

Elements of the Neighbourhood Overview

1. Age

The 'age' of a neighbourhood often plays a key role in its character and how it 'works'. For example, a historic village that has developed organically over hundreds of years will have a distinctly different character to a more modern residential estate.

2. Land use

Land use is the dominant use of the area (e.g. residential, commercial, industrial, recreational, community, service, agriculture, natural or semi-natural, etc.) and relevant pockets and clusters of minority uses (a particular road or junction with several shops and services, an industrial estate close to a residential site etc.).

3. Layout

Layout is related to the location and arrangement of buildings in relation to the public and private space surrounding them. It aims to identify; buildings density (e.g. row of dense terraced houses, detached buildings with large open spaces in between them); plot size and distribution (e.g. large gardens surrounding the building, elongated backyards); the position of buildings within a plot (e.g. set back with front garden, facing the street); the arrangement of the buildings with relation to the street (e.g. buildings arranged in a sporadic way with winding streets, linear frontage of buildings); arrangement of buildings in relation to open spaces (buildings surrounding a central park or village green, car parking space on the back of building line etc.).

4. Natural features

Natural and semi-natural green and blue spaces (rivers, lake, canals, agriculture lands, landscaped parks, orchards and urban forests etc.) are not always located around and within neighbourhoods, but often pierce through these areas or wedge in from the surrounding area.

At this stage it is important to discuss the size and distribution of open spaces (one single, large open space with a body of water, a number of distributed green pockets, narrow green corridor following the river, etc.), their urban-rural gradient (e.g. landscaped park, allotments, patch of grass or wood etc.).

5. Open Spaces and Recreation

Discuss the presence of public open spaces (e.g. village greens, parks, cemeteries, etc.) and recreational facilities (e.g. cycle route, playground, etc.) and how residents use these areas and their contribution to the character of the settlement.

6. Shops, Services and Employment Sites

Discuss how the presence of shops, services and employment sites impact the character of the Area. This involves; identifying the main commercial streets compared to more isolated shops serving the Neighbourhood; discuss the typology of commercial premises (shops, offices, pubs, etc.) and service (e.g. school, church, village hall etc.) offered in the neighbourhood and the way residents access them; key employment sites (e.g. industrial, commercial, etc.) and their importance to the Character of the Neighbourhood.

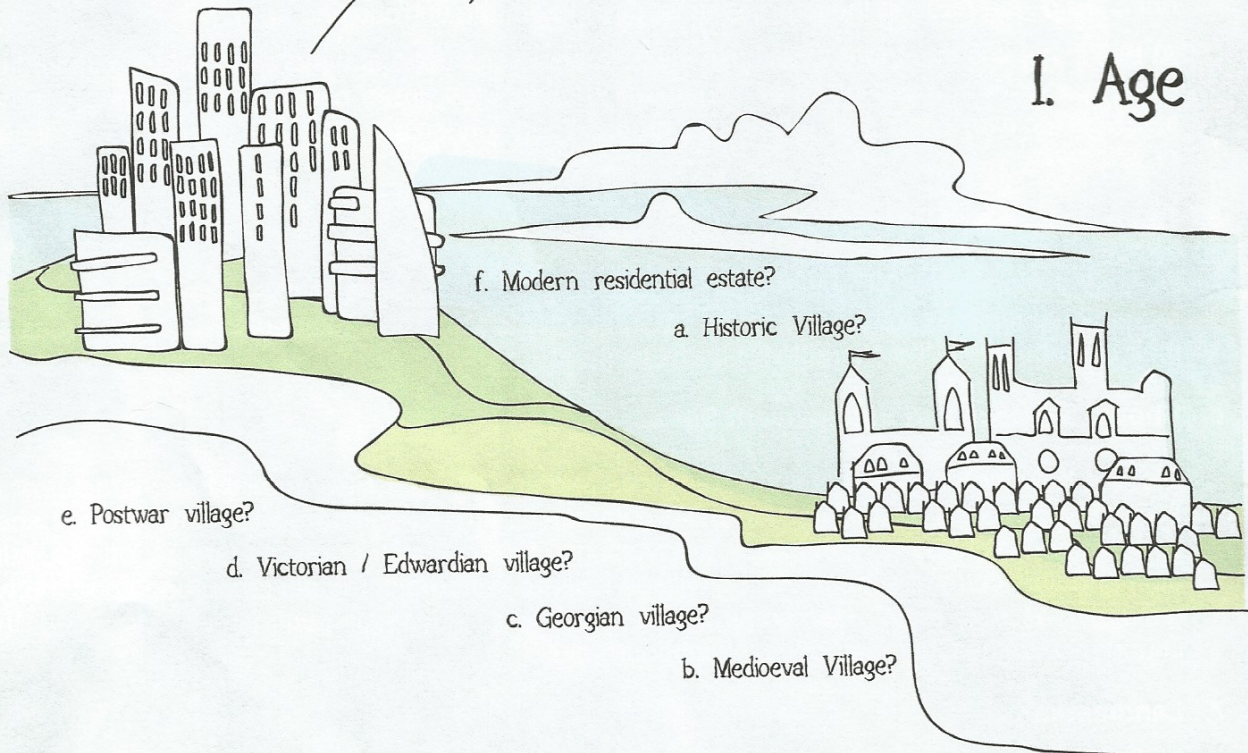
7. Landmarks

Neighbourhoods often have key landmarks that act as meeting or focal points for local residents, these do not have to be built structures but often are buildings.

Neighbourhood Overview

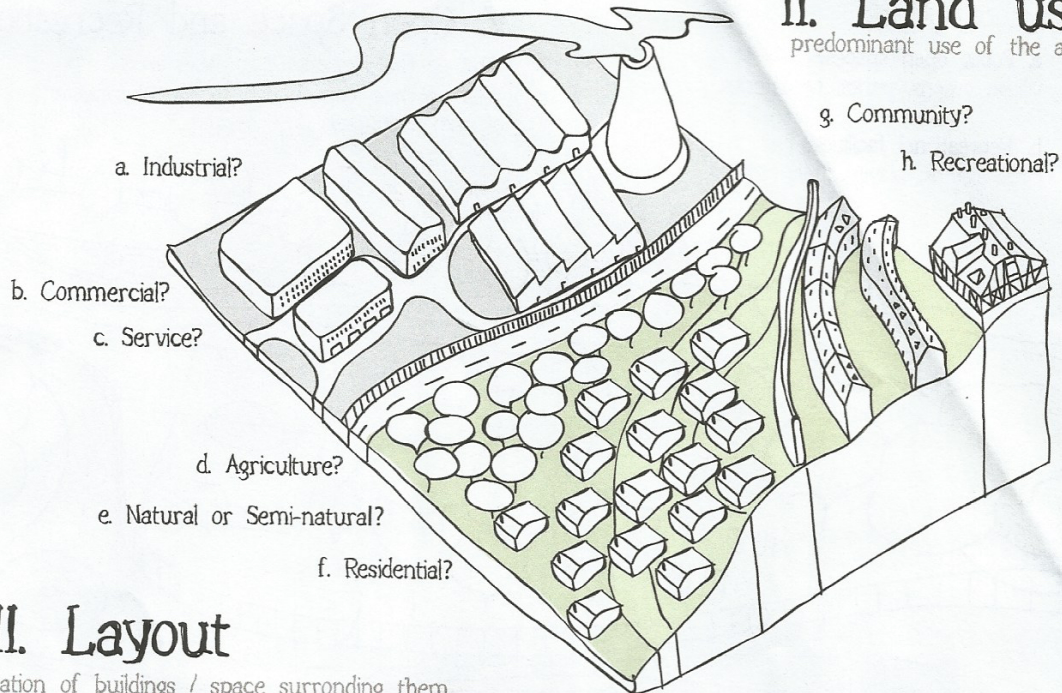


I. Age



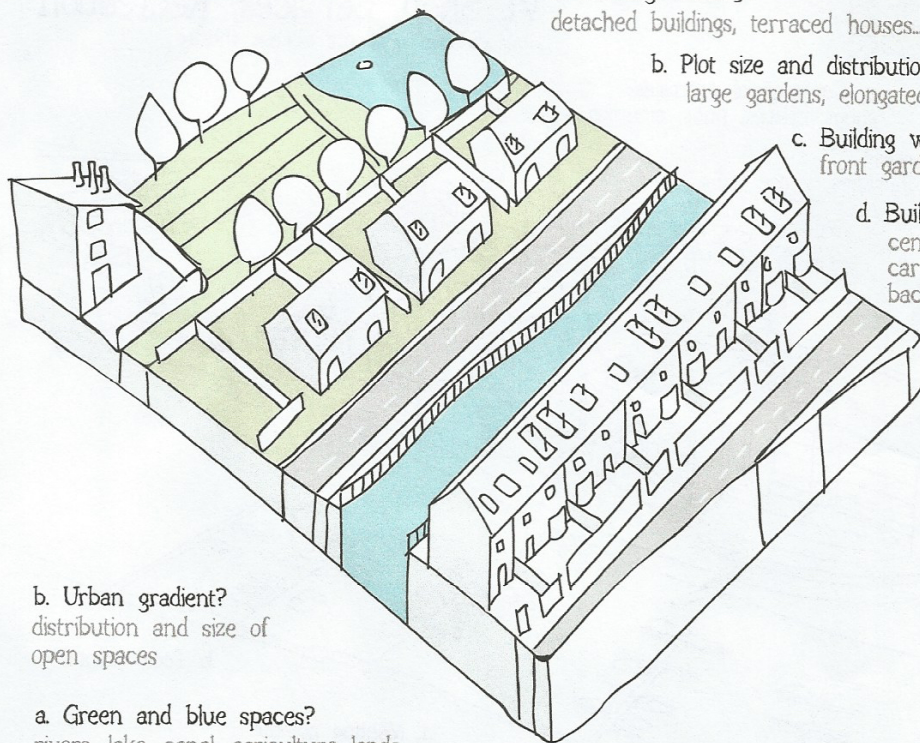
II. Land use

predominant use of the area



III. Layout

location of buildings / space surrounding them



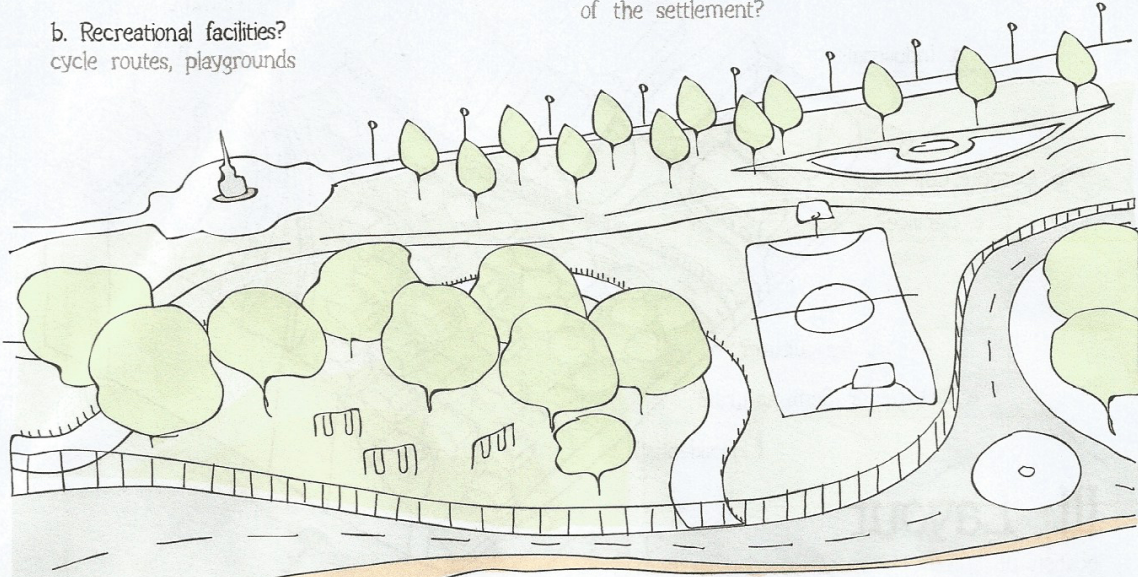
IV. Natural features

V. Open Space and Recreation

a. Public open spaces?
village greens, parks, cemeteries...

b. Recreational facilities?
cycle routes, playgrounds

How do the residents use these areas?
What is their contribution to the character of the settlement?



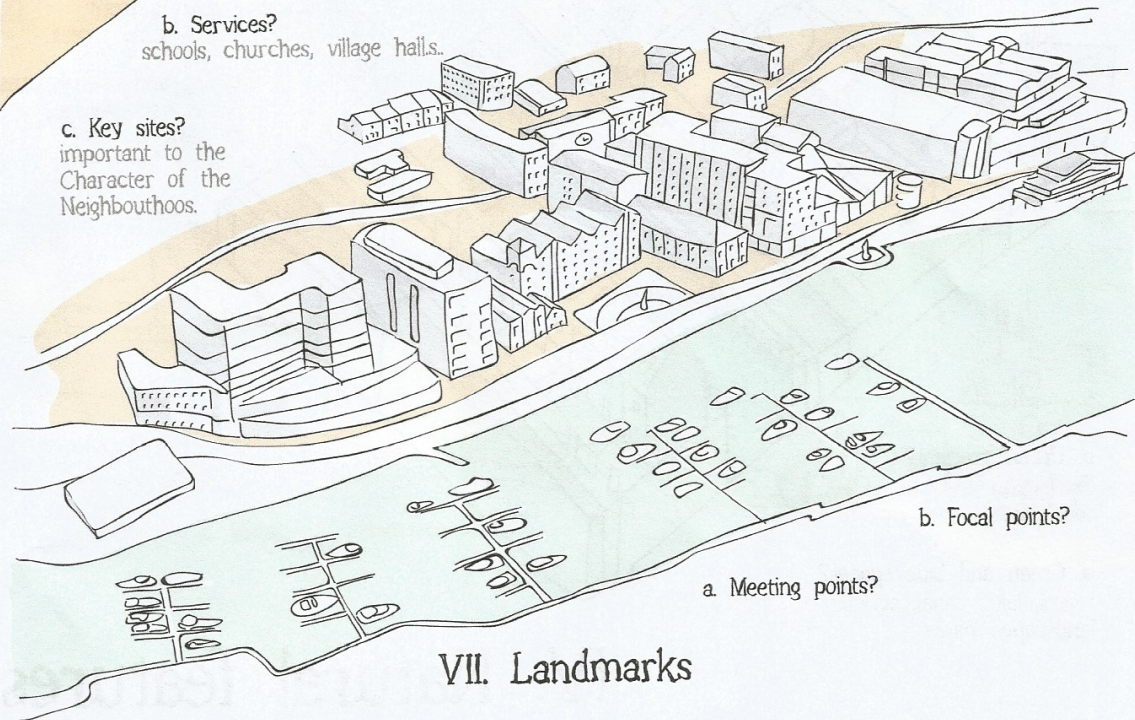
VI. Shop, Services, Recreation

How do the residents access them?

a. Commercial premises?
shops, offices, pubs, cinemas...

b. Services?
schools, churches, village halls...

c. Key sites?
important to the
Character of the
Neighbourhoods.



b. Focal points?

a. Meeting points?

VII. Landmarks

