



Derby City Council

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# Derby Conservation Areas

## Spondon



## 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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# Spondon Conservation Area

Designated in March 1975 and extended in 1986, the Conservation Area is based on the former village of Spondon, now surrounded by suburban development. The name first occurs in records in 1086 as Spondune (Old English Spon-wood).

There are several buildings of note within the Conservation Area. The Church of St Werburgh is a large mediaeval parish church, and whilst it was heavily restored in 1826 and 1892 it retains its 14<sup>th</sup> century tower and spire and internal features such as the sedilia, piscine and Easter Sepulchre. In the churchyard are the remains of a mediaeval cross, now designated as a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The Vicarage to the Church of St Werburgh appears to have had a chequered history. The early 19<sup>th</sup> century frontage block conceals an earlier building to the rear of mixed 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century origins.

The Homestead in Sitwell Street is one of the finest Georgian buildings in Derbyshire. Dated 1740 it is in an excellent state of preservation and retains its original staircase, contemporary panelling and a central “Venetian” entrance. In the grounds are the former coach house to the Homestead and a pair of fine stone gate piers.



*St Werburgh's Spondon*



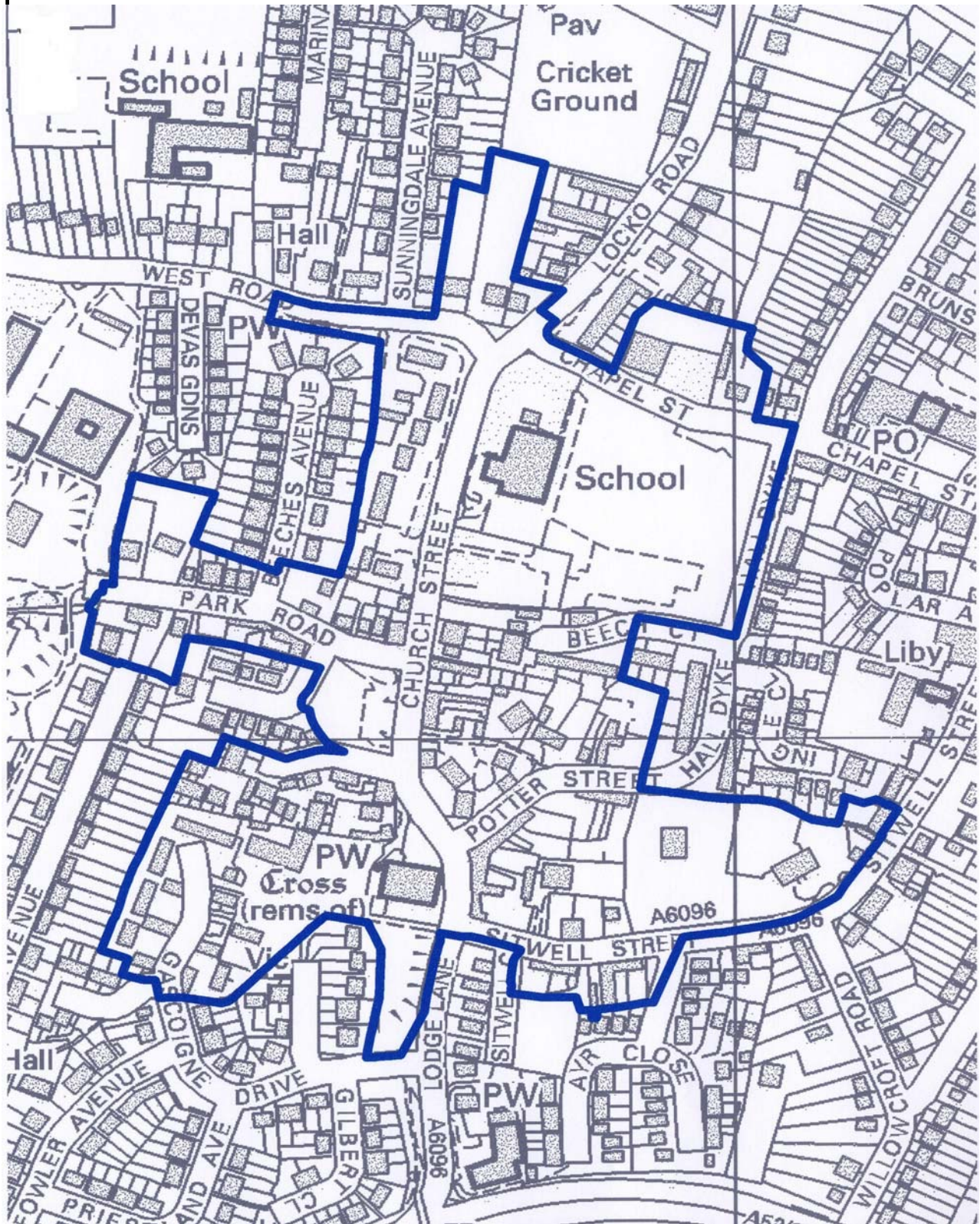
*The Homestead, Spondon*

Of the same period are the gate piers to the grounds of the former Field House in Park Road. Designed in classical style they are of particular architectural interest, and were moved from the front of St Helen's House, King Street, in Derby to their present site in the later 19<sup>th</sup> century.

The Grange in Park Road is a 16<sup>th</sup> century timber-framed building which has been altered and restored. Apart from “set-pieces” noted above, the village core has a number of smaller buildings of interest dating from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Nos. 25 and 27 Park Road are particularly fine Georgian buildings and Holly House (Park Road), Longdon's Row, Nos. 31

to 35 Church Hill, The Old Farm and the Malt Shovel Inn all date mainly from the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the last mentioned having an earlier core which is largely unspoilt.

# Spondon Conservation Area



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