



Derby City Council

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Derby Conservation Areas

Little Chester



INTRODUCTION

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires Local Planning Authorities to determine areas of special architectural or historic interest, 'the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. These areas are called Conservation Areas.

Derby is a city of considerable historic interest and architectural merit with a range of streets and buildings spanning many centuries. In an effort to conserve important elements of our built heritage, the City Council have designated fifteen such areas. The City Centre and Friar Gate Conservation Areas are at the heart of the city centre. Seven are based on aspects of Victorian Derby (Railway, Arboretum, Little Chester, Strutts Park and Hartington Street, Highfield Cottages, Leylands Estate, Nottingham Road) and the remaining five are focused on former village centres (Darley Abbey, Mickleover, Spondon, Allestree and Markeaton). This document outlines the history and mentions some of the exceptional buildings contained within one of these areas.

There are legal requirements and constraints which apply to Conservation Areas which do not apply elsewhere and the City Council therefore must pay special attention to the 'character' and 'appearance' of these areas when exercising its planning powers. This is a positive process in which a continuing effort is being made to control the nature and scale of change.

With the exception of certain buildings, no building in a Conservation Area can be demolished without consent from the Local Authority. This is enforced to maintain some of the more ordinary buildings that nevertheless contribute a great deal to the character of the area. An application for Conservation Area Consent must be made separately from any application for planning permission for redevelopment of the site.

There is also special protection for trees within designated Conservation Areas and anyone wishing to cut down, lop, top or uproot such a tree, must, with limited exceptions, give six weeks' notice to the City Council of their intention. This is to allow the authority an opportunity to formally inspect the tree and decide, in the interest of public visual amenity, whether it is appropriate to make a Tree Preservation Order.

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Little Chester Conservation Area

Little Chester was designated a Conservation Area in September 1991 in recognition of its historic character and townscape value. The area was incorporated into the Borough of Derby in the 1550's but has an even older history.



Chester Green

The origins of Little Chester can be traced back to the period of the Roman occupation, when a settlement called Derventio was established as early as AD69-76. Considerable remains from this period have been found in the area. The remains of stone walls can be seen amongst the modern houses off Marcus Street; these mark the location of the commercial and administrative core, but the settlement itself extended well beyond this.



Handyside Bridge, Chester Green

In the Middle Ages, Little Chester was held by the Collegiate Church of All Saints, with the seven farms in the area providing income for the Dean and six Canons. Two of these farms are still visible on Old Chester Road: Derwent House and Stone House Prebend (School Farmhouse). Both are listed, although they have been altered over the centuries.

By the late 18th century, industry began to establish itself along the river bank. This was on a small scale until the Union Foundry was established by William Peach in the late 1840's on City Road. This was taken over and expanded by Alfred Haslam in 1865 who also built the Workers' Recreation Rooms on St Paul's Road.

The Great Northern Railway Line was built across the area in 1876-77 bisecting the Roman Camp area from the southern development. The river was crossed by a bridge built by the eminent local firm of Handyside and Company and such is its quality that this structure is now Grade II listed.

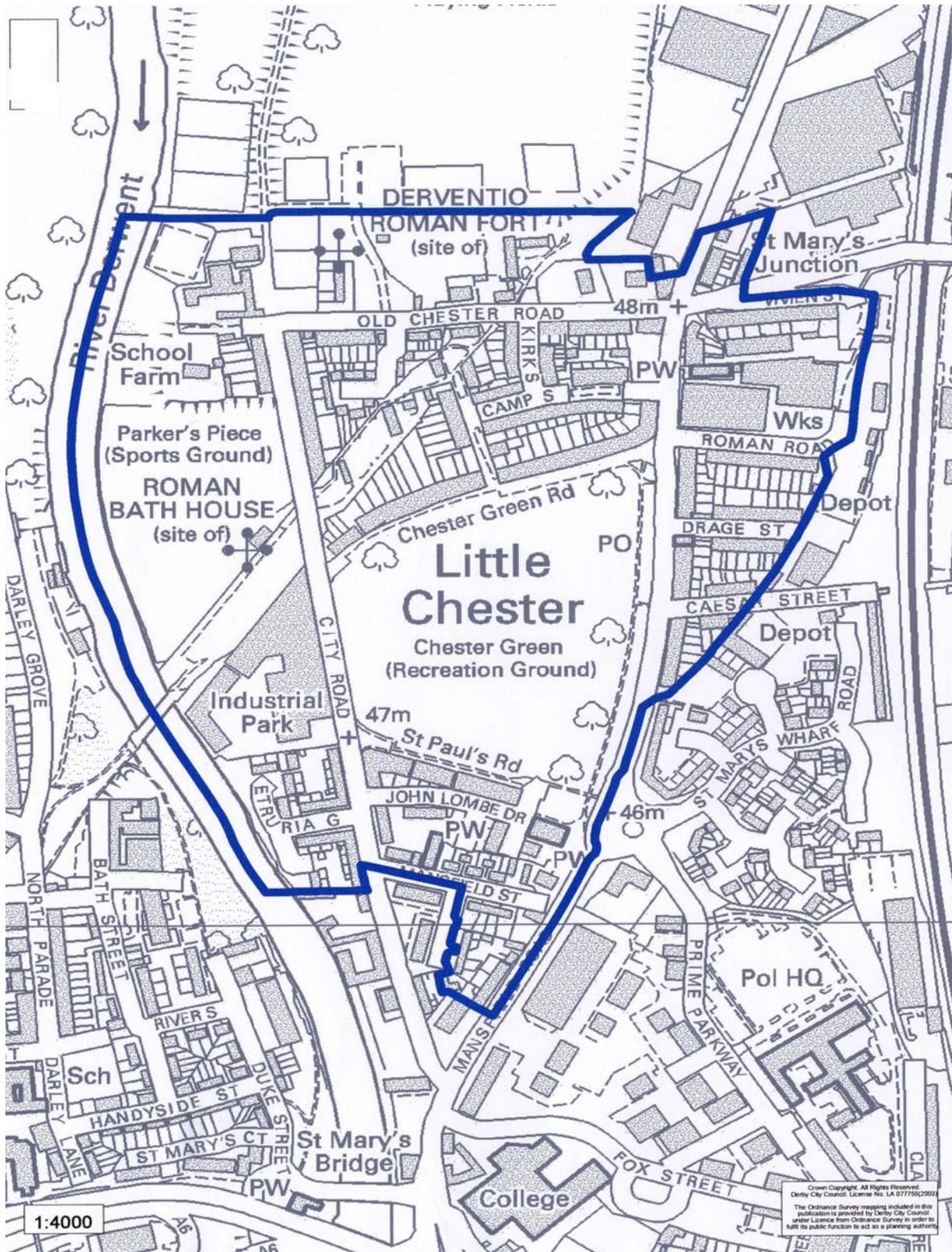
The remainder of the housing, to the north of Chester Green Road and the east of Mansfield Road, was built between 1886 and 1900. This created a pleasing open space in the middle of Little Chester, which was laid out as a park by the Borough Council who acquired the site in 1886.



To the south-east of the Conservation Area is St Mary's Goods Wharf, which contains three significant railway buildings, all of which are Grade II listed.

Midland Railway Goods Warehouse, St Mary's Wharf, Mansfield Road

Little Chester Conservation Area



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