

Historic Environment Character Zone

KSA Kintbury Suburban Area

Historic Character

This is a zone chiefly of recent housing developments that have expanded southwards from the historic core of Kintbury. Prior to development, most of KSA was part of Kintbury's agricultural hinterland and was composed of a mix of irregularly-shaped early enclosures and Parliamentary fields, both created from the village's open fields. The developments have enveloped a previously separate zone of historic settlement at Blandy's Hill and Leyland's Green which are now part of the built-up zone of Kintbury. These settlements were in existence by the 18th century and were composed of buildings irregularly strung out along the road to Inkpen. They were also a focus of brick and tile making in the 19th century.

Small housing estates were constructed in the 1960s in the east of the zone, but the majority of the zone's housing was built in the 1990s. The centre of the zone is a mix of small estates, large detached houses, schools, and open zones such as parks and playing fields. Large detached properties are also typical of housing in the west of the zone. Significant change has occurred at Blandy's Hill and Leyland's Green with many historic properties demolished or renovated and some plots infilled with new housing.

Historic Environment

There are only four HER records in this zone and there has been very little archaeological work carried out. A stray Roman coin recovered from a garden is the only evidence of activity prior to the post-medieval period; the other three records are of 18th-19th century industrial activity and consist of a chalk mine and whiting works (now under housing) and two brick-working sites at Blandy's Hill and Leyland's Green. Both brickworks have been demolished and partially redeveloped into housing, but earthworks and quarry pits survive. Little is known of the development and nature of settlement at Blandy's Hill and Leyland's Green. Historic buildings and plot patterns survive at both, but are unrecorded. Much redevelopment and renovation is occurring within the core of these settlements and it is not known whether any significant below-ground deposits or built structures are being encountered or removed.

Evidence of prehistoric (particularly Mesolithic) and Romano-British activity exists in neighbouring zones so it is possible that material and features of these periods are present in this zone. The lack of medieval records reflects both a lack of attention to historic settlements and the fact that much of the zone was under cultivation during these periods.

No listed buildings have been designated within KSA, but small parts of the Kintbury Conservation Area overlap into this zone.

Historic Environment Potential

The potential of this zone is very hard to assess due to the lack of information, but its potential is likely to be low due to disturbance of below-ground deposits by housing construction. By analogy with adjacent zones, there is the potential for Mesolithic, later prehistoric and Romano-British material, but such deposits are likely to survive only on open, undeveloped areas. Medieval and post-medieval deposits could also be present at Blandy's Hill and Leyland's Green. The historic building stock of both settlements is poorly understood and significant buildings or structures are likely to be present.

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Historic Environment Action Plan

Conservation Issues

- Conservation Area appraisal and management plan is overdue.
- There is strong pressure for infill development in this zone.
- Nature and significance of the remains of the brickworks remains unknown.
- Historic building stock is poorly understood and little protection is currently afforded to this resource.

Research Priorities

- Does prehistoric and Romano-British evidence, masked by modern development, survive in the zone?
- What were the origins of Blandy's Hill and Leyland's Green?
- Do the kilns, quarries, pits and mines represent more ancient industrial workings?
- Does evidence survive on the site to indicate the origins, nature and significance of the brickworks? How did the brickworks influence the development of adjacent settlements?