

THE FORCE

**LOCAL
INFORMATION
MANUAL**

Your Division in detail

This manual is modified for each Superintendent appointed and contains the detailed notes on the Division which he or she will command.

The details given try to provide an overview of the area sufficient to allow you to make intelligent decisions and follow conversations with your colleagues from your first day in the post. We cannot give you all the information which may affect your role but we have found over the years that even the summary information given here is sufficient in the initial period and has been much appreciated by your fellow officers in the past.

This information is as up to date as possible but due to the rapid change of land use and the nature of urban change there may be minor modifications required throughout your period of office.

Middletown

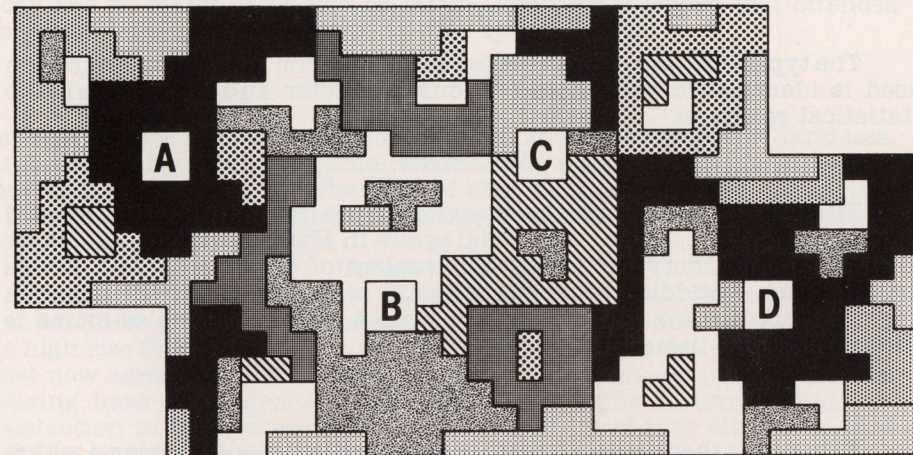
Set in a picturesque valley in Middleshire, Middletown is a thriving modern community with a population of about 90,000 persons lying in the north west sector of the industrial city of Middlewalk.

There is a well thought out area plan which has the main retail centre in the geographic middle of the town with local shopping centres spread amongst the housing areas. Recently large retail outlets have been opening on the edge of town but these haven't changed the pattern of crime in any obvious way yet.

The main industrial development is restricted to a couple of zones in the northern part of your division. This is another good aspect of the town plan as it keeps the heavy goods vehicles around the perimeter of the town. Throughout the town there are large areas of undeveloped land.

Commercial premises are to be found throughout the area but there is a concentration of this type of premises in the town centre. This pattern of concentration can also be seen in the entertainment areas which cluster around the centre of town near the car parks.

Housing is subdivided into three types — urban, sub-urban and



Class 1

Underdeveloped

Commercial

Class 2

Class 3

Industrial

Night spots

Retail

rural. The types are defined and detailed later but the spread of the housing types can best be likened to a dart board with urban towards the bull, sub-urban and rural housing providing the board's surround.

There are post offices, building societies and banks throughout the area but the greatest concentration is in the town centre.

There are no major features of Middletown which make it either more or less prone to crime but it is a difficult area to control due to its spread and the different natures of the four police stations in the town.

Land use classification

The types of land use are detailed in this section and the classification used is identical to that stored in our computer and used for all the statistical readouts.

Industrial

This term covers all the heavier types of manufacturing and warehousing. On a typical industrial estate in Middletown you are likely to find car and lorry repairers, wholesalers of all descriptions, bottle manufacture — Middletown Bottle Company is a major employer, and even chemical production and storage. The most prevalent type of crime is commercial and industrial burglary.

Undeveloped

This is a rather catch-all term which covers not only the land which is genuinely under-developed ie waste and derelict land, as well as virgin land, but also parks and other open spaces which won't be developed for commercial or housing use. This land can be a haven for muggers and pickpockets.

Commercial

Unlike industrial land use which includes manufacture, this type of land can best be imagined as offices and other services. Solicitors, accountants, consultants of all types, insurance, banking and computer companies all have premises in these areas. In terms of the crime profile it is commercial burglary which is the major problem.

Rural Housing

The housing around the edge of town can be pictured as detached and semi-detached in most cases. Most of the families in these areas have

a car and in many cases two or more. Domestic burglary and offences involving vehicles are common in this type of area.

Suburban Housing

Terraced and semi-detached housing tends to form this type of land use. A number of houses have gardens and there is a good community spirit fostered by their owners. The type of offence most likely to occur here is identical to the other housing areas, burglary and vehicle offences.

Urban Housing

Middletown was well known throughout the 1960's for pioneering the high rise flats and other system built housing schemes. Unfortunately most now agree that these experiments in quick, cheap and impersonal housing have gone wrong. There are always signs of unrest and dissatisfaction in these areas but the crime pattern is very similar to that detailed above.

Retail

Shops of all types and sizes, banks and post offices make up the bulk of this category. The main shopping centre is in Central Zone 4 and houses most of the larger stores and services. There are a number of other district shopping centres and these include bakers, newsagents, local post offices as well as chemists and other premises which can cause the police special problems.

Entertainments

These areas of the town are often referred to as the night spots because this is when the greatest activity takes place. Public houses, night clubs and bars pose one type of problem, whilst theatres, cinemas and sports halls another. The highest crime statistic in these areas is for mugging and assault at night.

Your stations

Each of the police stations in your division is subdivided into four zones each of which has a mixture of land use types.

It is to these sub-divisions that you can assign the forces each week as these are the minimum operational areas for statistical purposes.

As you might expect each area has its own characteristics and difficulties. You are likely to see these appearing in the statistics over the weeks as you study them. Remember that an area which has a low community goodwill rating can be affected by the placement of a Community Liaison Officer, and those with a high crime rate by the placement of the Crime Prevention Officer.

Alder

The north-western sub-division is characterised by the large numbers of houses of all types. The very outer area has a high proportion of rural housing and the division nearest to the city centre has some urban housing too.

Another characteristic of this division is the large undeveloped areas and parks. It may be that in years to come this will change as Middletown suffers from urban sprawl.

Industrial estate number one is located in Alder zone three.

Burntwood

This south-western corner of the division is the location of the Burntwood station and this covers the major entertainment area in zone three.

Other features of this area are the railway station — zone one and the housing which used to be owned by the council but which is now being sold off to the tenants. There is very little industrial development here but a large commercial and retail area brings a few problems.

Central

As its name suggests this station covers the major retail

developments in the town. There are a number of major meeting places in this area too.

The football ground, which features regularly in the diary, is located in zone one. Zone two houses the Central Park, zone three the second industrial estate — not as large as the Alder estate — and zone four is the commercial centre with the Town Hall and other civic buildings.

The districts north of the Town Hall have some housing mainly of the urban and sub-urban types.

Dorton

Dorton lies to the south-east of your division and this means that it avoids the congestion of the shopping districts.

The major feature of this area is the wealth of sub-urban and rural housing throughout the district. This housing is served by a good number of shops the bulk of which are located in zone three at the Mulberry Fair shopping precinct.

There are vast areas of under-developed land in this area and the flat south east is the location of the airport — zone four.

Your responsibilities

In Middletown, as throughout the Middleshire Constabulary area, the main responsibilities of a new Superintendent are the planning and analysis of force deployment.

Middletown has always had a good community spirit and this has made the role of the police that much easier. The Town Council usually give the police all the co-operation they can but they have in the past refused to ban marches and protests when the police have requested this.

Middletown Flyers, the local football team, are rapidly moving up the second division of the football league and this means that there are a number of extra matches planned. There has not been a history of hooliganism to date.

We wish you all the very best in your new sphere of responsibility and hope that you find this manual a valuable asset.

MIND GAMES



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