5.5 Inter-war Weymouth (1914 – 1945)

5.5.1 Historical Summary

The inter-war years were the high point of the seaside holiday, the east pier was built with an Art Deco pavilion.

There were further developments of terraced housing in Radipole, along Abbotsbury Road, and in Rodwell. Villas were built along Dorchester Road between Broadwey and Elwell, and to the south of Rodwell where Sandsfoot Castle was surrounded by gardens.

The edges of the town also saw the development of other public facilities. Land was reclaimed along the western side of the backwater to allow for the expansion of the sewage works and gasworks.

During the Second World War Weymouth was a target for bombing raids, resulting in some damage to the historic core.

5.5.2 Town Layout

The historic core remained essentially unaltered, though with some development on the fringes, particularly to the west where the edge of the backwater was reclaimed and a new bridge built. Away from the centre there were extensive areas of development, either in the form of individual villas, often along existing roads, or as blocks of terraced houses.

5.5.3 Inter-war Town Plan Components

The main plan components of the inter-war town are listed below.

1. *St Mary's Church, Melcombe Regis.* There was little change to the church during this period.

2. *Historic Plots, Melcombe Regis.* There was little change to the underlying street plan.

4. *Melcombe Regis Quay.* The quay was widened in 1935, following the building of the new town bridge.

8. *Historic Plots, Weymouth.* There was little change to the underlying street plan.

9. *Weymouth Quay.* There was little change to the extent of the quay at this time.

10. *Land reclamation and Coastal Defence*. Land was reclaimed from the backwater, to the west of the railway line, as a series of public gardens.

12. *All Saints Church, Wyke Regis.* There was little change to the church during this period.

14. *Historic Wyke Regis.* There was little change to the form of the settlement during this period.

15. *St Nicholas Church, Broadwey.* There was little change to the church during this period.

16. *Historic Broadwey.* There was little change to the form of the settlement during this period.

17. *Historic Elwell.* There was little change to the form of the settlement during this period.

18. *Town Bridge.* The bridge was rebuilt in 1930.

19. *Sandsfoot Castle*. Public gardens were laid out around the ruins of Sandsfoot Castle.

22. *Esplanade.* There was little change during this period.

28. *Nothe Fort.* Continued as a military site

Figure 34: Art Deco pier bandstand

Figure 35: Inter-war housing along Dorchester Road

change during this period.

30. *Railway to Portland.* There was little change during this period.

31. *Westham.* Extensive development creating a single suburban area.

33. *Weymouth Workhouse*. Workhouse converted to Portwey Hospital in the 1930s.

34. *Gas Works.* The works were considerably extended during this period.

35. *Backwater Bridge*. The bridge was rebuilt in 1920.

36. *Melcombe Regis Burial Ground.* There was little change to the burial ground during this period.

37. *Weymouth Burial Ground* extended during the 1930s.

Figure 36: Sandsfoot Castle Gardens

Figure 37: Weymouth Gasworks

5.6 Later Twentieth Century Weymouth (1945 – present day)

5.6.1 Historical Summary

The second half of the twentieth century saw development of housing estates on a large scale, particularly around Wyke Regis, Westham, Southill and Radipole. These estates linked the villages of Wyke Regis, Broadwey, and Elwell to Weymouth in what was essentially a single urban unit. Another large development at Littlemoor extended Weymouth to the North East, to the north of the Lodmoor marshes.

Within the historic town of Melcombe there were new buildings both to replace those damaged during the war as well as an extensive shopping development around Bond Street in the late 1990s. Whilst in Weymouth there was extensive clearance at the western end of the old town, including the demolition of one major sixteenth century building, in order to build the new council offices,

The railways to Abbotsbury and Portland closed in 1965 and the line alongside the harbour in 1972.

The Nothe fort finally closed as a military facility in 1956. After a period of neglect it was restored by the Weymouth Civic Society as a museum in the 1980s.

5.6.2 Town Layout

The post war years were dominated by massive housing developments which essentially linked all the outlying settlements into one urban unit. Within the historic core developments in the 1990s completely altered the streetscape of part of the town.

5.6.3 Inter-war Town Plan Components

The main plan components of the later twentieth century town are listed below.

1. *St Mary's Church, Melcombe Regis.* There was little change to the church during this period.

2. *Historic Plots, Melcombe Regis.* Post war infill and the development of a shopping centre around Bond Street completely altered the layout of this part of the town.

4. *Melcombe Regis Quay.* There was extensive expansion of the quay on the backwater in order to create a marina.

8. *Historic Plots, Weymouth.* The layout of the western part of Weymouth was completely altered with the demolition of a number of houses for the building of the Weymouth & Portland Borough Council Offices.

14. *Historic Wyke Regis.* There was little change to the form of the settlement during this period. The village was surrounded by extensive post-war housing estates effectively linking it to Weymouth.

16. *Historic Broadwey.* There was little change to the form of the settlement during this period.

17. *Historic Elwell.* There was little change to the form of the settlement during this period.

28. *Nothe Fort.* The fort closed as a military site and reopened as a museum, with adjacent land being turned into public gardens.

30. *Railway to Portland.* The line closed in 1965. The route was subsequently reopened as a public trail.

Figure 38: Weymouth Pavilion and Ferry Terminal

Figure 39: Twentieth century housing estate Littlemoor

31. *Westham.* Extensive development creating a single suburban area, now virtually linking Weymouth to Chickerell.

33. *Portwey Hospital* closed in the 1970s.

34. *Gas Works.* Considerably extended during this period.

35. *Backwater Bridge*. Closed to traffic in the 1990s.

36. *Melcombe Regis Burial Ground.* There was little change to the burial ground during this period.

37. *Weymouth Burial Ground.* There was little change to the burial ground during this period.

Figure 40: Twentieth century housing estate, Broadwey