

Lady Herbert's Garden and the Burges Conservation Area Appraisal



CONTENTS

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 Summary of Special Interest
- 1.2 Planning Policy Framework
- 1.3 Location
- 1.4 History
- 1.5 Archaeology
- 1.6 Green Infrastructure

2.0 Localities

- 2.1 Mixed Public Space and Residential Area of Millennium Place and Chantry Place
- 2.2 Lady Herbert's Garden
- 2.3 Garden of International Friendship
- 2.4 Burges, Palmer Lane and Hales Street

3.0 Approaches to the Conservation Area

- 3.1 Cook Street
- 3.2 Volgograd Place

4.0 Key Issues

1.0 Lady Herbert's Garden Conservation Area

The Conservation Area was designated on August 8th 1969. It originally comprised the established garden, nos. 1-19 Chantry Place and the Coventry Theatre. On April 6th 1977 it was extended to include landscaped areas which had been added to the older garden after the completion of the adjacent section of the Inner Ring Road. This Conservation Area Appraisal document has been produced to:

- support the designation
- define and record the special architectural and historical interest of the area
- identify opportunities for enhancement
- support the proposal to extend the conservation area boundary to include The Burgess, Palmer Lane, the Transport Museum and parts of Hales Street including the Old Fire Station and the Old Grammar School.

1.1 Summary of Special Interest

The special interest that justifies the designation of this area as a Conservation Area derives from the following features:

- Lady Herbert's Garden is a Grade II Registered Park and Garden.
- It contains the most complete surviving remains of the medieval city defences, including the only gates which survive from the original twelve and a 150 metre length of the city wall that connects them. The city wall and gates are listed buildings and scheduled monuments.
- The west garden retains many features of the original design of 1935-38 including the gates, gate piers and surrounding sandstone wall, and the Lady Herbert's Homes and the Summer House which form a major feature at the northern end, all of which are Grade II Listed.
- The Burges is one of the city centre's last surviving pre-war streets and includes a row of locally listed buildings (nos. 18-31) some of which are medieval in origin.
- The remains of a medieval bridge and a rare view of the River Sherbourne.
- The Old Grammar School at the corner of Hales Street and Bishop Street is the former chapel of the 12th century Hospital of St. John the Baptist and is a Grade I Listed Building.
- Nos. 1-19 Chantry Place incorporate many stylistic features of the 'Arts and Crafts' movement and complement the Lady Herbert's Homes which lie opposite. They are attributed to Albert Herbert, the designer of the gardens and almshouses.
- Lady Herbert's Garden provides a tranquil, attractive green space amongst the bustling areas of Millennium Place, Hales Street and the ring road.

- The gardens incorporate a wide variety of planting and landscape. Sheltered leafy glades contrast with open lawns and colourful flower beds.
- The Conservation Area incorporates the Garden of International Friendship which, in landscape terms, represents Coventry's role as a City of International Peace and Reconciliation.
- The spires of Holy Trinity and the medieval St. Michael's Cathedral ruins are an important Coventry landmark and are visible from the gardens.
- There is huge potential for archaeological remains, including waterlogged deposits, for the Early Medieval (AD 410-1065), Medieval (1066-1539) and Post-medieval (1540-1900) periods.

1.2 Planning Policy Framework

National Planning Policy

Conservation Areas are designated under the provisions of Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990. A Conservation Area is defined as, '***an area of special architectural interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance***'. Section 71 of the same Act requires Local Planning Authorities to formulate and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of any parts of their area which are Conservation Areas. Section 72 specifies that, in making a decision on an application for development in a Conservation Area, special attention shall be paid to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of that area. This Conservation Area Appraisal should be read in conjunction with the principles and policies set out in Section 12 of the National Planning Policy Framework; *Conserving and Enhancing the Historic Environment*.

Local Planning Policy

Coventry City Council adopted its Unitary Development Plan (UDP) on the 9th December 2001. The majority of these policies were then saved via a 'Saving Direction' issued by the Secretary of State in September 2007. The Council is now working towards replacing these saved policies within the UDP with a new Local Development Plan, following changes to the planning system introduced by the Planning and Compensation Act 2004 and the Localism Act 2011. Conservation Area Appraisals are considered integral with the spatial planning approach of the Council to support and affirm the development plan documents within the new forthcoming plan. The adopted 2001 UDP contains policies which relate to the preservation and enhancement of the City's built heritage. In the Adopted UDP (Chapter 8) the following policies are of particular relevance:

BE 8: Conservation Areas

BE: 9 Development in Conservation Areas

BE: 10: The Retention of Buildings in Conservation Areas

BE 11: Alteration or Extension of Listed Buildings

BE 12: Change of Use of Listed Buildings

BE 13: Demolition of Listed Buildings

BE 14: Locally Listed Buildings

BE 15: Archaeological Sites

The Council is committed to using the Development Management Process and Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance to achieve environmental improvements and to protect and enhance its Conservation Areas. Currently UDP policies are supported by Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG). This appraisal document should also be read in conjunction with *A Conservation Management Plan for Coventry's Medieval Defences* (Keevill Heritage Ltd, 2013) and *Design Guidance on Shopfronts for Conservation Areas and Historic Buildings in Coventry*, Coventry City Council 2013.

1.3 Location

The conservation area lies at the northern edge of the city centre. It is bounded by the ring road on its northeast side, Cook Street and Silver Street on its northwest side, Hales Street and Millennium Place on its southeast, and Palmer Lane through to the Burges on the south.

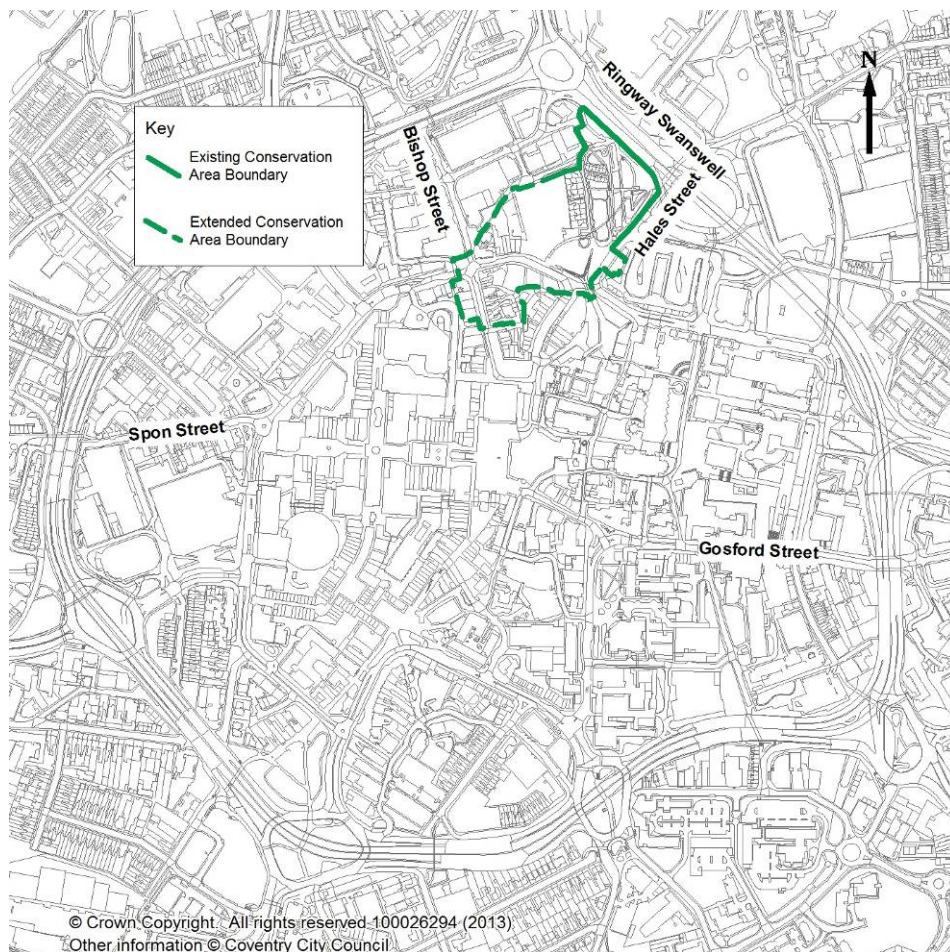
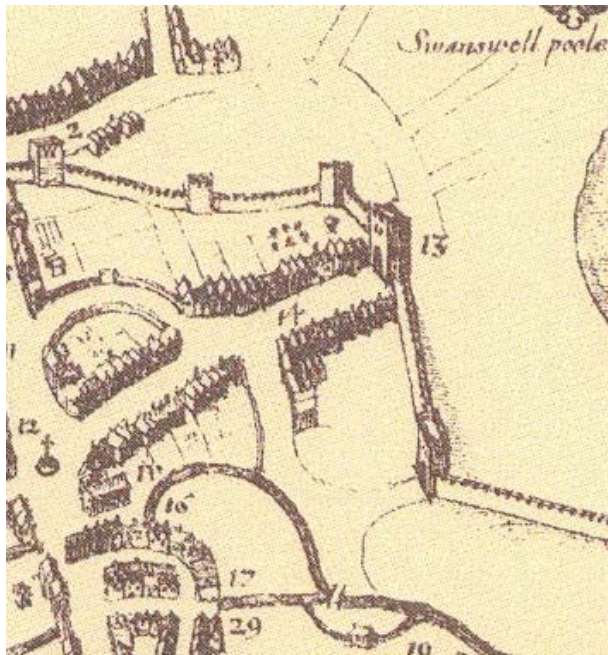


Figure 1: Location of Lady Herbert's Garden Conservation Area

1.4 History

Little is known about the history of this part of the city prior to the expansion of medieval Coventry in the 12th century although environmental evidence recovered in the area of Coventry Transport Museum indicates that willow coppicing was being carried out in the area during the 10th Century AD. The willow would have been used to make hurdles for constructing fences and buildings and provides evidence for pre-Conquest settlement.

Towards the north end of the conservation area is Cook Street, a medieval street that is known to have existed by the 13th century. Many of the early deeds mention properties that were on what is now Silver Street and the extent to which the east end of the street was developed at this time is uncertain. By the time the city wall was built in this area in the 15th century this end of the street was developed and Speed's map of 1610 clearly depicts



Extract of John Speed's 1610 Map of Coventry Showing Cook Street, Swanswell and Cook Street Gates and the city wall

buildings running right up to the gate and city wall on the north and south sides of the street, with the land behind having been divided into long narrow plots.

The earliest historic buildings still visible in the conservation area, Swanswell Gate, Cook Street Gate and the stretch of the city wall connecting them, were constructed between 1432 and 1462 as part of the somewhat lengthy exercise of building a defensive circuit around the city. The gates followed a standard design, unlike the four main gates in Gosford Street, Much Park Street, Spon Street and Bishop Street which were built to individual designs and on a larger scale. Of the original twelve gates, Swanswell and Cook Street Gates are the only ones to have survived in to the 21st century. In 1661 the fortifications were

slighted on the order of King Charles II in retaliation for Coventry supporting the Parliamentary side in the Civil War. The stretch of wall running south from Cook Street survived the slighting and remained complete until 1854 when it was reduced to its current state.

The city defences included a ditch approximately 10m wide that was situated on the east side of the wall. Archaeological and documentary evidence indicates that in places the ditch was used for dumping rubbish and over the years it gradually became filled in. In some parts of the city it may have remained open until the 19th century and it is marked on the 1888 1st Edition Ordnance Survey Map. Between the Cook Street and Swanswell Gates it probably remained open until the 1700s but it is not depicted on the Bradford's 1748 plan of the city.

Beyond the ditch lay a large enclosure, known from the medieval period as Prior's Orchard. By the late 18th century it had been subdivided into smaller enclosures but the area remained in agricultural use. It was still largely undeveloped by the mid-19th century

except for Jesson Street, which had been laid out on a north-south axis between 1848 and 1851, and a rope walk immediately to the east of the former line of the city ditch. The rope walk was a long, straight narrow lane where lengths of hemp were laid out so they could be twisted together into rope.

In 1816 Chantry Place was laid out between Cook Street and Hales Street and the area was developed to house Coventry's ever growing population of ribbon weavers and watchmakers. Housing for the working population was often crammed into the long burgage plots, the pattern of property boundaries that had survived from the medieval city, and took the form of rows of tiny, often single aspect cottages known as court dwellings. Chantry Place eventually came to be regarded as one of the worst slum areas in the city. Between 1905 and 1914 buildings at the southern end of Chantry Place were cleared for the building of the Hippodrome Theatre but the courts and terraces lying to the north remained into the late 1930s.

It was in 1930 that Sir Alfred Herbert acquired land on the east side of the city wall and created the first garden on the site of the city ditch and rope walk to commemorate his second wife, Florence, who had died in May of the same year.



The east garden under construction circa 1930 showing the city wall, the early 19th century buildings beyond and the spires of St. Michael's and Holy Trinity churches in the distance. (Reproduced with permission of Coventry History Centre)

Albert Herbert, an architect and Sir Alfred's cousin, was appointed as designer for the garden. The repair and preservation of the medieval wall and gates were an integral part of

the scheme, which aimed to create a 'haven of peace and floral beauty' (Alfred Herbert News). The garden was opened to the public on April 12th 1931. In 1935 Sir Alfred began to acquire land on the west side of the city wall in order to expand the memorial garden. Between 1935 and 1937 the slum properties, including those fronting the southern side of Cook Street which may have been of medieval origin, were cleared. The Hippodrome at the southern end of the site was also demolished shortly afterwards, having been superseded by a larger theatre built immediately to its west. To the west of Chantry Place a large area of terraced houses and court dwellings were also cleared and a row of vernacular-style houses attributed to Albert Herbert were built. He was also responsible for the design of the Lady Herbert Homes in the west garden, two rows of single storey alms-houses built of brick with sandstone details.

Sir Alfred Herbert provided an endowment for the gardens but following his death in 1957 the trustees experienced increasing financial difficulties. In 1974 responsibility for the Garden passed to Coventry City Council, which still maintains it today, whilst the Lady Herbert Homes are administered by a charitable trust.

To the west of Chantry Place the post-war years saw the development of industrial buildings and by 1970 the large building that now houses the Coventry Transport Museum had been built. Lying immediately to the south, the Art Deco Hippodrome Theatre built in 1937 survived until 2002 when it was demolished to make way for an extension to the Transport Museum and the creation of Millennium Place.

To the east of the garden Jesson Street was swept away during the 1960s to facilitate the building of the ring road and only the Swanswell public house remained. This part of the conservation area remained as open land and between 2000 and 2002 the Garden of International Friendship was created as part of Coventry's Millennium Scheme.

1.5 Archaeology

Archaeological interest can be both buried remains surviving below the ground or evidence for past activity that is contained within standing buildings and structures. Occupation of this area is known to date back to the 13th century along Cook Street and the Burges, the 12th Century on the site of St. John's Hospital, and environmental evidence suggests there was probably human activity in the area from the 9th century. In addition to the development of housing, small-scale industries and Lady Herbert's Garden during the post-medieval period there is significant potential for archaeological deposits to survive within the conservation area. Major sites include:

- Waterlogged deposits associated with the River Sherbourne dating from the Early Medieval period onwards
- Medieval Cook Street Gate and Swanswell Gate
- The medieval defensive city wall and ditch
- Remains of medieval tenements and burgage plots along the south side of Cook Street and in the Burges and Palmer Lane
- The 19th century rope walk
- 19th century terraces and court dwellings between Chantry Place and the city wall

2.0 Localities

For the purposes of this document the Conservation Area will be divided into three localities and the character and significance of each will be discussed in turn. These localities are:

1. Mixed public open space and residential area of Millennium Place and Chantry Place
2. Lady Herbert's Garden
3. Garden of International Friendship
4. Burges, Palmer Lane and Hales Street

The appraisal will describe each part of the conservation area and identify Listed Buildings, Locally Listed Buildings and important views in each locality. The appraisal will also identify other buildings, features and areas of green space which are felt to make a positive contribution to the special character of the area. It should be noted however that the omission of any particular building, feature or space should not be taken to imply that it is of no interest.

2.1 Mixed Public Open Space/Residential Area of Millennium Place and Chantry Place (Figure 2)

Description

The approach to the conservation area from Trinity Street, Hales Street and Priory Place is dominated by the Whittle Arch in Millennium Place. It commemorates Sir Frank Whittle, the pioneer of the jet engine, who was born in Coventry. The twin-arch tubular steel structure spans 60m across and acts as a gateway to the public open space of Millennium Place, a fan-shaped piazza at the edge of which stands Coventry Transport Museum.

In addition to the Whittle Arch, Millennium Place incorporates several other works of public art that were created as part of the regeneration of this part of the city between 2000 and 2002. A 45m long public bench sweeps along the northern edge of the square. Developed by the German artist Jochen Gerz, the people of Coventry were invited to give their name together with another name and a date of their choice to be printed on a plaque and mounted on the bench. At the threshold of Lady Herbert's Garden is Gerz's Future Monument, a glass obelisk surrounded by plaques bearing the names of the people of Coventry's former enemies who are now their friends. At the northern edge of Millennium Place is an elegant spiralling glass and steel bridge designed by Alexander Beleschenko which leads out of the square, over Lady Herbert's Garden and down to the Garden of International Friendship to the northeast.

The conservation area boundary currently cuts through the middle of Millennium Place. In order to reflect the changes in this area since the conservation area was last amended in 1977 the boundary should be altered to include Millennium Place in its entirety. In creating this public space views of landmark buildings, such as the Old Grammar School and Swanswell Gate, and those towards Lady Herbert's Garden have been opened up. It provides a space for public events in the city centre and contains several works of public art, including the Whittle Arch, an important landmark.

On the opposite side of Hales Street, and also just outside the conservation area, is the Old Fire Station which is a local listed building. Largely built of brick with decorative stone mouldings and stone mullioned windows, the former fire station was constructed in the late

19th century and is a building of considerable quality. It enhances the views along Hales Street and the view looking south from within Lady Herbert's Garden and it is proposed to alter the conservation area boundary to include it.

Passing underneath the glass bridge one leaves Millennium Place and arrives in Chantry Place. This row of late 1930s houses has been attributed to Albert Herbert, Sir Alfred Herbert's cousin and the designer of Lady Herbert's Garden and almshouses. The architectural style of the houses includes design elements from the Arts and Crafts Movement, such as the gabled entrances, wooden doors made from vertical planks, sandstone details around doorways and the gable edges, and ceramic roof tiles. The materials from which they are built compliment the red sandstone boundary wall of Lady Herbert's Garden which sits opposite and the almshouses. The privet hedges that bound the front gardens contribute to the sense of green space in this part of the conservation area.

There are currently no Statutory Listed Buildings in this part of the conservation area.

Local Listed Buildings

- The Old Fire Station, a late 19th century brick and stone building that enhances views along Hales Street and the view to the south from Lady Herbert's Garden.



The Old Fire Station viewed from the Glass Bridge

Other Heritage Assets, Positive Buildings, Spaces and Features of Value

- The open space of Millennium Place on the approach to Lady Herbert's Garden, which contrasts with the enclosed atmosphere of the gardens.
- Public works of art in Millennium Place; the Whittle Arch, Frank Whittle's statue, the public bench, the Future Monument and the glass bridge.
- The row of 1930s houses in Chantry Place that have design elements from the Arts and Crafts Movement and complement the almshouses in Lady Herbert's Garden
- Hedges forming boundaries at the front of properties in Chantry Place that complement the green space provided by Lady Herbert's Garden on the opposite side of the road.

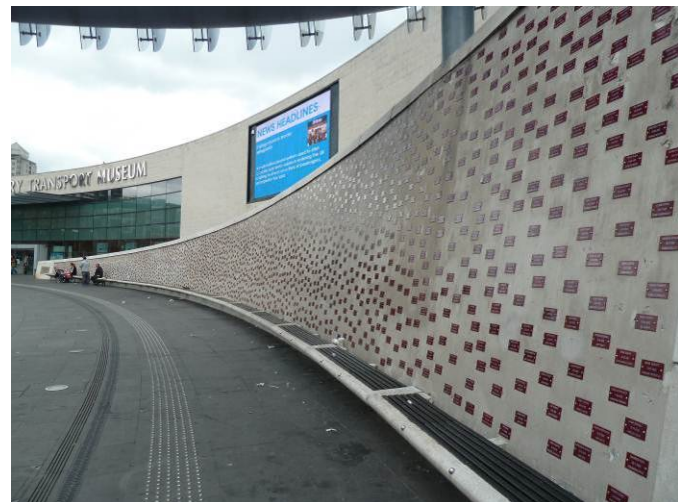
- Lantern-style lamp posts in Chantry Place that enhance the historic character of the street.
- Parking restrictions in Chantry Place prevent on-street parking, which enhances views south towards Millennium Place.



The Whittle Arch



Spiral ramp to the glass bridge



The public bench (above)

The Future Monument (left)



View of Chantry Place showing boundary hedges, lack of on-street parking and use of building materials and features of 'Arts and Crafts' design that compliment alms houses in Lady Herbert's Garden.



Lantern-type street lamps

Areas of Potential Archaeological Interest

Environmental evidence from boreholes to the west of the conservation area suggests that there was willow coppicing activity in this area during the 10th century. The willows would have been used to make fences and in the construction of buildings, suggesting the potential for evidence of pre-Conquest settlement. Cook Street is known to have been well-developed by the beginning of the 15th century. Consequently there is potential for archaeological remains of medieval buildings and their associated burgage plots to survive below ground. The remains of post-medieval buildings may also survive, the area having been occupied by court dwellings and 19th century terraced housing before being cleared in the early 20th century for the current dwellings in Chantry Place and the building of the second Hippodrome Theatre.

Views and Vistas

- The view south down Chantry Place to the glass bridge and Whittle Arch and the spires of St. Michael's old cathedral and Holy Trinity beyond
- The vista from Hales Street across Millennium Place taking in the spiral glass bridge, the Whittle Arch, the façade of Coventry Transport Museum and the mature trees in Lady Herbert's Garden.
- The view from Priory Place through the Whittle Arch towards Millennium Place.
- The view from Millennium Place northeast along Hales Street towards the Old Fire Station and Swanswell Gate.



View from Priory Place towards the Whittle Arch and Millennium Place



View of Millennium Place from Hales Street

Negative Features

- Satellite dishes on properties in Chantry Place that detract from the historic character of the street. Planning permission is required before dishes are attached to the front elevation of properties in a conservation area.
- The large number of modern-style bollards at the southern end of Chantry Place, which give the impression of clutter and which are not in keeping with the sandstone boundary wall and railings of Lady Herbert's Garden, to which they are adjacent.
- Use of UPVC window frames on dwellings in Chantry Place detracts from the character of the buildings and the street scene as a whole.
- Several hedges have been removed along Chantry Place to allow off-road parking at the front of properties. This is damaging to the street scene and diminishes the contribution the hedges make to the green infrastructure in this area.
- A CCTV post that has been placed very close to a lantern-type lamp post, both of which have additional signage attached to them. This has a negative impact on the view of the listed almshouses to which they are adjacent and makes the street scene look cluttered.
- Unattractive service area to next to the Transport Museum at the southern end of Chantry Place.
- A large galvanised steel CCTV column at the southern entrance to Chantry Place intrudes upon the view of the street.
- The conservation area boundary does not reflect recent changes.

Lady Herbert's Garden Conservation Area Appraisal



Bollards adjacent to boundary wall of Lady Herbert's Garden



Large television screen in elevation of the Transport Museum



Hedges removed at the front of properties on Chantry Place to provided access for cars and use of white UPVC window frames



Lamp post and CCTV post located too close to each other with additional signage added to them, which creates a cluttered view

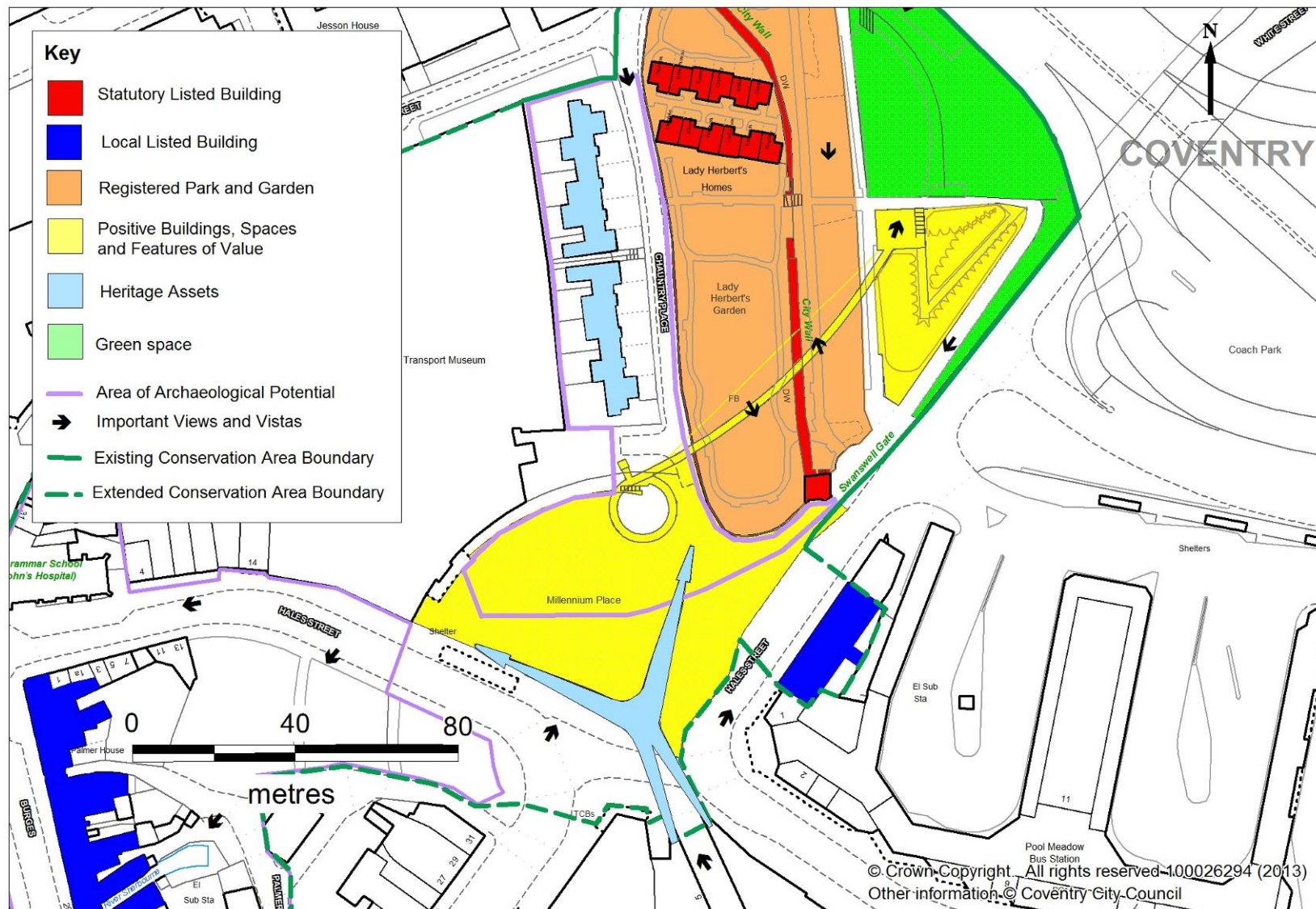


CCTV Column, Chantry Place

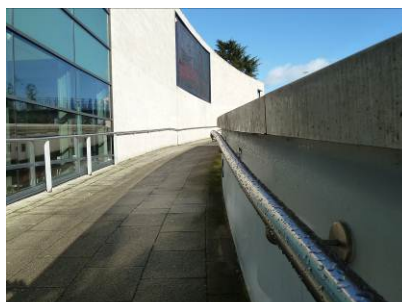
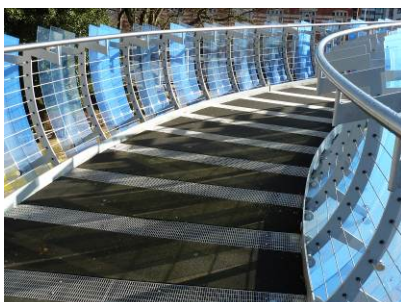
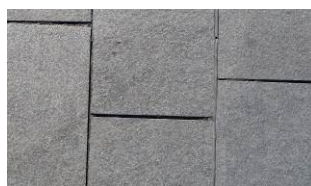


Unattractive service area, Transport Museum

Figure 2: Locality 1 – Millennium Place and Chantry Place



Current Palette



Created in the early 2000s, Millennium Place has a modern character that is in contrast to other areas of the conservation area. Typical materials

are chrome, steel, glass, granite and slate. The large open space enables views of the Whittle Arch, the curving façade of the Transport Museum and the spiral section of the blue glass bridge.



Chantry Place has a more historic character created through the use of traditional building materials such as brick, sandstone and timber. Hedges bordering the gardens provide greenery that compliments Lady Herbert's Garden, which lies opposite. The street has an inter-war 'Garden City' character.

2.2 Lady Herbert's Garden

The garden can be entered from four different locations, one on each side but the principal entrance lies at the southern end on Hales Street adjacent to the medieval Swanswell Gate. The entrance is flanked by concave sandstone walls with ornamental coping surmounted by bronze railings and square sandstone gate piers to which ornamental gates are attached. The bronze gates have acanthus finials and panels of foliated ornament which incorporate Florence Herbert's initials and were designed by Albert Herbert. Passing through the gate an axial pathway of York stone flags leads northwards for approximately 130m through the east garden, which is enclosed from the west garden by the impressive remains of the medieval city wall. The southern half of the garden was developed from the 19th century rope walk that survived on the site. On entering the garden attention is drawn to the blue glass bridge that links Millennium Place to the Garden of International Friendship, and which passes over the city wall and the east garden at height. It provides a contrast of the modern and historic, the natural and man-made. The path through the garden rises gradually to the north and is punctuated with several flights of stone steps. Either side of the path are lawns and wide beds of ornamental shrubs and climbing plants. Despite being situated close to the ring road, Hales Street and Millennium Place Lady Herbert's Garden has a peaceful atmosphere, although incidences of anti-social behaviour particularly in the evenings and summer months is an on-going problem.

Towards the north end the city wall curves round to the northwest to meet Cook Street Gate and the axial path continues towards the north entrance, it too having concave sandstone walls, square sandstone gate piers and ornamental gates. Between the path and the city wall is a triangular lawn and a paved terrace on which sits an octagonal shelter or summer house built of brick with supporting oak beams and a tiled roof. Designed by Albert Herbert in 1930 the shelter, as well as Cook Street Gate beyond, forms a focal point in the northern section of the garden. Looking southwards through the garden there are views of the spires of St. Michael's Cathedral and Holy Trinity Church, which are echoed by the vertical conifers that are planted near to the city wall.

Two entrances link the east and west gardens; the first being a Tudor-style arched gateway designed by Albert Herbert at the southern end of the city wall, and the second lying c.60m further north and being a flight of stone steps and a flagged landing ascending through the course of the medieval wall. This gap in the wall is the result of a direct hit by a Second World War bomb. The west garden is larger than that to the east and is divided into three unequal areas of lawn by two east to west walks, while a perimeter walk encircles the whole area. Towards the north end the listed Lady Herbert's Almshouses create a focal point for those viewing the gardens from the south. On their north side is a more intimate space that is bounded on the northeast by the medieval city wall and Cook Street Gate and on the northwest by the listed sandstone boundary wall, which all contribute to a sense of enclosure. Looking south from the almshouses three lawns are separated by a series of herbaceous borders containing a wide variety of flowering plants, shrubs and trees. The upper lawn is enclosed to the south by an herbaceous border, one of a pair which flanks the upper walk leading from the east garden into Chantry Place. Below this the second lawn descends gently to another east-west path and an area of rockeries. On this lawn stands a low Portland Stone bird bath installed in 1950. It has a shallow circular basin

supported by four carved frogs set on an octagonal stone base. The third and lowest lawn drops down to the south more steeply and lies partly on the site of the early 19th century Hippodrome Theatre. The glass bridge crosses above the garden here and helps the mature trees to enclose this area from the lawns to the north. The rockeries extend into this garden which is enclosed by trees and shrubs, creating a glade, and on the east the city wall and Swanswell Gate. At the southern-most end of the garden a curving stone bench seat provides a point at which to survey the vista of the north lawns, the medieval city wall and the almshouses in the distance. The bench seat itself was designed by Albert Herbert and presented to Sir Alfred by his employees in 1956.

Designated Heritage Assets

- Lady Herbert's Almshouses (Grade II Listed), two rows of six cottages built in 1937 of brick and sandstone with slate roofs in the Arts and Crafts style.
- Summer house (Grade II Listed), a red brick garden shelter with ashlar dressings and a slate roof.
- Cook Street Gate (Grade I Listed), one of two remaining medieval gates into the city that was probably built in the early to mid-15th century.
- Swanswell Gate, (Grade I Listed), the second of the two remaining medieval gates and built in the 15th century.
- The medieval city wall between Cook Street and Swanswell Gates (Grade I Listed) and the best preserved length of the wall that survives.
- Gateways and boundary walls of Lady Herbert's Garden (Grade II Listed) of red sandstone with stepped ornamental coping surmounted by bronze railings.
- The garden itself is on the Register of Parks and Gardens (Grade II)



Lady Herbert's Almshouses



Summer house/garden shelter



A view of the registered garden looking north



Cook Street Gate



Swanswell Gate, Hales Street



The southern entrance to the garden



The medieval city wall viewed from the east garden

Other Heritage Assets, Positive Buildings, Spaces and Features of Value

- Pathways around the garden use York stone paving which compliments its historic character.
- The glass bridge that passes over the garden provides a contrast between the vibrant blue and the palette of natural colours provided by the flora, as well as a contrast between the modern design of the bridge and the medieval city wall.
- The glass bridge enables pedestrians to view the gardens, the city wall and views beyond the conservation area from an elevated position.
- Green space to the north of Lady Herbert's Garden provides a pleasant approach to the gardens and enhances the setting of Cook Street Gate.
- The cobbled road surface beneath Cook Street Gate enhances the character and setting of the listed building.
- Benches, waste bins and planters within the garden are all of a uniform design that is appropriate to its character.
- Lantern-style lamp posts that are in keeping with the character of the conservation area.
- Bronze plaques on the wall at the north and south entrances which are part of the original 1930s design of the garden boundary wall and entrance.
- The garden contains commemorative features presented to Sir Alfred Herbert and designed by Albert Herbert, namely the Portland stone bird bath and the sandstone bench seat.



View of the east garden showing the York stone paving and the glass bridge.

Lady Herbert's Garden Conservation Area Appraisal



Original bronze plaque at north entrance to garden



Lantern-style lamp post at north end of the garden.



Area of green space to the north of the garden and Cook Street Gate



Portland stone bird bath



Commemorative sandstone bench seat

Areas of Potential Archaeological Interest

Cook Street is known to have been well-developed by the beginning of the 15th century and the street beyond the city gate and wall was also built up during this period. Consequently there is potential for archaeological remains of medieval buildings and their associated burgage plots to survive below ground. The remains of post-medieval buildings may also survive, the area having been occupied by court dwellings and 19th century terraced housing before being cleared in the early 20th century for the creation of Lady Herbert's Garden. To the east of the extant city wall there is potential for archaeological evidence of the medieval city ditch to survive with its associated waterlogged deposits.

Views and Vistas

- The view of Swanswell Gate with the Old Fire Station beyond from within Lady Herbert's Garden.
- The view looking south through the east garden along the medieval city wall and towards the glass bridge, with the spires of Holy Trinity and St. Michael's old Cathedral beyond.
- The view of Cook Street Gate from the east.
- View across the city wall remains to the Lady Herbert's Almshouses.
- Views across the gardens from the glass bridge.
- Views through the west garden from the south towards Lady Herbert's Almshouses.



View of Swanswell Gate and the Old Fire Station



Lady Herbert's Almshouses with the medieval wall in the foreground



Cook Street Gate from the east



View through the west garden from the south



View through the east garden towards the glass bridge and the spires beyond

Negative Features

- Several bronze plaques at the entrance gates have been removed/stolen and have not been replaced
- Anti-social behaviour has led damage to the various heritage assets and has caused a nuisance to residents and visitors. This in turn has led to the positioning of prohibitive signage at all four entrances to the gardens which intrudes upon the historic character of the gateways and views into the garden.
- Damage to some sections of stonework of the listed boundary wall
- A number of sections of railings surmounting the sandstone boundary wall have been removed/stolen and have not been replaced.
- Vegetation growing on the medieval city wall that is damaging to its fabric.
- The pavement area at the southern entrance is cluttered with lamp posts, way markers, telegraph poles and a large road sign which all intrude upon views of Swanswell Gate, views along Hales Street, the southern entrance to the gardens and the Whittle Arch in Millennium Place.
- A low brick structure and other buildings abutting the southwest elevation of Cook Street Gate built from inappropriate materials that degrade the historic character of the medieval gate.
- A redundant brick structure in the green space at the north end of the garden creates a feeling of neglect and intrudes upon views of the north entrance and Cook Street Gate.
- Graffiti on the side wall of a building adjacent to Cook Street Gate creates an atmosphere of neglect.
- Cook Street Gate is vacant and unused.
- The use of inappropriate and poorly maintained materials to block openings or protect glass windows of Swanswell Gate detract from the historic character of the building and also create a feeling of neglect.
- Cook Street Gate and the medieval city wall are on the English Heritage Buildings At Risk Register. Long-term uses for both gates are needed to ensure their preservation. Policies B5, B6 and B11 in the *Conservation Management Plan for Coventry's Medieval Defences* (Keevill Heritage Ltd, 2013) address these issues.



Intrusive signage at the entrance to the gardens



Steel fence mounted on brick wall that spoils the character of the gardens



Intrusive signage on lamp post



Brick structure built against up against Cook Street Gate from materials that do not compliment the historic building



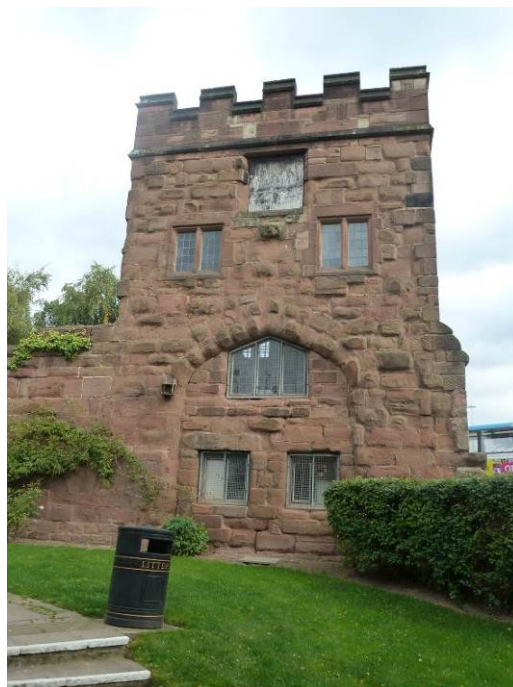
Redundant brick structure that intrudes on views of the north entrance space near the north entrance to the gardens



Graffiti on building adjacent to Cook Street Gate



Vegetation growing on medieval city wall



Poorly maintained and inappropriate coverings for openings and windows at Swanswell Gate



Ornamental railings missing from the west boundary wall.



Missing bronze plaque on wall at south entrance (above).



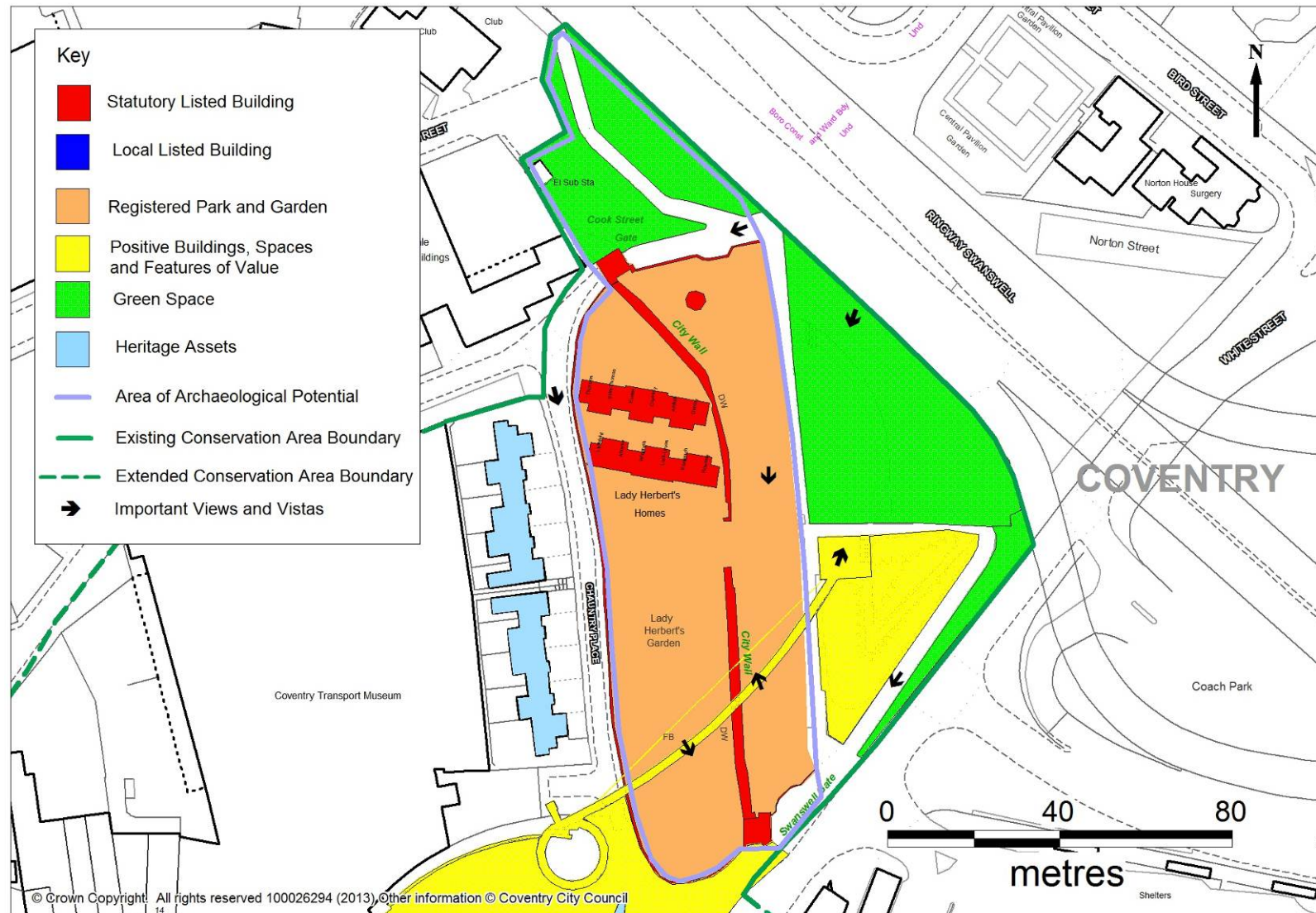
Cook Street Gate in currently unused (left).

*Lamp posts,
outside the e
obscure view
and landmark*



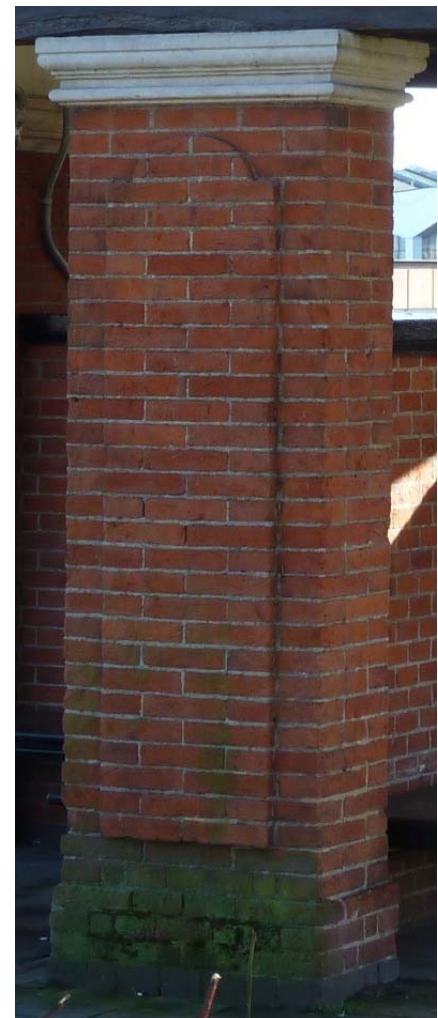
Poorly positioned road signs, lamp posts etc. obscure view of Swanswell Gate on Hales Street

Figure 3: Lady Herbert's Garden and green space to the north



Lady Herbert's Garden Conservation Area Appraisal





The predominant building material in Lady Herbert's Garden is the red sandstone used for the boundary walls, the medieval city wall and gates and details on the alms houses. The use of other materials such as red brick, roof slate, ornamental bronze and York Stone paving contribute to an impression of high quality. The lawns, trees and planted borders give an overall impression of greenery.

2.3 Garden of International Friendship

The garden was created in 2002 as part of the Phoenix Initiative regeneration project and was a collaboration between Rummey Design Associates and British artist Kate Whiteford. It represents Coventry's role as a City of International Peace and Reconciliation – a Garden of International Friendship.

The two principal entrances into the garden are on its west side, the first being a gateway through from Lady Herbert's Garden. On entering the garden here the contrast between the natural planting of Lady Herbert's Garden and the contemporary formal design of the Garden of International Friendship is immediately apparent. Sweeping off to the left is a curvilinear white plinth that encloses the northeast and east sides of the Priory Maze and which is itself a major feature of the garden. The plinth gradually rises in height towards the northwest end and as one walks along the wooden walkway immediately next to it there is an increasing sensation of enclosure and separation from the area to the east. On the west side of the walkway the maze is formed by low curving box hedges separated by gravel paths and is enclosed on its west side by a wide hedge. This contrasts with the angular red sandstone walls that extend from the southern end of the Priory Maze. Through their large square openings can be seen the area beyond the garden which creates a sense of 'here and there'.

The second entrance to the garden from the west is along the elevated blue glass bridge from Millennium Place. As pedestrians walk along the bridge it's rising, curving design hides views of the garden and creates a sense of anticipation. It is only once they have arrived at the elevated viewing platform that the Priory Maze and seating area beyond are visible. The sandstone wall on the east side screens Hales Street and part of the ring road from view. Other parts of the ring road are hidden by strategically planted trees.

Through the openings in the sandstone wall the garden opens out into an area of hard landscaping where the use of a variety of surface materials make it more appealing to the eye and differentiate between pathways and areas to stop and spend time. A totem pole-like piece of public art, around which there is a circle of low stone benches and trees, creates a focal point amongst the paths leading towards Hales Street and Swanswell, the north end of the garden, towards Lady Herbert's Garden, and up the grassy mound to the glass bridge. Together a tall wide hedge running off to the southwest and a sloping grassy mound provide an element of greenery in this part of the garden and also screen traffic on Hale Street from view.

There are currently no statutory listed or locally listed buildings within this part of the Conservation Area

Other Heritage Assets, Positive Buildings, Spaces and Features of Value

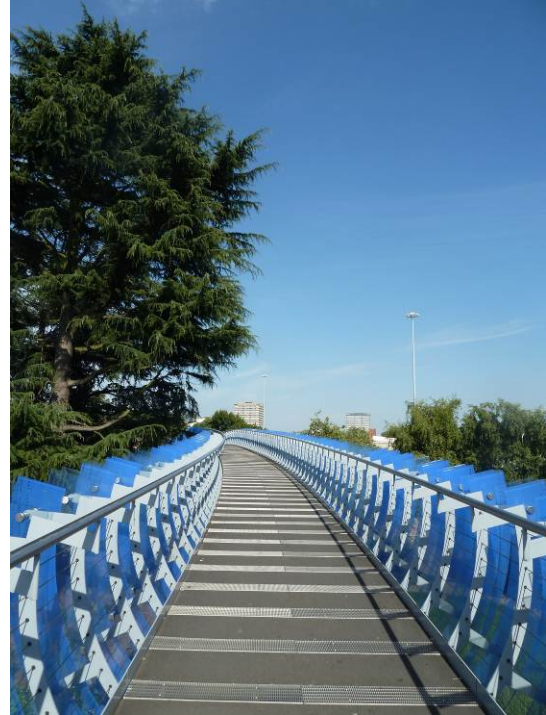
- The formal design of the garden provides a contrast with the more natural planting of Lady Herbert's Garden.
- Various aspects of the garden design screen the ring road and Hales Street from view, which helps to reduce their visual impact and traffic noise. This is achieved through the trees planted adjacent to the ring road, the border of shrubs adjacent to Hales Street and the sandstone wall and the grassy landscaped mound.

Lady Herbert's Garden Conservation Area Appraisal

- The use of sandstone for some of the structural elements of the garden compliments the sandstone boundary wall of Lady Herbert's Garden, Swanswell and Cook Street Gates and the medieval city wall.
- Although this is a garden in its own right it also provides an open, green approach to the registered Lady Herbert's Garden from the east.
- The use of the glass bridge as a means of entering the garden. Its curved design creates closed views, which leads to a sense of anticipation.



The formal design of the Priory Maze and trees beyond screening the elevated ring road.



The curve of the glass bridge conceals the view towards the Garden of International Friendship, which creates a sense of anticipation.



Sandstone structure that compliments features of Lady Herbert's Garden and also screens the east garden and parts of the Garden of International Friendship from the ring road and Hales Street.

Areas of Potential Archaeological Interest

Documentary evidence suggests that this area was in agricultural use throughout much of the medieval and post-medieval periods but evidence of the 19th century development on Jesson Street may survive.

Views and Vistas

- The view across the Priory Maze towards Lady Herbert's Garden with the spires of St. Michael's and Holy Trinity in the distance
- The vista from the top of the grass mound of Lady Herbert's Garden, the Old Fire Station on Hales Street, and the spires of St Michael's and Holy Trinity with the glass bridge in the foreground.
- The view of the Priory Maze and Lady Herbert's Garden from the platform at the end of the glass bridge.



Looking southwest across the Priory Maze



Vista from the grass mound, the glass bridge, Lady Herbert's Garden and the spires



Priory Maze looking northeast from the viewing platform

Negative Features

- Damage to some areas of sandstone wall, poorly maintained surfaces and graffiti creates an atmosphere of neglect
- A lack of sense of arrival in the Garden of International Friendship as pedestrians leave the glass bridge and step onto the viewing platform.
- The hedges that form the Priory Maze have failed to grow properly and diminish the visual impact of the garden design.
- The public work of art between the ring road and the Priory Maze has foliage growing from it and has become a roost for pigeons.
- Some parts of the grass mound have been worn away to bare earth and needs re-planting.
- The bronze plaques that were set into the top of the curved plinth and which were engraved with text based on the Coventry Mystery Plays have been removed as a result of theft of several pieces.
- The low wooden barrier that is present next to many of the paths restricts movement through the garden and is unattractive.
- The approach to the garden from the east which is through Volgograd Place beneath the ring road.
- People use the glass bridge as a means of accessing the top of the medieval wall which causes a nuisance and damage to the wall.



Damage to sandstone wall

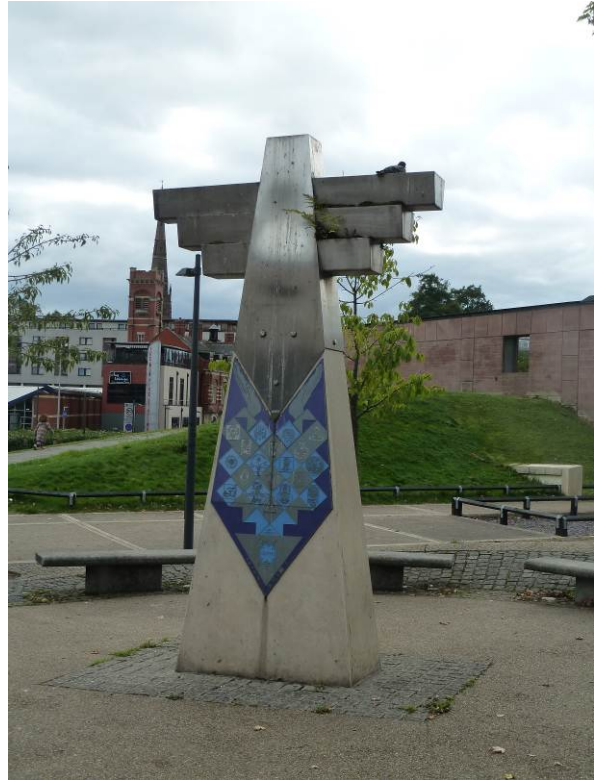


Lack of signage at entrance to garden from the glass bridge

Lady Herbert's Garden Conservation Area Appraisal



Area of repair needed on viewing platform surface



Poorly maintained public art



Graffiti on sandstone wall



Lady Herbert's Garden Conservation Area Appraisal



Poorly maintained hedges that form the maze

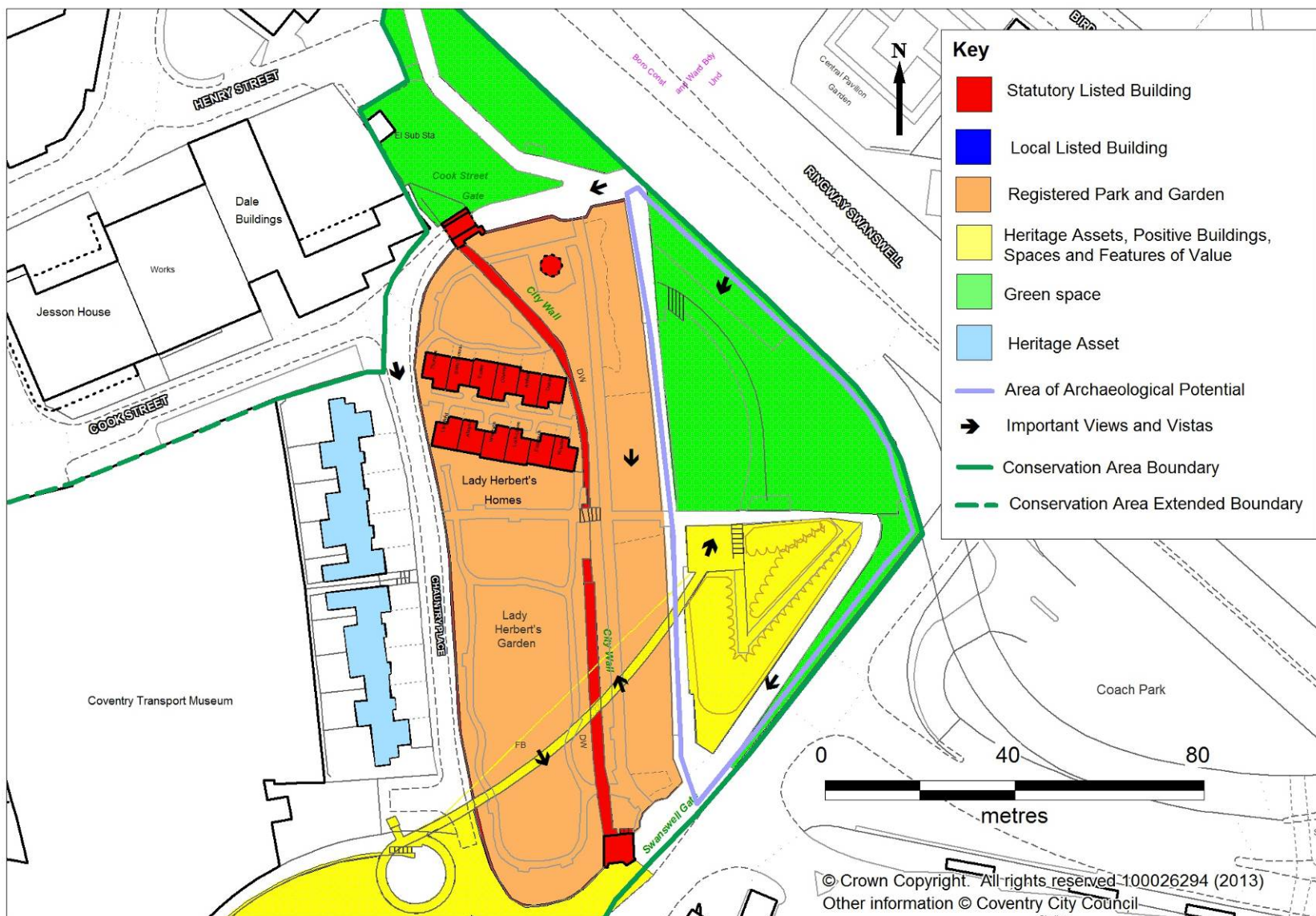


Galvanised steel fence and gate



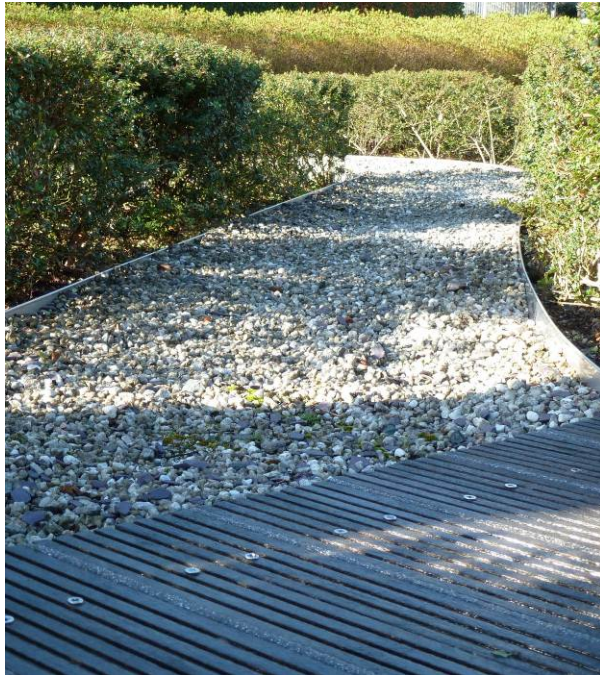
Worn areas of grass on the mound at the entrance to the garden from Hales Street

Figure 4: The Garden of International Friendship



Current Palette





Although some materials, such as sandstone, have been used to compliment Lady Herbert's Garden, the use of curving timber walk-ways, white concrete walls and chrome railings creates a garden of contemporary character. The formal planting scheme contrasts with that of Lady Herbert's Garden, which is more naturalistic. Greenery is provided by hedges, grass-covered banks and trees but the overall impression is one of hard landscaping created by a variety of surface treatments such as concrete paving slabs, setts and gravel, and stone seating.

2.4 Burges, Palmer Lane and Hales Street

Description

Parts of the Burges, Palmer Lane and Hales Street have been identified for inclusion in the conservation area. The Burges, formerly called St. John's Bridge, is a medieval street that is known to have existed by the late 13th century. Numbers 18 to 31 The Burges is an important group of locally listed buildings. They incorporate elements of 15th century or earlier timber-framed structures but have brick frontages that were added in the 19th century. Their rear wings extend to Palmer Lane where several of the buildings overhang the River Sherbourne. This is one of only two locations in the city centre where the river, which has played an important role in Coventry's past, is visible above ground. Together with the historic buildings of varying date and design this is essentially a surviving pocket of 15th century townscape and a rare example of the close-knit character of the late medieval and post-medieval city.

Nos. 1 to 17 on the opposite side of the road are attractive buildings that contribute to the character of the street, discounting the modern shop fronts of nos. 1-3 and 5-9. The earliest building in the group is no. 1-3, which was built in 1914 as a furniture manufacturer on the site of the medieval workshop of master glazier John Thornton, who created the famous stained glass east window in York Minster. Nos. 5-9 and 11-13 were built later, possibly in the 1920s. No. 5-9 in particular displays several features typical of architectural design during this period, for example its tall central arched window. No. 17, The Tudor Rose public house, a locally listed building, was built in about 1930. The façade of the upper floors is of mock-Tudor design and the ground floor displays features of 'Arts and Crafts' design such as stone mullioned windows with staggered edges, arched recessed doorways with solid wooden doors, and decorative rainwater goods.

On the opposite side of the road, on the corner of Hales Street and Bishop Street, is the Old Grammar School. Originally built as a chapel for the 12th century Hospital of St. John, this is a landmark building in the city. It is the only surviving upstanding part of the hospital complex and is Grade I Listed. The wing on the north side facing Silver Street was added in the late 19th century in a Tudor-style. Adjoining this is a much altered building of 19th century date which is soon to be replaced with a new extension for the Old Grammar School.

A small pocket of green space at the corner of Corporation Street and Bishop Street enhances the setting of the Old Grammar School and the Tudor Rose public house. Between Hales Street and Palmer Lane is another area of green space comprising two lawns and beds of mixed planting along its western and southern boundary. In addition to providing a pleasant green space for people to enjoy it softens the hard landscaping of Millennium Place and has opened up the view of the Whittle Arch from the west end of Hales Street. It also opens up views of the jumbled rear wings of the Burges properties, a significant element that contributes to the medieval character of Palmer Lane. Both green spaces are temporary and were created as a result of building demolition for new development that subsequently did not happen. Any future development of these green spaces must enhance the character of the conservation area and the setting of historic buildings and heritage assets.

Adjoining the west boundary of this green space and on the southern side of Hales Street are nos. 1-13, a terrace of mid-19th century buildings that were probably constructed at the same time that Hales Street was laid out in 1848. Although the appearance of some of the buildings is currently

spoiled by the use of intrusive signage, they retain many elements of their original character, such as decorative stone lintels and sash windows and enhance the historic character of this end of Hales Street. Alterations to the shop fronts in line with *Design Guidance on Shopfronts for Conservation Areas and Historic Buildings in Coventry*, Coventry City Council 2014, would assist in improving the appearance of the row as well as the setting of the Old Grammar School, which lies on the opposite side of the road.

Statutory Listed Buildings

- The Old Grammar School, Hales Street, a Grade I listed building that was originally built as the chapel of St. John's Hospital during the 12th century. The building became a school in the mid-1500s and contains 14th century wooden stalls that were moved from the church of Whitefriar's Monastery at this time.



The Old Grammar School, corner of Hales Street and Bishop Street

Locally Listed Buildings

- Nos. 18-30 Burges, a group of timber-framed buildings, some possibly dating back to the 15th century, with brick frontages added in the 19th century.
- No. 17 Burges, the Tudor Rose public house (formerly the Tally Ho). It was built in the 1930s in the mock-Tudor style and displays architectural details used in the 'Arts and Crafts' movement, such as recessed solid wooden doors, staggered stone window frames, decorative water traps and the use of contrasting building materials such as timber, stone and brick.



Nos. 18 – 30 the Burges



No. 17 the Burges, the Tudor Rose PH

Other Heritage Assets, Positive Buildings, Spaces and Features of Value

- No. 3 the Burges, the former Comley Furniture Manufacturers. Built in the 1914 the upper storeys retain the original attractive stone and brick façade.
- Nos. 5-9 and 11-13 the Burges are early 20th century buildings, possibly built in the 1920s.
- Nos. 1-13 Hales Street, a row of mid-19th century buildings with modern shop fronts but retaining original features such as stone lintels and sash windows.
- A visible stretch of the River Sherbourne behind buildings in the Burges, in the Palmer Lane area.



No. 3 Burges



Nos. 5-13 Burges



Nos. 1-13 Hales Street



Rear wings of nos. 18-30 Burges

Areas of Potential Archaeological Interest

There is huge potential for important archaeological remains in this area. Environmental evidence recovered from a site on the west side of the Transport Museum indicates that there was human occupation in this area during the 10th century. The Hospital of St. John was built during the 12th century and documentary evidence shows that buildings existed in the Burges by the early 13th centuries. Key archaeological remains in this area are:

- Early Medieval (AD410-1065) occupation and settlement evidence
- Medieval settlement and industry in the Burges and Palmer Lane
- Remains of the medieval Hospital of St. John, Burges/Hales Street
- The workshop of master glazier John Thornton, the Burges
- The medieval St. John's Bridge
- Waterlogged deposits in the vicinity of the River Sherbourne

Views and Vistas

- The view of the rear wings of buildings in Palmer Lane from across the green space in Hales Street.
- The view south along the Burges with the spires of Holy Trinity and St. Michael's old cathedral beyond.
- The view north along the Burges towards the Old Grammar School.



The Burges looking south towards the spires



The Burges looking north towards the Old Grammar School

Green Space

- The area of green space on the south side of Hales Street
- The area on the corner of Bishop Street and Corporation Street

Both areas are temporary green spaces created as a result demolition of buildings for new development that subsequently did not take place. They both make a positive contribution to the area by enhancing the setting of the historic buildings and opening up views along Hales Street, views towards Millennium Place and to the rear wings of the historic buildings visible in Palmer Lane. Any future developments in these spaces must be in keeping with their surroundings and enhance the character of the conservation area and the setting of historic buildings.

Negative Features

- The works compound behind nos. 5-13 Hales Street which spoils the view of the rear of The Burges street properties, and the Old Grammar School.
- Modern shop fronts on some properties in The Burges and Hales Street that detract from the historic character of the buildings.
- Projecting signs, canvas banners and pavement A-boards that create clutter and spoil the appearance of individual buildings and the overall street scene.
- The Grade I listed Old Grammar School is currently in poor condition and in urgent need of a new use, works are currently underway.
- The 1960's shops between the Old Grammar School and the Transport Museum are of poor quality and negatively impact on the setting of the Grade I listed building.
- Intrusive CCTV equipment attached to some historic buildings.
- The River Sherbourne is predominantly hidden from view and the surrounding environment where it emerges behind The Burge is poor.
- The low quality environment to the rear of the Transport Museum in the Silver Street / Cook Street area.
- Graffiti on the walls of some properties in Palmer Lane creates an atmosphere of neglect.
- The use of steel palisade fencing at the rear of The Burges Street properties in Palmer Lane .



Works yard with silos to the rear of Burges and Hales Street properties that intrudes on the view.



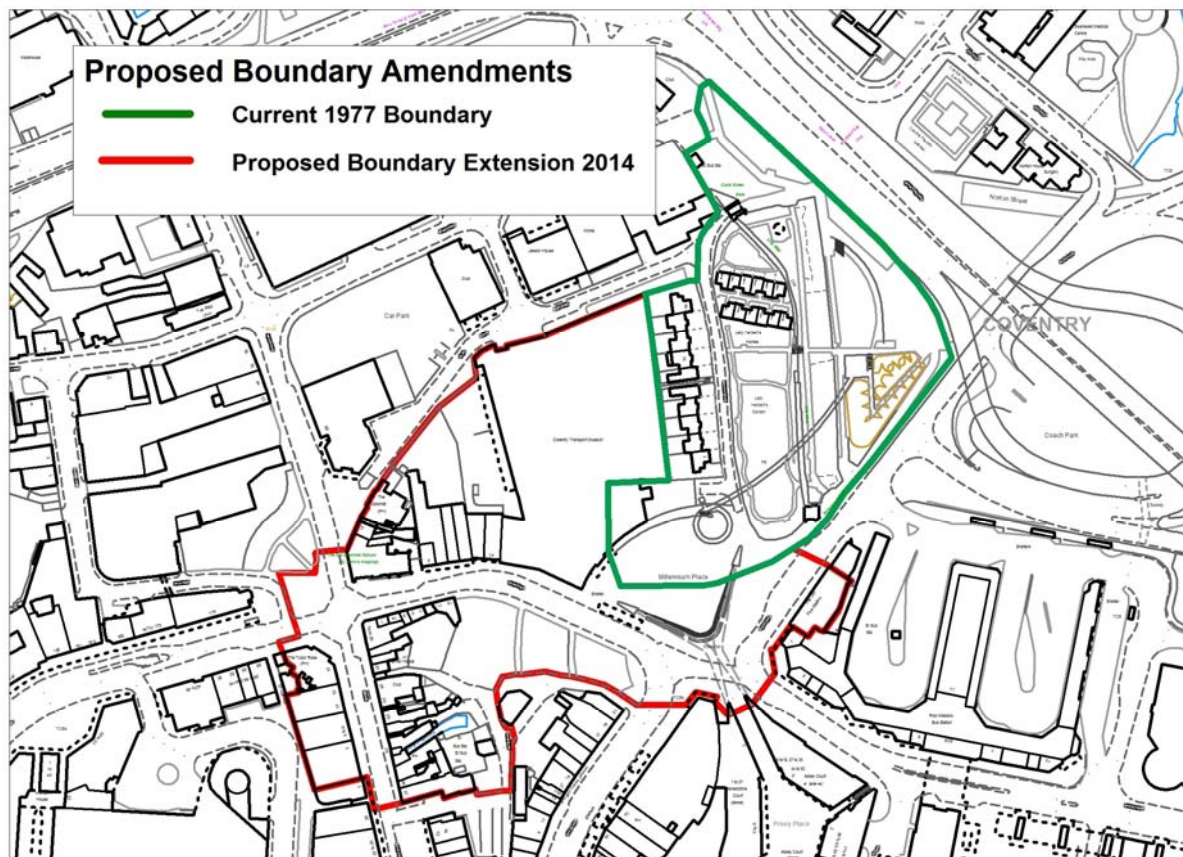
Modern shop fronts on historic buildings and projecting signs and A-boards creating clutter



Intrusive signage and CCTV camera at no. 18 Burges

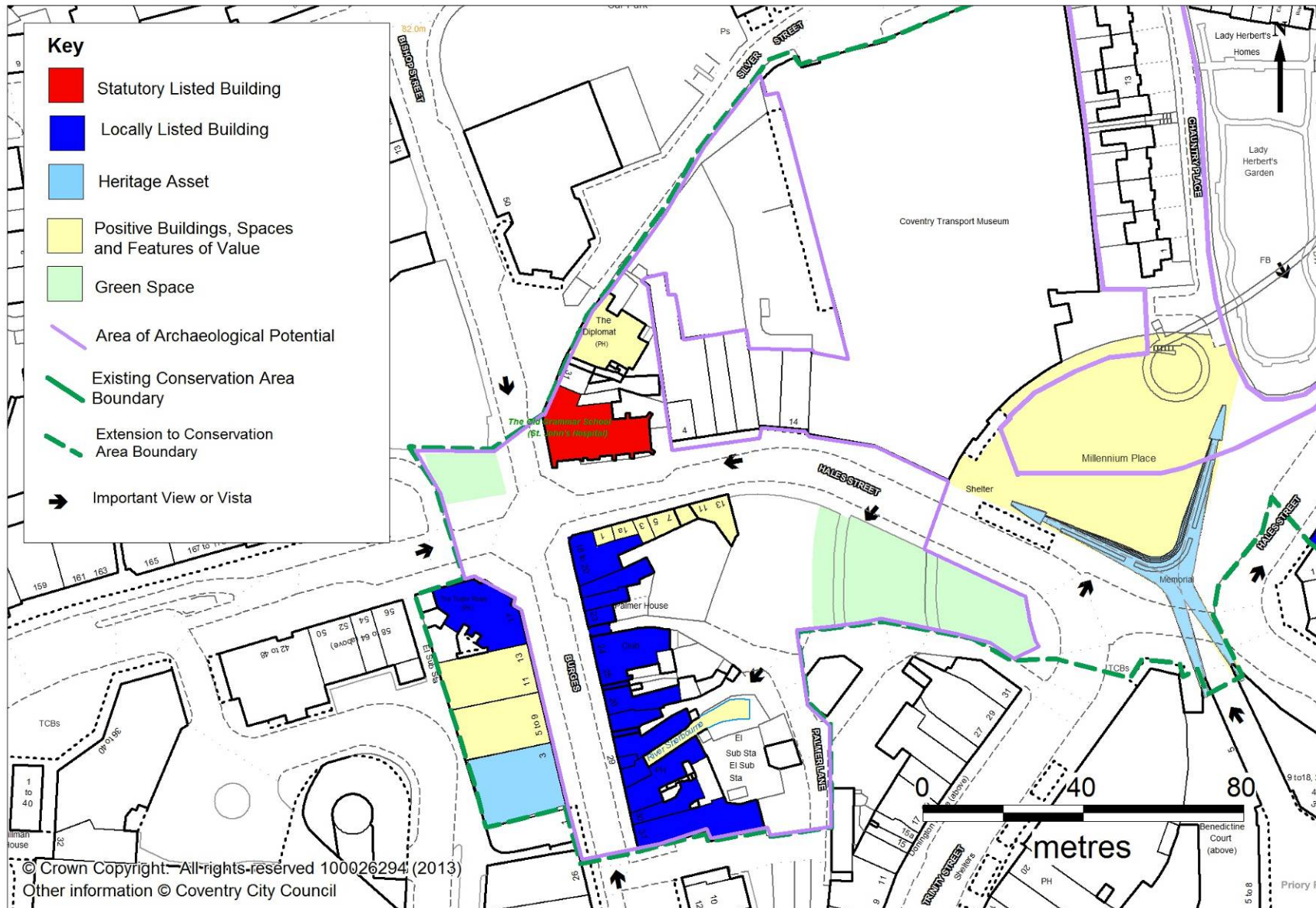


Timber sheets covering windows of the Old Grammar School.

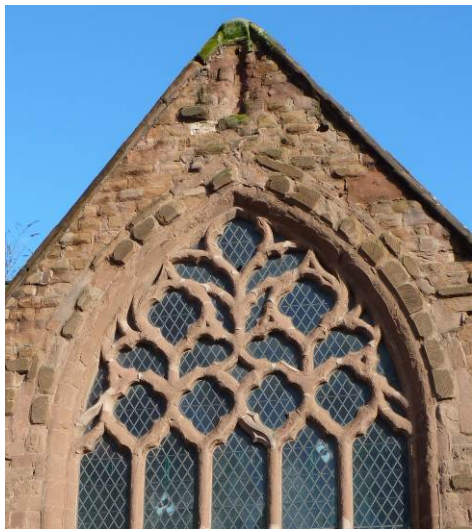


Plan showing the existing 1977 Conservation Area boundary and the proposed 2014 extension.

Figure 5: Proposed extension of conservation area boundary



Current Palette



A variety of materials are used in this locality but all are of an historic character. Predominant materials include red brick, sandstone and timber-frames. Many of the buildings retain their original windows.

3.0 The Setting of, and Approaches to, the Conservation Area

3.1 Cook Street and Silver Street

This historic street was once lined on either side by medieval timber-framed buildings but is now dominated by 1960's industrial warehouses, offices and surface car parks with galvanised steel palisade fencing to the rear of the pavements. The area has the appearance of an industrial estate and is in sharp, negative contrast to the green spaces and historic buildings of Lady Herbert's Garden and Chauntry Lane which border it.



*View east along Cook Street
towards the conservation area*

The properties themselves are in need of maintenance and currently look dilapidated. Some of the buildings are empty or have incompatible temporary uses such as nightclubs which cause nuisance to local residents. The placing of large metal storage containers and refuse containers in this location further degrades the setting of the Conservation Area, as does the use of metal roller shutters on the museum building and the building immediately adjacent to Cook Street Gate.

3.2 Volgograd Place

With its series of interlocking circular concrete fountains set in cobbles, Volgograd Place was created in 1970 beneath the ring road at White Street to commemorate the twinning of Coventry with Volgograd after the Second World War. The fountains have not worked for some time and the colourful decorative panels on the walls and supporting columns, added in 2006, look unkempt and are covered in pigeon droppings. The light fittings are covered in rust. The area is grey, dark and drab and has an air of dereliction that degrades the eastern part of the Garden of International Friendship to which it is adjacent. As a link from the city centre to Swanswell and Hillfields it is a depressing failed space.



Some of the decorative panels on the north wall in need of cleaning



The view through Volgograd Place towards the Garden of International Friendship



Commemorative plaque in need of refurbishment

4.0 Key Issues

In light of the above appraisal and the identification of the positive and negative factors in each locality area, the following issues have been identified as being most relevant to the continuing preservation of the special historic character and appearance of Lady Herbert's Garden Conservation Area.

- Anti-social behaviour in Lady Herbert's Garden is an on-going problem which can result in damage to heritage assets and is a nuisance to residents. As a consequence prohibitive signage has been placed at all entrances to the gardens, which has a negative visual impact and creates an unwelcoming atmosphere.
- Some historic buildings and structures have been altered in ways that has failed to preserve or enhance their architectural and historic interest.
- Poorly maintained street furniture, particularly the lamp posts in Chantry Place, creates an atmosphere of neglect.
- Some of the approaches to the Conservation Area are poor and impact negatively upon it. Cook Street has the character of an industrial estate and contrasts negatively with the green and historic character of Lady Herbert's Garden. Volgograd Place beneath the ring road has failed as a public space and is in much need of improvement.
- Many of the shopfronts and their associated signage along Hales Street and The Burges are of poor quality and detrimental to the appearance of the historic buildings.
- The River Sherbourne is hidden from view in a neglected area off Palmer Lane.
- The medieval city wall and gates are a key feature of Lady Herbert's Garden and currently any interpretation of their historical context and significance is lacking.
- Repairs are needed to the medieval wall and gates in order to remove them from the Heritage at Risk Register. Permanent uses need to be found for both Cook Street and Swanswell Gates.
- Interpretation and/or signage is needed at the viewing platform for the Garden of International Friendship.
- Some areas of the conservation area are damaged by graffiti, which creates an atmosphere of neglect and degradation. Graffiti should be removed promptly.
- Historic buildings, other structures and public works of art should be maintained so as not to create an impression of neglect.
- There is a need to revise the conservation area boundary to reflect development that has occurred since 1977.
- There are important views and vistas towards the spires of St. Michael's and Holy Trinity, and of the Whittle Arch, and these should be preserved.
- Much of the Conservation Area is pedestrianised with limited facilities for parking. This contributes to the peaceful atmosphere of the gardens and should be preserved.

- Some pieces of decorative metal work from Lady Herbert's Garden and the Garden of International Friendship have recently been stolen and other pieces have been removed to prevent further theft. Consequently important elements of the gardens' design, which contribute to their individual character, are gradually being lost.
- The gardens provide valuable green space and a peaceful and pleasant environment in which to relax in the heart of the busy city centre. In addition, they enhance views and vistas and the setting of individual buildings and they should be protected and enhanced.
- The Coventry Transport Museum is a major attraction in the City and is key to the enhancement and regeneration of the area.
- Stronger links need to be created between the principal stakeholders in the Conservation Area (the residents, businesses, Culture Coventry and the City Council) to secure mutually beneficial improvements.