
CONSERVATION AREA CHARACTER PROFILE

St. Peter's Square

Hammersmith
& Fulham

Serving our Community

Environment

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The St. Peter's Square Conservation Area Character Profile was approved by the Planning Applications and Transport Sub-Committee on 3rd. June 1996 as supplementary planning guidance. If you have any queries regarding this profile or wish to carry out works in the conservation area please contact Environment Department reception on 0181 748 3020 extension 3330.

Design and Conservation
Development Services Division
Environment Department
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham
Town Hall
King Street
LONDON W6 9JU
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The Barton Willmore Partnership were the consultants for the first draft of the St. Peter's Square Conservation Area Character Profile.

FOREWORD



The London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham is fortunate enough to have 43 conservation areas covering almost half the Borough. These have been designated in recognition of the importance of the historic and architectural heritage in our Borough. As Chair of the Environment Committee, I am committed to the preservation of these areas with the help of residents and local groups, so that they continue to enhance the quality of life in the Borough and so that they survive as good examples of our heritage for future generations.

This Profile describes the special character of the St. Peter's Square Conservation Area identifying buildings of note, interesting historic facts and showing how the buildings, open spaces and streets work together to create an environment worthy of protection.

I would like to thank all local groups who helped to prepare these Profiles, in particular the Hammersmith and Fulham Historic Buildings Group under the dedicated leadership of Angela Dixon. Through the consultation process the documents have evolved to represent not only officers' assessments of the conservation areas, but those of the local amenity societies and residents groups active in each area. I hope these Profiles will now provide extra assistance in the stewardship and preservation of what is best in the Borough.



Councillor Sally Powell
Chair of the Environment Committee

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 states that every local authority shall from time to time determine which parts of their area are areas of special architectural or historic interest the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance, and shall designate them as conservation areas. The Borough has 43 such areas designated over 22 years, of which St. Peter's Square Conservation Area is one.

1.2 Once an area has been designated, certain duties fall on the local authority; in particular under paragraph 71 of that Act whereby the local authority must from time to time formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of those conservation areas.

1.3 The Council is doing this in stages. The first stage is this document which is called a Conservation Area Character Profile. The "profile" aims to give a clear definition of what constitutes the special architectural or historic interest which warranted the designation of the area as a conservation area. It also includes some broad design guidelines which will aid all concerned in their efforts to preserve or enhance the character of the conservation area.

1.4 Each profile document is intended to form a sound basis, justifiable on appeal, for development control decisions, and for the guidance of residents and developers.

1.5 The next stage will be the production of more detailed design guidelines in consultation with local groups where necessary. Policy documents for the preservation and enhancement of individual conservation areas may be prepared and will be the subject of local consultation.

1.6 The profiles and subsequent design guidelines will be supplementary planning guidance and will support the Council's Statutory Unitary Development Plan which sets out the planning policy framework for the development

of the Borough and development control decisions. They will constitute material planning considerations in the determination of planning applications.

1.7 The Government has given guidance to local authorities on how to operate the legislation in their Planning Policy Guidance document (PPG15), entitled "Planning and the Historic Environment". Here we are reminded that the prime consideration in identifying conservation areas is the quality and interest of areas rather than that of individual buildings. There has been increasing recognition in recent years that our experience of a historic area depends on much more than the quality of individual buildings. This would include the historic layout of property boundaries and thoroughfares; a particular 'mix' of uses; characteristic materials; appropriate scaling and detailing of contemporary buildings; the quality of advertisements, shopfronts, street furniture and hard and soft surfaces; vistas along streets and between buildings and the extent to which traffic intrudes and limits pedestrian use of spaces between buildings. The Secretary of State therefore intends that conservation area legislation should be seen as the means of recognising the importance of all these factors and of ensuring that conservation area policy addresses the quality of townscape in its broadest sense as well as the protection of individual buildings.

1.8 This intention is reinforced by English Heritage in their document "Conservation Area Practice" which recognises that as the number of conservation areas being designated continues to grow their designation is increasingly being looked at more critically. It is therefore even more important than before that there should be a clear definition, recorded in some detail, of what constitutes the special architectural or historic interest which warranted the designation of every conservation area.

1.9 In line with the guidance given by both the Government and English Heritage, therefore, this Conservation Area Character Profile will aim to

define the character of the conservation area on the basis of an analysis of all or some of the following criteria:-

- the origins and development of the street patterns, the lie of the land;
- archaeological significance and potential of the area, including any scheduled monuments;
- the architectural and historic quality, character and coherence of the buildings, both listed and unlisted, and the contribution which they make to the special interest of the area;
- the character and hierarchy of spaces, and townscape quality;
- prevalent and traditional building materials for buildings, walls and surfaces;
- the contribution made to the character of the area by greens or green spaces, trees, hedges and other natural or cultivated elements;
- the prevailing (or former) uses within the area and their historic patronage, and the influence of these on the plan form and building types;
- the relationship of the built environment to landscape/townscape including definition of significant landmarks, vistas and panoramas, where appropriate;
- the extent of any loss, intrusion, or damage that has occurred since designation;
- the existence of any opportunity sites;
- unlisted buildings which make a positive contribution to the conservation area according to English Heritage's criteria.

2 DESIGNATION

2.1 St. Peter's Square Conservation Area was designated in 1971.

2.2 The conservation area was extended in April 1989 to include Theresa Road, St. Peter's Road and Beavor Lane.

3 CONSERVATION AREA BOUNDARY

3.1 The conservation area boundary can be seen on the Plan on page 19.

3.2 The western boundary follows the Borough Boundary which runs north-south along British Grove. The boundary line is on the east side of British Grove e.g. on the property line of buildings in the conservation area.

3.3 The eastern boundary follows the centre line of Standish Road, Theresa Road and Beavor Lane. The conservation area excludes the former works site to the north side of Theresa Road which has now been developed with housing.

4 BRIEF HISTORY OF THE AREA

4.1 So far as is known, there is no archaeological record for this conservation area. During the Medieval period the vast majority of the land in the Borough was open fields, common land and woodland, which survived until the 19th century. This land use was first recorded on John Rocque's map in 1741-45.

4.2 By the mid 18th century the conservation area was still in open fields apart from several detached buildings fronting King Street north of St. Peter's Square. The existing parallel street pattern (and some property boundaries) in the conservation area originated from footways, bridleways and field boundaries as shown on Rocque's map 1745 e.g. Beavor Lane, St. Peter's Road, Black Lion Lane and British Grove ¹.

4.3 The construction of the Great West Road in the late 1950's severed links between the conservation area and both the River Thames and the Mall Conservation Area. During the 20th century there was residential infill, one of the most recent completing the built form around St. Peter's Square with residential development on the Commodore Cinema site.

Generally the historic fabric of the conservation area has remained intact with new development respecting the plan form and scale of the area.

5 CHARACTER AND APPEARANCE

5.1 St Peter's Square and the surrounding areas formed part of a continuous residential development laid out first in the early to mid-nineteenth century, stretching from King Street down to the River Thames.

5.2 The character of the St. Peter's Square Conservation Area is derived mainly from the variety in form of the original nineteenth century residential development centred on St. Peter's Square, Black Lion Lane and St. Peter's Grove. This has been left virtually intact.

5.3 The predominant land use within the main body of the conservation area is residential development. Commercial uses are concentrated on the King Street frontage, and include shops, offices and a car showroom. There is also a primary school (on three sites), a Church and two public houses within the main body of the conservation area which provide local nodes of activity.

5.4 The conservation area can be split into sub-areas for the purposes of the character assessment in order to distinguish areas of similar character and similar periods of historic development. These are shown on the plan of the conservation area on page 19.

The sub-areas are :

- A** St. Peter's Square and environs
- B** British Grove and Berestede Road
- C** St. Peter's Road and Standish Road area
- D** King Street

A St. Peter's Square and environs

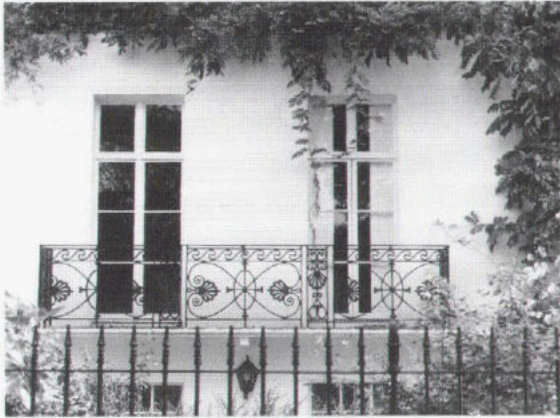
5.5 St. Peter's Square is the centrepiece of the conservation area, begun in c. 1825 it was completed in c.1840 ². The architect remains uncertain: it may have been J. C. Loudon who designed the communal gardens, or his colleague Edward Lapidge who designed the church. Today the Square has the "flavour of a suburban Belgravia" ³ with tall stuccoed houses, three storeys in height. St. Peter's Square is a fine example of early nineteenth century speculative housing development. It also reflects Loudon's theories on the important relationship of gardens, public and private, to the houses ⁴.

5.6 Of a grand scale and proportions, the uniform materials and design provide a homogeneous and impressive townscape with a strong sense of place. The Square has a strong feeling of enclosure created by the height of the facades and the uniform building line which is strengthened in places by the remaining linking screen walls.



A villa at St Peter's Square seen across the central public garden.

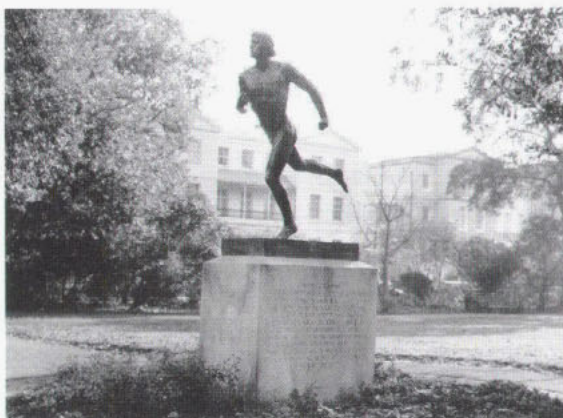
5.7 A unified scheme of houses, they are built in groups of three, with a single symmetrical facade, each house being three windows wide to give the scale and appearance of a large detached villa ⁵. The centre house is recessed with a projecting Ionic Colonnade with an iron balustrade over (not surviving on all the houses) ⁶. The surviving houses on the east and west sides of the square differ somewhat in detail, those on the west side having numerous additional features ⁷; both have some surviving ironwork.



Decorative wrought iron balcony in the "Honeysuckle" pattern

5.8 St. Peter's Square has lost the unified appearance of the original 1830's development, in respect of the houses themselves and the ancillary screens, gates and railings that were an essential feature of a formally designed ensemble. Some of the houses have been painted, some partly painted (porch and screen only) and yet others are completely unpainted. This variation occurs within the individual groups of three linked properties, and is a result of the separate house ownerships.

5.9 These properties are built around a long rectangular central garden ⁸ which is the focus in this area, defining its character and the evolution of plan and built form, and the main open space in the conservation area. Enclosed by modern decorative cast iron railings in a style to match the original pattern, it has three large mature trees which are important elements of incident within the townscape. At the middle of the gardens is a bronze statue of a Greek runner by Sir William Blake Richmond erected in 1926



Sir William Blake Richmond's statue "The Greek Runner"

(Listed Grade II). This open space is restful as well as impressive and of the scale of a small park.

5.10 The streets forming the Square are wider than the others in the locality, strengthening the scale and character of this area, and they have a more spacious appearance even when lined with cars on either side. The footway paving is modern as are the standard street lamps. The trees and shrubs of the central park give a pleasant soft edge to the road around the Square and help to enclose and capture the space.

5.11 There are fragments of the original railings on a few of the houses, particularly on the east side and some of the properties have reinstated the front pavement railings. These are important in providing detail in the townscape, and provide a definite edge between the private and public space, helping to unite the streetscape. There are established hedges and some trees along certain boundaries which help capture and soften the streetspace.

5.12 There are fine long views, in particular looking both east and west along the south side, where the vista is closed by St. Peter's Church framed by trees to the east and the imposing front of Nos. 22, 23 & 24 to the west. Looking to the west on the north side of the Square, the vista is similarly closed by the facade of No. 39. Views to the south on the western side are quite open beyond the Square though the Great West Road is screened by planting, which includes a Black Walnut planted by residents to commemorate the 1977 Jubilee.

5.13 The three storey shop facades of St. Alban's Terrace (1838 or earlier) could provide improved views north on the western side of the Square. This is also a weak route into the Square with the large footprint of the single storey garage on the western side with its ugly concrete and metal bollards and now without trees to match those on the eastern side.

5.14 Nos. 44, 45 & 46, on the north-east side of the Square, are similar in concept to the houses on the east and west sides but have only two storeys over a basement. To the east of these are Nos. 1-6 (consec) St. Peter's Villas dating from the same period and built as a continuation of the Square, again of two storeys with a basement but simpler in design. Nos. 3-6 (consec) St. Peter's Villas are two linked pairs of villas of early to mid 19th century which are a continuation of St. Peter's Square. These provide a good setting when entering the Square from the north-east with the stretch of wall on the north garden flank of No. 1 St. Peter's Square important in defining the streetspace.

5.15 The rest of the St. Peter's Estate, which survives in Black Lion Lane and St. Peter's Grove is not of the same grand scale as St. Peter's Square. Each of these areas is spatially contained and retains a distinctive character and scale. Part of the interest of the conservation area lies in the social, architectural and townscape contrast between these streets.

5.16 Black Lion Lane still contains many of the properties recorded on the 1853 Robert's map and the 1871 Ordnance Survey (O.S.) map, a large number of which are listed. It is of a more intimate scale than St. Peter's Square with a strong sense of enclosure, strengthened by the height of some of the properties and the uniform building line. This is relieved by the junction with St. Peter's Road and the Lane leading to St. Peter's Grove.



View along Black Lion Lane

5.17 Properties abut directly onto the pavement in places, tightening the street space even more, others have small front gardens with boundaries defined by railings, low walls or hedges which maintain the sense of enclosure. The northern end is well defined with a strong building line providing a definite point of entry from King Street.

5.18 The southern end is less well defined though the church is an impressive landmark. St. Peter's Church (1827-29), designed by Edward Lapidge, is the oldest church in Hammersmith and an important landmark within the conservation area unifying the areas of differing character within ⁹. Facing west along the south side of St. Peter's Square, it looks onto an open space formed by the demolition of properties to make way for the Great West Road. This space contains an Ash tree planted by residents to commemorate the 1977 Jubilee.

5.19 The north side of this open space, exposed to traffic noise from the main road, is formed by the plain, rendered flank and garden walls of the end properties on St. Peter's Square and Black Lion Lane. In contrast to the enclosed spatial feeling of the Square the area lacks any sense of enclosure. There are views from here of the backs of the properties on the east side of St. Peter's Square and the west side of Black Lion Lane.

5.20 Four Victorian terraced houses (late 19th century, two storeys in stock brick) are the remnant of the former Verbena Gardens, the south side of which now lies on the other side of the main road. This space illustrates the sort of visual gaps created in the townscape when major roads are driven through these areas.

5.21 The character of Black Lion Lane itself is derived from strong groups of terraces, some quite different in appearance. The terraces work well together to form a coherent and stable townscape despite the varied nature of the built form and materials and the differing heights and design characteristics of the groups of properties/terraces.

5.22 Within this framework are numerous non-residential properties providing variety and incident in the townscape and a focus and sense of place within this residential street. These include the church, school and the two public houses (particularly due to the associated signage and glazing). The shopfronts in some of the properties on the eastern side also contribute to this.

5.23 Nos. 43-53 (odd) Black Lion Lane are a listed terrace of houses forming a symmetrical group with the two end houses set forward, reminiscent and of a similar scale, to the properties in St. Peter's Square. The facade is painted stucco, with a continuous balcony to the middle four houses. There are some fragments of the original cast iron garden area railings. No. 55 (building of merit) is a single house from the same period, three windows wide with painted stucco facade, therefore reading as part of the previous group and important in strengthening the presence of the terrace.



St Peter's Church by Lapidge, an important local landmark

5.24 Nos. 26 to 32 (even) are two pairs of cottages, again early to mid 19th century. No. 34 is a single cottage with a large shop window on the ground floor. These form an attractive group with original features, such as glazing bars and paired trellis porches. Each cottage has been painted a different colour, which is acceptable only at this small scale. Smaller in scale than the properties opposite, these help to emphasise the size and scale of St. Peter's Church directly to the south.

5.25 The east side of Black Lion Lane, north of St. Peter's School, consists of three terraces of two storey houses, in brown brick with slate roofs, all listed as forming part of the original St. Peter's Estate. No. 36 has a 19th century shopfront and that at no. 46 has been sympathetically replaced. Overall this grouping retains its original character largely unimpaired, although some front doors have been replaced and several windows have lost their original glazing bars. The recent infill scheme on the east side of Black Lion Lane respects the scale of the surrounding development, continuing the eaves line and using sympathetic materials, with a quality boundary treatment.

5.26 Returning to the west side, the Cross Keys P.H. closes the views along St. Peter's Road. Adjoining it are Nos. 59-67 (odd), a terrace of three storey houses with a rendered parapet. No. 59 has unfortunately been altered, with new square lintels over the front door and window openings. The remainder have an incised stucco ground floor with arched door and window heads, and red brick arches to the upper storey windows.

5.27 Nos. 69-77 (odd) form a sympathetic modern infill block, though it is set back from the historic building line. Nos. 79-87 (odd) are a listed row of houses in stock brick, again with channelled stucco to the ground floor, and arched ground floor windows and doorways. All except No. 81 have slated dormers between raised party walls. This is the best preserved group (externally) of the original St. Peter's Estate on the west side of Black Lion Lane. Adjoining this row is the Le St. Pierre Bar/Restaurant sadly with recently painted brickwork, which is followed by Nos. 93-105 (odd) which are buildings of local merit.

5.28 St. Peter's Grove also dates from the mid 19th century, and is shown very much in its present form on the 1871 O.S. map. Of a small intimate scale the street has a strong sense of enclosure supported by the uniform building line, abutting the road to the west, and set behind shallow front gardens on the eastern side.

5.29 Though most of the original railings are absent, a variety of low walls provide an edge to the streetspace. Despite the lack of unity and the mix of styles of the boundary treatment, it provides an interesting townscape.

5.30 The road has a slight curve to the left on entering from King Street, creating an interesting piece of townscape with the tower of St. Peter's Church just visible over the flank walls of the two storey houses. This bend in the road also has the effect of visually sealing off St. Peter's Grove from the traffic on King Street.

5.31 The large block of flats, Standish house, at the corner of King Street, has negatively affected the scale of the streetscape when looking north from inside St. Peter's Grove, leaving two pairs of good 19th century cottages (Nos. 2 & 4 and 6 & 8) which are important elements in the townscape. These face the rear of the decked car park for the flats which has a rather dull ground floor design.

5.32 The south end is completed by the Victorian School building. The road has been closed to traffic and paved for a short length immediately adjoining the school. The three storeys of the terrace to the east and the variety of building typologies provides variety in this part of the streetscape. The view to the south past the landscaped space with young trees is closed by a pair of gabled mid 19th century houses of stock brick painted white which help to capture the streetspace.

5.33 The west side is a mix of 19th century two storey cottages together with a variety of modern housing which respects the scale of the street. Between Nos. 28 and 30 is a short street connecting St. Peter's Grove with Black Lion Lane, giving an enclosed view in each direction.

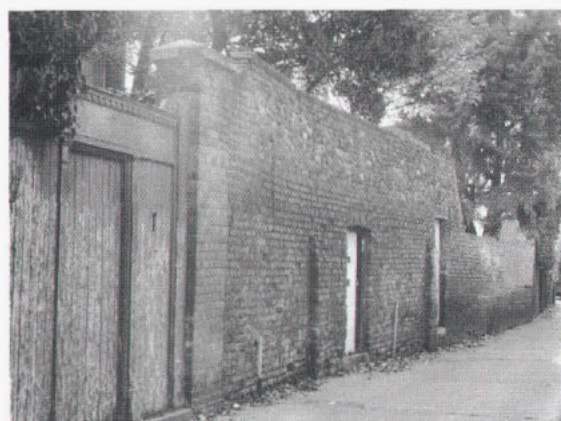
5.34 The east side of St. Peter's Grove Nos. 3-33 (odd) consists of two terraces and two paired cottages of 19th century origin, all in brown brick with slate roofs. Nos. 35-45 (odd) are a two storey terrace in brown brick, the ground floor

being painted stucco. There is a single window centrally positioned on the first floor of each house. The party wall lines are marked by projecting brickwork pilasters, with a decorative brick 'dentil' course at eaves level, and a single dormer window at roof level. The front boundaries are defined by a variety of low walls, railings and hedges.

B British Grove and Berestede Road

5.35 British Grove is shown on early plans as a narrow track at the rear of the gardens of the houses on the western side of St. Peter's Square and marks the Parish and Borough Boundary. Only five of the original long gardens have survived reminding us of the original setting of these buildings. The rest have been developed on the British Grove frontage, although some lengths of old walling have survived (eg. at Nos. 50-51 British Grove).

5.36 The north end of British Grove has been widened to provide access to houses and flats, the southern half gives access to workshops/studios on both sides. Nos. 68-71 (consec), 60 and 49a-d are of local merit. Of a less formal character than the rest of the conservation area the space becomes very tight to the south providing an interesting and contrasting townscape. The high boundary walls defining British Grove are important in providing a hard edge and enclosing the space, with the landscaping behind providing further height and interest.



Historic boundary walls at British Grove

5.37 Berestede Road and North Eyot Gardens are further remnants of the late Victorian development that has been disrupted by the Great West Road. These have maintained many of their original features and kept a uniform appearance. The front gardens widen the streetspace which is defined by low brick walls. Part of the southern side of the street is an open space left over during the construction of the Great West Road. This is well landscaped and helps screen the street from this busy road.



Detail of southern terrace in Berestede Road.

5.38 The north side is a two-storey terrace in yellow gault brick with ground floor bays, recessed porches, and decorative red brick detailing. The south side is also a two storey terrace but slightly larger in scale, with two-storey bays each with foliated stucco surrounds, topped by hipped gables, and arched recessed porches.

5.39 The two late 19th century short terraces that continue North Eyot Gardens are larger, being two storeys with attic windows and two storey high bays, built of stock brick. Those on the west side have a triangular brick gable above the bays and a terracotta frieze above the front doors and bay windows. The houses on the east side, of slightly different appearance have plain dormer windows at roof level above the foliated bays. No. 21 is a detached house in red brick of two storeys plus attic over a semi-basement with steps leading up to the ground floor and iron railings on the street front. North Eyot Gardens leads directly into St. Peter's Square (west side) and is important in providing a setting for this set piece.

C St. Peter's Road and Standish Road Area

5.40 The built form is more diverse in this area as there has been more infill development throughout the 20th century. The Great West Road has had a strong impact on the southern boundary of the conservation area. The construction of this has resulted in numerous open spaces, with limited character and weak enclosure, between the road and the remaining development. However the scale and rhythm of the development respects that of the streets around St. Peter's Square.

5.41 The short terrace of mid-Victorian houses on the east side of Standish Road, reached by a flight of stairs and having a semi-basement, are rightly designated as buildings of local merit. The two storey terrace of houses on the west side, is late 19th century and built of red brick with slate roofs. The gables on the properties on the western side provide a definite rhythm in contrast to the straight pediment of Nos. 21 – 31 (odd) to the east. The uniform appearance of each terrace is an important element in the streetscape.

5.42 Standish Road is quite open, particularly at the ends. Kings Court provides an impressive end to the view north on King Street. The prefabricated concrete fence of No. 16 St. Peter's Grove, together with the wooden slat fence around the corner site on Standish Road, do not provide a good focus to the crossroads of these two streets, despite the good mature tree on the garage site, and the row of younger trees behind the concrete fence.

5.43 The south side of St. Peter's Road is largely modern. Chisholm Court ¹⁰ (early 1970's) respects the height of the surrounding fabric providing a strong built frontage of appropriate scale. Nos. 16 – 32 (even) are semi-detached, two storey houses built of yellow brick with tile roofs in the 1930's. They respect the pattern of rhythms created elsewhere in the conservation area and are of an appropriate scale.

5.44 The small group of buildings at the eastern end of St. Peter's Road are mid-Victorian, and were left over when Beavor Lane was bisected by the Great West road. Grove Terrace is relatively unscathed, but Albert Terrace (two adjoining cottages) has lost its original windows. The small block of flats built in the early 1960's on the corner of St. Peter's Road is of the right height but of a weak design, with rear views evident.

5.45 The whole area is affected by its location next to the main road, particularly the southern end of Beavor Lane. Continuing westwards along the Great West Road up to St. Peter's Church the spaces are poorly defined and exposed to the traffic. No. 37 Beavor Lane, an office building, does little for the character of this area.

5.46 The north side of St. Peter's Road contains a group of houses that are also mid-Victorian in date although much altered (especially the windows at No. 7), Nos. 7 -17 (odd) are painted stucco with front railings defining the boundary edge. The end of the street is now occupied by the single storey modern building of the St. Peter's (C of E) Primary School. The open play area with chain link fence opens up the area and provides a weak edge to the street space.



Terrace on the south side of Theresa Road

5.47 On the south side of Theresa Road is a long two-storey mid-Victorian terrace similar to those described in Black Lion Lane (east side). A pleasant terrace of brown brick two storey properties, they have arched window and door openings. There have been some alterations to some of the properties, particularly replacement

doors and windows. The front boundaries are defined by low walls or hedges, though some are left open.

D King Street

5.48 The south side of King Street forms the northern boundary of the conservation area. This section is part of a much 'longer' historic street and this is reflected in its character. Of a greater scale than the majority of the conservation area, King Street is wider and busier. Functioning as a mixed shopping street, with a large number of restaurants, changes have occurred due to commercial uses. This is reflected in the ground floor frontages and associated signage.

5.49 King Street shows a greater variety in the height of properties, with an average height of three storeys. There is also a greater variety of architectural styles providing a much more varied townscape, though there is an overall rhythm to the fenestration pattern above ground floor level. As is to be expected, this is the main location where older buildings have been altered to varying degrees, due to the later addition of shopfronts and signs.

5.50 There is a strong building line to most of the frontage of King Street, though this is broken at both ends by the garage to the west and Standish House to the east. The corner with Standish Road contains a garage, and behind this is the bulk of Standish House, a block of flats which is out of scale with the northern end of St. Peter's Grove, and provides a weak entrance to Standish Road with the blank wall of the underground car park entrance ramp.

5.51 Between St. Peter's Grove and Black Lion Lane there is a short group of properties that includes Nos. 355 & 357, probably 18th century and the two oldest properties in the conservation area with modern shop fronts extending to King Street. These together with nos. 345 & 355, are buildings of local merit.

5.52 The street block between Black Lion Lane and St. Peter's Square is also very mixed. No. 365 is a modern office building of three storeys with a mansard roof. There then follows a row of two storey shops with a brick parapet. Next is the White Hart P.H., a typical exuberant Victorian essay in red brick and terracotta tile, although the effect is rather spoilt by the unsympathetic ground floor frontage.

5.53 The best stretch of King Street includes the White Hart P.H. together with the two Victorian buildings that follow. Nos. 387 & 389 and nos. 391 & 393 are three storey buildings with ground floor shops and residential space above.



Traditional style retail frontages at King Street

5.54 Nos. 387 & 389 have rusticated corners, and highly decorative treatment to the first and second floor windows. The ground floor to no. 389 is the most traditional, and one of the best shopfronts in the whole of King Street. Nos. 381 & 383 were built in a mix of red and grey brickwork, with a central archway denoted by a shallow pediment and finials at roof level.

5.55 No. 395 is another modern office building. Built in a yellow and red brick and of four storeys on King Street (top floor set back), with a higher glazed entrance drum on the corner with St. Peter's Square, then stepping down to three storeys on the side elevation. It retains the dedication stone of the Commodore Cinema inside the glass entrance.

5.56 Finally, the block between St. Peter's Square and British Grove is entirely occupied by the single storey buildings of the car showrooms and workshops. This building is inappropriately set back, low, squat and unattractive. In the pavement is a boundary stone dated 1898, and another from 1924 marking the extent of the Public Highway.