

Sutton Poyntz – Heritage assets

Working paper

Bill Egerton – October 2018

This Working Paper is a personal perspective on the heritage assets in and around Sutton Poyntz. The document is in five sections:

- (1) Listed Buildings – the buildings that are already given protection by being in the national Listed Buildings register;
- (2) Other buildings of local interest – a number of other buildings in the village that, although not judged as meriting Listing, and of historical or architectural interest or are otherwise important in enhancing the village-landscape;
- (3) Other (non-building) constructs around the village that are particularly distinctive or help to make Sutton Poyntz special;
- (4) Monuments – Features in the village or in the surrounding landscape that are given some official designation, such as Scheduled Monuments and other listed monuments, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, etc.;
- (5) Other features of local interest – other features in the village or surrounding landscape that do not have official recognition but are of local importance.

Two main maps are included in the Working Paper, one of the village showing the buildings, and a second showing the landscape features and monuments.

The main References used in preparing this Working Paper were:

- Scheduled Monument data on the Historic England website;
- Data on non-listed Monuments, available on the Heritage Gateway website;
- Listed Buildings information on the Historic England website;
- The Historic Environment tab on the Dorset Explorer map;
- Eric Ricketts' book "The Buildings of Old Weymouth", Part 3.

1. Listed Buildings

Sutton Poyntz's listed buildings are marked in bright red on the buildings map below (the mapped area includes part of Preston, which also has a number of listed buildings, but these are not marked). The listed buildings come in four groups:

- (1) On Puddledock Lane, Sutton Lodge and Sutton House are two parts of what was originally a fine 1840's farmhouse, set in grounds with a lake; the context of this house has been spoilt by later housing hemming it in on three sides;
- (2) There is then a group of listed buildings in Silver Street and Sutton Road (Laurel Cottage, Blue Shutters, Sutton Mill House, Sutton Mill, Northdown Farmhouse and Northdown Farm barn) which to a considerable extent lend one another context, and are supported by other old houses in the same vicinity (Ebenezer Cottage, Albert Cottage, Rose Cottage, No 3, and The Rest in Silver Street, and Laurel Cottage and the Court House in Sutton Road);
- (3) Thirdly, there are numbers 101, 107, 109 and 111 Sutton Road, a group of old workers' cottages beside the pond; these are enhanced by other old cottages beyond the top of the pond (Myrtle Cottages, Springfield Cottage, Fox Cottage, and Streamside), and are not badly spoilt by the 1950's rebuild that became necessary when numbers 103 and 105 (the middle of the row by the pond) became unrepairable;
- (4) Finally, there is the steam turbine building in the Waterworks, listed partly because of the rare water pump it houses; this building is part of an interesting complex of buildings, mainly Victorian, used by or built by the Weymouth Waterworks Company.

The following descriptions do not repeat the official Listed Buildings descriptions (which can be found via <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>, and searching for Sutton Poyntz). These descriptions give an estimate of date and a rather bland description of the construction and certain details including the windows and doors. Rather, this document relies on photographs to illustrate the character of each building, and gives supplementary information on the history of each building.

Sutton Lodge and Sutton House (Historic England entries number 1096721 and 1096720)

These are two parts of what was Sutton Farm House. The farmhouse, despite the early 19th C date suggested in the Listed Buildings designation, was almost certainly built by the Weld Estate for John Allen Pope when he moved to Sutton Poyntz in the late 1840's to farm the majority of the parish. Puddledock Lane, which was originally on the north side of the farm house and buildings, seems to have been diverted to the other side of the farm house at this time, with a lake dug between the house and the new line of the lane, and a bridge over the lake for the driveway. Sutton Lodge (the western end of the building) was the main domestic wing, while Sutton House (on the right in the photograph) was the service wing.

The house was used as the farmhouse for Sutton Farm until shortly before 1984, when the Diment family, who as sitting tenants had bought the farm and farmhouse at the Weld Estate sale in 1925, ceased farming. It was then divided into the present two residences, and modern developments were permitted close on either side (Brookmead on the east and Cornhill Way on the west). Old Bincombe Lane had already been built next to the farmhouse to the north. The development on the west was particularly unfortunate as it destroyed the formal driveway approaching the front of this fine old farmhouse.



Sutton Lodge (left) and Sutton House (right)
originally the 19th C Sutton Farm House



The only view from the road of the main entrance of the farmhouse,
showing how the setting is affected by modern houses

Laurel Cottage (Historic England entry number 1148060, formerly known as The Laurels)

This cottage, at the corner of Silver Street and Plaisters Lane, is given as 18th or early 19th Century according to the Listed Buildings description; however while the Tithe map just before 1840 seems to show this building, the Weld Estate survey from just before 1800 shows a smaller building to a slightly different alignment, so a 19th C date is more likely. The Tithe survey showed this building as the village Poor-house. The main structure is a long single depth 2-storey cottage of rubble construction, with 4 low buttresses against the front wall. The existence of the buttresses caused some excitement in the past as evidence of this having been the lost Sutton Poyntz chapel. Hutchins adds confusion by saying that the site of the chapel was occupied by a poor-house “till it was pulled down on the alteration of the poor law”, but clearly the poor-house that is now Laurel Cottage was not pulled down. In any case the orientation of Laurel Cottage is too far from true east for it to be the chapel, and a much better candidate has been revealed by excavations near the Waterworks. The Listed Buildings description notes that Laurel Cottage’s interior has been modified but “remains representative of vernacular cottages in the village”.



**Laurel Cottage,
viewed from the junction of Plaisters Lane and Silver Street**

Blue Shutters (Historic England entry number 1148056)

This cottage, further up Silver Street, sits at the back of Sutton Mill and Mill House. The Listed Buildings description suggests early 19th C, with the possibility of earlier fabric; the Weld Estate survey map shows a cottage on the same L-shaped footprint, so an 18th Century date seems reasonable. This house was occupied in the 1950's and 60's by Eric Morris, a well-known stonemason and sculptor, and there is evidence of his pupils' work in the paving stones that make up Silver Street. The cottage is rubble with a thatched roof. The Listed Buildings description notes that it seems to have been cut back when the next door Number 3 was built.



**Blue Shutters (with No 3, and rear of Mill House)
in the imaginatively named Silver Street**

Sutton Mill House (Historic England entry number 1148076)

That the Mill and Mill House were both built in the early 19th Century is well attested from both documentary and mapping evidence. The Weld Estate survey map seems to show an older mill straddling the stream roughly where the Mill House now stands; the new Mill was built in 1814 just upstream, after which the old Mill was presumably demolished and the new Mill House erected. The Listed Buildings description suggests mid 18th Century, but Ricketts is more likely to be correct in suggesting “a little later than the Mill”.

Whatever the date, the front of this house is a delight. The front door has an arched fan-light very similar to one at Northdown Farmhouse which is more confidently dated to c1840. The rear wing facing Silver Street is more informal.

The building is built over water tunnels from the Mill itself, and undermining had left the house in a severe structural state, but happily this beautiful house was very successfully rescued in 1992.



Sutton Mill House – the beautiful front, with Sutton Mill beyond



Rear of Sutton Mill and Mill House
taken from Silver Street

Sutton Mill (Historic England entry number 1148077)

This building is said to date from the year of Waterloo, replacing an older mill in roughly the same location (apparently just downstream). Although the location is a good match for "Overcombe Mill" in Hardy's *Trumpet Major*, the building itself is clearly not. In being built of brick (presumably necessary for a structure of this size), the Mill stands apart from other buildings in the historic centre of Sutton Poyntz. The photographs show how it is possible for brick to blend with the predominantly stone buildings in the vicinity, provided it is well-aged.

Sutton Mill was occupied and run as a working mill until 1981. Like the Mill House next door, this building had suffered severe structural degradation, in this case mainly because the weight of the roof was more than the walls could stand. A roof was replaced with one of lighter construction, and a steel frame was added inside to support the old walls, and another important building was happily restored. Milling was no longer economic, and the building has been occupied since its restoration as a dwelling; the milling machinery was largely unhung, but is still kept on site.



Sutton Mill, with Sutton Mill House in foreground

Northdown Farmhouse (Historic England entry number 1148078)

The present farmhouse is said by the Listed Buildings description to be early 19th C; Eric Ricketts suggests c1850, which is probably a better date although maybe a little late. In any case, there is documentary evidence of Northdown Farm since the mid-17th Century, and a building on roughly the same footprint is shown in the Weld Estate survey of just before 1800. The present farmhouse is a rebuild dating to around 1840-1850, although some older features are present inside.

Old maps also show the farm outbuilding extending to the north of the farmhouse. It is likely that this is older than the present structure of the farmhouse itself. The outbuilding has had a number of uses, including agricultural and (in part) domestic, presumably occupied by farm workers.

The listed buildings description notes that the farmhouse windows are replacement sashes with double glazing and mock glazing bars, and that the loss of glazing bar sashes has reduced the visual quality of the building; this is all now out of date, as is shown clearly in the recent photographs.

The outbuilding was thatched until a fire in the first decade of the 20th Century (which caused extensive damage to several buildings along the street including the Court House); since around then its roof has been of corrugated asbestos.



Northdown Farmhouse, with Court House and Sutton Mill beyond
(2016 photo by Google StreetView)



Northdown Farmhouse from south, with agricultural outbuilding beyond
(2016 photo by Google StreetView)

Northdown Farm barn range (Historic England entry number 1148079)

The main farm yard for Northdown Farm was to the south of the farmhouse, and included two old buildings which are probably shown in the 1790's Weld Estate survey map. The Old Court House building, on Sutton Road, is not listed although both the structure and name suggest some antiquity (the name suggests use for meetings of the Hundred and Manorial Court). Old maps suggest that there was originally a longer range of building along the side of the road, of which only the Old Court House has survived.

In addition, set back from the road, is a long and significant barn which together with the wall between it and the farmhouse is listed. This building was used as cow sheds while the farm was still worked, and has now been converted into two dwellings, Overcombe Barn and Upwater Barn, which together maintain the old barn structure. The conversion preserved the rubble-construct walls and the attractive tile roof, and also some narrow window-lights high in the front wall.



Northdown Farmyard building conversions, with Court House in foreground, and main barn beyond

101, 107, 109 and 111 Sutton Road (Historic England entry numbers 1148057 to 1148059)

These are the most important of the cottages that make up the classical image of Sutton Poyntz. Number 101 is the southern-most of the row of cottages by the mill-pond in Sutton Poyntz (i.e. at the left-hand end of the row in the photographs below); this is coursed rubble with a low thatch roof. Numbers 107, 109 and 111 are at the north end of the same row, the ones stepped forward from the line of the other cottages. 107 and 109 are a pair of small cottages, with coursed squared rubble walls and tiled roof; 111 also has a tiled roof, but over simpler coursed rubble walls. In the 1950's, the old cottages beside number 105 became so ruinous (middle picture) that it was judged they could not be economically saved, and more modern replacements were allowed. Eric Ricketts wrote that these rebuilds are in reasonable harmony, and it is certainly true that the rubble walls of the originals were matched reasonably faithfully.

There has been a row of cottages in this location as far back as records can take us. The Listed Buildings descriptions suggest an early 18th C date for number 101, and a 19th C date for the others but incorporating earlier material. These are modest size labourers cottages, and will have been modified many times in the past as families grew and divided, so dates are inherently difficult to establish. There may have been a pub called the Spring Bottom in this row at one time.



Cottages by pond, circa 1920, with Waterworks chimney beyond



About 1950, with centre cottages in ruin



Modern view of cottages by pond

Waterworks steam turbine building (Historic England entry number 1422471)

The steam turbine building at the Wessex Water site in Sutton Poyntz was the first of a number of industrial buildings built between 1856 and about 1880 for the Weymouth Waterworks Company, which in 1855 had acquired the site of the Upper Mill in Sutton Poyntz in order to provide water to Weymouth. This building was designed by Thomas Hawksley who was well known particularly for his civil engineering projects for the water and coal-gas industries; the building work was overseen by G R Crickmay of the Weymouth firm Crickmay & Son. The building, next to the mill house, housed two turbine-driven ram pumps which operated until 1958; one of these unusual water pumps is still in situ.

This is listed partly for the Hawksley building, but largely for the (perhaps now unique) water pump that the building houses.



The 1857 turbine-driven water pump, manufactured by D Crook of Glasgow

2. Buildings of Local Interest

The village has a number of other buildings that are not listed but are of local interest; these are shown in magenta in the map below:

- **Puddledock Cottages** and **Waterworks Cottages** are two sets of late Victorian cottages. From the plaque on the building, Puddledock Cottages were built in 1890, presumably for senior agricultural workers. Waterworks Cottages are slightly later, 1900 from an architectural plan, and were built for senior Waterworks workers.



Puddledock Cottages (Streetview photo)



Waterworks Cottages, with Upper Mill House in background

- There are a number of non-listed buildings that are on sites occupied since the early 19th C, if not before. All these cottages are likely to be Victorian, perhaps with some older structure. These are:
 - Two cottages (**Chipps Cottage** and **The Cottage**) in the southern part of Puddledock Lane. These were probably originally related to agricultural small-holdings. A cottage at the location of Chipps Cottage is shown in the 1790's Weld Estate survey map; The Cottage appears in the 1838 Tithe Map.
 - Also in Puddledock Lane is **The Old Dairy House**, which was probably occupied originally by Sutton Farm's chief dairyman; a building on this footprint is shown in

both the Tithe Map and the Estate survey map. The development known as **The Puddledocks** is recent, but preserves the layout (and a little of the material) of the working dairy buildings.



Chips Cottage, in Puddledock Lane



The Cottage, also in Puddledock Lane (StreetView photo)



The Old Dairy House in Puddledock Lane, with The Puddledocks in background

- A group of cottages along Silver Street (**Ebenezer Cottage, Albert Cottage, Rose Cottage, No 3, and The Rest**). Cottages in these locations are shown (along with other small cottages since disappeared) in the Tithe map. The Rest was originally two quite significant cottages, set in about half an acre and is said to have been referred to in a 17th C document. No 3 also had a reasonably large garden, but the other cottages were smaller, and set in a terrace. The present structure of these cottages is probably in the main late 19th C, although The Rest in particular may preserve some older structure. Nevertheless, these cottages all form an important component of the context for the group of Listed Buildings (Laurel Cottage, Blue Shutters, Sutton Mill and Sutton Mill House) in the same area.



Terrace of cottages in Silver Street, next to Laurel cottage



The Rest, at the top end of Silver Street

- **Prospect Cottage** in Plaisters Lane. A cottage on this footprint is shown in the Tithe map, and also in the earlier Weld Estate survey map. Old Ordnance Survey maps show Sutton Poyntz's chapel as having been in this area, but there does not seem to be good evidence for this. The present structure is probably late-19th C. Prospect Cottage was divided and enlarged in 1990, with the larger and older part being renamed Prospect House. The original front door opening straight onto the road was presumably blocked up at this time. This house was at one time the home of the Harrison family – wheelwrights, carpenters and builders in Sutton Poyntz since about 1880.



Prospect House (formerly Prospect Cottage) in Plaisters Lane

- A second group of cottages at the top end of the pond (113 Sutton Road, Myrtle Cottages, Springfield Cottage and Fox Cottage, and perhaps South View). These are all clearly shown in the 1838 Tithe Map; Myrtle Cottages, Springfield Cottage and the northern part of Fox Cottage are also shown in the older Weld Estate survey map. 1 Myrtle Cottages has a date, 1718, on the gable, but this is entirely

speculative. There was at one time also a small cottage on the “village green” in front of Myrtle Cottages, and another on the land later known as the Springhead Car Park (and still later known as “Top of the Pond”).



1 and 2 Myrtle Cottages, with the so-called Village Green in front



Springfield Cottage, Fox Cottage and South View, with view of ridgeway behind

- Two working buildings and one dwelling near “the fork” (the junction between Sutton Road and Plaisters Lane). The Cart Shed was probably precisely that although old surveys and maps do not help to establish use. This building and 84 Sutton Road next door occupy a site that was already in use in 1790’s, as shown by the Weld Estate survey. Across the road is the old barn, now The Coach House in Brookmead, which is one of a group of Sutton Farm agricultural buildings along the old line of Puddledock Lane shown in the 1838 Tithe Map. The Cart Shed houses the village’s Victorian letter box.



The Cart Shed (motor works), with 84 Sutton Road beyond



The Coach House (number 4 Brookmead) – StreetView photograph

- The Waterworks office building (this was the Upper Mill house, and is probably late 18th C; it may perhaps have been the model used by the artist who drew the cover illustration for the 1st Edition of Hardy's *Trumpet Major*). Other Waterworks buildings are noted by <http://www.heritagegateway.org.uk> as non-designated.



Upper Mill house, now used as Wessex Water office building



Cover picture from 1st Edition of Hardy's *Trumpet Major*

- The Springhead pub was built in the 1890's, and is a solid rather than beautiful building, loved as a social base for the village. It was originally built as a hotel, exploiting the beauty of the village and its surrounds. At the rear, it had gardens and a large "pavilion" which still stands and is used by the pub for functions. The survival of this Pavilion for around 120 years, reasonably well preserved, is quite unusual.
- Mission Hall and Church Cottage –Church Cottage was built by Salisbury Diocese in the early 1880's (it is first shown in the 1888 Ordnance Survey map), possibly to house Church Army volunteers which would match an 1880's date. The Mission Hall is slightly later, being shown for the first time in the 1901 OS map. The Mission Hall is still owned by Salisbury Diocese, but is run very successfully by a village Trust.

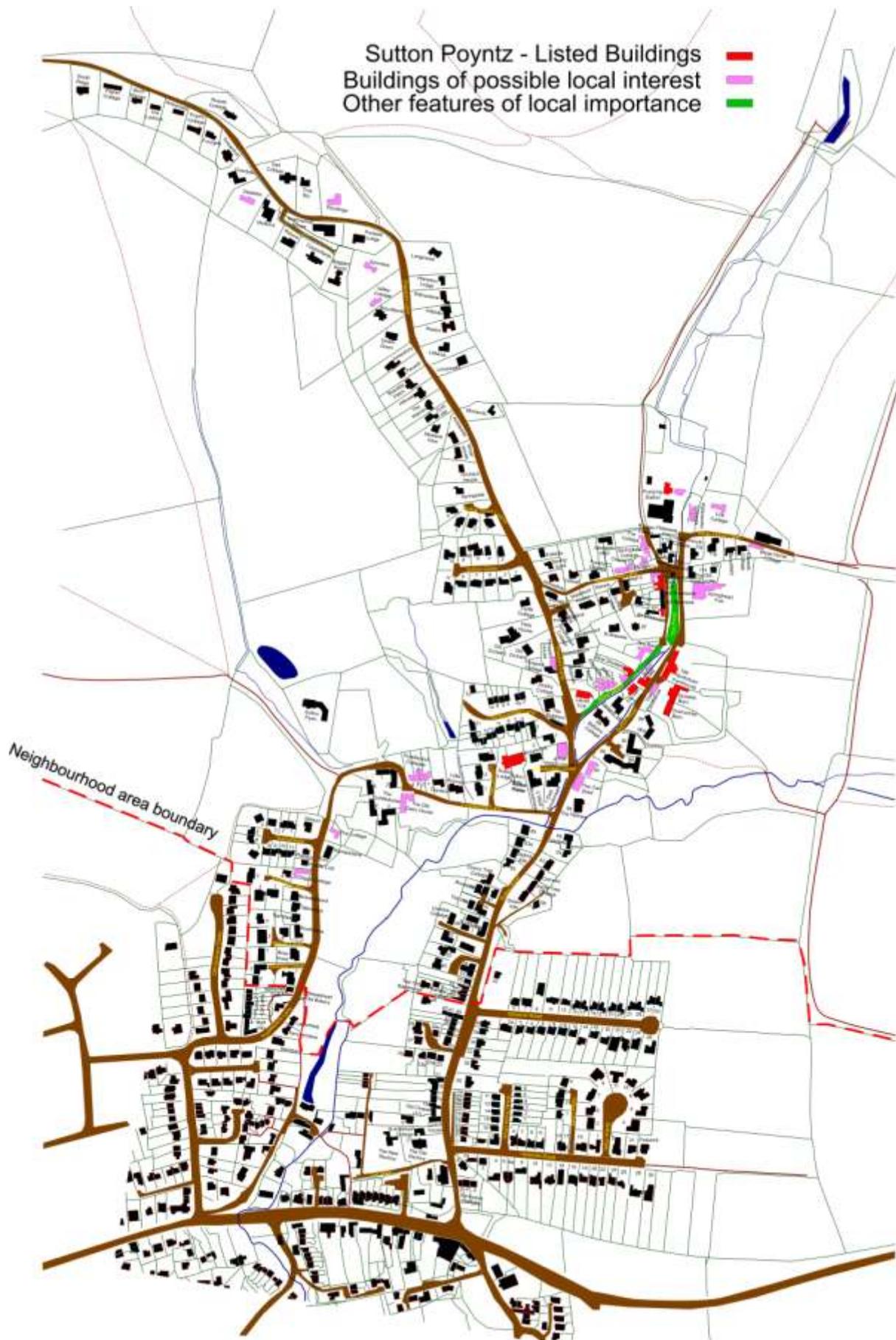


Church Cottage, with Mission Hall behind

- Wamsley Lewis houses – Sutton Poyntz is home to five houses designed and built in the 1930's by Ernest Wamsley Lewis, who settled in Dorset after his career as a London architect was cut short by the severe recession. These houses are Staddles, Russett Cottage, Spinneys and Valley Cottage in Plaisters Lane, and Cob Cottage (originally Watermeadow) in White Horse Lane. Wamsley Lewis was later a founder of the Weymouth Civic Society. These houses post-date the Arts & Crafts movement but use some Arts & Crafts design concepts, including the use of local crafts and materials. Wamsley Lewis wrote that he had not deliberately tried to match the Dorset vernacular, but that his choice of materials led inevitably to a traditional design.



Spinneys - a typical Wamsley Lewis house



Listed Buildings (red) and buildings of local importance (magenta) in Sutton Poyntz

3. Scheduled Monuments and Monuments

Sutton Poyntz sits in an important landscape, with a number of Scheduled Monuments on the hillsides above. Most of these are just outside the Neighbourhood Area, but Sutton Poyntz village is an important component of the setting of some of these. The scheduled monuments are:

- Chalbury and Rimbury; these form the western arm of the circle of hills surrounding Sutton Poyntz, and look straight down to the village in the east. Chalbury (MDO309) is a hillfort, containing several bowl barrows (MDO306, MDO 307) as well as later pottery finds (MDO310, MDO311); we understand the hillfort dates initially to around 800BC, which makes it rather older than Maiden Castle. Rimbury (MDO6647) was the site of an excavation documented by Charles Warne in his book “Celtic Tumuli of Dorset” (1866); Mr Warne and other “antiquarians” were brought in by the landowner to rescue burial urns that were being used as targets for stone throwing contests by the local agricultural workers (annoyed that the urns they had found contained nothing more valuable than ash and bone). Frustratingly Charles Warne does not give a date for this. Lord Abercromby’s later theory that this burial ground and another in Dorset must represent a foreign cultural incursion is completely discarded now, but the term he gave to that culture, Deverel-Rimbury, is still in quite common use to describe a local sub-culture.



View of village and valley beyond, from Chalbury Hill-fort (photo by M Pressly)

- There are two sets of lynchets north-west of the village (MDO24399, MDO243 and MDO25023); the former is inside the Neighbourhood Area, but again has an excellent view of the village.
- A group of barrows (bowl and pond) on West Hill (MDO295 to MDO303, MDO316) sits just outside the Neighbourhood Area on the ridge north-west of the village. It also sits just outside any direct line of sight to the village.
- A second group of bowl barrows east of Northdown Barn (MDO6631 to MDO6643) occupies the ridge north-east of the village. Most of this group are within the Neighbourhood Area, and overlook the village which is therefore an important part of their setting.



View down from near Northdown Barn on ridgeway

- The Osmington White Horse (MDO1820), a chalk cutting of King George III on horseback, is on the ridge just outside the Neighbourhood Area, but overlooks both Sutton Poyntz and Osmington. Sutton Poyntz is an important part of the setting for this monument. There are some nearby bowl barrows (MDO1821 to MDO1825) just outside view of the village.

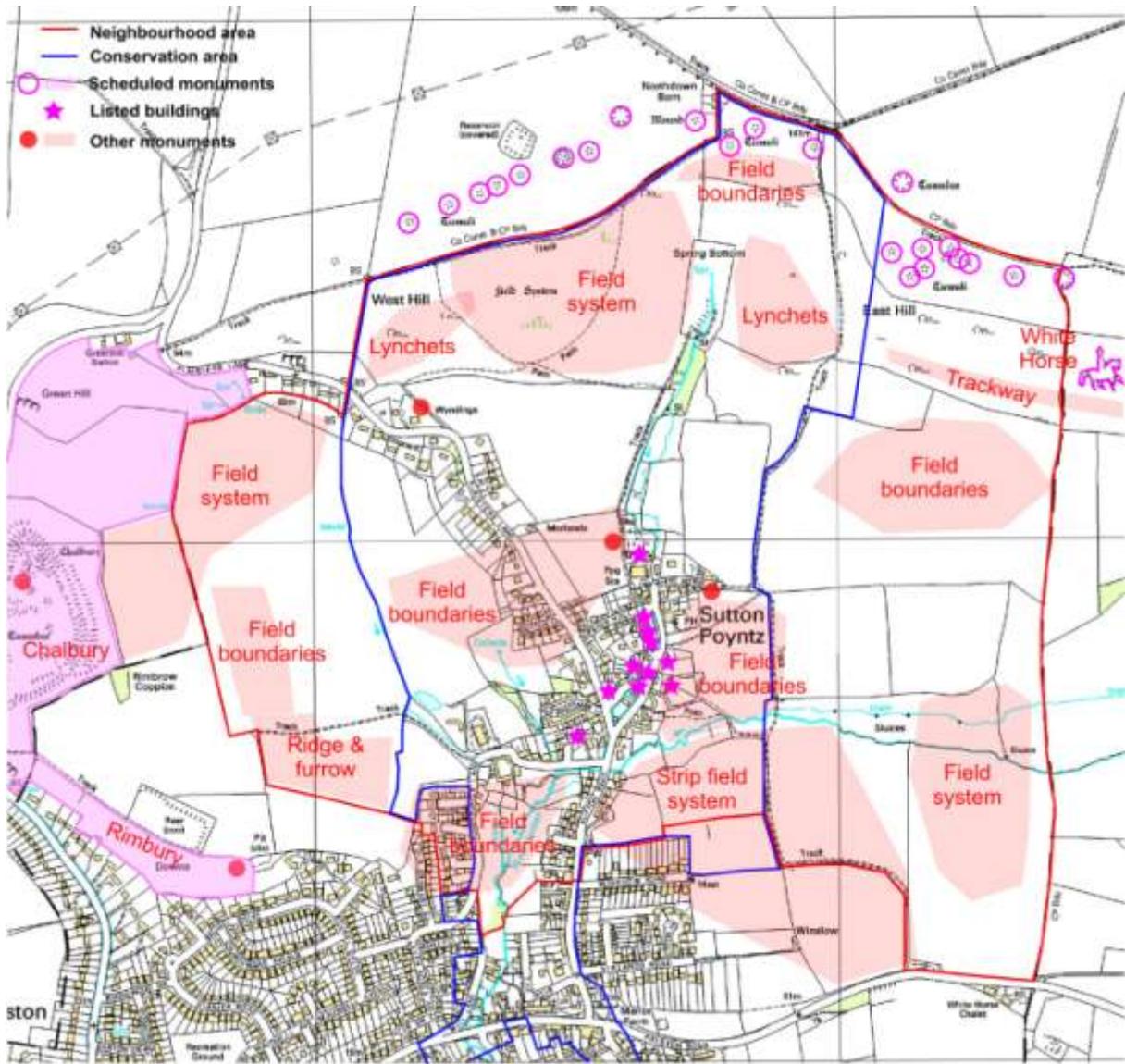


View of village from White Horse (photo from 1999 Village Survey)

The Neighbourhood Area contains a number of monuments, including:

- burials and other human remains (MDO6670, MDO6671);
- remains from the Mesolithic era (MDO6695), the Neolithic (MDO674), Bronze Age (MDO6725), Iron Age (MDO6722, MDO6726, MDO6734), Roman (MDO6723, MDO6727, MDO6735), and other (MDO6721, MDO6736);
- a prehistoric field system (MDO6673);
- various field boundaries, lynchets, ridges & furrows which are post-medieval, medieval or older (MDO24380, MDO24381, MDO24390, MDO24392, MDO24394, MDO24396, MDO24399, MDO24402, MDO24405, MDO24410, MDO24925, MDO25024), quarries and pits (MDO24397, MDO24401, MDO24409);
- Part of the White Horse Hill trackway (MDO24466).

These all combine to show the area as being of archaeological potential. Of particular local interest among these are the likely remains of the village Chapel that was excavated in 1993/4 prior to engineering work at the Waterworks, and the various Roman-era finds from excavations at and near Wyndings, half way up Plaisters Lane. There is documentary evidence for a chapel in the 14th and 15th Centuries, but it had disappeared by 1650; the building excavated by the Waterworks is convincing in terms of size, orientation, layout and stature.



Monuments in and around Sutton Poyntz

4. Other features of local importance

The Pond

The pond is the heart of the village, as the centre of the area that is most valued both by villagers and visitors. It was the mill pond for Sutton Mill; the Mill itself may have existed in some form since the 15th Century when a document notes both a grain mill and a fulling mill in Sutton Poyntz (but this was the manor of Sutton Poyntz, which included Preston, so these two mills may have been the Upper Mill in Sutton Poyntz and Preston Mill). The Tithe map of c1838 shows clearly the present layout of pond and watercourses. An earlier map from the 1790's shows the older mill straddling the stream, but does not show a pond so this older mill would probably have had an undershot wheel. The pond was therefore probably created when the present Mill was built in around 1812.

Milling continued at Sutton Mill until 1981. However, it is notable that the pond used to dry out in the summer, due to extraction of water upstream by the Waterworks, for supply to Weymouth. So milling must have been essentially a winter occupation, making it eventually uneconomic. Since milling ceased, water extraction has reduced and the stream flow has improved; happily the village pond is now full all through the year. To try to stop the pond silting up, the Borough Council had an island built in 1968. Their theory was that this would speed the water flow, and hence prevent silt from building up. The island was not popular with a number of villagers, and the experimental island was removed before the theory could be proved one way or the other.

In old maps and photographs, the pond used to extend right to Sutton Road, but photographs prove that the first willows were planted sometime between 1910 and 1920, and since then the banks have gradually silted up. The present willows are probably the third generation of trees by the pond bank. They were planted in 1980, by the Borough Council; the Council first cut down the older trees (which they had a right to do but the village would have liked some advance notice) and then replanted with the wrong sort of willows, so had to re-do their work. A few years ago, the Council had the cheek to suggest that they were not responsible for the trees, but were persuaded that they owned the pond and the bank up to the road.

The pond is very much the heart of the village, and a popular site for visitors and holidaymakers. It was of course the headwater for Sutton Mill, but has shrunk steadily over the last 100 years or so, particularly on the road side where wide banks with willow trees have been established. The pond was not shown in the 1790's Weld Estate Map, suggesting the old mill would have had an undershot wheel; it is likely therefore that the pond was created when the present Mill was built in around 1812.



Pond, photographed in about 1905 (from John Willows' collection)



Sutton Poyntz mill pond and cottages, photographed by G J Watts c1934



Pond in 1969, showing the island built by the Borough Council

Silver Street

Silver Street runs along the west bank of the pond and stream, coming out into Puddledock Lane a bit north of its junction with Sutton Road. Despite its name (which according to a villager whose family have lived in the village for at least 4 generations, was created for it by the village children in the 1930's), Silver Street is a footpath for most of its length, and gives pedestrian-only access to a number of cottages. As such, it is already most unusual, but it is made even more special by the paving stones along much of its length, which were apprentice-pieces with letters carved by students of Eric Morris, a well-known sculptor and stone-mason, who lived at Blue Shutters in the 1950's and 60's. Also in Silver Street, note the water stand-pipe outside Blue Shutters; in exchange for permission to extract significant amounts of water from the spring, Weymouth Waterworks Corporation provided a number of these stand-pipes around the village.

Woods and hedges

The 1790's Weld Estate survey map shows a farming pattern that is just pre-Inclosure, but nevertheless one with a number of hedge boundaries that still exist. The village of Sutton Poyntz was surrounded by a large undivided West Field extending to beyond Combe Valley Road, a much smaller East Field extending over Winslow Hill, and large sheep pastures on West Hill and East Hill. There were smaller pastures and meadows close in to the village and along the stream towards Osmington. The extract from the survey map highlights in red the field boundaries that have never changed since then, and so can be expected to be ancient hedges. Two boundaries of particular interest are (a) one just west of what is now Puddledock Lane, and (b) one west of Plaisters Lane roughly opposite Mission Hall Lane; in the 1960's these were preserved as the boundaries of the Sunnyfields and Sutton Close housing developments.

Inclosure followed swiftly after this, and the Tithe Map dated c1838 shows this post-Inclosure landscape, which still substantially exists. A number of the hedges set down in this immediate post-Inclosure period have since then been grubbed up to create larger fields, but almost no new hedges have been created since then. The extracted map below shows the five short stretches of hedge that have been planted since 1838. Of these, the most important is the one between Mission Hall Lane and the field to the north, which is vulnerable to damage; this is shown in the 1888 Ordnance Survey map.

The two maps below also show (coloured steel-blue) the pattern of woodland at the end of the 18th Century and in the mid 19th Century. The important piece of woodland owned by Wessex Water extending north from the Waterworks is genuinely old, having been shown in all maps and surveys since the 1790's; this woodland is included in White Horse Hill SSSI that extends over much of the hillside to the north of the village. Of only slightly lesser importance is the ancient coppice woodland alongside Plaisters Lane, which dates to some time in the early 19th Century. Housing has been allowed along this stretch, but both the Local Authority and the home owners should be aware that although there are few single trees of great age, the woodland as a whole is old and worthy of protection.

The maps also show areas of orchard, in red. Orchards were extensive, particularly in the 1830's; however there do not seem to be any areas marked then as orchard that have been preserved as such. Later on, market gardens became important in Sutton Poyntz, but there is little or no evidence of these now.



Extract from 1790's Weld Estate survey map, highlighting ancient field boundaries



Extract from Tithe map, highlighting in red the four short lengths of hedge created since then

Quarries

The Inclosure report for the manor of Sutton Poyntz, dated 1798, sets out the layout and widths of a number of roads, but these appear to have been already well established. It also described a number of quarries in the Parish which were established for road maintenance; it is not clear whether these were already in use. One of these was inside the Neighbourhood Area, being the quarry half way up Plaisters Lane on the north side, now used as car park and garaging for the houses on the south side of the road. Two others, outside the Neighbourhood Area, were nevertheless of general interest: the small quarry on the east side of Sutton Road near its junction with Preston Road, now occupied by Sunnyside Cottages; and the much larger quarry cut into the slopes of Chalbury beside Combe Valley Road.

In responding to the Sutton Poyntz Society's Neighbourhood Area application, the County Council pointed out that there is a small area of building stone on the south slope of East Hill, which needs to be protected by the Neighbourhood Plan. The area in question is just north-east of the field called Cuckoo Park.