

The undulating landscape of the Vale is drained by the River Char to the SW. A network of lanes crosses the basin and up the sides of the surrounding hills. These form a dramatic backdrop on three sides, particularly the north and west.

Settlement form & pattern:

- There are a series of villages set on the transition between the Vale and the surrounding hills, possibly on spring lines and above the sodden clays of the Vale. They lie at the confluence of lanes or where routes climb up the slopes out of the Vale. The central area is surprisingly empty of settlements, apart from individual farms and the small junction hamlet of Shave Cross;
- The largest settlement is Whitchurch Canonorum, a long, linear single lane along the contours of a spur overlooking the River Char. There is a single fork at the eastern end, with two ribbons of development, the southern one running into the dispersed buildings of Ryall;
- On the northern rim lie Bettiscombe and Pilsdon, two very small hamlets comprised of manor house, church and a few cottages;
- There are scattered farms evenly distributed across the vale, on or near to the network of lanes.

Edges are only an issue in Whitchurch Canonorum. It has few hard boundaries, with gardens of differing sizes running out into a landscape of small fields and tall hedges. Mature trees help to soften edges and the only exception is the ribbon of former local authority houses on the Morcombelake road, which is poorly related to the rest of the village.

Important buildings & groups are:

- The outstanding 13th and 15th-century Parish Church and the wider village of Whitchurch Canonorum, with pleasant groups of buildings, a framework of walls, hedges and banks and a mass of mature trees that help to soften, screen and frame individual buildings;

- Bettiscombe Manor, its outbuildings and garden walls;
- Pilsdon Manor and the adjacent Parish Church.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- In Whitchurch Canonorum, buildings set in gardens, with few hard boundaries;
- Mature trees as a setting and boundary for buildings;
- Loose, informal layouts on curving road lines, with banks and hedges.

Building types & materials

Types include medieval and 19th-century churches, two important 17th/18th-century manor houses; 16th/17th-century farmhouses (including a cruck-framed example in Whitchurch Canonorum); a wider range of 18th-century cottages; and some good late Victorian houses and an inn.

Materials reflect the complex geology of the area, with many Chert buildings, from Hardown Hill, near Morcombelake, where a series of adits ran into the side of the hill. Chert is an Upper Greensand hard material, lighter in colour than flint and less glassy in texture. The Chert cobs were usually split and either roughly laid in substantial amounts of mortar or fitted closely together as hexagonal walling. The better buildings employed Oolitic limestones for dressings. Forest Marble and Junction Bed limestones (from the eastern edge of the Vale) were used for building, particularly for footings, boundary walls and paving. The upper part of the Junction Bed is a distinctive pink and white colour.

The Middle Lias clays produced a decent brick, used, for example, at Bettiscombe Manor. The Marshwood Brick & Tile Works at Mutton Street produced much of the 18th and 19th-century brickwork in Whitchurch Canonorum.

Roofs are thatched, slated and tiled. A flat-sectioned pantile appears in many agricultural buildings.

Issues include a bad wirescape in Whitchurch Canonorum and the intrusive car breakers business near Pilsdon.

LCA26 AXE VALLEY

Location & landscape setting

The area is a long, thin arc, running along the Dorset-Somerset border, from Winyard's Gap westwards to Mosterton and Drimpton and to Chard Junction.

It consists of the meandering course of the River Axe, which rises south of Chedington and flows westwards in a narrow valley, bounded by hills rising to over 200 metres.

Settlement form & pattern:

- There are three villages in the eastern part of the area: Mosterton, Drimpton and Seaborough. Mosterton and Seaborough are sited at bridging points. The former is markedly linear, running along the A3066, Seaborough is a small nucleated settlement, grouped around a staggered crossroads, on a steep hill down to the river. Drimpton is sited on a terrace above the river and it is a minor route centre. The form is nucleated, on a sharp bend of the B3162, where a lane from Netherhay forms a junction;
- The only other settlement is the site of Forde Abbey, south of the river, by a bridge. The Cistercian Abbey had its conventual buildings to the north of the church, whereas they were normally sited to the south, in the standard plan of the Order. The river was used for a water supply, drainage and waste disposal. After the Dissolution, substantial portions of the monastic buildings were incorporated into a large country house.

Edges are important. Mosterton has only one property on the flood plain and has grown markedly to the south, along the main road. Cul-de-sac development, in particular, has created raw edges to the adjacent countryside. Tree and hedge planting would be beneficial. The entrances to the village are also suburban in character, created by modern development and highway design. Seaborough and Drimpton are small and compact and edges are either reinforced by mature trees or are otherwise clearly defined.

Important buildings & groups are:

- Three small groups of buildings in the northern part of Mosterton, related to the Parish Church, the Manor House and Sandiford Farm;
- A particularly attractive group at Seaborough of Victorian Court, Parish Church, lodges to the Court, Manor Farm, cottages, set in mature trees;
- Forde Abbey's superb medieval buildings (former Chapter House, Dormitory, part of the Cloisters and splendid late medieval Abbot's Hall), incorporated into an important mid 17th-century house, all set in a fine landscape.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- For the two nucleated villages, firm boundaries and groups of buildings set amongst mature trees;
- Cottages set on the edge of the highway.

Building types & materials

Types include a major early Classical country house, with major monastic buildings; a large Victorian house; Victorian Parish Churches; large farmhouses and smaller cottages. There are large numbers of modern houses at Mosterton.

Materials include Inferior Oolite ashlar and rubble (from quarries at Whetley Cross and South Perrott), with Ham Hill stone ashlar dressings, Upper Greensand sandstone at Forde Abbey and Chert for humbler buildings and boundary walls,

Roofs are constructed of slate, clay tiles, pantiles and thatch.

Issues are the wirescape at Mosterton, and the bare, open car park at the “Admiral Hood” in the same village

LCA27 HALSTOCK VALE

Location & landscape setting

The area lies to the east of Winyard’s Gap and the A356, south of the Sutton Bingham Reservoir, on the Dorset-Somerset border.

The one village, Halstock, lies in a shallow vale, drained by two north flowing streams that drain into the Reservoir. There are limestone hills to the north and east, Birts Hill being particularly prominent. The Vale has a wealth of mature hedgerow trees and small woodlands.

Settlement form & pattern:

- Halstock is a nucleated settlement that has developed around an offset or staggered crossroads that are marked by a small triangular green, close to a watercourse and in the shelter of the eastern hills. The Parish Church and other community buildings are offset in a separate cluster, NW of the main road settlement. There are modern ribbons along the main road;
- There are small hamlets to the west, at Higher and Lower Halstock Leigh, which consist solely of scatters of houses in individual plots.

Edges: Halstock has some modern developments in its northern part and its southern approach and these do not seem well related to the older core. The latter seems to nestle into the landscape, due to the mature tree planting.

Important buildings & groups are two groups in Halstock, around the Parish Church (with Pugin elements) and around the triangular green on the main road, including Marriots Farm, Halstock House, Bethel House and New Inn Farm.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- A sequence of individual buildings, set along roads, with small yards and front gardens;
- The importance of strong boundaries, with stone or brick walls or hedges with native plant species;
- The value of native trees in green spaces;
- The need to avoid exotic hedging species, particularly in front gardens.



Building types & materials



Types include a medieval church with substantial Victorian rebuilding; larger 17th-century farmhouses; smaller cottages; a converted early 19th-century chapel and a public house.

Materials: there is extensive use of locally quarried brown/gold Forest Marble and a creamier Cornbrash limestone rubble, sometimes used in combination. In the more important buildings, Ham Hill ashlar dressings

appear. Chalk block, or Clunch, is usually rendered and local Oxford Clays have produced brick, often used in combination with the local stone.

Stone tile, clay and pantiles, slate and thatch are used for roofing. Modern development employs brick, render and artificial stone (some very unsympathetic to neighbouring older buildings).

Issues include the use of the triangular green in Halstock for parking and a need for additional tree planting at the St Juthware Close's green area.

LCA28 HOOKE

Location & landscape setting

The area runs from Maiden Newton, along the valley of the River Hooke, bounded by hills that run NE along the A356, via Rampisham Down, to Beaminster Down and, to the south of the River, along a series of rounded hills from White Sheet Hill, Hooke Park and Powerstock Common. Within this boundary the River valley and blocks of woodland form an attractive setting for a series of settlements that are sited on the main watercourse and its tributaries.

Settlement form & pattern:

- There is a progression of small villages all sited at points where the network of minor roads cross the River Hooke: Toller Whelme, Hooke, Higher and Lower Kingcombe, Toller Porcorum and Fratrum and, on a southern tributary, Wynford Eagle and West Compton;
- All the smaller settlements are small scatters of development, loosely linear in form, with the exception of the largest village, Toller Porcorum, which is nucleated around the junction of two lanes. It has undergone an interesting series of changes in form over time, with the shrinkage of the original medieval settlement around the Church and southward growth along the High St, divided but stimulated by the arrival of the Maiden Newton-Bridport railway branch in 1857.

Edges are uncomplicated, in the form of individual plots backing onto countryside. Toller Porcorum is more complicated, as modern development has intruded into its setting on the village's eastern and southern sides. The linear plots on the southern approach are particularly intrusive. On the west, there is an informal relationship between development and tall hedgerows and small fields, which act as a buffer to the wider countryside.

Important buildings & groups are:

- The informal grouping of Church, Little Toller Farmhouse, rectory, cottages and barns at Toller Fratrum, with fine trees and a remote setting;
- A number of interesting small to medium-sized houses, including Hooke Court, with the remnants of a moat and a 17th-century block; Toller Whelme Manor, with a 1470 NW wing and substantial 17th-century elements; Little Toller Farm and outbuildings, 1540; and Manor Farm at Wynford Eagle, dated 1630.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- Individual buildings set in gardens and wider landscapes;
- Firm boundaries, in the form of hedges, small fields and trees.

Building types & materials

Types include small medieval churches, some with substantial Victorian rebuilds; small late medieval, Tudor and 17th-century manor and farmhouses; and a 1540-ish stable block at Little Toller Farm. There are innovative modern classrooms and workshops at Hooke Park, constructed from laminated timber.

Materials are the typical Chalk downs mixture, with flint and stone bands; the stone may vary, with Forest Marble, Cornbrash or Upper Greensand. Chalk block or Clunch appears with a harder footing, such as Forest Marble. The Old Rectory, at Higher Wynford and Wynford Eagle Manor Farm both employ ashlar Ham Hill stone. Thatch is a characteristic roofing material.

Issues include the need to review Toller Porcorum's historic core, the need for a designated Conservation Area, potential new Listings, the need for higher standards of design in new buildings and the need to protect the setting and views of the Church; and the mixture (of varying types and design quality) of modern buildings at Hooke Court.

LCA29 UPPER FROME

Location & landscape setting

The area lies to the NW of Maiden Newton, along the valley that contains the upper reaches of the River Frome and a tributary stream, both of which are set within a landscape of rounded Chalk hills rising to over 200 metres. The east and west boundaries are marked by two high ridges followed by the A37 and A356 respectively. The northern boundary is a ridge, from Chelborough Hill to Horsey

Knap and Bubb Down Hill that forms the watershed of several streams, including the Frome, flowing southward. The landscape is an attractive combination of dramatic hills enclosing and dividing the area (between the Frome and its tributary) and lush valley bottoms with water meadows and permanent pasture.

Settlement form & pattern:

- A series of settlements are sited along the course of the Frome and its north western tributary, just above the flood plain and, usually at bridging points; Evershot is sited in a hollow between two hills, at the source of the river; Benville, Uphall, Rampisham and Wraxall on the tributary; Cattistock at the confluence of the River and the tributary;
- Form varies according to topography: Cattistock is nucleated around a square space, between two crossing points, where the main route performs a double bend; Rampisham is clustered on the southern side of a bridge, around a minor crossroads, with the Manor House sited across the stream; Melbury Bubb is concentrated around a dead-end lane;
- Evershot is linear in form, with one main street and properties built close to the Fore St carriageway, but there is a Back Lane running in parallel between the church and the entrance to Melbury House. Frome St Quintin is a ribbon of development, with a small focus by a junction with an easterly cul-de-sac. The Church is isolated from the core of the village by open fields, suggesting a shift in the settlement focus at some time. The village is linked, across the River and railway line, to Chantmarle House.

Edges are generally well defined by hedges, trees and open countryside. Cattistock, for example, is tightly bounded by hills to the east, Castle Hill to the north and water meadows to the west. Evershot is tightly grouped along Fore St and Melbury Park runs up to its eastern edge. There is a looser estate development on the eastern approach but this is well treed. Some more modern development in Back Lane has a weaker relationship with its surrounds. Frome St Quintin is enclosed by mature tree planting.

Important buildings & groups are:

- An outstanding group of buildings along the curving and descending Fore St in Evershot, of differing types and materials, tightly positioned to give the character of a small town, with a raised pavement on the south side, splendid, treed entry points and a Church set at the western entry, in an elevated churchyard; the eastern end has a distinctive mid-19th-century estate character;
- The Parish Church at Cattistock, with its George Gilbert Scott, father and son, rebuilding and, in particular, the latter's soaring west tower and lovely Morris glass, related to a relatively unspoilt village core. The Square is a focal point, with a fine public house in the "Fox and Hounds". There is a good group of former farm buildings at Manor Farm;
- Frome St Quintin's main street of rendered, flint and rubble cottages, the entrance to Frome House and the excellent brick and Portland Stone 1782 house itself;
- The important early 17th-century symmetrical main frontage of Chantmarle; and smaller houses of similar date at Wraxall and Melbury Bubb;

- Lesser, but enjoyable groups of small medieval church, manor house and cottages at Upper Wraxall, Rampisham and Melbury Bubb. The latter has a remarkable 10th or 11th-century font in the Church.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- Linear terraces of differing elevations, close to the edge of the highway, with curves in the building line and occasional changes of level to create partial enclosure;
- Occasional buildings set at right angles to the street, punctuating and defining groups of buildings;
- Estate semi-detached and detached estate houses, set behind walls and mature hedges, with mature garden and boundary trees;
- Major changes in road direction in Cattistock, fringed by buildings, producing vistas enclosed by development or landmarks like the Church tower

Building types & materials

Types include small medieval churches; an important Victorian rebuild at Cattistock; a large (but truncated and altered) early 17th-century house at Chantmarle and several other contemporary, smaller examples; a late 18th-century manor house at Frome St Quintin; 17th-century farmhouses at West Chelborough, Holway and Higher Holway Farms, Cattistock; and larger “gentry” houses at Cattistock and Evershot.

Materials are typical of Chalk areas, with flint, often banded with nearby stone: Forest Marble, Cornbrash or Upper Greensand. Clunch is fairly common, often rendered and invariably with a harder base of flint or one of the stones mentioned previously. Boundary walls are of flint, stone rubble or brick, or various mixtures of these. Dressed stone and ashlar appears at some of the churches, manor and “gentry” houses, Forest Marble, Ham Hill and Portland Stone are used for details or whole elevations. Brick is also apparent, notably at Frome House. Artificial stone and brick of discordant colours have been used in modern development.

Roofs are of thatch, clay or pantile and slate.

Issues include the future development of facilities at Chantmarle (some modern buildings are obtrusive) and the poles and wires and concrete bus shelter in Frome St Quintin.

LCA30 LOWER FROME VALLEY

Location & landscape setting

The area runs from Maiden Newton SE to the fringes of Dorchester, including Hog Cliff and Stratton Down and the river channel of the Frome on its northern side and following the A35 and the minor Winterbourne Abbas-Compton Valence road to the south.

The landscape consists of rounded Chalk hills, rising to nearly 200 metres, either side of a valley bottom with water meadows and pasture.

Settlement form & pattern:

- There is one large village, Maiden Newton, at the foot of a horseshoe of steep hills, at the confluence of the Rivers Hooke and Frome and a string of smaller settlements (Frampton, Stratton and Bradford Peverell) set slightly above the Frome, towards Dorchester. Compton Valence lies off the main river channel, at the source of a tributary, just off the former Roman road from Dorchester to Exeter;
- Maiden Newton is a nucleated settlement, around the traditional market place at the junction of the A356 Dorchester Road and Church Road but the pattern has been complicated and exploded by the arrival of the railway in the mid 19th-century and substantial growth in the 20th. The main road ribbon has extended to the south and along the Cattistock road and estates have commandeered the higher ground to the east of the village. Frome Vauchurch remains a small outlier on the south side of the River;
- Frampton is linear, strung along the A356, on its northern side, with a slight cluster around the junction with Church Lane. The form has been dictated by the presence of Frampton House and its parkland to the south. Southover is a small ribbon on the opposite shelf above the river;
- Grimstone is a very small ribbon, on the A37 and Stratton is a larger ribbon on the former main Dorchester road, now bypassed to the north. It has been the subject of recent substantial expansion, to the west of the Church, where a new green has housing and a pub and village hall on three sides;
- Bradford Peverell was a small nucleus around a bridge, a road running parallel to the River and a lane running south (serving the Church and Manor Farm) to Penn Hill. The pattern has been altered by modern development, which has formed ribbons towards Giles Cross;
- Compton Valence is a loose agglomeration of Church, two farm units, manor house and a few cottages, on a single lane.



Edges are varied in their character and response to the surrounding countryside. The north western edge of Maiden Newton, by the Church and Manor Farm, there is a pleasant parkland interface; the southern boundary has a variety of boundary features that impinge upon the water meadows; the southern approach is marked by a ribbon of housing and a large garage; and the eastern block of housing, rising up the contours, is particularly conspicuous. Frampton's southern boundary is strongly defined by the A356 and parkland; its northern edge is close to the railway line but one block of housing is very visible from the south. The eastern entrance is well wooded.

Stratton is contained by the bypass but a mixture of hedges and fencing give a rather suburban appearance. The southern boundary relates well to the water meadows.

Grimstone's industrial units are very evident when viewed from across the meadows at Muckleford. Bradford Peverell has some fine trees and is dominated by its church spire but one housing development, to the east, is unrelated to the form of the settlement.

Important buildings & groups are:

- The 12th-15th-century Church at Maiden Newton (with central tower and some interesting fittings), the thatched barn, nearby, at Manor Farm, the Old Rectory, several houses around the triangular space in Church Road, marked by the War Memorial, stone and flint walls, trees and the remains of the Market Cross, on Dorchester Road;



- The “Gothic Survival” 1695 west tower (late medieval form and elements but with Tuscan columns in the place of angle buttresses), a group of cottages along the main road, ranging from humble flint and thatch to decorative Victorian types;
- The Parish Church at Stratton, Manor and Church Farms and some richly detailed late Victorian

buildings;

- Bradford Peverell's 1850-ish Church, by Decimus Burton, Manor farm and a small group of thatched cottages.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- The linear settlements' groups of terraced and detached buildings, punctuated by green spaces and trees: infill should be carefully and critically considered and cul-de-sac or close developments avoided where these would intrude into open countryside;
- The importance of firm boundaries;
- The value of and potential for green spaces, properly landscaped and contained by building groups;
- The terraced rows of Maiden Newton, closely related to the highway and employing simple, uncluttered details;
- The importance of landmark buildings, notably churches.

Building types & materials

Types include medieval churches of varying dates and sophistication of plan; the unusual tower and “Gothick” elements at Frampton; a complete early Gothic Revival church at Bradford Peverell; an 1870 Wesleyan chapel and a handsome 1857 railway station at Maiden Newton; a Brunel-designed three arched viaduct at Grimstone; a fine water mill at Maiden Newton (complete with a 16-foot diameter breastshot waterwheel); 17th-century “gentry” and large farm houses; a large number of cottages and terraced houses.

Materials are stone and flint banding, with an increasing amount of Ridgeway limestone nearer Dorchester; Ham Hill and Lower Purbeck limestone ashlar for dressings; brick; and render, sometimes disguising Clunch or Cob walling. There are some distressing examples of yellow artificial stone in modern developments but new housing at, for example, Stratton, tries to reflect local traditions. Roofing includes clay and pantiles, slate and thatch.

Issues relate to the loss of much of Maiden Newton's character over time, with some poor infill development, loss of details (uPVC windows are ubiquitous), buildings worthy of Listing and the effects of through traffic. The problem of the erosion of character of, in particular, unlisted buildings that make a contribution to historic areas is a wider one.

LCA31 SYDLING VALLEY

Location & landscape setting

The area extends from the confluence of the Sydling Water with the River Frome at Grimston, up the Sydling Water northward to its headwaters at Wardon, East, Cross and Gore Hill. The western boundary is the A37, on a pronounced ridge, and the eastern edge is also a series of Chalk hills, separating the valley from the neighbouring Cerne Valley, to the east.

The Sydling Valley has a distinctive landscape of flat-topped ridges, steep slopes and a narrow floor of water meadows, pasture and waterside vegetation.

Settlement form & pattern:

- There is one large village on the valley floor, Sydling St Nicholas, sited just to the south of a cross road between the main valley road and an east-west lane between the A37 and A352 on the bordering ridges. There is also a very small hamlet to the north, at Up Sydling;
- Sydling St Nicholas is linear, with the Parish Church and Court House at the southern extremity, slightly separated from High Street. There is development at either side of the watercourse and a pattern of back lanes, which has been infilled with more modern development.

Edges are well defined by the water meadows and steep slopes, with one exception, the former local authority housing on the western edge, which climbs up the contours.

Important buildings & groups are the historic core of Sydling, with over fifty Listed Buildings, including a fine 15th-century Parish Church; the nearby 16th-19th-century Court House and its outbuildings, including the thatched late 16th-century Court farm barn (nine and a half bays); a Vicarage of 1640; the urbane late 18th-century East House; the substantial remains of a wayside cross; the Congregational Chapel of 1834, at the north end of the village; and a good group of cottages. The "Greyhound" public house is handsome and is complemented by a sympathetically designed modern housing infill.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- Cottages set back in front gardens with small bridges over watercourses;
- Buildings set in informal terraces directly on the highway edge;
- Occasional buildings at right angles to the street, punctuating and defining groups of buildings;
- Strong boundaries;
- Typical chalk valley materials in various combinations.

Building types & materials

Types include the medieval Church; the Regency Congregational Chapel; Court House and Vicarage; and another “gentry” house in East House. The Court Farm barn is an important building type. There are a number of smaller, 17th and 18th-century cottages.

Materials are typical of the central Chalk valleys, with flint and stone in bands, stone rubble, Clunch and cob with render and brick. Roofs are thatched or slated.

Issues are the ability of the village to absorb further development; the poor relationship between recent developments and the historic core; and the loss of details such as windows.

LCA32 CERNE VALLEY

Location & landscape setting

The area runs from Lyon’s Gate south down the course of the River Cerne to Haydon Hill, near Forston, to the north of Charminster. The western boundary is the ridge between the Cerne and Sydling valleys and the eastern edge is the similar ridge between the Cerne and Piddle valleys.

The main valley bottom is narrow, with branching dry valleys at either side. The River is accompanied by the main road, the A352. The chalk hills are prominent and rounded, the northern entry point at Lyon’s Gate swoops down to the rich parkland of Melbury House and the hills form an impressive backdrop to the settlements.

Settlement form & pattern:

- There is a string of settlements along the river course, from Minterne Magna, an estate village associated with the “big house”; Up Cerne and Minterne Parva, either side of the main road, on watercourses; Cerne Abbas, at a cross roads between the A352 and a lane to the two parallel ridges; Nether Cerne, off the main road, again on the River, associated with a small manor house; and Forston, on the main road and Herrison Hospital, formerly the 1859-63 County Lunatic Asylum, now the core of the modern Charlton Down village;
- Minterne Magna is a linear, main road settlement, focused on the entrances to the House and Park. Godmanstone is also linear, with only one small side lane to the Church;
- The smaller hamlets are loose agglomerations of buildings but both Up Cerne and Nether Cerne have a grouping of manor house and church;

- Forston/Charlton Down is a modern, planned settlement, related to the former hospital buildings and is nucleated around them;
- Cerne Abbas, the largest village, has an A352 main road ribbon, in Acreman St, but is focused around a long east-west axis (The Folly and Long St), with two northern lanes, Duck St, leading back to the main road, and a cul-de-sac in Abbey St. There is a parallel Back Lane to Long St. The plan is thus nucleated, with Parish Church, three pubs and shops located in the central area. The medieval focal point, the rich Benedictine Cerne Abbey, has largely disappeared, but the “big house”, Abbey Farm, was formerly the south gate to the monastic precinct. Building plots, in the historic core, tend to have their properties tight on the road line and are long and thin, suggesting some element of medieval planning.

Edges are generally well defined, related directly to the landscape and Minterne Magna, Nether and Up Cerne have a particularly attractive setting. The boundaries of Cerne Abbas are of mixed character: the north and NE edges are defined by the former monastic precinct and Giant’s Hill; The Folly is an excellent western approach and the eastern edge, at Alton Lane has an abrupt transition from countryside to development. The southern edge, along Back Lane, is less satisfactory, with modern housing intruding into open countryside.

Charlton Down benefits from mature trees in the vicinity of the former hospital buildings but appears to lack a firm eastern edge, being very raw and conspicuous when viewed from the C-class road at the top of the ridge.

Important buildings & groups are particularly rich and diverse:

- The important Arts and Crafts Melbury House by Leonard Stokes, 1904-6, the superb formal gardens and wider parkland and the estate village, with a “Gothic Survival” Church;



- The attractive combination of small church and manor house, set by water and framed by mature trees, at Nether and Up Cerne;
- The northern portion of Godmanstone, with the Church, Manor, Manor Farm, Old Rectory, Ilsington Lodge, “Smith’s Arms” and former Mill;
- The whole historic core of Cerne Abbas, with an outstanding Church, Abbey guest houses, porch to the Abbot’s Hall and Abbey Farm, a fine Tithe Barn, the whole of Abbey and Long Streets (with a rich mix of medieval, 17th and 18th-century houses);
- The Victorian buildings of Forston/Charlton Down, particularly the former chapel;
- Forston House, a handsome c.1720 five bay house.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- Typical chalk valley materials in various combinations;

- The simple details and overall compatibility of form in the terraced groups, set on or near the highway;
- Curving road lines and junctions, which create townscape where buildings form edges to spaces;
- The importance of walling and overhanging trees in linking groups of buildings and framing views;
- In estate properties or bigger detached plots, the importance of hedging and mature trees within gardens;
- The value of firm boundaries;
- The grouping of farm buildings (often converted) around a space;
- The importance of belts of native trees on the edges of major new developments.

Building types & materials

Types vary from a larger Parish Church, with additions from the 13th to the early 15th-century at Cerne Abbas; smaller examples with simpler plans at Godmanstone, Nether and Up Cerne; a rare 17th and late 18th-century Gothic Survival/Revival Church at Minterne Magna; a former late Victorian hospital chapel at Charlton Down; and a former Nonconformist chapel in Cerne. Cerne Abbey's surviving buildings, notably the guesthouses and tithe barn, are of particular interest. There is a range of country houses, from Minterne to Forston and smaller examples at Up and Nether Cerne. Forston/Herrison Hospital was a complex that grew and changed with developing medical practice; the former workhouse, north of Cerne Abbas, is a good example (though altered when converted to housing) of mid 19th-century provision for the poor. There is a small Victorian school in Cerne and a former one in Minterne Magna.

There are a number of long established inns, two in Cerne having, at least, 16th-century origins and the "Smith's Arms" being a conversion of a 17th-century forge.

Housing ranges from 17th and late 18th-century "gentry houses in Cerne and Godmanstone and a large number of cottages, including estate housing in Minterne Magna.

Materials are typical of central Dorset Chalk valleys: flint and stone (Lower Purbeck limestone) or brick banding; the former Police Station in Cerne employs flint and stone in chequers. Ham Hill stone ashlar is used in walling and dressings in more important buildings. Chalk block or clunch is normally rendered; timber framing appears at Abbey St, Cerne.

There are some good examples of late Georgian brickwork, notably in Cerne, with Header Bond and blue vitrified headers and "rubbed and gauged" work over doors and windows. Victorian brick tended to be a very bright red, sometimes with blue brick patterning (former



*Flint and stone bands, Ham Hill dressings
Guest House, Cerne Abbey*

chapel in Cerne and Forston/Herrison Hospital buildings).

Roofs employ stone tiles (notably the former Cerne Abbey buildings); clay and pantiles; slate and thatch.

Issues include wires in Duck St, unsightly structures in Mill Lane and the potential for improving the setting of the War Memorial, al in Cerne; wires, alien plant species and PVCu replacement windows in Godmanstone; several public car parks would benefit from improved edge treatment. Some new housing, which tries to re-establish traditional forms and materials, falls down on details, e.g. over-elaborate ridges on thatched roofs.

LCA33 UPPER PIDDLER VALLEY (WEST)

Location & landscape setting

The area is the characteristic Chalk valley running from south of Buckland Newton to the south of Piddlehinton. The western boundary is the ridge between the Piddle and the Cerne Valley and to the east is the undulating area of the valley of The Devil's Brook.

The Chalk hills tightly enclose the narrow river valley and they become steeper and higher to the north towards Buckland Newton. The main B3143 road provides a constant progression of views of linear development, the course of the River and rounded hills.

Settlement form & pattern:

- There is a string of linear villages, built along the B3143 and the course of the Piddle. Alton Pancras is built on both sides of the road, although its development is spasmodic, with no little continuous frontage. Its Church and Manor lie at its extreme south end, close to where Ripps Lane crosses the main road. There is evidence of settlement desertion and changes in the size of the ribbon;
- Piddletrenthide is a similar, but longer chain of intermittent development, with the original core to the north, at Southcombe, where a junction with Church Lane creates a slight nucleus. Several smaller runs of development lead to the main cluster, where the former and new schools, pub, shops and garage create the true, commercial core of the village. There are also "thickenings" of the simple one plot off the highway pattern, with cul-de-sac and close developments;
- White Lackington is separated from Piddletrenthide by riverside pastures and has developed at a crossroads and is thus more nucleated in form. Plush is a loose scatter of Manor House, pub and cottages, on a dry valley off the main one;
- Piddlehinton developed at a bridging point and a crossroads but the strong linear pattern predominates. There is a western limb down Rectory Road, towards the river. Modern development has occurred in a number of cul-de-sacs and a major element is the former Piddlehinton Camp, to the south of the main village.

Edges are, in the older cores, fairly neat, with walls and hedges towards the River and good groups of trees. Most modern development has broken this pattern, with cul-de-sacs and closes and the introduction of alien highway details. South View, at White Lackington, and London Close, at Piddlehinton, are examples of lack of attention to boundary treatment.

Important buildings & groups are:

- The Alton Pancras group of the Church, Manor and Austral Farm house and the cob and thatch cottages to the east and SE, complemented by brick and flint walls, gate piers, churchyard railings and mature trees;
- The 1487 west tower of Piddletrenthide Church, the churchyard, and cottages down Church Lane; Mill House, The Lodge, The Manor and outbuildings, gate piers and trees; several buildings in the southern end of the village, notably Ivy Cottage, Pear Tree House and the former Victorian school;
- The informal grouping of rendered manor House, pub and thatched cottages at Plush;
- The handsome 15th-century south tower of Piddlehinton's Church, walled churchyard, trees and the Church Hill group of War Memorial, pump, Village Hall and cottages curving down to Rectory Rd, the Old Rectory and the River; there are some decent groups further north, on High St, including a thatched barn and White's Dairy and idiosyncratic Victorian details at West Lodge.



Key townscape characteristics are:

- Typical chalk valley materials used in various combinations;
- The simple groups of terraced or attached buildings in linear form, either on the highway edge or set back in gardens;
- The value of the occasional building set with its gable end to the street, at right angles to the general building line, as a punctuation mark in a linear sequence;
- The presence of boundary walls and overhanging trees on street frontages, around mature gardens or yards;
- The general value of firm boundaries around groups of buildings against green spaces, gaps and open countryside;
- The occasional building



highlight set slightly off the ribbon, such as churches, schools and large houses, enhanced with firm boundaries and trees;

- The need to avoid cul-de-sac or close development that unduly intrudes into open countryside or onto higher ground.

Building types & materials

Types include medieval churches, with older cores but 15th-century display; Nonconformist chapels (empty or converted to houses); several Manor and “gentry” houses; large farmhouses with good outbuilding groups (e.g. Austral and White’s Dairy Farms); several former malt houses and village bakeries; a former Victorian village school; 18th/early 19th-century public houses; and a wide range of cottages.

Materials are very typical of the Central Dorset Chalk valleys: Lower Purbeck limestone rubble or stone with flint banding; brick and flint banding; Cob, usually rendered; smooth stucco; and brick. The manor House, at Alton Pancras, has one elevation with Mathematical Tiles. Roofs are thatched, plain (with decorative fish-scales on some Victorian buildings) or pantiles, slate, and slate with stone verges. Modern development has used a variety of bricks, artificial stone, render, timber boarding and tile hanging.



Issues include the potential for new tree planting to improve the boundaries of some modern developments; the rather bare nature of some of the pub car parks; a wirescape in the southern block of Piddletrenthide; and some crude concrete block work farm buildings in conspicuous positions (chapel 7 Sunday school at Piddlehinton??)

LCA34 UPPER PIDDLE VALLEY (EAST)

Location & landscape setting

The area lies to the north of Puddletown and east of the Alton Pancras-Piddlehinton corridor. Its northern boundary coincides with the northern escarpment edge of the Chalk. The high hills (rising to over 260 metres) fall progressively to the south and are incised by a number of north-south valleys, whose watercourses are tributaries of the main Piddle River. One of these, Devil’s Brook, forms the eastern boundary of the area.

Settlement form & pattern:

- There are only two significant settlements, Cheselbourne and Dewlish. The former is located at a crossroads of two lanes and the old core lies to the south, close to the church. The Manor is an outlier to the north and the village has developed in a loose linear form along the north-south route and newer

housing has become established around the cross, particularly to the east, along Streetway Lane;

- Dewlish is a complex village, which differs from most Chalk villages in its form and layout. The core is sited at a crossroads to the west of the bridging point over the Brook. The building layout is unusual, with a mainly one-sided main street overlooking the river. The Church is adjacent to the Brook and the extensive earthworks of the medieval settlement, at court Close. The Manor House sits in parkland, on the valley floor, south of the village.

Edges are generally clear, with large open spaces, hedges and mature trees around the various clusters of development. Both villages, however, have modern developments that have intruded into open countryside and/or higher ground. Streetway lane is an obtrusive ribbon in Cheselbourne and Dewlish has one particularly unfortunate bungalow development on Middle Street.

Important buildings and groups are:

- Cheselbourne's most important buildings are the 13th-15th-century Parish Church, the Old Rectory, the Manor and Eastfield House, with a loose group around Rose Cottage, the Old Rectory and Eastfield, together with lengths of cob walling and mature trees;
- Dewlish has a number of fine buildings: the Church has Norman features; Dewlish house is a Grade 1 late Stuart nine-by-four-bay design; Manor Farm House is a handsome c.1630 building with a symmetrical main front; Old Rectory Farm House has good late 17th-century brickwork; the unlisted Manor Farm is a good example of a Victorian "model farm". There is one good group in Church St, comprising the Church, Village Hall and Manor Farm.

Key townscape elements are:

- The loose and informal clusters of development along the Cheselbourne valley bottom, interspersed by open space, hedges and trees; most development is a single plot width off the road;
- Development keeping to the valley bottom and avoiding higher ground and, in particular, skylines;
- Avoiding extreme styles of new building (such as the "Spanish" executive house at Cheselbourne) outside Conservation Areas or where these have not been designated;
- The importance of flint and stone boundary walls, hedges and native trees; and the need to obtain firm boundaries in any new development;
- The need to protect the remaining stretches of undeveloped river frontage at Dewlish and the undeveloped paddock to the east of the main road, by Manor Farm.

Building types & materials

Types include two medieval Churches with architecture from the 12th-15th-centuries; a major late Stuart country house; a middle-sized Carolingian example; several "gentry" houses; a Victorian "model farm"; a Victorian school and village hall.

Materials are typical of the Chalk valleys, with stone and flint banding, Lower Purbeck ashlar (Dewlish Court) and rubble; render over Cob or rubble and flint; brick;

banded brick and flint and a mixture of many of these in one building. Roofs are thatched, of stone tiles or slates, plain or pantiles. Modern materials include brick, artificial stone, concrete block, render and attempts at vernacular revival, employing brick or stone and flint bands, render and thatch.

Issues are the need to strengthen weak boundaries with planting; the alien plant species in some newer properties; the need for a street furniture improvement and general tidy-up around the crossroads in Dewlish; and a wirescape in Middle St in the same village.

LCA35 WHITE HORSE DOWNS

Location & landscape setting

The area lies to the NE of Weymouth, between the A352 and the coast. It is the eastern end of the Chalk Ridgeway, with hills rising to nearly 160 metres. There is a valley running parallel to the coast, along which the A353 runs from the outskirts of Weymouth to Warmwell Cross. The landscape is one of bare downland, studded with archaeological features and a more intimate valley floor character, emphasised by trees and hedges.

Settlement form & pattern:

- The area is sparsely populated, with several villages on its fringes: Sutton Poyntz, Osmington, Owermoigne and Broadmayne. There is only one small, linear hamlet, Poxwell, lying mainly on the west side of the A353, in a shallow valley on the dip slope of the dip slope of the ridge, just to the north of the point where the main road runs off the 100 metre contour and performs a sharp bend into the valley running directly to Warmwell Cross.

Edges are clean and clear, with hedges and walls and some trees around the Manor and by Manor Farm.

Important buildings & groups are the progression of the early 17th-century Manor House (hardly visible due to high boundary hedges), the attractive barn at Manor Farm and four 1840-ish thatched cottages on the eastern extremity.

Key townscape elements are:

- The need to preserve the linear progression of buildings with the important open space by the entry to the Farm, avoiding the temptation to encourage infill;
- The desirability to plant trees between the main road and newer buildings at the Farm.

Building types & materials

Types are a large Jacobean manor (intended to be H-shaped in plan but lacking a south wing); a large double-porched barn and early Victorian detached estate cottages that still adhere to vernacular details and materials.

Materials are predominantly of Lower Purbeck ashlar and coursed rubble. Roofs are thatched, of stone or clay plain tiles. Modern farm sheds are a mixture of concrete block, wood cladding and corrugated sheet roofs. Two modern houses are of render and brick.

Issues include the strident colour of Trenchard Cottage's render and a minor wirescape between Trenchard cottages and Manor Farm.

LCA36 SOUTH WINTERBORNE

Location & landscape setting

This large area runs from the dip slope of the Ridgeway, south of Dorchester, westwards along the southern scarp edge of the Chalk to the source of the South Winterborne stream, at Winterborne Abbas, and back, east towards Dorchester along the minor road from Eggardon Hill to Lambert's Hill.

The landscape is thus one of contrast between the majestic swelling downland, the drama of the escarpment edge and the intimacy of water meadows and riverside pasture.

Settlement form & pattern:

- The area has large tracts of unpopulated countryside, extensive traces of deserted medieval settlements (for example, in or near existing villages, at Whitcombe, Winterborne Came, W. Farrington, Rew, W. Steepleton and Kingston Russell) and a number of small to medium sized villages that, in the main, are sited along the course of the South Winterborne. From east to west, there is the small linear hamlet of Whitcombe (Church, manor, barn and a few estate cottages on the A352); Winterborne Came (a very small cluster of Church, Came House and cottages); Winterborne Herrington (the House, dairy and two or three estate properties); and W. Monkton (a small, linear group of Church and cottages);
- There is then a series of linear villages, all set directly on the watercourse and the B3159: Martinstown/Winterborne St Martin (large, with Church, village hall, shop, public house and a variety of older cottages and new closes; W. Steepleton (a very small group of small Church, Rectory, Manor and Manor Farm); and W. Abbas (a large settlement on the A35, with Church, inn, large garage and a significant amount of new housing). Most of the linear villages have properties set directly on the edge of the road or set over the watercourse, with a bridge and front garden;
- At the extreme western end of the landscape character area is Kingston Russell, a scatter of big house, farm and cottages.

Edges are very clear and clean in the smaller settlements, with walls and hedges enclosing development. Of the larger villages, W. Abbas has several modern cul-de-sacs that extend behind the main ribbon and press against the valley sides, with suburban fencing as boundaries. This also occurs on the northern side of Martinstown and the eastern end of W. Steepleton.

Important buildings & groups are:

- The whole group of Church, Manor House, barns and cottages at Whitcombe;
- The Parish Church at W. Abbas, 13th-15th-centuries, with some good fittings, and a pleasant churchyard and fine trees;
- The 18th-century Palladian Came House, with Rococo ceiling plasterwork and a delicate 1840 conservatory, together with the 14th/15th-century Church, which has William Barnes connections;
- Herringston House, with its superlative 17th-century plasterwork in the Great Chamber and “Gothick” north front;
- Martinstown’s fine, mainly 15th-century Church and two coherent groups, around the Church and Green; and at the western entry, Burnside, where the “Brewer’s Arms” and Old Smithy are prominent;
- W. Steepleton’s Saxon, Norman and 14th-century Church (with one of the only three medieval spired churches in Dorset) and the imposing group of Victorian Rectory and Manor and the 17th-century Manor Farm;
- The important early 18th-century house of Kingston Russell.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- Linear settlements built along a valley bottom, bounded by water and/or a road;
- Large houses set in landscaped grounds but with buildings and walls still in contact with the road;
- The informal, loose groups of buildings in the smaller settlements, with important walls and enclosed spaces, which might be compromised by well-intentioned infill;
- The larger linear villages have a direct relationship with through routes and the watercourse and their boundaries have been traditionally well defined; cul-de-sac development tends to spread development onto valley sides and introduce suburban boundaries. Simple conversions and minor infill along the ribbons are preferable, in any case, any undeveloped green gaps should be respected;
- The informal relationship between highway and buildings, with a lack of pavements and over-engineered details, which should be maintained unless there is an obvious safety issue;
- The importance of occasional buildings at right angles to the street, punctuating and defining groups;
- The importance of native trees in defining spaces and boundaries.

Building types & materials

Types are varied, with Parish Churches displaying Saxon to late Medieval planning and details; several large Classical Manor Houses; “gentry” houses (rectories, large farmhouses and a late 18th-century double pile house in Martinstown); barns and sheds; public houses and a wide range of cottages. Hardy’s Monument is a good example of a 19th-century landmark or folly.

Materials include Portland Stone ashlar (Came, Kingston Russell and Herringston Houses); Ham Hill ashlar dressings on some of the more important buildings; local Ridgeway Lower Purbeck limestone ashlar and rubble; rubble and flint banding;

render; brick and, possibly some Cob in boundary walls. Roofs are of stone slates, clay plain and pantiles and thatch. Modern development has used some alien artificial stone and brick, although there are some exemplary “in keeping” schemes that try to use stone and brick in a more sympathetic manner.

Issues include the poor condition of the large thatched barn at Whitcombe; the loss of details on unlisted buildings and the potential for further additions to the List; loss of old boundaries and the quality of new ones; and the impact of A35 traffic (on W. Abbas).



LCA37 ESCARPMENT & ESCARPMENT FOOTHILLS

Location & landscape setting

This is a very long, complex series of areas that extend along the steep slopes of the escarpment around the South Dorset Downs. The areas start at the coast, near White Nothe; run north of Weymouth, Portesham and Abbotsbury along the southern edge of the scarp; at Abbotsbury Castle the strip runs sinuously towards Little Bredy, then towards Litton Cheney, the A35; northwards to Eggardon, Powerstock Common and Hooke Park; swings around Beaminster via White Sheet Hill and Buckham Down and Horn Park; thence around the source of the River Axe, Winyard’s Gap and finally in a long west-east line through Melbury Park, Lyon’s Gate, Buckland Newton and Melcombe Park.

The landscape is very dramatic, with steep slopes, high ridgelines and blocks of woodland.

Settlement form & pattern:

- There is no significant settlement on the actual escarpment but the less steep foothills have a number of small hamlets and villages, usually on spring lines.
- The settlements are, in the south, Bincombe; in the NW, Chedington, Corscombe and West and East Chelborough; in the north, Melbury Sampford, Batcombe, Hillfield and, Buckland Newton;
- Bincombe is a small, nucleated settlement, sheltered in a dry combe, around the junction of two farm tracks and the Parish Church is the only public building;
- Chedington is a linear



settlement, on a steep ridge, off the Winyard's Gap high point. It consists of Church, cottages and Chedington Court;

- Corscombe lies on the slopes of a chalk escarpment and is a linear settlement in three distinct parts, an eastern part around Corscombe Court; a central part around the Church; and the main village to the west;
- West & East Chelborough are two small hamlets, of which West Chelborough is a tiny nucleus, up a dead-end lane, with Church, Manor Farm and a few cottages;
- Melbury Sampford consists of a large house and Church, set in ornamental grounds;
- Batcombe and Hilfield are two hamlets, loose and linear in form, one with a small church and the other with a modern Friary, separated from a few cottages;
- Buckland Newton is a larger village, dispersed in overall pattern, with a crossroads cluster and a looser scatter of Church, Manor House and pub, around three sides of a trapezium, with a "hollow" undeveloped centre.

Edges are generally clear and strong, with walls, hedges and trees and single plots. Corscombe has a small modern ribbon at its eastern approach and several small cul-de-sacs that disrupt the linear pattern and intrude into green space.

Important buildings & groups include:

- The isolated early 18th-century Friar Waddon House, truncated but forming a good group with a thatched barn and gate piers and garden walls;
- The whole of Chedington, with its Victorian Court and Church, 1634 Manor Farm and other stone cottages and farm buildings;
- Corscombe Court and its medieval barn, together with coherent groups at the Church and Corscombe House, on High St and around Manor Farm;
- Small but attractive churches at West Chelborough and Batcombe;
- Melbury House, a remarkable 1540 house, with a hexagonal prospect tower and major late 17th-century additions, the medieval church and a landscaped lake and garden;
- Buckland Newton's 13th-15th century church, early Georgian Vicarage and 1803 "Tudor" Manor House.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- The colour harmonies of some of the settlements, such as Bincombe and Chedington, created by the use of one type of building stone (Ridgeway Lower Purbeck and Ham Hill limestones respectively);
- The predominance of informal groups of terraces or more scattered plots, unified by walls, hedges and mature trees, strung along road frontages; modern cul-de-sacs can disrupt this pattern by introducing formality and highway engineering;
- The value of larger houses set in mature gardens, contrasting with terraced groups on the highway edge;
- The importance of strong entry features into settlements, in the form of structures on the highway line, groups of trees and high walls

Building types & materials



Types include small medieval churches; large and middle-sized country houses; “gentry” houses, farm sheds and barns and cottages.

Materials vary according to the character of adjoining geology: from grey Ridgeway limestone in the south; to golden Ham Hill ashlar and creamy Cornbrash and brown Forest Marble rubble, chalk block, Cob, render and brick, from the Oxford

Clay.

Issues include the wirescape around the cross roads at Buckland Newton and, at Corscombe, the Church and Fox Inn car parks would both benefit from better screening; and many newer houses have alien conifer hedges and exotic shrubs, which contrast markedly with more traditional “cottage gardens”.

LCA38 RIDGE & VALE

Location & landscape setting

The area three large blocks: from Holworth through Osmington to Sutton Poyntz and the Weymouth-Dorchester railway line; from the west of Upwey to Portesham and Abbotsbury, with a southern hook to Langton Herring; and a western area from Littlebredy to Litton Cheney, Puncknowle and Burton Bradstock.

The three areas lie between the edge of the chalk escarpment and the immediate coastal slopes, in a pleasantly undulating landscape with blocks of woodland and extensive views of sea and high hills.

Settlement form & pattern:

- Many of the settlements in this area seem to have sought shelter from coastal winds and are sited at the foot of the main escarpment slope or smaller ridges, presumably on a spring line;
- From the east, Osmington is a small nucleated village built along the main A353 and, more significantly around a square of lanes north of the road; Sutton Poyntz is linear, with two arms, one a dead end up to the pond, pub and water works, the other a long lane rising to the top of Green Hill. There is considerable modern development on its southern junction with the A353 and Preston;
- In the middle block, Langton Herring is nuclear in form, with a small linear extension on the main east-west lane and an older core around a square pattern of lanes (a smaller version of Osmington); Portesham is a large village built on a south-facing slope, again it has a linear main road element and a ribbon up the minor road to Winterbourne Abbas but a complex of lanes west of the main Front St creates two blocks of housing. It has a series of minor focuses:

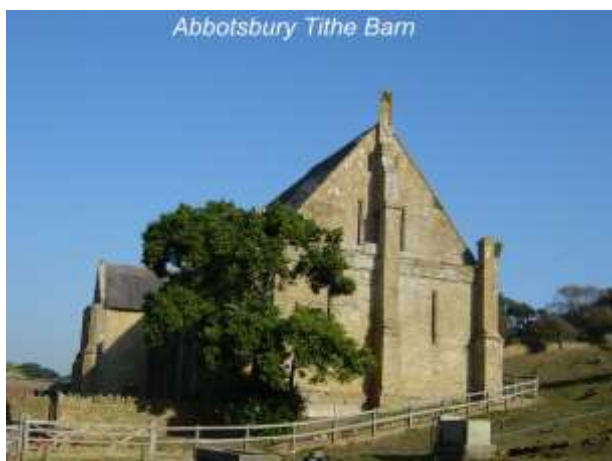
- pub, Church and school and post office. Rodden and Coryates are small, loose ribbons of houses and farms;
- Abbotsbury is apparently a linear settlement, built along the foot of the escarpment but, whilst the linear form, along the B3157, is evident in the western part of the village, the eastern half is more complex, with a small “square” linked to a circuitous back lane and a southern lane to the Parish Church and the Abbey site joins the main road at a dramatic bend;
 - In the western block, Littlebredy is an estate village, loosely positioned around the landscaped grounds of Bridehead; Long Bredy, as its name suggests, is long and linear, from a sheltered bowl at the foot of Martin’s Down southwards down a single lane. Litton Cheney was, in its original form, linear, following a contour at the foot of the escarpment. It has spurs of development down two southern lanes and recent housing, much of it in the form of cul-de-sacs, has loosened the texture. Puncknowle is a small nucleated village, sheltered by The Knoll and overlooking the Bride Valley, to the north;
 - Swyre is a small linear settlement, mainly developed off the main B3157, in a sheltered hollow. Burton Bradstock is a large settlement, mainly on the north side of the River Bride and sheltered by the main ridge. It is nuclear in form, built around a web of narrow lanes that run from the centre of the village, on the B3157 and just to the north, by the Parish Church. Modern development has extended along the main road, down to Hive Beach and up Shipton Lane.

Edges tend to be clear-cut in the older cores, with hedgerows, walls and mature trees. Modern development, in general terms, tends to have visually weaker fencing and this is exacerbated where cul-de-sacs have extended the overall plan into the countryside. There are some bad examples of this in Burton Bradstock, up Shipton Lane and, spectacularly on Freshwater beach, where, possibly, the worst sited caravan site on the coast seriously damages the landscape.

The Hands Lane area of Abbotsbury suffers from an obtrusive ribbon, with poor boundaries and the Hampton area of Portesham is very prominent and unrelated to much of the village

Important buildings & groups are:

- The shell of the c.1820 mill at Sutton Poyntz, north to the pond, “Springhead” pub and water works, together with some fine Arts and Crafts inspired houses up Plaisters Lane;
- A group on the southern part of Front St, Portesham, from the Late 18th-century Admiral Hardy’s House, past a small green space, up to the Church and Victorian school;
- All of the superb village of Abbotsbury, including its Parish Church, St Catherine’s Chapel, Tithe Barn and other Abbey remains, Rodden Row, Church St, Market St and West St and Back Lane;



the quality of its best buildings, unity of materials and standard of new development is outstanding;

- The magical group of Brideshead, landscape setting and estate village at Little Bredy
- The core of Puncknowle, including Rectory Lane and most of Church Street;
- Most of the core of Litton Cheney, including the well-sited Church, elevated above the village, together with the Old Rectory, set in woodland; Court House, several fine farmhouses and cottage groups and The Mill House and Litton Mill, on the southern approach;
- A small group at Swyre, at the junction with the B3157, comprised of the Church, Rectory and Bedford Estate cottages;
- The historic core of Burton Bradstock, with the 15th-century, central towered Church, several “gentry” houses, two attractive pubs, Manor Farm and a mill;
- Rodden Manor and the cottages to the south.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- The importance of “colour” created by local building stones: the whites and greys of the Lower Purbeck Ridgeway limestone (Osmington, Sutton Poyntz and Portesham); the creamy Corallian limestone (Abbotsbury); the grey/blue Forest Marble (Swyre, Puncknowle); a gold and grey mixture of Inferior Oolite and Forest Marble (Burton Bradstock). Most of the quarries are long closed but it is possible to obtain a near colour match e.g. Marnhull stone used in Abbotsbury;
- The importance, outside of the obvious linear settlements, of compactness, avoiding ribbons and ensuring that gateways and edges are strongly defined;
- The value of strong boundaries, such as walls, hedges and trees; stone walling is a particularly characteristic of the area;
- The avoidance of cul-de-sacs, with the necessary highway design and the preference for “yards”, emulating farm buildings around a space, with bold groupings of simple masses;
- The prevalence of terraced units, with subtle variations in detail, on or near the highway edge;
- Occasional buildings at right angles to the road, punctuating and defining groups;
- The creation of small, informal spaces by the curving back of road lines, particularly at junctions.

Building types & materials

Types are very varied, with some impressive medieval Parish Churches, the hill-top St Catherine’s Chapel, a large medieval tithe barn, a range of manor houses, mainly modest in size, “gentry” and large farm houses in the villages, Victorian Nonconformist chapels and schools (mainly converted to other uses), water mills at Sutton Poyntz and Litton Cheney, estate houses and 17th and 18th-century public houses.



Materials are impressive in their variety and have been discussed above. The complex local geology has contributed Lower Purbeck, Corallian, Cornbrash, Inferior Oolite and Forest Marble limestones, together with “imported” Portland and Ham Hill stones. Render and brick, from the Oxford Clays, are evident. Chalk block is occasionally seen and Cob is relatively rare. There are many thatched roofs, of Abbotsbury reed as well as the usual

wheat straw material. Stone tiles, clay and pantiles and slate are also evident.

Issues include the potential for strengthening the boundaries of some of the villages with additional planting; the bare and obtrusive nature of some public house car parks; various eye sore structures, notably garaging and farm structures; several Listed buildings “at risk”; wirescapes, particularly in Burton Bradstock, Litton Cheney and Puncknowle; and increasing amounts of uPVC windows and doors, not always of the most sympathetic design, in Conservation Areas.

LCA39 COASTAL SLOPE

The area is comprised of a small block of coast between Redcliff Point and Ringstead Bay and a long, thin stretch of the West Dorset coast, from Charlestown to Burton Beach, including Chesil Beach and the Fleet. It has a few scattered farms and only two tiny settlements: Fleet and West Bexington. The latter consists purely of a farm, a hotel, bungalows and caravans and Fleet has a small Manor House (now Moonfleet Manor Hotel), two small churches, the chancel of the medieval one and a Late Georgian replacement, after the destruction wrought by the 1824 storm, a former school and a few scattered cottages. It is very much a small, dispersed settlement with clean **edges** (apart from the hotel complex, which spreads around its car park), trees in sheltered areas, hedges and walls. West Bexington’s edges are untidy, with suburban style development running down towards the sea. In the east, Osmington Mills has a thatched pub, “The Smugglers”, some modern individual housing plots and a holiday complex.

The **important building** is at Fleet where the replacement church of 1827-9 has “Gothick” details and pretty interior plasterwork. **Materials** are Forest Marble rubble for the old church and Manor, with Forest Marble roofing tiles at the Church and Portland Stone ashlar for the new church and former school.

LCA40 BLACKMORE VALE

This is a series of very small areas, on the edge of the AONB, between the A37 and the A352. There is a small number of individual properties and no settlements. There is no significant architecture to describe.

LCA41 LIMESTONE HILLS

Location & landscape setting

The area lies to the west of the A37, to the north of Evershot and Melbury Park. It is an undulating area of attractive landscape, with a valley ford, a contrasting hill and the adjoining landscaped Melbury Park.

Settlement form & pattern: there is only one significant settlement, Melbury Osmond, set just off the A37, by a ford and up a hill. The village centre is on a cross roads of lanes and the village is nucleated around a square pattern of roads, formed by a series of right angled turns, where the Church, Old School, Tennis Court and Recreation Ground form a physical and social focal point.

The main street has a loose, informal pattern of development, with a mixture of terraced and detached properties, on the highway's edge and set in front gardens. There are gaps in the pattern of development and there is little modern building.

Edges are thus clear and neat, with fine trees and hedges and undeveloped green space framing groups of buildings and individual houses.

Important buildings & groups are the whole village, with the Church, Old Rectory, Manor Farmhouse and The Post House being of particular interest and groups occurring at Barton Hill, around the Church, along the whole of the main street, around the ford and at the entrance to Melbury Park.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- The consistent use of grey/blue Forest marble with occasional golden Ham Hill stone;
- The strong definition of boundaries by walls, hedges and trees;
- The interplay between groups of terraced houses, set on the highway edge with more informal detached properties set in gardens;
- The strong accents provided by farm buildings, with enclosed yards and sheds projecting at right angles to the road;
- Buildings set by water.

Building types & materials

Types include a medieval Church, specialised public buildings, such as the Tennis Court and Parish Council office, a former Victorian school, "gentry" houses, farmhouses and outbuildings and cottages.

Materials are consistent, with Forest Marble rubble, ashlar Ham Hill stone and render. There are some thatched roofs and clay tiles and slate are also in evidence.

The only **issue** is the strident red brick of the Tennis Court, which would benefit from some kind of toning-down.

LCA42 WEST DORSET FARMLAND

Location & landscape setting

This large area extends from either side of the Brit Valley and west of Bridport in a hollow ring west, along the coast to Lyme Regis, north to Lambert's Castle, thence to the Blackdown Hills south of the Axe valley, as far east as Broadwindsor. There is an eastern outlier around South Perrott.

The landscape is an attractive one, with many rounded hills overlooking the neighbouring, relatively flat expanses of Marshwood Vale, the Brit and Axe valleys. There are a number of river valleys running between the hills. The coastal margin is particularly spectacular, characterised by high sea cliffs, large areas of coastal erosion and deep folds running inland. The coastal settlements, in particular, have dramatic and picturesque settings.

Settlement form & pattern:

- The area has a large number of towns, large and small villages and farms. From the SE, Symondsborne is a nuclear settlement, clustered around two cross roads and deeply enfolded by surrounding hills. Lower Eype is a small, linear ribbon running down a sheltered valley to the sea; Chideock is a main road linear settlement, with a significant southern block, clustered around a pattern of lanes; Morcombelake is a mainly modern, loose ribbon on the A35, with a scatter of modern development running along lanes north to Ryall; Charmouth is a bypassed linear village, with large modern extensions to the south and west. Its plan reflects its "new town" status, laid out by Forde Abbey in the 14th-century;
- Lyme Regis is a small town and holiday resort, situated at the mouth of the River Lim, between two sheltering hills. Two downhill streets, Church and Broad Streets, meet at a former market place to form a nucleus around the Church, town hall and shopping area. Regency development joined this focus to the ancient harbour, the Cobb, to the west. Extensive modern development has spread inland and uphill, along the radial roads;
- Inland, Wootton Fitzpaine is a loose, linear village, with a more concentrated cluster around a western junction of lanes; Monkton Wyld is a very small group of Church and The Court. North of Lambert's Castle, there are several small hamlets, Marshwood and Birdsmoorgate, both set on a through route, on the scarp edge, overlooking Marshwood Vale, with low density, scattered development. Thorncombe is a larger, nucleated village, set around a Y-shaped junction of lanes, above the Synderford valley. Burstock is a small, nuclear settlement and Broadwindsor is one of the largest villages in the area, set on a through route by a watercourse. It is nucleated in form, set around a triangular arrangement of lanes. There has been considerable recent development. There are also a number of very small clusters of development to the west of the Brit Valley, the largest of which is Salwayash, clustered around a junction on the B3162;
- In the NE outlier, South Perrott is nucleated settlement, located on a bridging point on the River Parrett and a crossroads. The eastern block contains Melplash, a dispersed scatter of Church, Court, pub and houses on or near the

A3066. On the edges of Bridport, Bradpole is a nucleated village joined to suburbia. Bothenhampton is a linear village, similarly joined to eastern Bridport. To the east, Walditch is a linear village, running along a contour on the north side of Hyde Hill; Shipton Gorge is nucleated around a crossroads; Askerswell is nucleated around a crossroads and a triangular pattern of lanes at the eastern end of the village. Uploders is a linear settlement, sited on a ledge above the River Asker. North Poorton is a very small cluster around a quadrangle of lanes whilst South Poorton is a loose scatter of development, sheltered by Poorton Hill.

Edges are difficult to describe, over such a large area. In general terms, the older cores of settlements have strong boundaries in the form of walls, trees and hedges. Newer additions tend to have weaker boundaries, in the form of fences. This can be seen in places like Gribb View at Thorncombe; Uplands at Bothenhampton; at the west end of Shipton Gorge; School Hill at South Perrott; and at Yarnbarton at Broadwindsor. Of the larger settlements, Chideock has retained its traditional form with only a small amount of ribbon development, to the east; Charmouth has spread west towards Black Ven, a development that is conspicuous; Lyme Regis has grown to the west but trees and the narrow valley of the Lim seem to provide some sense of discipline. The bigger issue is the spread northward, up Charmouth Rd and north of Culway Lane. The residential chalet park near Dragon's Hill is conspicuous from many points, even looking inland from the Cobb.

Important buildings & groups are many but amongst the highlights are:

- The whole of Symondsbury, Church, Manor, Old Rectory and school, set in its deep lanes;
- The ribbon of 17th and early 18th-century stone houses on the eastern entry to Chideock;
- The 16th-century "Queen's Arms" at Charmouth and some elegant stuccoed, Regency villas on The Street;



Town Hall, Lyme Regis

- The whole historic core of Lyme Regis, with Norman and late Perpendicular elements to the Parish Church, some timber framed and 18th-century town houses nearby, in Church and Monmouth Streets, whimsical late Victorian Town Hall and Philpot Museum, a good group up Broad Street and along Coombe St, including the Town Mill, The Cobb's strong maritime detailing, Regency bows and Arts and Crafts details on Marine Parade and some fine individual Regency houses up Pound and Silver Streets;
- The Arts and Crafts-styled Village Hall and houses in Wootton Fitzpaine;
- Holy Trinity Church, at Bothenhampton, an important "Arts and Crafts" building, designed by E.S.Prior;

- The historic cores of Broadwindsor, South Perrott and most of Uploders and North Poorton;
- Christ Church, Melplash, by Ferrey, 1845-6, an unusually convincing neo-Norman building;
- Church and former Rectory at Monkton Wyld, a good early Victorian Gothic Revival group by R.C.Carpenter.

Key townscape characteristics are:

- The variety of local building materials: the desirability of respecting local traditions, either by sourcing supplies of the same stone (usually difficult, as most local quarries are long abandoned), recycling material or by attempting to match colour and texture; e.g. Marnhull stone is a reasonable match for Inferior Oolite;
- Varying layouts and plan form in the smaller villages, with mixtures of informal terraces, detached houses in gardens and farm buildings in yards: the estate road cul-de-sac is usually alien to the grain and appearance of settlements, as are bungalows;
- Simple detailing on most rural cottages, without formality and symmetry, avoiding, for example, elaborate thatched ridges;
- Firm boundaries to development, either walls, hedges and trees;
- The high density of building in Lyme Regis, with a rhythm of narrow facades, symmetry of openings or regular patterning, development in rear courts, use of Blue Lias or render and the importance of boundary walls;
- The occasional appearance of functional maritime details, such as steps, ramps, sheds and railings, in the coastal margin;
- The contribution made by deliberately picturesque or whimsical details, such as Regency or Arts and Crafts elements: bow and bay windows, porches, ironwork, timber embellishments, tile hanging, turrets and lettering.

Building types & materials

In such a large area, types and materials vary considerably. **Types** range from medieval churches, several important 19th-century examples by nationally important architects; modest country houses; “gentry” houses in the villages and Lyme Regis; Regency speculative terraces and villas; a Town Hall and purpose-built museum at Lyme; a former water mill; an early Nonconformist Chapel (Coombe St, Lyme); a stone pier arm in the Cobb; a modern sewage treatment works (at Lyme, a superb complex, detailed in Blue Lias); a Crafts Centre at Broadwindsor; and, amongst the variety of older cottages, a growing number of small, “in keeping” housing developments.

Materials reflect the complexity of local geology. Blue Lias and Chert provide colourful and fairly intractable walling and paving for the west; Inferior Oolite and Forest Marble have provided for much of the east and centre of the area. Junction Bed limestone often provided firm footings and, occasionally, complete walls. Smooth render or stucco is very evident, particularly in Lyme Regis and Charmouth. Tile and slate hanging are also a more “maritime” material. At Lyme Regis, also, Coade Stone appears entertainingly (Eleanor Coade retired to “Belmont”). Brick occurs occasionally, from local Gault and Oxford Clays.

Roofs vary between thatch, slate, clay plain and pantiles.

Issues are, again, varied, ranging from wirescapes in Loders, South Perrott, Shipton Gorge, Bradpole, Charmouth, Chideock, Thorncombe, Bothenhampton and Symondsbury; the disfigurement of many unlisted but valuable buildings by replacement windows and doors and clumsy repointing; the potential for additions to the List; the tendency for car parks to have weak boundaries and little internal landscaping; the pollution, noise and danger to the fabric of buildings created by traffic in Lyme Regis and Chideock; the use of the wrong colour of stone in new build; the potential for tree planting schemes to strengthen and enhance village boundaries (and Lyme Regis?).