

Warwick District Council Local Plan has identified that Waterways can be used as tools for place making and place shaping and contribute to the creation of sustainable communities (Warwick District Local Plan NE7). The Council wishes to see the canals reach their full potential, providing not only for leisure pursuits but also for the possibility of opening up and regenerating areas that have fallen into disuse over time, particularly where this may help to boost the local economy by providing new jobs. A holistic approach is needed to avoid piecemeal development that may result in the sterilisation of other sections of the canalside. The local waterways link historic towns with the countryside beyond. An ecological resource, they provide open access to a landscape of character for the many residents who do not have their own garden, want to walk, jog or cycle along the 40 Km of Canal in Warwick District. By realising the potential of this heritage asset, increasing safe use and enjoyment.

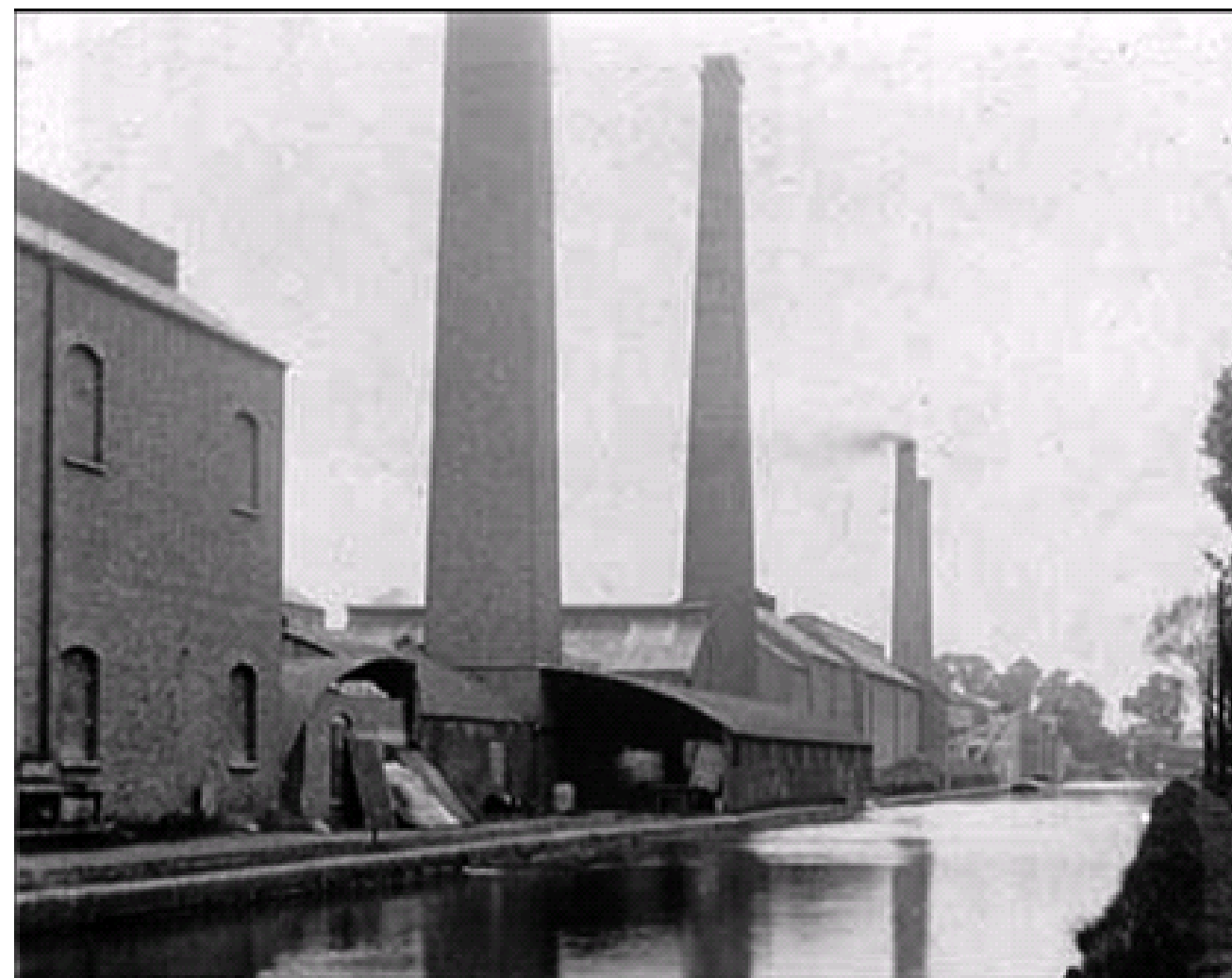
The Canal Conservation Area seeks to promote intelligent and inspired design, which is responsive to local distinctiveness and respects history and context, that can bring about economic and social benefit. Attracting people to live, work and play in the locality will increase the return on the legacy of local investment that created this enduring national heritage asset. 'Local planning authorities should look for opportunities for new development within Conservation Areas and World Heritage Sites and within the setting of heritage assets to enhance or better reveal their significance. Proposals that preserve those elements of the setting that make a positive contribution to or better reveal the significance of the asset should be treated favourably.' - NPPF Paragraph 137

Canals works were sometimes spectacular achievements, given the spade and barrow technology, the infancy of contracting, the ingenuity and industry required of both engineers and of promoters in gaining the rights, to carry out the work. Whatever the effort to create, and the impact of gangs of navvies on the unsuspecting countryside, apart from the occasional breach, they moved gently through the countryside and emerging towns. They opened up trade in what was in the eighteenth century still an agrarian society. They facilitated the growth of settlements and manufacturing by allowing materials won in one place to be worked in another, with the products distributed around the country. They provided inland economies such as Warwickshire with an alternative to the horse packed with baskets or trailing a carriage over uneven ground. For this reason they are often overlooked, benign stretches or just a bump in the road, like at Emscote. Their creation over two hundred years ago was a speculation that makes crowd funding quite unexceptional. In many ways they showed how innovation, enterprise and collaboration could be profitable and development beneficial in the short term, but that also provided a legacy that continues to be put to use. For canals to continue to have a welcome place in the local environment, they need to respond positively to opportunities without destroying what is valued and of significance. The canal was deliberately aligned to optimise its potential as infrastructure, and facilitated the development of land in the ownership of some of the canal act's promoters like Greathead, Willes and Wise. Some of the original uses, such as wharfage, have virtually disappeared, and the land has been repurposed to meet subsequent needs, without losing the association with its past.

The two principal towns, differ in their characteristics. Warwick had evolved over nine hundred years before the canal arrived at the end of the eighteenth century. It was a town of 6000 people whereas Leamington had 315 - the population grew 40 times in the 40 years to 1840. The existing conservation areas differ too. Warwick's is predominantly landscape with the Racecourse, Priory and St Nicholas Park and the Castle Park and grounds. The latter, which is largely unfamiliar to local people, It is of course a registered park, created for the earl in the mid eighteenth century by 'Capability' Brown. The waterside open space in Leamington, 'Spa garden's is also registered, but the conservation area is mainly populated by buildings and overlaps with the canal character area.

The spa drew water from a fissure in the Bromsgrove sandstone rock bed, this is known locally as Warwick stone, a stone used on some of Warwick's diverse building stock. Sandstone from Rock Mills at Emscote was boated down for William Eborall's masons to construct Robert Milnes design for the elegant new bridge for the Earl of Warwick in 1793. The stone was also used to construct the three arches that carry the canal over the Avon completed in 1799 by Charles Handley, with assistance from Henry Couchman. South of the River Leam, the canal in Leamington is on the clay rich Mercia Mudstone. Leamington's regency style is stucco on brick to echo the stone buildings in Georgian Bath. Exceptions include the large round columns to the front of the pump room in a sandstone brought by water from Derby, as would have been the slate for roofs,

The Canal Conservation Area should ensure that development reinforces the distinctive character of the canal in its different lengths, some urban, some rural, and recognises the diverse role it plays in the culture and economy of the district. Created to overcome some of the topographical hurdles Warwickshire faced being limited in navigable rivers and far from the sea, the canals assumed a significance moving coal, building materials and the products of the industrial revolution it helped facilitate.



NELSON WORKS WARWICK

Over 2000 miles of canals and navigable rivers extend across the country. About 500 miles of canal has been designated as Conservation Areas, sometimes as a convenient boundary. Generally the character of a Canal Conservation Area extends beyond the waterway authority's ownership as a visual envelope in which a loss of enclosure, from the removal of trees or a waterside building, can have a significant effect, equally so can development. This should be designed to make a positive contribution.

Canals in Warwick District pass through countryside, villages, urban fringe and towns, bringing wildlife into urban areas, towpath verges and linking open spaces. Species include water voles and otters, fish and bats, that all make use of this connected linear route. Habitat conservation and creation must be considered alongside navigation, recreation and built heritage character and appearance. The impact on waterside edges and the waterbody itself are also part of the balance. From encouraging the use of native plant species in landscape design and management, to more detailed biodiversity plans, or the control of pollution, these are all matters that determine the local authorities response to proposals.

#### CANAL AT KINGSWOOD



<http://www.ourwarwickshire.org.uk/content/catalogue/her/the-grand-union-canal>

The council believes the waterside is an asset that should be available and accessible to all local residents and visitors to the district. Although priority will be given to pedestrians so that they may benefit from the many opportunities that walking can give, the council wishes to encourage cycling, and the waterside can also provide part of a traffic-free route for cyclists.

To enhance use there is a need to;

- Continue to improve the environment of the canal , the quality of the towpath and the surrounding footpath network as well as new buildings of quality
- Make more of its significant attractions – Hatton flight, Avon Aqueduct, and the listed lengths of the Stratford Canal
- Make more of its history and industrial archaeology through interpretation, together with public art, wayfinding.
- Provide gateways to the canal linked to neighbourhood routes, parking and public transport. The main public transport asset is the railway as the Chiltern line follows the Grand Union canal to Birmingham with stations at Leamington , Warwick, Warwick Parkway, Hatton, and Lapworth, where the Stratford Canal stretches south and northward to the district's boundaries at Hockley Heath and Yarningdaql Common..

- Improve links with the surrounding communities for visitor infrastructure such as pubs, cafes, toilets and visitor information and interpretation, with access to the canal by road and public transport as well as cycling and walking routes.
- Identify development opportunities along the canal that will improve the environment and increase activity. Development should improve access from surrounding residential areas to the canal.
- Increase use of the water for boating and leisure activities including moorings and where possible new basins
- develop more the usage by local people and expand the draw of the canal to bring in visitors.
- A key observation is that the canal itself provides a traffic free route between the towns and villages and potential walk to work routes. The unimproved sections of towpath are sometimes too narrow for cyclists and walkers too pass and there are hazards at the bridges, whereas parts make an excellent cycle route and link to the national cycle network. There are potential conflicts with anglers and the points of access are poor for mobility scooters.

WDC's Health and well being agenda aims to open up the canalside for greater public access, this includes through-site links in new waterside development, and access to the towpath as a generally accessible and safe walkway along the whole length of the canals through the district and beyond. New footpath links will normally be pursued when redevelopment of waterside land takes place. In instances where development or intensification creates a direct need to improve or enhance an existing section of the waterside, planning conditions may be imposed or developer contributions sought.

The Council will encourage the development of the recreational and leisure potential of the canal in so far as this does not adversely affect the nature conservation interest and is consistent with the capacity of the waterway and the amenity of the surrounding area. The Council will seek to ensure that existing water-based activities are not displaced by redevelopment or change of use.



CLEMENS ST BRIDGE AND FLAVELS WATERSIDE AT LADDER BRIDGE



In addition to the general design policies, development on the canalside needs to respect the unique character of the waterways, so that it is of a high quality of design that is informed by its context, having particular regard to the massing of development and its relationship to the canal corridor conservation area status. The canal has a nature conservation value and development must protect its ecological value and not harm biodiversity. The aim is to secure a special quality for all new development and where appropriate to enhance the vitality of the canals and include related uses that attract the public.

There is a need to consider the design of individual buildings as well as the spaces around them and broader urban design issues. This must be done with a full understanding of the context, local character and heritage assets of the area. Historical value derives from the ways in which past people, events and aspects of life can be connected through a place to the present. It can be illustrative or associative. The aesthetic meanings are a sensory and intellectual response to the design intentions. Characterisation of the historic canal environment is designed to identify quality and what is valued so that it contributes to a shared vision of what contributes to a sense of place.

Understanding the value of historic canal corridors informs good practice. Applicants need to provide sufficient information for the local authority to determine an application, and reveal how the existing character of the canal conservation area has been considered in proposals. This should minimise adverse impacts, but also recognise the opportunities to increase the beneficial use of waterways to continue to shape the place and enrich the local environment.

the council will require the submission of a design statement as part of a planning application. The statements should typically address scale, mass, height, density, layout, and quality of materials, in relation to the local context, historic structures and archaeological remains; the impacts on navigation and ecological interests; visual and physical permeability and protecting and enhancing public access to and along the waterside, landscaping, open spaces and street furniture and any proposals that involve lighting.

The council will refer to the Canal Conservation Area Appraisal to assist in identifying the qualities of the Area, including:

- (i) the character of individual lengths within the district;
- (ii) structures, landmarks, landscapes and views of sensitivity and importance;
- (iii) negative and gap sites eroding special character, development sites and regeneration opportunities;
- (iv) the contribution that the landscape makes to the setting of the 18th century asset;
- (v) sites of archaeological importance;
- (vi) focal points (existing and proposed) of public activity; and
- (vii) public access and recreation opportunities.

We will consult CRT, IWA and other stakeholders as appropriate on developments affecting the canals. A balance must always be struck with regard to other issues such as ecological and navigational interests and the amenity of residential neighbours. The redevelopment of canal wharves or basins for other land uses should consider whether any restoration potential exists.

When proposals alongside the canal come forward, the council's emphasis will often be on promoting a mix of uses, including active businesses serving pedestrians and cyclists, whilst also maintaining this waterway corridor as an important route. The council will expect water related uses on the canal where appropriate and will expect development proposals that do not include such uses to provide evidence as to why this is not the case. All proposals will be expected to provide improved accessibility and connectivity to the surrounding areas, enhancement of the canalside towpath, protection of views, minimising the impact on biodiversity and

wildlife habitats and promotion of the canal and towpath as a health, sport and recreation resource. The design of new development along the Grand Union canal will need to take into account the Canal conservation area and its evolving character.

New development considerations in conservation areas, aside from NPPF requirements such as social and economic activity and sustainability, are appropriate proportion, height, massing, use of materials, durability and adaptability, use, enclosure, relationship with adjacent assets and definition of spaces and walks, alignment, active frontages, permeability and treatment of setting.

WDC's Listed buildings and conservation area guidance 2010 provides advice on the expectations that affects a historic asset or its setting.

There is a presumption that buildings which make a positive contribution to a CA should be retained, preferably in a continuation of their original use. This may require updating of the services in the building or adaptations to improve access. Changes that harm the significance or diminish its' contribution are not appropriate. The incremental development of a diverse canalside should mean that compatible new buildings will allow the area to continue to evolve and can add to locally distinct character. This is to be preferred to bogus copies or poor pastiche which will undermine the original.

Detrimental changes that harm an area can arise through change in use or intensification as well as by neglect. The council has powers to remedy structures in a conservation area even those that are not listed. Changes that harm the character can be affected by siting as well as the scale form and materials of a building as well by the introduction or loss of landscape elements including surfacing, boundaries and planting. The intrusion of vehicles on the canalside is often a harmful change to what is generally experienced best on foot.

*Below : fields by the canal in the neighbourhood of Woodloes*



The enclosure or openness of particular sections of the canal should be respected as this quality contributes significantly to its varying character. The ever changing views, the variety and contrast of townscape elements and the informal relationship between buildings and canal make significant contributions to the character of

the canal. Different sections of the canal vary considerably in terms of aspect, level, width and orientation and in the nature and function of adjacent buildings and landscape.

The appraisal has not marked specific views. The canal is experienced as a continuous linear element, so that the evolving view as one travels along is a key characteristic. The preservation of the essential qualities of any view, or indeed the enhancement of those qualities will be sought. The impact of any proposal on these views will therefore form part of any evaluation of a proposal affecting heritage assets and other areas of townscape sensitivity.

Although the canal is a continuous open space, it is not always perceived as such because of its twisting route. The canal has a picturesque quality with only stretches being visible at any one time and views partly curtailed by the bends in the canal and the bridges which cross it and frame distant views. The canal side trees hedgerows and informal plant margins, often along very narrow strips, give a soft edge to the water way and contrasts with the harder edge formed by some of the enclosing structures. There is strong support for the picturesque nature of the canal space as well as importance of wildlife habitats. It is important to recognise that this informal appearance adds to the value ascribed to it as a parallel world, tranquil and away from road traffic often with the air of a quiet backwater.

The landmarks identified include bridges, areas of open space, and groups of Buildings within the canal corridor. It is important that their setting and relationship with the waterways is preserved. Bridges are particularly important landmarks. They help to define the character of each length. Furthermore, bridges can be vantage points and command extensive views along the waterside.

When determining applications for development affecting heritage assets, the council will apply the following principles:

- a) The presumption will be in favour of the conservation and restoration of heritage assets, and proposals should secure the long term future of heritage assets and seek to reveal their significance, by removing clutter, particularly later additions.
- b) Proposals which involve substantial harm to, or loss of, any designated heritage asset will be refused unless it can be demonstrated that they meet the criteria specified in paragraph 133 of the National Planning Policy Framework. All grades of harm, including total destruction, minor physical harm and harm through change to the setting, can be justified on the grounds of public benefits that outweigh that harm taking account of the 'great weight' to be given to conservation and provided the justification is clear and convincing (paragraphs 133 and 134).

Public benefits in this sense will most likely be the fulfilment of one or more of the objectives of sustainable development as set out in the NPPF, provided the benefits is for the wider community and not just for private individuals or corporations. It is very important to consider if conflict between the provision of such public benefits and heritage conservation is necessary.

- b) Development affecting designated heritage assets, including alterations and extensions to buildings will only be permitted if the significance of the heritage asset is maintained or enhanced or if there is clear and convincing justification. Where measures to mitigate the effects of climate change are proposed, the benefits in meeting climate change objectives should be balanced against any harm to the significance of the heritage asset and its' setting.
- d) Applications for development affecting heritage assets (buildings and artefacts of local importance and interest) will be determined having regard to the scale and impact of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

e) Development should preserve the setting of, make a positive contribution to, or better reveal the significance of the heritage asset. The presence of heritage assets should inform high quality design within its setting.

f) Respect for the principles of accessible and inclusive design.

There is a general presumption in favour of the retention of the surviving historic buildings within the conservation area are either listed or considered to make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the area

The council will require a high standard of design in all alterations and extensions to existing buildings. These should be compatible with the scale and character of existing development, their neighbours and their setting. In most cases, they should be subservient to the original building. Alterations and extensions should be successfully integrated into the architectural design of the existing building. In considering applications for alterations and extensions the council will consider the impact on the existing building and its surroundings and take into account the following:

- a) Scale, form, height and mass;
- b) Proportion;
- c) Vertical and horizontal emphasis;
- d) Relationship of solid to void;
- e) Materials;
- f) Relationship to existing building, spaces between buildings and gardens;
- g) Good neighbourliness; and
- h) The principles of accessible and inclusive design.

Changes in use of buildings along the towpath, can lead to external alterations that impact on character of the area. The ground floor walls of industrial buildings tend to have few if any openings in them. Incremental change to these structures could alter the canal's character. Care will therefore need to be taken in balancing the needs of new uses with the character of the historic built form and also the canal setting whilst acknowledging that the overall conservation aim is for the canal to be the defining characteristic of the length. Loose fit buildings may offer scope for reuse within their existing envelopes, but care must be taken to consider the cumulative impact on the conservation area of such alterations. Equally removing some of the twentieth century additions will better reveal the nature of the place. Existing architectural features and detailing which positively contributes to the character and appearance of the conservation area should generally be retained and kept in good repair. Original detailing such as ironwork, timber framed or metal windows set into reveals to express the masonry structure, doors, stone and brick copings to both walls and the canal edge, bridge abutments and parapets add to the visual interest of the canal and its setting. Where these have been removed in the past, replacement with appropriate copies will be encouraged. Opportunities to enhance the appearance of the building through the restoration of missing features or creative adaptations which equal the quality of the original are encouraged.

The choice of materials in new work will be most important and will be the subject of control by the Council. Original materials should be retained and repaired if practical. Generally routine and regular maintenance such as unblocking of gutters and securing rainwater pipes, the repair of damaged pointing, and the painting and repair of wood and metal work will prolong the life of a building or structure, and prevent unnecessary decay and damage. Where replacement is required, materials should be chosen to closely match the original. Generally the use of the original (or as similar as possible) natural materials will be required, and the use of materials such as concrete roof tiles, artificial slate and UPVC windows will not be acceptable. Original



stonework and brickwork should not be painted, rendered or clad. This may lead to long term damage to original structural materials, and may be extremely difficult (if not impossible) to reverse once completed.

Re-pointing if done badly can drastically alter the appearance of a building, damage the brickwork, and be difficult to reverse. The pointing should be weaker than the brick or stone to protect the masonry. Abrasive cleaning of masonry may cause the removal of the face of the brick or stone and can lead to increased water penetration. The patina of wear and weathering on many buildings in the conservation area, including canal side walls, is a particular element of the character of the conservation area and cleaning may harm that character.

Valued historic assets can inform high quality design. The special character of conservation areas makes it essential that new development accords with their special architectural and visual qualities. New buildings will not be required to copy their older neighbours. The aim should be to promote high quality design which contributes positively to the area, and that is compatible with its neighbours in the conservation area. Apart from the mending a gap in a terrace with a formal designed palace frontage, it is always possible to achieve the scale character and appearance appropriate to the context through modern design, as well as by traditional approach. A proposal seeking to reflect/ respect an earlier style is often let down by inappropriate proportions, solid to void ratio, or by the lack of traditional detail and craftsmanship. Sometimes by poorer quality material or misappropriation of traditional pitch. The classic is the double garage for the rangerover in a village where, with its traditional pitch, it is bigger than a workers cottage and stands out as a result.

Bland mediocre schemes that are justified as not doing serious harm or by replacing something that does harm with something less so but which fail to recognise the special nature of the canal conservation area should be redesigned. Equally if there is a lack of adequate detail to explain and illustrate the proposal accurately in context, then this is required before a judgement can be made. Policy HE1 were makes clear a commitment to the significance of a heritage asset, that historic analysis should inform applications and that proposals should have regard for the setting. This corroborates the National Planning Policy NPPF. The Policy HE2 requires measures to be taken to restore or bring into use, areas that presently make a negative contribution to the conservation areas.

The local plan says significance derives not only from a heritage assets physical presence but also from its setting, the surroundings in which it is experienced. It is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve. Elements of a setting may make a positive or negative contribution to the significance of an asset, may affect the ability to appreciate that significance or may be neutral

Gardens and open spaces that add to the interest are also to be protected, should consult HER for Archaeology and Historic Landscape Characterisation. The NPPF at paragraphs 141 and 169 emphasises the importance of HERs in providing the core of information needed for plan-making and individual planning decisions. They are unique repositories of information relating to landscapes, buildings, sites and artefacts. Their content underpins the identification, recording, protection and conservation of the local historic environment and the interpretation of historic environment designation and planning decisions.

The conservation area designation recognises the canal corridor as special, a water highway within a designed landscape, water artificially empounded and regulated by weirs, sluices and through backpumping to ensure sufficient depth to allow the passage of boats, but not a convenient drainage system for any development. Avoiding run off that may pollute the waterway is important too, as is anything that undermines the integrity of the historic structures.

The canalscape is generally robust and not one of that small minority of landscapes so sensitive that the degree of alteration or addition possible without loss of significance is very limited. varying degrees of

sensitivity to change within landscapes can normally be identified and incorporated into alterations and additions in ways that will even enhance the asset's significance.

The council wishes to promote simple and uncomplicated access, into and around significant buildings. The goal is for disabled people or people with mobility problems to use the property in the same way as everyone else. This will call for creative and sensitive solutions including where a compromise solution is necessary. The inclines on the canal system are designed for horses, and sometimes these would be unhitched and taken another way. Alternatives should be considered which avoid harm from change to places like under the Old Warwick road bridge at Kingswood, where the incline is precipitous.

There are more structures in addition to the listed buildings, which are of merit and which contribute to the character of the locality because of their townscape value, architectural quality or historic associations. There will be a presumption against proposals which would involve significant alteration of, or cause damage to, or have a harmful impact on the setting of, Archaeological Remains of National or Local Importance, whether scheduled or not. The local Historic Environment Record should be consulted.



WARWICK AND NAPTON EAGLE WHARF 1927

Good appropriate routine management and maintenance will minimise the need for larger repairs or other interventions and will usually represent the most economical way of sustaining an asset. Works such as The replacement of concrete tiles or perhaps unsuitable modern upvc windows with more historically appropriate windows is an enhancement.

The significance will usually result from evidential and associative value that depends on the ability to appreciate the location, topography and setting of the site. Restoration may involve removing later additions and features or reinstating known earlier features.

It would not normally be good practice for new work to dominate the original asset or its setting in either scale, material or as a result of its siting. The canal system is robust enough to manage innovation, particularly if it is of a quality and spirit that matches the original. Assessment of an asset's significance and its relationship to its setting will usually suggest what might be appropriate.

The retention and restoration of surfacing and street furniture sometimes makes a contribution to the character and appearance of a conservation area. Quality of place can be enhanced where opportunities are taken for the re-introduction of missing elements in adjacent areas, if there is historical evidence for them. The local tradition in scale, materials, texture, colour and laying patterns will inform appropriate new paving

All trees which contribute to the character or appearance of the conservation area should be retained and protected. Developers will be expected to incorporate any new trees sensitively into the design of any development, and demonstrate that no trees will be lost or damaged before, during or after development. BS 5837: 1991 shall be taken as the minimum required standard for protection of trees. The Council will wish to ensure their survival and require their protection during works to nearby buildings and to the canal as they make a positive contribution to the appearance of the area.

Significance has long been assigned through national designations, where it is referred to as 'special interest' or 'national importance'. Historic England's Conservation Principles provides further detail on assessing the significance of a heritage asset, based around an understanding of an asset's evidential, historical, aesthetic or communal value. This would be a parallel local approach to adopt in Neighbourhood plans. Caring for the built and natural heritage and regenerating areas in need is a strategic local plan policy DS3. The quality of new development will be judged on how well it responds to heritage assets and enhance people's lives.

A poor mix of land uses, and the design and layout of adjoining buildings with limited access to the canal towpath, creates an environment which ignores the significance of the inherited asset and thus discourages the full potential use of the canal. This bland or hostile condition can make it feel insecure, exacerbated by the absence of activity outside working hours and any natural surveillance.

Planning briefs help ensure waterside development is considered holistically and that given the continuous character of canal lengths, opportunities are identified to enhance the conservation area, that transcend the individual site boundary. The brief should encourage visual and actual access to the water and critically consider the relationship with the waterspace and the tow path.

There is always the danger of an adequate contextual analysis, yet no evidence of it informing the design. This can be countered by good illustrative material that gives a clear idea of what the proposals will actually look like. These must include views from the canal itself. Straight facades for a building face onto the canal are not sufficient to enable less practised eyes to understand what a proposal will look like as you encounter it in three dimensions, how it relates to what is there, particularly relative height. A section through the waterway

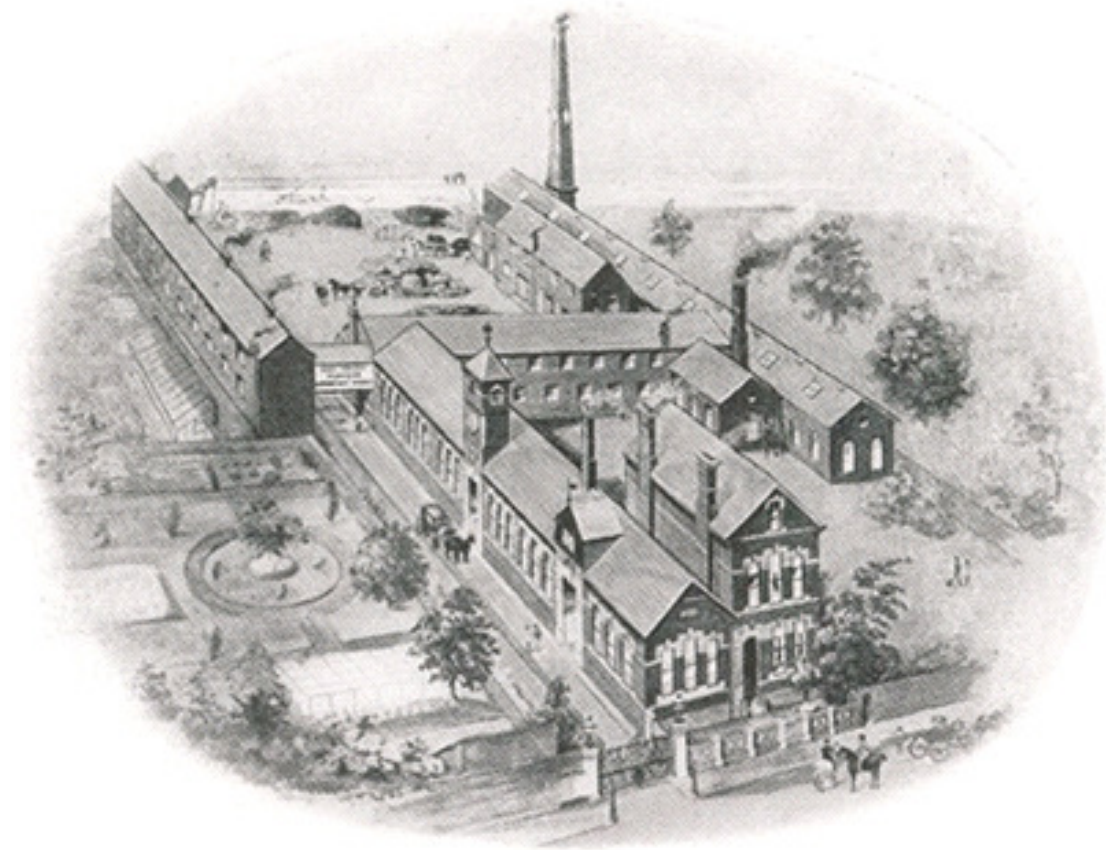
showing the scale of the enclosure is also particularly helpful. As well as the form of development it should work well with the waterway as well as serve the needs of its users.

objectives

- a high quality mix of uses incorporating features and materials appropriate to the historic canalside context;
- a well designed environment; particularly one which provides active uses at ground floor/canal towpath level and potentially opens onto the canal;
- development that preserves, enhances and interprets the historic character of the canal and adjoining buildings; the enhancement of the environment through conservation;
- improved pedestrian and cycle access to the canal towpath for all sections of the community, including those with disabilities;
- the free flow of pedestrians through and around development, onto the canal towpath and connected to the wider network of squares, spaces and pedestrian streets;
- A natural hierarchy that goes from public to private spaces, particularly in residential developments.
- the enhancement of the environment through landscaping, including habitat creation and public art at suitable locations;
- Waterspace activity, long term moorings, including residential and visitor moorings, hotel and restaurant boats, trip boats, floating gallery and trading craft where appropriate;
- excavation of infilled canals and creation of further bodies of water; opening up former canal basins and arms and the creation of new water space; and
- improvements to the canal itself including, where possible, measures to conserve and enhance local biodiversity and water conservation measures associated with new development.

Lighting to the canal side may improve personal safety and deter vandalism, but the use of solutions such as lampposts would clearly be at odds with the established character of the area. The impact of artificial lighting on wildlife habitats would also need to be sensitively considered, particularly for bats. It is noted that unlit or very low levels of light are important in terms of biodiversity.. Low level lights fitted onto existing walls or within bollards might provide a suitable solution but the level of light and design would need careful consideration.





Site-specific design guidance and development briefs will encourage new development that complements the established grain, settlement pattern and character, while making a positive contribution to the significance of the conservation area. Such guidance is particularly useful where the character of the area derives from its diversity, where imitative or 'in keeping with existing' styles would run counter to the way in which the area has traditionally evolved. In places where it is not appropriate to identify a local style there may still be characteristics, such as a regular width of frontage, relationship of buildings to the street or mix of scales, as well as an overall palette of distinctive materials that can helpfully be identified through the appraisal to inform design of proposals to respond sensitively to their context. Other conservation area-specific proposals might include

- Development/design briefs for key sites
- Development opportunities for sensitive developments within the conservation area

Where there are gap sites or negative contributors within a particular conservation area, a Local Plan/area action plan may include specific proposals for new development while Article 4 directions may prevent further incremental loss, including:

- Measures to tackle locations subject to crime or anti-social behaviour that is affecting the area
- Public realm or highway enhancement schemes to improve access and/or enhance the character or appearance
- Schemes to support reintroduction of lost architectural features either through provision of guidance, planning permission or grant aid support

The designation and management of assets, whether large or small, within the historic environment is based on a staged approach, starting with understanding the significance of the affected assets, before moving on to understanding possible impacts on that significance, then seeking to avoid, minimise and mitigate those impacts and pursuing opportunities to better reveal or enhance significance, then ensuring any unavoidable harmful impacts are justifiable by public benefits that are necessary and otherwise undeliverable.



AVON AQUEDUCT CARRIES THE CANAL OVER THE RIVER





## Stewardship

The mere act of designation does not sustain or enhance a heritage asset. The aim is to establish coherent guidelines that promote constructive dialogue between building owners and the authority based on a common understanding of what is special and what is vulnerable, what a positive or negative features. The appraisal is the most comprehensive assessment of significance currently available to manage change. It is a snap shot in time as there is no systematic record of cumulative change.

Tackling places at risk, actively managing what is valued as of significance, to enhance or recover the heritage assets is about a constructive conservation relationship between public policy and land ownership in which Heritage guidance to identify shared objectives is required. Development management by agreement. With listed buildings, owners are often given no clear idea of what is special. Professional judgement is a prerequisite. Proposals become part of an iterative process that achieves the applicants objectives, amending negative impacts by design and better revealing the special interest. Weighing disbenefit /harm against what can be achieved by a positive solution.

Warwick District Council will encourage enhancement and promote access to and use of the canal corridor. It is an attractive environment animated by boats and wildlife . As well as retaining historic canal structures and protecting the integrity of the waterway , there is the potential to make better use of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century waterway. As well as enhancing views to, along and from the waterway we need to recognise the setting may go beyond what is immediately in sight. The stock proof hedge will naturally enclosed lengths in summer whereas the winter views will be more extensive a line of trees following the course of the waterway is a useful way to discern its place in the landscape when everywhere is covered in snow.

Where development is proposed along the water way it should be sited to enhance the spatial quality of the canal corridor and avoid ill-defined margins. It should consider access, permeable plots and present an attractive face to the waterway as public realm. Proposals that integrate the tow path and utilise water space for public benefit will be welcome. The design should create a sense of place and the use allow for active edges to the water space. Links to public transport footpath and cycle ways within the development and from adjoining areas will be welcome too. Connections across the waterway to open up areas that may be of benefit may also increase the balance in favour of a proposal.

The three-dimensional character of proposals when experienced travelling along waterway or towpaths needs to be considered. Attempts to recreate bogus warehouse flats to justify mass will not be accepted. Most grain warehouses had small openings not suitable as living spaces, despite adding Juliet balconies or any other romantic addition. Often the crane hoist or lucam is faked, set over vertical openings that suit the plan, but do not follow the simple solid to void pattern of a traditional warehouse .

These follow a regular rhythm and the full height openings were placed for a purpose. There is a functional tradition and the brick modelling that related to the task of storing grain can be appropriated to Buildings should not turn their backs on the canal, it is a thoroughfare, an active edge a public space. Blank facades are missed opportunity. Considerations include ; site planning, design, layout, orientation, aspect, Outlook

Particular where a waterway is constructed on embankment, or a project has a basement level, it is essential that canal engineers are consulted about proposals at an early stage as any consent is conditional on not undermining the integrity of the historic structure.

Boundary treatments and access will vary from tow path to offside, it is not normally the case to have footpath on both sides of these waterways. The Sydenham estate is unusual with the green fingers stretching into Radburn layout. Housing opposite the food store on Myton road has compensated for the towpath having a hedge that screen s the car park and service areas. The variation in short terraces gable ends and spaces makes this one of the more attractive new developments along waterway.





Waterways cultural heritage, biodiversity, landscape value as well public access and enjoyment qualify them as ‘public goods’ and therefore subject to public policy. They can act as a focus for economic as well as environmental initiatives. A cluster of activity around a former wharf or old canal arm may realise recreational or tourism potential, which has come to the canal side because of a sense of place.



HATTON MAINTENANCE YARD . WATERWAYS MUSEUM COLLECTION

The success of the district’s towns and villages as places to live can be undermined by a standard development offer. Waterside is a different choice. creating places where people want to be out of choice needs to be supported. Places, where they can engage with the locality. This is the quality of streets that Unwin and Parker understood in their Hampstead garden suburb layouts ,and the fascination with the charm of pedestrian shopping streets and refurbished historic districts,. The street was the place where social classes and social uses mixed both school and stage of urbanity, which in the end means nothing less than the belief that people can live together in proximity and interdependence. A lively waterway performs like a street as the primary place for social interaction.

Evaluating proposals response to the special interest and the setting

1. Is the design specific to the scheme/place?
2. What does the scheme add to the character of the place?
3. Is car parking will handled so as not to dominate?
4. How well does the scheme integrate with towpath and other walking routes?
5. Does the scheme manage the mix of likely users?
6. How well does it relate to the local pattern of development, landscape and culture, the scale and materials, the aspect and views?

7. As an addition is it interesting, welcoming and people friendly. Do the buildings and layout make it understandable? Is the public realm clearly defined, are there active frontages and quality spaces that have a use, not just leftover?
8. Robust street furniture and some low-level lighting can help people relax, feel safe and secure and enjoy the proximity to the canal.
9. Generous space good natural light and fabric that insulates to keep noise out and heat in, together with options on how to utilise the space internally, will help ensure that what is built lasts that it is adaptable and durable.
10. There is not a particular style to be replicated. It is the spirit, quality of materials, proportions, windows and other details in a building that is well built and fit for the purpose that will match the ethos and underlying character of canal architecture.
11. Building that have a long life are those that fit a succession of users and make a positive contribution to a place. Because the initial investment is repaid they can provide affordable space for younger creative enterprises.. the buildings longevity helps with identity.
12. Good inclusive design is required, design which lacks understanding of the context or fails to take the opportunity to improve the quality of an area, or the way it works, should not be accepted.

The cultural significance of historic places justifies public interest and the use of policy and public interest to secure that interest.

The task is to understand what people value about a historic place, beyond usefulness, and to use that to inform and thus sustain those values.

Policy guidance and good practice reflects current understanding and approach to significance. This not an absolute, but an evolving and more diverse reading of what has meaning.

The 1967 Act that created Conservation Areas was public policy reacting to comprehensive renewal. Public and professional understanding has embraced a widening range of places as having historic value and design integrity. The 1908 royal commission focussed on sixteenth and seventeenth century buildings, then extended that to 1714. The 1947 Act included Georgian , soon adding some Victorian places. Then a thirty year rule evolved, reduced now to ten for buildings of outstanding importance that are under threat

Identifying the values attached to places, so as to manage change in a way that sustains those values and the cultural significance is now the good practice approach to the historic environment. It is not only age, but significance arising from design and from association with people and events, what it tells us about past activity, that is sustained by places remaining in beneficial use.

Saying no to change and relying on minimum intervention is no longer an adequate response. It is what is of significance that is the measure of what is of public interest. Whilst it can be to not disturb the fabric of a historic building, it can also be managing change to reveal and reinforce heritage values for present and future generations. This includes recovering integrity where this has been compromised, often by unconsidered incremental change.

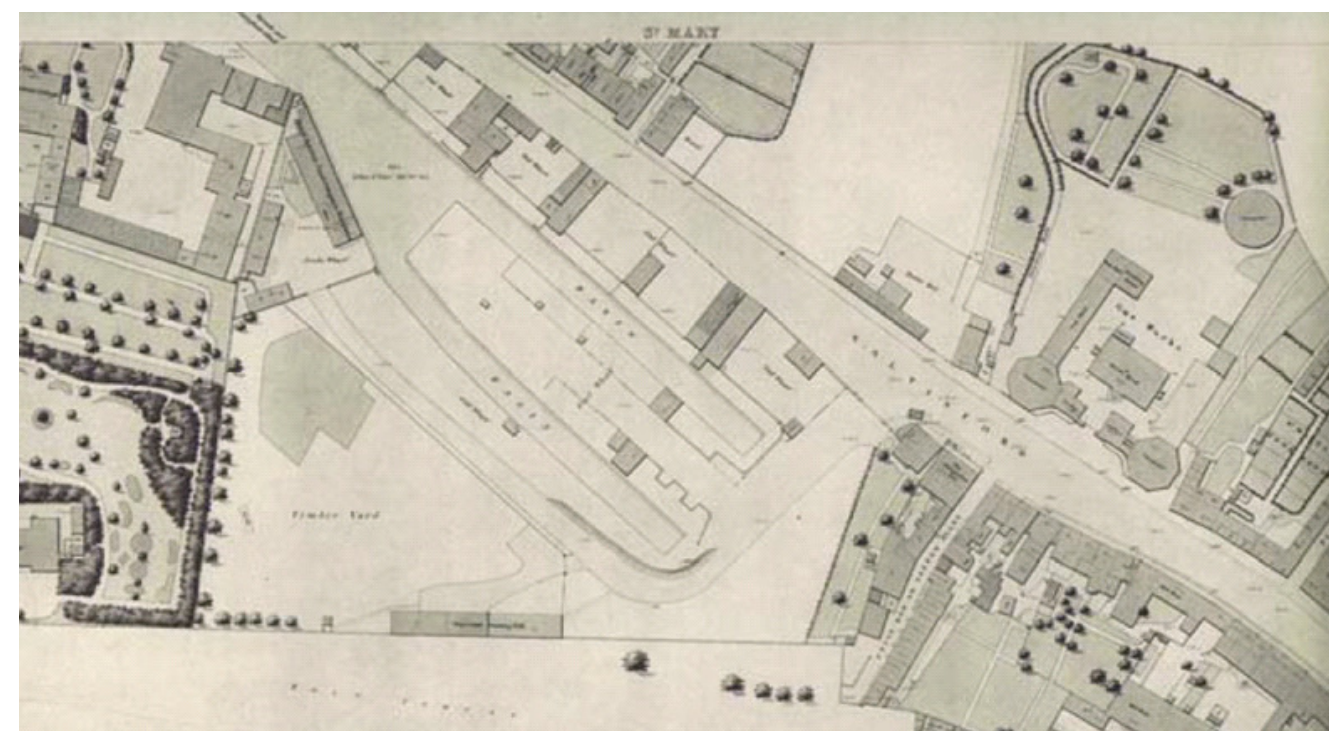
The District is taking a leadership role in informing debate, based on recording and evaluating what is there now, how that evolved and what opportunities could enhance the historic environment of the future, to establish common frameworks for considered discussion about proposals for change.





1058 WORKS OF THE LEAMINGTON PRIORS GAS COMPANY, APRIL 1933 PAN-AERO PICTURES, KINGSTON-ON-THAMES

WCRO



WARWICK AND BIRMINGHAM AT SALTISFORD 1851



1910 VIEW FROM TACHBROOK ROAD BRIDGE



HATTON THE WHITE HOUSE

BW200

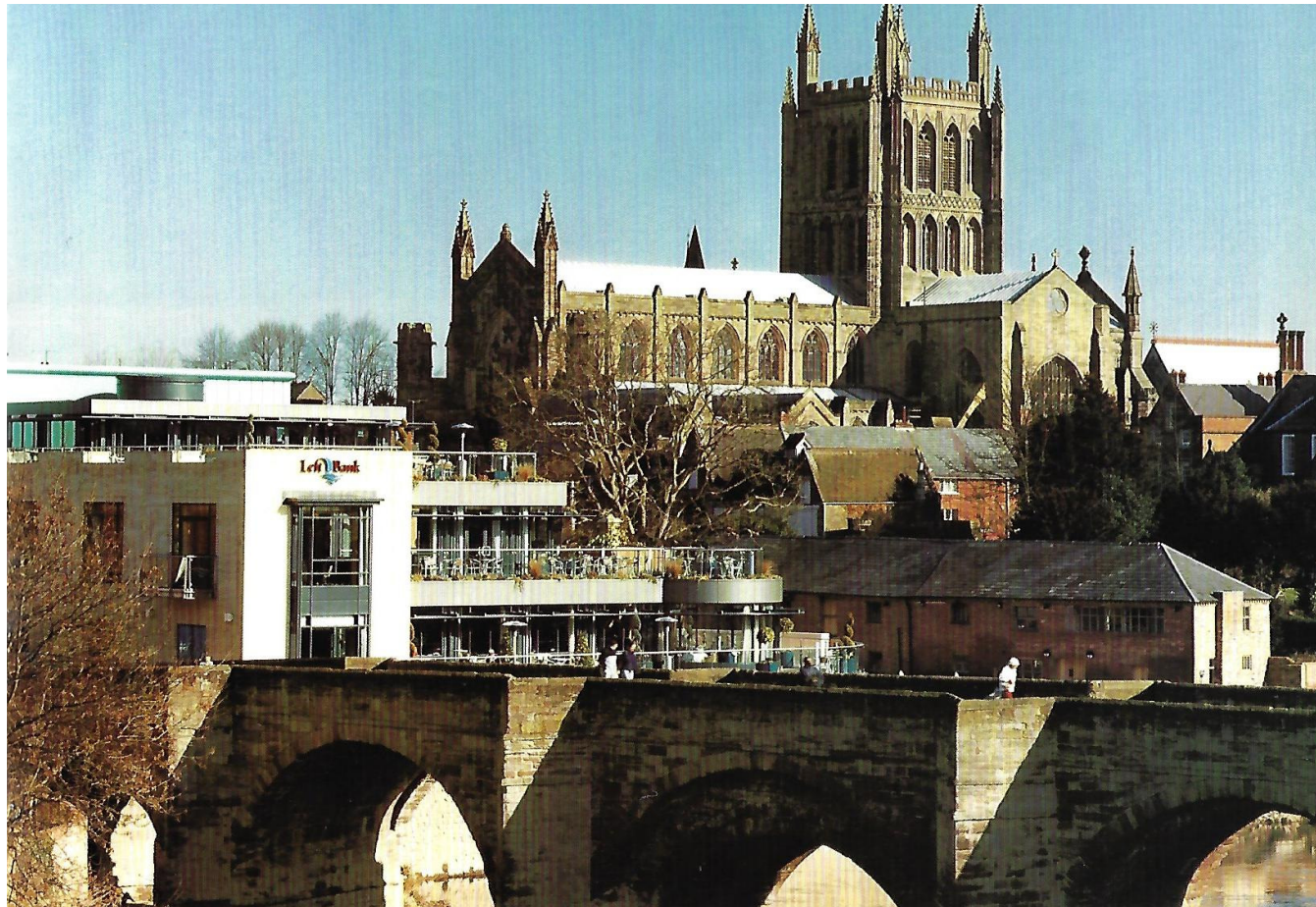


Heritage values represent a public interest in places, regardless of ownership. The use of law, public policy and public investment is justified to protect that public interest. Advice and assistance should be available from public sources to help owners sustain the heritage in their stewardship.

A joint publication by CABI and English Heritage demonstrates, through case studies, a range of intelligent and imaginative architectural approaches that can be applied to new buildings to enrich historic environments. These case studies illustrate the regenerative capacity of contemporary good design in areas of historic character and how design quality can bring a combination of aesthetic, economic, social and environmental benefits to these areas. As each historic area is unique and presents its own challenges, this publication provides a range of design considerations for a project to be successful.

These are that the building will:

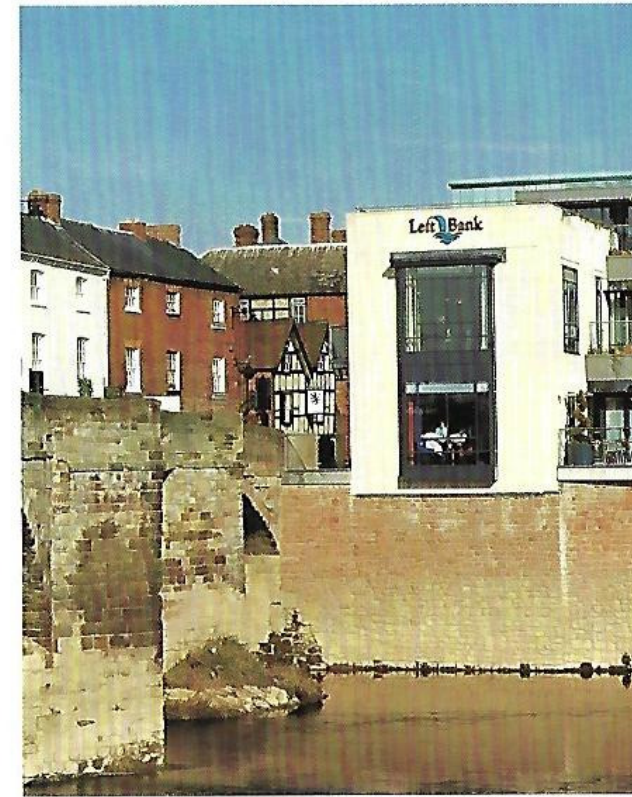
- \_ Relate well to the geography and history of the place
- \_ Sit happily in the pattern of existing development and routes through it
- \_ Respect important views
- \_ Respect the scale of neighbouring buildings
- \_ Use materials and building methods which are as high in quality as those used in existing buildings
- \_ Create new views and juxtapositions which add to the variety and texture of the setting.



The Hereford Riverside, Cheltenham and Swiss cottage studies are particularly relevant.

EXTRACT FROM THE COMMISSION FOR THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT/ENGLISH HERITAGE PUBLICATION  
BUILDING IN CONTEXT

i:\conservation\canal\conservation area\management v4.docx



The riverside elevation of the restaurant reads as a small discrete building, so helping to break down the bulk and mass of the development.

## The Project

The project, designed by Jamieson Associates, was for a single building which houses a restaurant, a brasserie, conference facilities and a bar in Hereford city centre.

## The Site

The site is as sensitive a one as could be imagined, lying on the north bank of the River Wye, with a long frontage to the river and another frontage on Bridge Street next to the re-built medieval bridge. It is highly prominent in views towards the cathedral from the south bank of the river and in views from both the medieval bridge and from the new road bridge further to the west. The site was formerly occupied by a motorcycle garage and had been derelict for some time before this development took place.

## The Problems

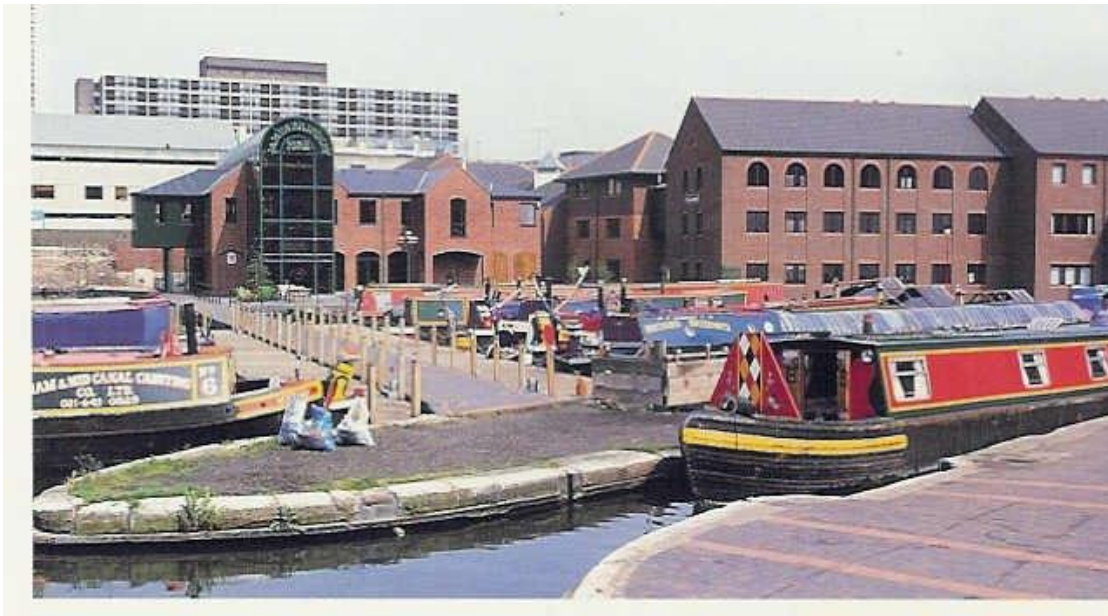
The central problem in this case was to find a form of architectural expression which was appropriate to the site. This involved designing a building with frontages which were suitable both for the narrow historic shopping street of Bridge Street and for the much more open environment of the river bank and the broad views from the bridges. Another constraint was presented by the fact that any tall building on the site would be prominent on the low skyline of the city, which is still dominated by the cathedral. There were also environmental considerations arising from the fact that the site is on the bank of the river.

## The Solutions

The architect was appointed following advice from the planning authority that an earlier scheme closely based on copying an historic warehouse was inappropriate. This was seen as stylistically wrong in the context of this particular site, where there had never been warehouses. In practical terms, it meant that only half the occupants could enjoy views of the river and it did not take advantage of the opportunity to provide terraces. It also led to a



The Birmingham City Centre canal network provided a particular focus for new development and a catalyst for urban regeneration. The regeneration of Gas Street Basin and Brindleyplace have shown how development can make positive use of its canal side setting. The relationship of development to public space should be thought about early in the design process.



The mailbox Aston Cross and Aston Science Park developments are further examples of how good quality development can make use of its waterside environment. The changes at Gas Street Basin and Brindley place have opened-up access to the canal and introduced active uses which create a welcoming environment where hazards and risk are treated proportionally. In many respects they are exemplars of how urban areas can be transformed, a clear relationship between economic activity and environmental quality.



ASTON SCIENCE PARK



The planning strategy for the canalside towns is to encourage activity, investment and appropriate development and, in so doing, effect environmental improvements which in turn attract still further activity. This approach is by its very nature a sustainable one - recognising the need to balance regeneration with conservation and environmental quality. There will be existing businesses in the premises along the canal, some of these particularly the creative ones taking advantage of the canalside identity and reusing existing structures can help the character, equally others where they are spreading out blocking paths and cluttering the space, discouraging enhancement. These will need help to move to affordable alternative places where the services they provide are still to hand , but the overall policy to recapture the quality of the area is not hindered.



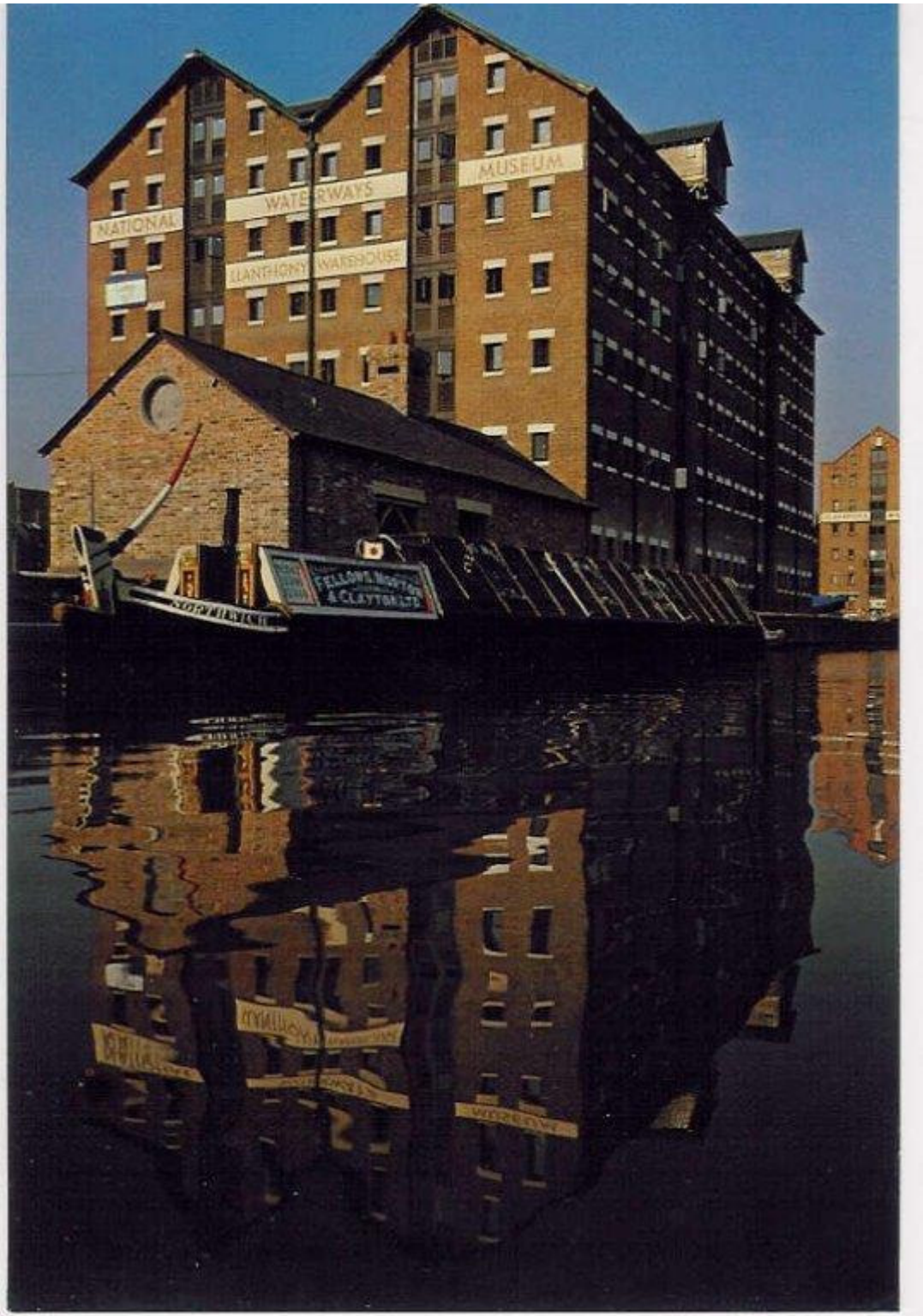
John Ruskin said

“the measure of any great civilisation is its cities, and a measure of a city’s greatness is to be found in the quality of its public spaces, its parks and its squares”

Waterways are an important public realm in Warwick District.



WATERSIDE REGENERATION LEAMINGTON SPA



WATERWAYS MUSEUM GLOUCESTER DOCKS ROGER BECKETT ARCHITECT PLANNER



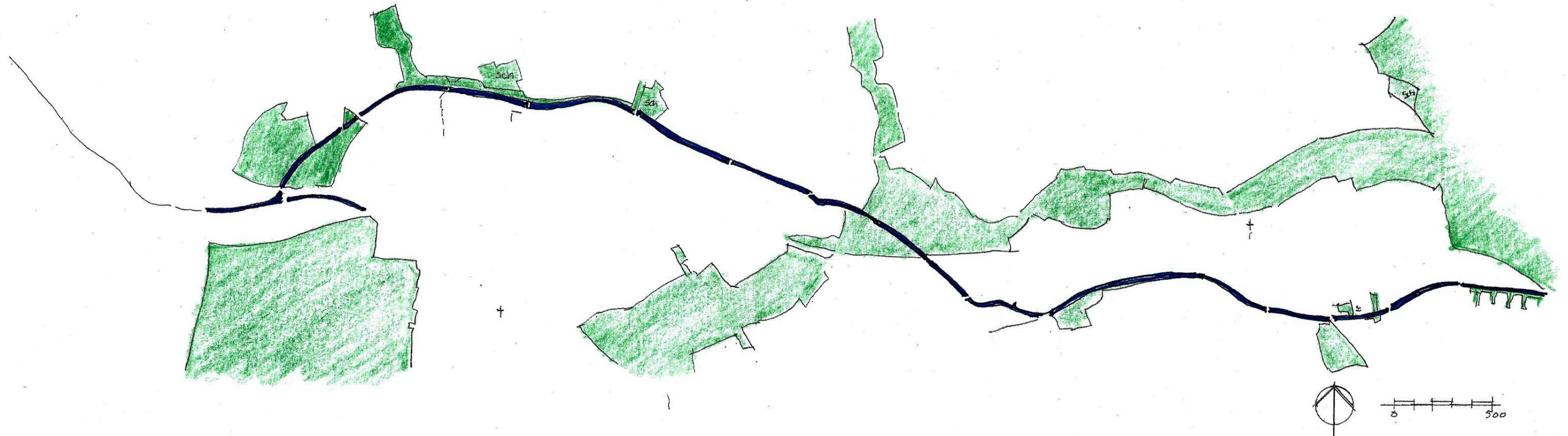
BUDBROOKE

WARWICK

EMSCOTE

LEAMINGTON SPA

SYDENHAM



# THE CANAL THROUGH WARWICK AND LEAMINGTON ACTS AS A LINK TO THE OPEN SPACES

As the urban areas continue to grow, the canal and rivers support the link between town and country that remains an essential characteristic of the district.



built area 1947