NEWARK CONSERVATION AREA REVIEW



October 2021 Consultation document



This document contains background and information on the Newark Conservation Area Review and how we will undertake public engagement and consultation when appraising the special character and appearance of the area. The Review process will also explore issues and problems within the Conservation Area, and whether the boundary should be amended or a new area designated.

Document details

Title: Newark Conservation Area Review; Consultation document October 2021

Summary: This document provides service users with information on the evaluation process of Newark Conservation Area, including potential boundary changes.

Consultation: A launch event has already been held for the Newark CA Review, but further engagement will continue until 17th December 2021 as part of a wide-ranging townscape evaluation, including targeted workshops with local amenity groups such as the Newark Civic Trust, Nottinghamshire Building Preservation Trust and the Millgate Society. Engagement with Historic England is also on-going.

A formal 6 week consultation period on a finalised draft Appraisal is scheduled between 11th February and 25th March 2022. This final consultation exercise will be widely publicised on social media and on the Council's web site, as well as by more traditional methods such as site notices. Key buildings such as the Council Offices, Town Hall and Library will be used for engagement. Quick Response (QR) codes will provide a direct link to a consultation survey. A public meeting will be held in the town centre.

Individual key stakeholders will be kept up-to-date throughout the process, including local Ward Members, the Town Council, and the Newark Civic Trust.

Approved: Delegated authority has been given to the Conservation Team to review Newark Conservation Area (agreed via September 2018 Economic Development Committee). It is anticipated that this document will support a resolution to amend the Conservation Area boundary and adopt an Appraisal and Management Plan by Newark & Sherwood District Council as soon practicable after the 25th March 2022.

Document availability:

Copies of this and related documents will be available via Newark & Sherwood District Council Planning Development and on the Council's website during the consultation period:

https://www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

NEWARK CONSERVATION AREA REVIEW

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

WHAT IS A CONSERVATION AREA REVIEW?

A Conservation Area (CA) Review is an evaluation of either a previously designated area or a proposed new area. The Review is led by the Council's Conservation Team and includes appropriate consultation with the local community and relevant groups and organisations in accordance with the Newark and Sherwood Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) and Historic England best practice¹.

The Review will lead to the publication of a document called a 'Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan', and if appropriate, changes to the boundary, or even an entirely new CA boundary.

This document sets out a formal consultation programme for the CA Review.

The Council's Economic Development Committee conferred delated authority to the Conservation Team to undertake a review in September 2018.

BACKGROUND

The first CA was designated in 1967 under the Civic Amenities Act and there are now around 10,000 in England. They are designated for their special architectural and historic interest.

¹ Historic England (2019) 'Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management Historic England Advice Note 1' (Second Edition).

Newark CA was first designated in 1968. The Council has a legal duty to review existing CAs or add new CAs in accordance with planning legislation². Newark CA was last formally reviewed in 1995.

The special interest of areas designated many years ago may now be so eroded by piecemeal change or by single examples of poorly designed development that parts of the area may no longer have special interest. In such cases, boundary revisions will be needed to exclude them or, in exceptional circumstances, reconsideration of the CA designation as a whole. Conversely, the existing boundary may have been drawn too tightly, omitting areas now considered of special interest such as historic rear plots with archaeological potential, later phases of development (such as more recent housing), or parks, cemeteries and historic green spaces. In such cases the existing boundary may need to be extended.

The Council's Conservation Team continually monitors the special character and appearance of Newark CA. This is often through the consideration of relevant planning applications, but also in respect of enforcement action, and the health and condition of historic buildings. Newark CA is identified on the national Heritage at Risk Register, in part due to the poor condition and vacancy of historic buildings within the town centre, but also due to the loss of architectural detailing and the impact of new development. The Review process is a formal way of capturing this information, and then formulating a Management Plan in order to promote the longer-term conservation and enhancement of the area.

WHY CONSULT?

Local planning authorities usually take the lead in appraising and reviewing CAs, using appropriately qualified and experienced staff or advisors. However, by consulting local communities and owners on new designations, and when appraising and reviewing CAs (obviously important in achieving support), consideration can be given to relevant information that either might present, helping to ensure decisions are robust. Local communities and owners will also be helpful in providing proactive assistance in identifying the general areas that merit CA status and defining the boundaries.

Neighbourhood forums and town/parish councils are also sometimes commissioning appraisals as part of neighbourhood planning. They can therefore add depth and a new perspective to the local authority view. The local community is empowered to explore the sense of their place and express what they value about the place in which they live and

² Section 69 [1 & 2] of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

work, providing an informative resource for decision-making, neighbourhood-planning and educational use.

In addition, consultation will ensure that local communities are alerted to the cumulative effects of minor change on an area's character and how they can contribute to maintaining and enhancing that character.

HOW WILL WE UNDERTAKE THE REVIEW?

A variety of methods and approaches will be used. The Conservation Team will undertake research, survey work and historic map regression to help inform their analysis of the special architectural and historic interest of the CA. The survey techniques will be consistent with Historic England advice³.

Early engagement with the local community is important in shaping the Review process. It is also important in promoting accessibility and transparency, as well as showing local communities and consultees how ideas have developed. This is consistent with the SCI.

This process began with a launch event in 2018 in the Ball Room of the Town Hall. This initial engagement also celebrated the 50th anniversary of the designation of Newark CA. The main objective of this process was to pose a broad questions on a range of issues affecting the existing CA, and took the form of drop-in sessions and exhibitions. Open-ended questions were asked on potential boundary changes, including suggestions for areas beyond the existing boundary for review or areas within the existing boundary which are considered to fall short of the test for special interest.

Updates on this process have periodically been given to the Economic Development Committee. A further update will be given to Committee on the 17th November 2021.

Prior to the publication of a Draft CA Appraisal and Management Plan, we will:

- Publish this consultation document on the Council's website;
- Write to the Town Council, Newark Civic Trust and Millgate Society and provide information on the Review process;
- Write to other relevant local groups (resident's associations, archaeology/history groups for example);
- We will offer online virtual workshops or face to face meetings as appropriate;
- Provide information through the Council's social media platforms;

³ Historic England (2019) 'Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management Historic England Advice Note 1' (Second Edition).

- Provide information in local newsletters and relevant publications wherever practicable to do so (e.g. Newark and Sherwood DC E-newsletter, Sherwood Life etc);
- Provide an additional event on Saturday 4th December (9am 12 noon) on Newark Market Place.

In addition to the above, local Ward Members and the Economic Development Committee will be updated on progress throughout the Review process.

In the case of Newark Conservation Area, the following organisations have already been engaged:

- Newark Town Council
- Newark Civic Trust
- The Millgate Society

Contact is primarily given via emails and virtual meetings. Regular contact and updates will be offered throughout the process.

This part of the process will conclude on the 17th December 2021, allowing officers to complete writing the Draft Appraisal document.

The Conservation Team will seek views on the Draft Appraisal and Management Plan, including officer recommendations on boundary changes. This formal consultation will run from the 11th Feb to the 25th March 2022.

A questionnaire will be made available throughout the final period of consultation via:

- QR code
- Online via <u>www.newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk</u> (using this document)
- On request in writing to the Conservation Team at Newark and Sherwood District Council offices at Castle House, Newark; or via email: <u>conservation@newark-</u> <u>sherwooddc.gov.uk</u> or by contacting the Conservation Team over the phone on 01636 650000.

The survey is structured where possible using a 5 point Likert Scale (strongly agree, agree, neither agree nor disagree, disagree, strongly disagree). A copy is contained in Appendix B.

However, commentators do not have to use the questionnaire, and can submit comments verbally or in any written form they prefer.

The results of this survey process will be collated and used to produce a draft Appraisal document and Management Plan.

Newark and Sherwood District Council tries as far as possible to be paperless for environmental reasons. However, where a member of the public is insistent on a paper copy of any of the relevant documents, we will endeavour to supply those in paper form. For larger documents with images and maps which might result in a high printing cost, we reserve the right to ask for those printing costs to be covered.

SITE NOTICES

Prior to the formal 6 week consultation, site notices with useful information on the Review process (including how to access the survey and attend the public meeting) will be fixed to lampposts and notice boards (where appropriate) within the affected area. The QR code for the survey will also be included.

PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting will be arranged during the formal 6 week consultation next year. Wherever practicable to do so, out of office hours will be considered to try to maximise attendance. This would usually take the form of a 3 hour drop-in session hosted within the CA, in which members of the public can meet the Conservation Team and consider the proposals face to face (this is likely to be the Town Hall).

COVID

We are committed to implementing the scientific advice to protect the most vulnerable people. All public engagement, including face-to-face activities, will need to be carefully considered based on the latest government advice. The consultation programme is therefore subject to change. Wherever possible, we will try to offer virtual interaction over face-toface.

ADOPTION

On completion of the public consultation in March 2022, officers will undertake a final review and edit the Appraisal document, taking into account all material consultation responses. A resolution to adopt the Newark CA Appraisal and Management Plan, including

any amendments to the CA boundary will then be submitted to the next available Committee⁴.

OUTCOMES OF EARLY ENGAGEMENT

When we launched the Newark Review process back in October 2018, we held an event in the Ball Room of the Town Hall and invited the community to drop-in and talk to the Conservation Team about Newark CA, discussing what was special about the area, what areas beyond the current boundary should be looked at, and importantly, what the challenges were with sustaining or improving the CA. Targeted workshops and engagement with local groups such as the Civic Trust and Millgate Society was also undertaken. These events were well-attended and produced a useful sounding board for CA management issues, as well as the potential for boundary changes:

- General concern was raised by many about the decline of the high street and night time economy. Perceived lack of events and experiences for younger people;
- A number of people asked what was being done about heritage at risk within the town, notably the former Robin Hood Hotel, Corn Exchange and former White Hart. The poor condition of buildings within the CA was considered to be a noticeable problem;
- Crime and anti-social behaviour were regularly mentioned by attendees;
- The Millgate Society queried the benefit of keeping the Northgate Retail Park and modern housing along the riverside within the CA, citing the perceived inferior quality of modern buildings, signage and advertisements compared to historic buildings within the town centre. Wider concerns were raised by several people about the variable quality of new development on North Gate. A few were surprised to find that North Gate was within the boundary at all;
- The Millgate Society also asked whether the wider landscape setting of Sconce Park and some of the river corridor is sufficiently included in the CA;
- Apprehension was raised by several people about the future of the scrap yard site on Cow Lane. Concerns were also raised about the lack of connectivity at points along the riverside, including at the scrap yard, but also beyond and as far as Fidler's Elbow Bridge;
- Several members of the public thought that Newark College on Friary Road should be included into the CA. They thought the architectural interest of the building

⁴ This is subject to timetabling for Committee cycles next year. It is anticipated that this will be agreed at Full Council in December 2021.

warranted inclusion. Others were surprised that parts of Friary Road towards Sleaford Road were excluded;

- One local resident felt that Wellington Road should be included in the CA due to the high quality of building architecture, as well as links to notable historic figures in the town (such as the Bainbridges who resided in Hatton House on Wellington Road, and who built Newark's first department store). Another resident thought elements of Beacon Hill Road close to Friary Road ought to be considered, notably to include Beacon Terrace (back to backs);
- A number of other areas were mentioned by attendees as being worthy of consideration for inclusion within the CA, including: Appleton Gate as far as the train station, as well as some or all of the adjacent streets with historic buildings on such as Alliance Street, George Street, Lovers Lane, Warburton Street; the early 20th century Magnus School and associated planned housing to Hatton Gardens, Winchilsea Avenue and Milner Street; The Avenue (also London Rd); Crown Street (to include the polite terraces); and Lime Grove;
- The perceived loss of trees and erosion of green spaces was another theme mentioned by several people.

Following these useful early engagements, the Conservation Team has carried out its own review of the town during 2019-2020, with street by street evaluation and surveys and monitoring of heritage at risk. Preparation of the successful Newark High Street Heritage Action Zone grant scheme has also helped inform these discussions, with detailed analysis provided of socio-economic factors affecting the health and vitality of the town. Engagement with Historic England has assisted in understanding better the reasons for identification of Newark CA as being at risk on the national Register (including for example, high levels of vacancy in historic buildings, loss of architectural details, opportunity sites etc).

It should also be noted that the Council has taken proactive action with some of the individual heritage at risk buildings mentioned above.

POTENTIAL BOUNDARY CHANGES

The Conservation Team is now ready to seek updated views on issues and challenges facing the CA, including potential boundary changes. During November and December 2021 therefore, there will be a period of targeted engagement looking at potential boundary changes to include consideration of:

i) The College Quarter, comprising additional areas of Friary Road, part of Sleaford Road, Wellington Road entirely, and part of Beacon Hill Road;

- Appleton Gate/ Northgate Station Quarter, comprising parts of Appleton Gate from Queen's Road (principally the eastern side of the roadway) to Northgate Station, and parts of George Street, Warburton Street, and Lovers Lane;
- Magnus School area, limited to the original school building on Earp Avenue, and Hatton Gardens, Winchilsea Avenue and Milner Street (being a composite example of Edwardian planned housing and education);
- iv) Crown Street (having good 18th and 19th century housing stock considered to contribute to the Mill Gate/Victoria Street area of the town);
- v) Potential removal of parts of North Gate, including the modern residential and retail development to the north of the Warwick and Richardson complex, and the marina and modern housing on the west side of the river.

Further details on each area is contained in Appendix A.

This process will be promoted through social media and the Council's website, as well as by engaging specific stakeholders for workshops and guided walks. Information and engagement on this process will also be promoted by the Conservation Team using exhibition materials on a market stall on the Market Place.

As explained earlier in this document, this follow-up engagement will inform a proposed draft boundary, which will be published, alongside a draft Appraisal document and Management Plan, for formal public consultation between 11th February and 25th March 2022 (this being a 6 weeks consultation period). A formal public meeting will also be held during this time. Despite the formality of this final phase, the Conservation Team will attempt to be accessible and open-minded about all aspects of the Review process.

FIND OUT MORE

Contact the Conservation Team via:

conservation@newark-sherwooddc.gov.uk

01636 650000

Appendix A: Potential Boundary Changes



Newark Conservation Area Boundary Review: College Quarter

Special interest

The College building fronting Friary Road/Bede House Lane comprises a good quality education building c1930 with imposing neo-classical proportions in dressed stone with red brick side wings.

Wellington Road includes many fine late 19th century villas and terraces. High retention of period features such as joinery. Attractive detailing throughout.

Several large polite houses such as Hatton House and Friary Field. There are a number of fine historic trees associated with their gardens. Hatton House (formerly a school) is Grade II listed, being a mid-19th century stucco house. Tadorna on Beacon Hill Road is also Grade II, c.1800, also in stucco.



Potential boundary extension within red line area. The existing boundary is hatched (left hand side).





Newark Conservation Area Boundary Review: Appleton Gate/ Northgate Station

Special interest

Appleton Gate is an important historic route to North Gate Station. There is a good range of Victorian housing stock, including the prominent Great Northern Terrace and a number of fine villas.

The Grade II listed station and former station hotel adjacent form a positive group at the terminus of Appleton Gate.

Several historic brewery buildings survive on George Street. The 1889 Lovers Lane school is an important example of the eminent architect TC Hine. Victorian housing on Warburton Street contributes to this setting, along with an attractive non-conformist chapel. A distinctive stone infant school (now scout hall) and vicarage to the former St Leonards Church complete the grouping.



Potential boundary change within red line area. Existing boundary is the hatched area to south and west.



Newark Conservation Area Boundary Review: Magnus School Area

Special interest

The original early 1900s school building on Earp Avenue is the focus of this area. When the original Magnus buildings on Appletongate became too small for the growing population, a new purpose built school was opened on Earp Avenue and opened in 1909. It has distinctive Edwardian architecture, with a 1920s science wing.

Hatton Gardens, Winchilsea Avenue and Milner Street provide setting to the school, and are considered to be a composite example of Edwardian planned housing and education.



Potential boundary change shown in the thick red line (the existing boundary is the hatched area).





Newark Conservation Area Boundary Review: Crown Street

Special interest

Good example of 18th and 19th century housing stock. Considered to contribute positively to the Mill Gate/Victoria Street area of the town. Attractive period detailing, bay windows and regular fenestration.

Important mature tree at 56 Albert Street that contributes to amenity of area.



Potential boundary change shown within thick red line. Existing boundary in the hatched area.



Newark Conservation Area Boundary Review: Reduction of Northgate

Special interest?

Northgate is a vital historic roadway and established gateway into the town. The Fosse Way is a wellestablished Roman road. The legacy of Newark's malting industry is a key feature of the area, epitimised by the impressive Warwick and Richardson range (Grade II listed).

There is still significant interest in the river corridor, an important landscape feature and historic resonance as a place of transport, commerce and industry. Trees and ecology remain positive characteristics.

The distinctive Grade II* listed Fidler's Elbow Bridge and Quibbels glue factory are an interesting group at the top of the current boundary.

There has been considerable change in the area since the designation of the original conservation area boundary however. Many historic industrial buildings have been lost, and modern retail and residential development has eroded the historic character and appearance of the area.



View from Fidler's Elbow Bridge back towards town. Modern residential development is prominent.



Modern commercial development at Northgate Retail Park.



Potential boundary change- the area in yellow would be removed.

Appendix B: Questionnaire

Newark Conservation Area Review

This survey should not take longer than 5-10 minutes. The purpose of the survey is to get your views on what is special about Newark Conservation Area (CA), what issues and challenges face the on-going management of the area and whether changes should be made to the boundary.

Newark CA was first designated in 1968 and focused on the Market Place. In 1974, the CA was extended to include Millgate, Parnhams Island and the traditional residential streets up to Victoria Street. The CA was then extended in four more stages: in 1979 when a more rational boundary to the central area was defined; in 1987 when the majority of Northgate either side of the Trent was included; and in 1992 and 1995 when the London Road suburbs and the Cemetery were added.

The special interest of areas designated many years ago may now be so eroded by piecemeal change or by single examples of poorly designed development that parts of the area may no longer have special interest. In such cases, boundary revisions will be needed to exclude them or, in exceptional circumstances, reconsideration of the CA designation as a whole. Conversely, the existing boundary may have been drawn too tightly, omitting areas now considered of special interest such as historic rear plots with archaeological potential, later phases of development (such as more recent housing), or parks, cemeteries and historic green spaces. In such cases the existing boundary may need to be extended.



What is special about Newark Conservation Area?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The quality of historic buildings and range of architectural periods (medieval, Georgian, Victorian, Edwardian etc)	0	0	0	0	0
The landmark qualities of St Mary Magdalene and Newark Castle	0	0	0	0	0
The character of the Market Place and important buildings enclosing it such as the Town Hall	0	0	0	0	0
The layout and pattern of buildings and streets, including alleys and ginnels	0	0	0	0	0
The green spaces and trees	0	0	0	0	0
The amenity of the River Trent corridor and Town Lock	0	0	0	0	0
The archaeological interest of the medieval core and Civil War heritage (such as the Sconce)	0	0	0	0	0
The quality of historic shop fronts and traditional signage	0	0	0	0	0

Are there any other features of special architectural or historic interest not identified above?

Enter your answer

3

What issues are facing the management of the Conservation Area?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The level of vacancy in the town centre	0	0	0	0	0
The loss of period architectural features such as historic shop fronts and timber joinery	0	0	0	0	0
The poor condition of buildings at risk like the Corn Exchange	0	0	0	0	0
Road traffic and noise, prioritisation of cars	0	0	0	0	0
Poor design of highway junctions and signage clutter	0	0	0	0	0
Anti-social behaviour and heritage crime	0	0	0	0	0
Loss of traditional surfacing (e.g. cobbles)	0	0	0	0	0

Are there any other issues facing the management of the Conservation Area not identified above?

Enter your answer

5

What could be improved in Newark Conservation Area?

	Strongly agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly disagree
The repair and conservation of historic buildings	0	0	0	0	0
The removal of unsympathetic features from historic buildings such as PVC windows and poor quality shopfronts	0	0	0	0	0
Improvements to the public realm and wayfinding	0	0	0	0	0
Sympathetic redevelopment of gap sites and brownfield land	0	0	0	0	0
Repurposing of redundant and vacant buildings, including empty upper floors	0	0	0	0	0
Better advice and controls for commercial advertisements and signage	0	0	0	0	0

Additional controls on alterations to front elevations of unlisted residential properties (e.g. replacement of timber windows with PVC)	0	0	0	0	0
Additional advice and support for shops and commercial premises on signage	0	0	0	0	0

Are there any other improvements that should be considered not identified above?

Enter your answer

7

Potential boundary changes to Newark Conservation Area



NEWARK CONSERVATION AREA REVIEW Strongly agree Agree Neutral Disagree Strongly disagree 'College Quarter', comprising additional areas of Friary Road, 0 0 \bigcirc 0 part of Sleaford Road, Wellington Road entirely and part of Beacon Hill Road 'Northgate Station area', comprising parts of Appleton Gate beyond Queen's Road (mainly the east side of Appleton Gate to Newark Northgate Station), and parts of Warburton Street and

Inclusion of the Magnus School area, limited to the original school building on Earp Avenue, as well as Hatton Gardens, Winchelsea Avenue and Milner Street (being a complete example of Edwardian planned housing and education)

Inclusion of the

Inclusion of the

George Street,

Lover's Lane

Crown Street (having good 18th and 19th century housing stock considered to contribute to the Mill Gate/Victoria Street area of the town)

0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0	0

Potential removal of parts of North Gate, including the modern residential and retail development to the north of the Warwick and Richardson	0	0	0	0	0
complex					

Are there any other areas currently inside or outside of the Conservation Area that should be considered for inclusion or exclusion?

Enter your answer

9

Do you have any other comments or suggestions? Please feel free to share local knowledge

Enter your answer

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