

A Short History of the Blandford Allotments

In the Beginning

There have been allotments in Blandford since 1897. These allotments were given to the people of Blandford by Lord Portman to grow crops. They were free of charge. When he died in 1929, the Crown estate wanted the land back as part of his death duties, so the Portman Estate sold them to the then Blandford District Council. The site at that time was 20 acres and was situated where the Blandford Heights industrial estate now resides.

Gradually, more of this land was sold off for industrial use until the last 3 acres were all that remained of a once significant and ancient plot.

When the now Blandford Town Council wished to sell the last remaining 3 acres for industrial use, it was deemed by the Local Authority that these were 'statutory allotments' and therefore had to be replaced with new allotments. Blandford Town Council looked for alternative land, as did the Blandford Allotment Society. Four sites were proposed as alternatives, and eventually Lamperds Field was chosen.

Lamperds Field

Lamperds Field was leased by the Davies Family, and their workers always referred to it as Lamperds Field because it was actually owned by the Lamperds sisters, who leased it to the family. The Davies family eventually bought it, and then later on leased it to the Blandford Town Council in 2001 for use as allotments on a 999 year lease and a peppercorn rent. Soil samples were taken, indicating that the soil was quite good, but needed nutrients, so as part of the agreement, Blandford Town Council paid for the first load of manure. The council also put in the warehouse/shed, the water infra-structure and the roads and fencing at a total cost of £250,000.

Elizabeth Road

This site is separate from the Lamperds Field site and is owned by Dorset Council. It was planned as part of the council estate within which it is sited immediately post-WW2. These allotments are non-statutory, and in the past, the Blandford Allotment Society have tried to secure longer term agreements for plot holders, but these attempts have failed to date. The

sites are therefore operated on a very short-term agreement (3 months' notice is all that is required before eviction). The site is allocated for residential development at some point.

Blandford Allotment Society

The Blandford Allotment Society and the Blandford and District Horticultural Society were set up in the mid-80's by enthusiasts. These enthusiasts included Cyril Hovard and Bill Gallagher. Shortly after the Blandford Allotment Society took over the management the Lamperds Field site and had some management responsibility for the Elizabeth Road Site. The Blandford and District Horticultural Society also organised events and talks.

Blandford Heights Allotments



The pink line shows the outline of the original allotments taken from the 1902 OS map.

There were over a thousand plots.

By the early 60's most of the plots were untended and overgrown. There were even cars dumped in the undergrowth.

For a few years, in the mid to late 60s, an area in southeast bounded by the green and green dotted lines on the map was leased for agriculture, with a grain crop being grown.

In the early 70's a road was put in to facilitate the building of the BOCM mill, which opened in April 1974. Around this time 3 blocks of sheds were built on the allotments, which included toilets, and we were encouraged to dismantle our traditional sheds, but a few did survive.

The blue + green outlines show the allotments at that time, such a drastically reduced area.

In 2002 we moved to Lamperds Field the plan was to move after the AGM in September, but the plots were ready in March, so most people moved then. Those who were not going to move stayed on Blandford Heights until September.

The blue outline represents the area of the allotments in 2002.

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Updated from memory by Mike Hewlett (30th July 2026)