

### 3.5 HISTORIC SETTLEMENT – MILTON KEYNES

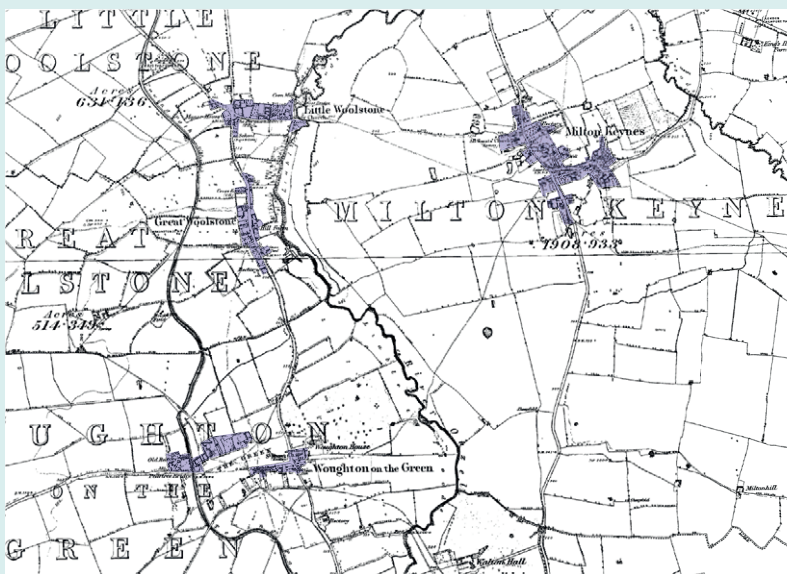
Before its development in 1967, the site on which Milton Keynes is now situated largely consisted of farmland and small villages. Today, it is the largest new town in the country, with an estimated population of approximately 230,000.

In the late 19<sup>th</sup> Century, Milton Keynes was a small village, located approximately 3.5 miles east of the centre of Milton Keynes today, and is still known as Milton Keynes Village. The original core of the village is centred upon Walton Road and Broughton Road and exhibits some attractive rural cottages, as well as a public house, a school and a church. Milton Keynes Village remained almost entirely the same up until the late 1960s/early 1970s, when in 1967 the (then) Housing Minister, Anthony Greenwood, made his formal announcement declaring that a designated area of 21,870 acres (8,850 hectares) of land would become a new town, with its name 'Milton Keynes' deriving from the existing village of Milton Keynes. The need for a further generation of new towns, particularly in south east England, was to take the projected population increase of London. Bletchley had previously agreed terms with five London Boroughs to accept people and businesses from areas of London which had been bombed during the war.

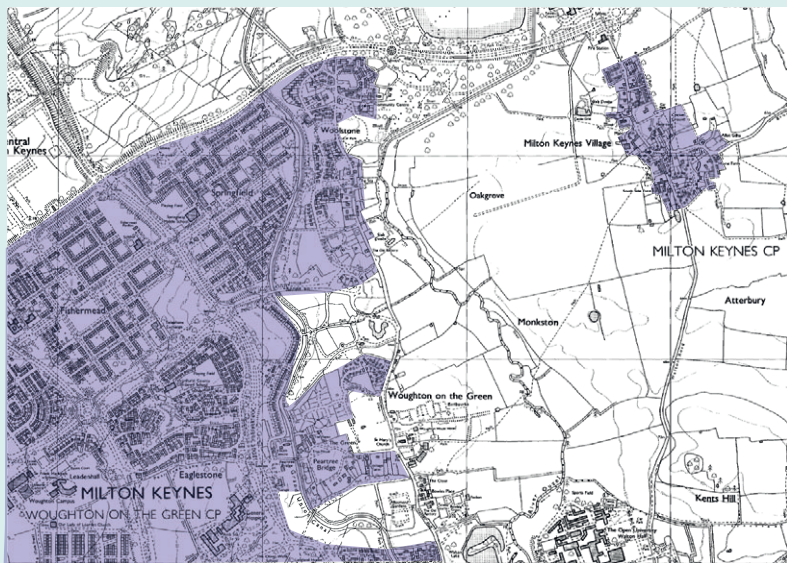
When the boundary of Milton Keynes was defined, approximately 40,000 people were currently residing in the 'designated area', which was split between five existing local authorities: Bletchley, Newport Pagnell and Wolverton Urban Districts, together with the Newport Pagnell Rural District and the Winslow Rural District. Planning control was then taken from elected local authorities and delegated to the Milton Keynes Development Corporation.

In the early 1970s, Milton Keynes began to grow, with the first section of the new city grid road system and the first major housing scheme (Stony Stratford) constructed. From this point onwards, the new town grew rapidly, encompassing many former rural villages, such as Broughton, Simpson, Tattenhoe and Woughton-on-the-Green, as well as the larger, main towns of Newport Pagnell, Stony Stratford, Wolverton and Bletchley.

By the late 1970s, Milton Keynes had expanded southwards to now completely encompass the larger town of Bletchley – a town which had previously fought to be the centre of the new town, losing out to Milton Keynes. The Site is located to the west of the existing built up area of Bletchley, and is therefore located to the south west of Milton Keynes.

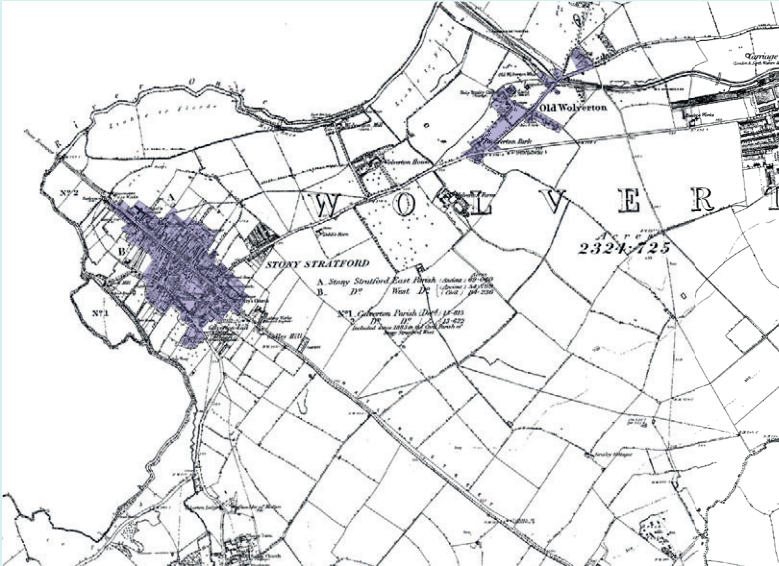


**Milton Keynes Village/Woughton on the Green/Woolstone:  
1885-1886**

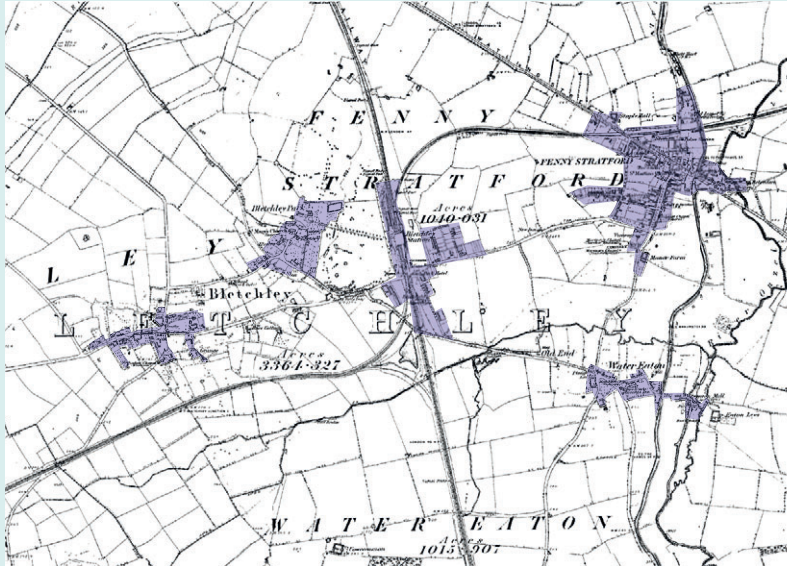


**Milton Keynes Village/Woughton on the Green/Woolstone: 1987**





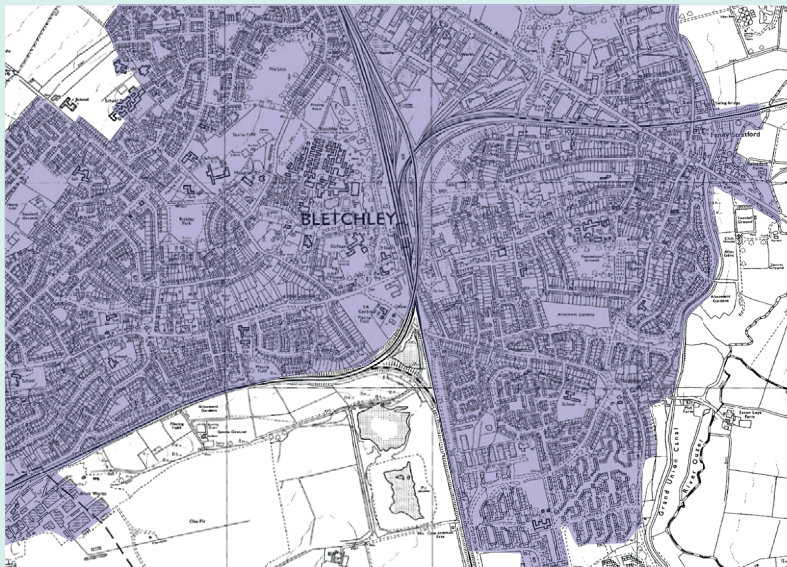
Stony Stratford and Wolverton: 1885



Bletchley: 1884-1885



Stony Stratford and Wolverton: 1992



Bletchley: 1977

### **Immediate Historical Context – Bletchley & Far Bletchley**

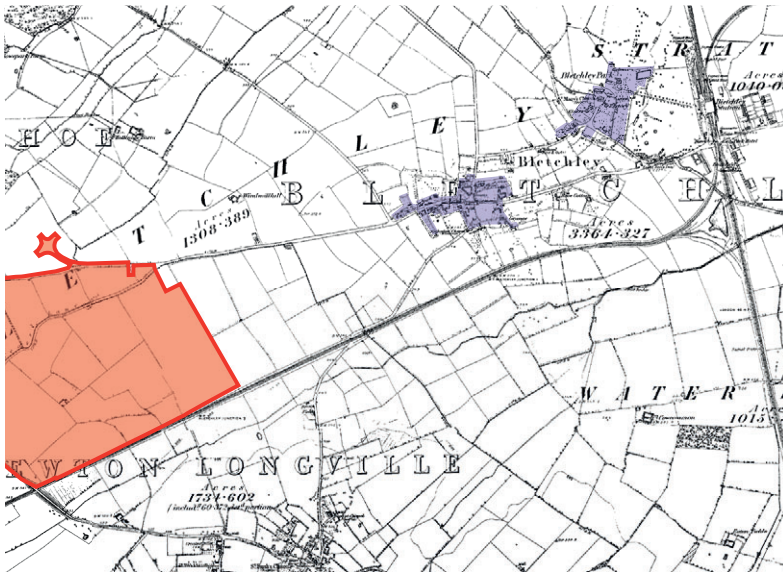
In the latter part of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, as can be seen on the 1884 – 1885 map, Bletchley was a small village located on the road between Fenny Stratford and Buckingham, to the west of the Bletchley Railway Station which was on the London and North Western Railway Line. In addition to the railway station and the village, was Bletchley Park, a mansion and estate of the English financier and politician Sir Herbert Samuel Leon.

The village began to grow in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, as can be seen on the 1926 map. Growth tended to be focused to the east of Bletchley Railway Station towards Fenny Stratford, and the two settlements eventually merged, with the urban district renamed to Bletchley in 1911. The emergence of Far Bletchley can also be seen on this map, which extended from the historic core of Bletchley west along Buckingham Road.

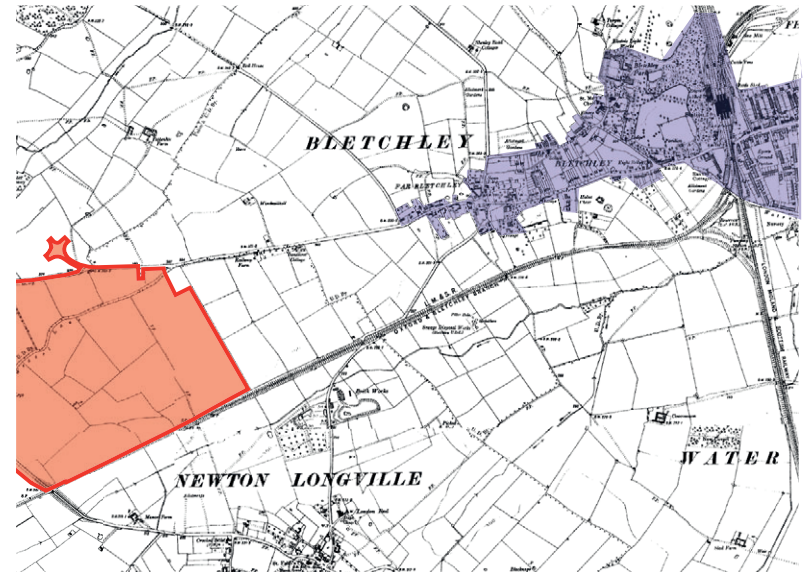
As previously mentioned, following World War II, Bletchley expressed its desire to expand its population and began to accept people and business from London. This influx of new residents from London to Bletchley continued through the 1950s and 1960s, even as Milton Keynes was being founded. The 1968 map shows the rapid expansion of Bletchley, particularly to the north and to the west, bringing the settlement further towards the Site. By this point, Bletchley and Fenny Stratford had merged with the rapidly expanding Milton Keynes. During the early years of the growth of Milton Keynes, Bletchley thrived as it was the main shopping area. However when thecentre:mk opened in 1979, Bletchley declined as a retail destination and has continued to do so ever since.

The modern day map shows how Bletchley continued to grow to the west along Buckingham Road. During this time, Milton Keynes was also expanding, with the new grid road system well underway. Standing Way was constructed in the late 1970s/early 1980s, and runs along the northern edge of Bletchley in a south western direction towards the Site. Milton Keynes grew to the north west of Standing Way, further merging with Bletchley, and bringing the settlement edge of Milton Keynes closer towards the Site. The emergence of Snelshall West, a business park, can be seen to the north of the Site.

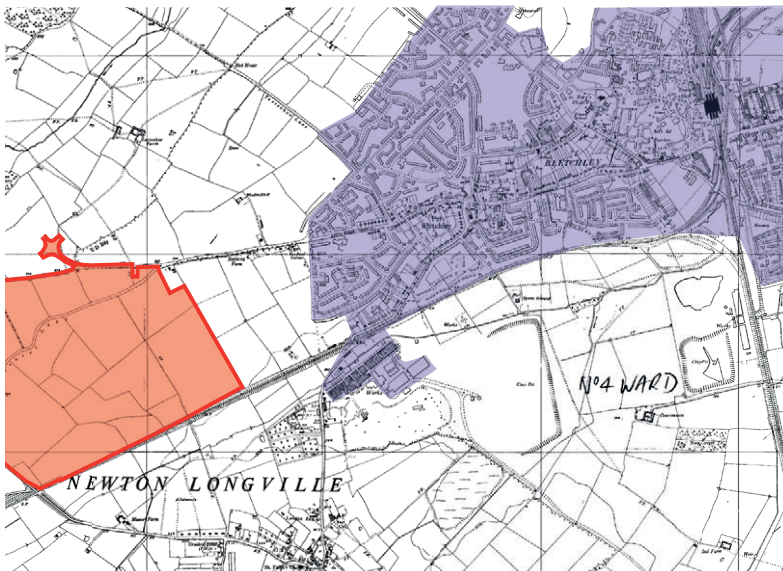




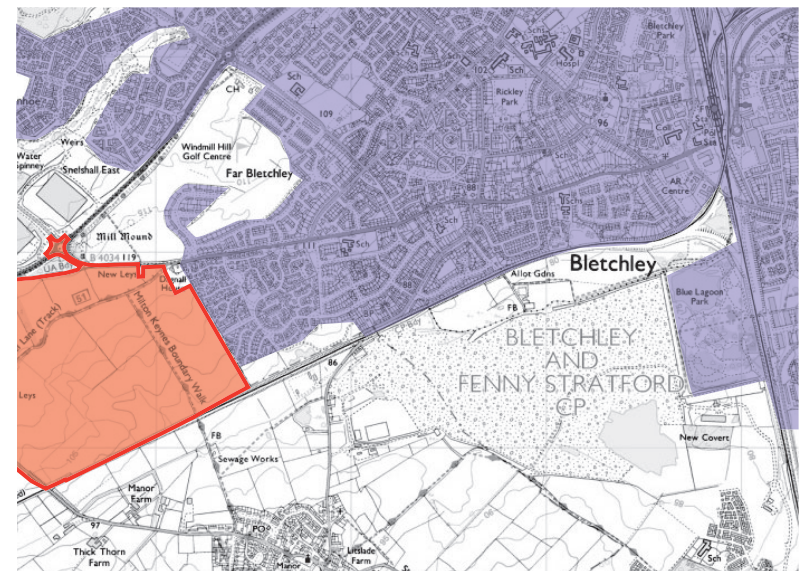
Bletchley: 1884-1885



Bletchley: 1926



Bletchley: 1968



Bletchley: Modern Day

### **3.6 LOCAL ARCHITECTURAL AND BUILT CONTEXT**

To assess the local vernacular within close proximity of the Site, it is appropriate to highlight key character areas which possess varying attributes. The areas which have been selected and assessed are within close proximity to the Site, located in Tattenhoe (approximately 1.5km north of the Site), Far Bletchley (located adjacent to the Site's eastern boundary), and Newton Longville (approximately 1km south east of the Site).



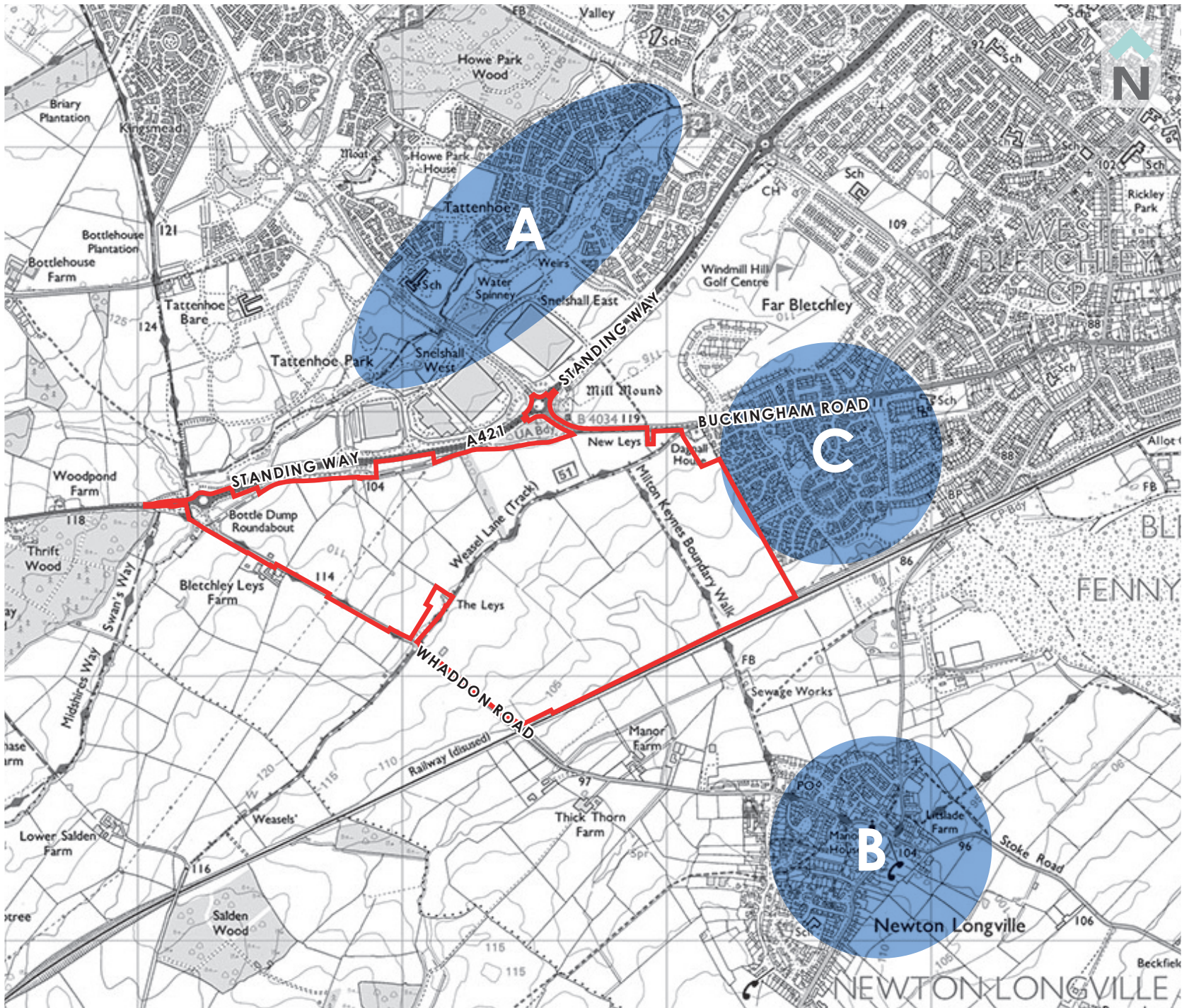


Figure 3.5: Character Areas