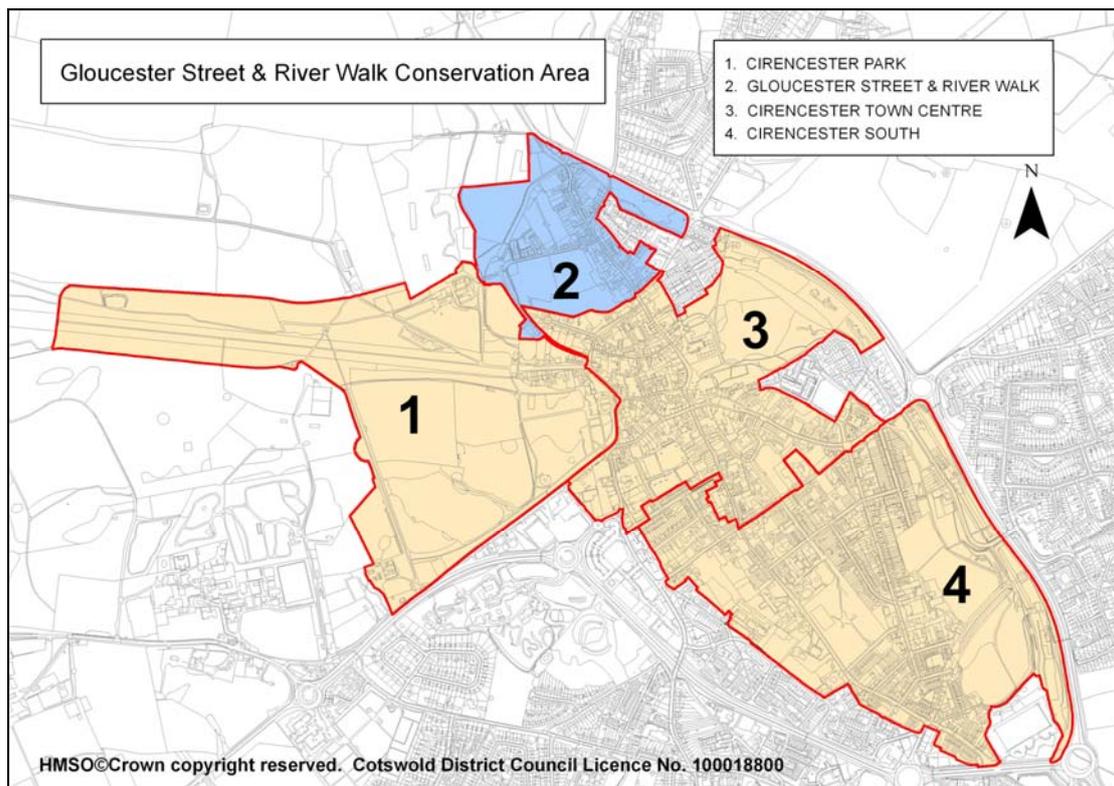


3.0 THE GLOUCESTER STREET AND RIVER WALK CONSERVATION AREA

3.1 Location and Setting

The Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area is the most northerly of the four Conservation Areas in Cirencester. It borders the CA1 Cirencester Park Conservation Area to the west and south, and CA3, the Cirencester Town Centre Conservation Area adjoins it to the south. The Gloucester Street and the River Walk Conservation Area lies on fairly flat land which rises very slightly from south to north.



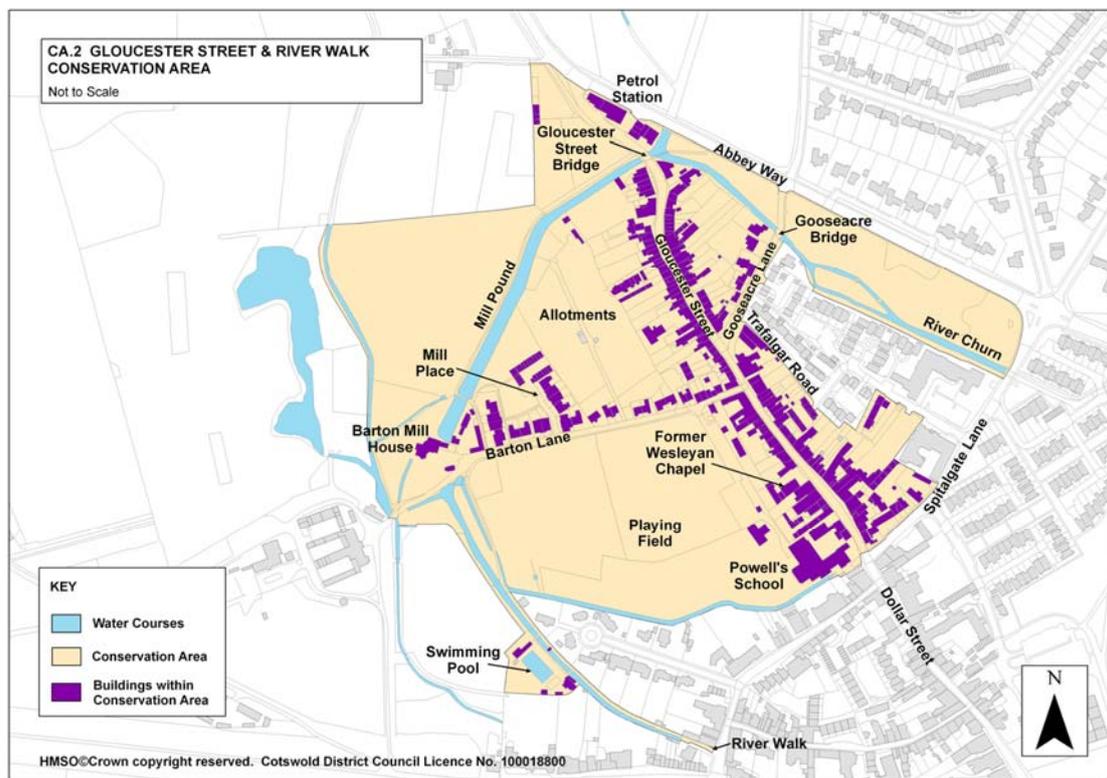
Map I

3.2 Boundaries of the Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area

The Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area includes the whole of Gloucester Street from its southern junction with Dollar Street, to its conclusion where it meets Abbey Way. The southern boundary extends in a clock-wise direction along the southern side of a stream marking the northern boundaries of properties on Thomas Street and then the small housing estate known as The Mead. It then meets with the lane known as the River Walk which starts further south along Thomas Street and extends northwards to meet Barton Mill House, the site of the former Barton Mill.

The whole of the grounds of Barton Mill House are included and the boundary then extends northwards to take in the river and the field beyond the northern edge of which extends eastwards to meet a triangular field adjacent the

northern end of Gloucester Street where it meets Abbey Way. The eastern edge of the modern fuel garage forms the boundary at the northern end; it then follows the line of Abbey Way. The eastern boundary takes in the river's route southwards and the adjacent gardens towards the Abbey Grounds; it then follows the route around back into Spitalgate Lane for a short distance before moving back in a northeast line bordering the rear gardens of Priory Mews. The boundary takes in the western side of Gooseacre Lane before meeting up with the rear gardens of properties on Gloucester Street towards Spitalgate Lane. Taking in a new residential development and the adjacent rear garden and car park of the Corinium Hotel, it then follows Spitalgate Lane before meeting up with the southern end of Gloucester Street.

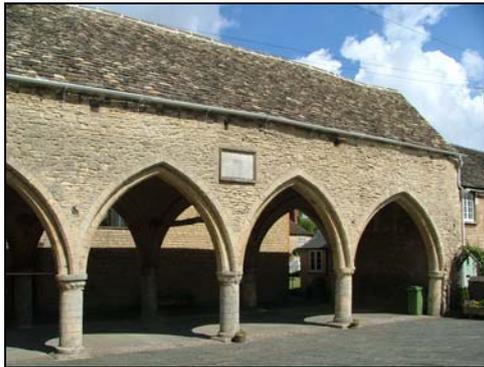


Map J

3.3 Historical Development of the Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area

The Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area retains its medieval street pattern and other physical evidence of its medieval origins; many of the buildings were constructed by wealthy patrons on a philanthropic basis. The oldest building within the Conservation Area is the surviving part of the nave arcade of St John's Hospital in Spitalgate [i.e. Hospital Gate]. The hospital was founded in 1133 during the reign of Henry II to care for the destitute and the sick so that they may pray for his soul and those of his descendants, not unlike the practice applied to chantry chapels.

At some later point the hospital was converted to almshouses having been appropriated by Cirencester Abbey, who asserted that it had been founded by their predecessors; this appropriation gained the papal confirmation in 1222 and royal approval in 1348. After the Dissolution of the Monasteries, six tenements were built within and incorporating the arches. By 1826 these had been replaced by six new almshouses built adjacent the surviving arches; they were designed by Richard Wood and the tenements in the arches were later removed, although one remained until as late as 1968. The restored structure is now a Grade I listed building [77] and a repair programme was recently undertaken. The neighbouring almshouses are listed Grade II [78].



77

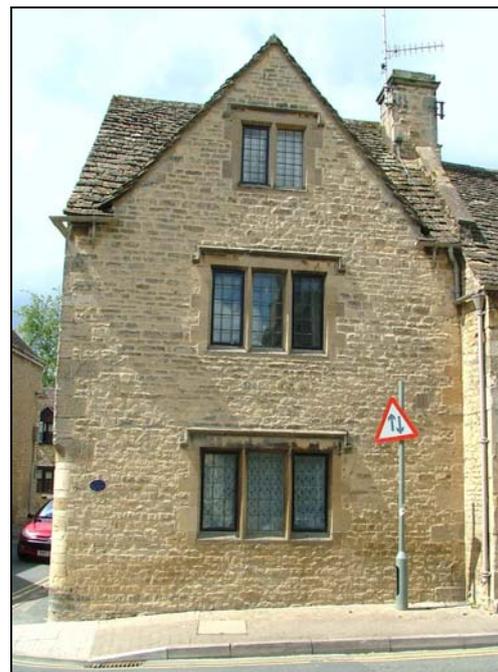


78

The Abbey is also said to have appropriated the other medieval Cirencester hospital – the hospital of St Lawrence founded in the middle of the thirteenth century by the Lady of the Manor of Wiggold, Edith Bissett, on land she held on the corner of Gloucester Street and Barton Lane. As a result Gloucester Street was known as St Lawrence Street during the medieval period. Nothing remains of the original building but today the site is occupied by Grade II listed almshouses built c.1912 for the Bathurst Estate and designed by Stanley J Wearing of Norwich [79 & 80].



79



80

No 33-35 Gloucester Street [81] is a rare survival of timber-framing dating from the sixteenth century. Once two cottages, the house was restored in 1990 and is now rendered, its first floor jetty overhanging the ground floor which was probably originally two shopfronts; the plinths are built of large ashlar blocks of stone believed to be from the Abbey.



81

Gloucester Street developed rapidly in the seventeenth century as a planned suburb providing additional accommodation for the town's many wool workers. Originally buildings would have been timber-framed but as the century progressed, even quite humble buildings would have been constructed of stone. Sheppard's Place is one of several surviving of the many "places" or groups of houses that were clustered alongside an alleyway off the main street [101-02]. The entrance from Gloucester Street is dated 1694. Although today we appreciate them for their sense of intimacy, in the early years they would have been populated by large numbers of relatively poor people and would have provided dark and unsanitary conditions. Open watercourses, often polluted with rubbish, ran through the medieval streets of the town; it is known that until 1780 Gloucester Street had a channel four or five foot deep running its entire length at which time it was filled in at the expense of Samuel Blackwell, one of the town's two MPs.

Evidence of other seventeenth century buildings in Gloucester Street is provided on the southwest side at 105 which has a lintel dated 1695 and the initials BBI; of coursed squared limestone and stone slate roof, it has ovolo-moulded stone mullion and transom windows with leaded lights, and would no doubt have been designed to house a wool merchant and his family [135]. The majority of residential buildings within the street date from the late seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, although many have been altered or extended to a lesser or greater extent in the following centuries.

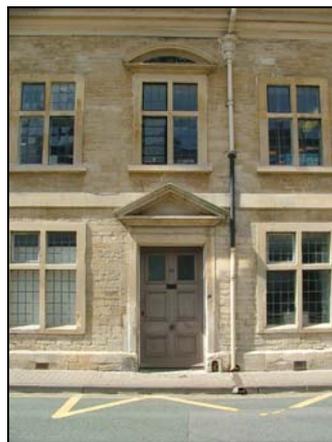
Perhaps the most significant charitable institutions of the period in the town are two schools founded by Thomas and Rebecca Powell in the early eighteenth century. The Blue School for twenty boys and twenty girls was endowed in 1714; and the Yellow School, at the southern end of Gloucester

Street, established from the will of Rebecca Powell in 1722 opened in 1740 catering for 40 boys and 20 girls. In 1879 the two schools were amalgamated to form Powell's School, and pupils moved into a purpose-built structure, next to the original Yellow School premises, which was converted into staff accommodation. It remains a school and the focus of much educational activity in the town.

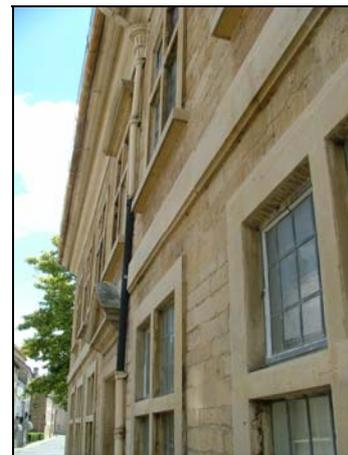
The design of the 1714 Yellow School building [81-83] is derived from other Stuart houses within the town such as 7 Black Jack Street and 51 Coxwell Street; each has an ashlar stone front with beaded stone window-frames, which project slightly, and stand on bullnose sills.



81



82



83

Barton Mill was a significant mill complex at the west end of Barton Lane; it had a complex history, having been at varying times known by the names Mace Mill, Clerks mills, and Barton Mill. It was one of three mills known to have existed at Domesday, which, by the thirteenth century, had all been acquired by the Abbey. Although little is known of the appearance of Barton Mill, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries it would no doubt have served the growing wool trade. The part of the river between the mill and Gloucester Street Bridge was canalised to provide power to the mill. By the early twentieth century the mill was a substantial four-storey building in use by Wm Townsend & Co for the production of animal feeding stuffs but in 1923 it was completely destroyed by fire. The house remains much-altered but the mill chimney, once a distinctive local landmark, was also demolished.



85



86

The Old House at 187 Gloucester Street was also a mill and a tannery in the eighteenth century; today it still dominates the view at the north end of Gloucester Street but has long since been converted to residential accommodation [85].

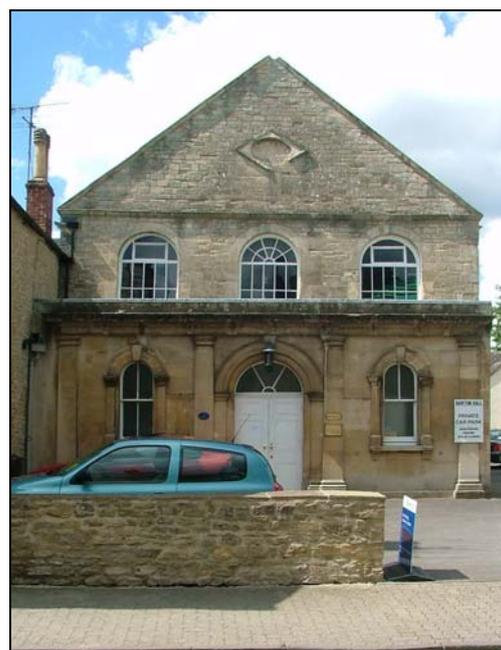
Gloucester Street was a sizeable and almost self-sufficient community housing schools, a chapel, inns, shops, and many tradesmen's and artisan's premises tucked away at the rear of houses. At 27 Gloucester Street was the town's first-known theatre which opened in 1799 [87]. The street front was later converted to a tavern known as The Loyal Volunteer in c.1820; it closed in c.1955. Of the several public houses in Gloucester Street three remain; at the southern end is The White Lion Inn and at the junction of Gloucester Street and Gooseacre Lane is The Nelson Inn [70 Gloucester Street]; The Royal Oak [86] stands further north just before the sharp bend in the road. 65 Gloucester Street, now an empty shop known as F G Hannis – Family Butcher, was once also an inn judging by the tiled threshold [132 & 151].

The Barton Hall at 29 Gloucester Street [88] was built in the early nineteenth century of coursed square limestone, the front in ashlar, the whole under a Welsh slate roof. It was constructed as a Wesleyan Chapel and school and later became the offices of Cirencester Rural Development Council; today it is in use as low-key offices.

Recreational activities were also located nearby. As well as the peaceful short walk which ran along the mill stream from the Gloucester Street bridge to Barton Mill and thence into Cirencester Park or back into town, by 1870 an Open Air Swimming Pool was constructed behind Cecily Hill, one of the oldest in the country. There are also allotments located off Barton Lane; these started life as nurseries but would have proved invaluable during both World Wars of the twentieth century. Today all three – river walk, swimming pool and the allotments – are very well used facilities.



87



88

In the early twentieth century the area gained a number of new residential buildings in Arts and Crafts style by architects such as S J Wearing of Norwich, VA Lawson and Waller & Son. Many were built for the Bathurst estate and include:

- 2 Barton Lane, c.1912, already mentioned above in connection with St Lawrence's Hospital, by Stanley J Wearing [c.1912] [79 & 80];
- 153-157 Gloucester Street, with exposed timber-framing on the upper floor, and gables with hung Cotswold slates - Waller & Son [dated 1906];
- 50, 52 & 54 Gloucester Street – VA Lawson [1902][89];
- 82, 84 & 86 Gloucester Street – Stanley J Wearing [1913][90];

Barton Lane also contains two bungalows of 1952, and two gabled two-storey pairs typical of the architect Norman Jewson, of 1934 and 1927.



By the 1960s parts of the area were deteriorating and some properties in Gloucester Street were at real risk from decay and declared unfit. They were viewed as having a level of natural lighting, ventilation and privacy far below modern day acceptable standards. That said, and before the need for conservation was as widely recognised as it is today, there was an understanding of the importance of elements of historic character and appearance and the contribution that such elements make to the street scene; interesting elevations, natural materials and the sudden openings pierced through buildings for access to the rear.

Following a report in 1963 by the Council's Architects [Eric Cole Design Group] on the need for urban renewal in the older parts of the town, a scheme was set in motion to rehabilitate dwellings, and in the years 1965-70 many schemes took place. In Gloucester Street they included work on:

- Barton Court [1965 -6] [92];
- 47-49 Gloucester Street [1965-7];
- Elizabeth Place – new backland development [1966-7][91];
- 30/40 Gloucester Street [1967-8]; and
- 57/61 Gloucester Street [1969-70]

The general policy was to retain the frontage properties and redevelop the rear “wings”. In sections where the extent of demolition was not extensive, or where “back-land” existed, new properties were erected, Elizabeth Place being an example. If undertaken today such refurbishment may have taken a different form, involving more conservation and less rebuilding but it is clear that the 1960s approach not only stopped the degeneration of the area but revitalised it to a degree.



Since that time, many properties have been refurbished and internally modernised by the private sector and Gloucester Street is now considered a quiet and desirable location to live within the town.

In the last few years new properties have been developed on brown-field sites within the Conservation Area. Admiralty Row off Trafalgar Road [120] and Mill Place off Barton Street [121 & 122], in particular, show how a modern vernacular style using traditional materials can enhance the more historic parts of the town.

3.4 Spatial Analysis of the Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area

The Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area can be seen as a sequence of interconnecting spaces which have a major influence on the character of the area.

Plan Form & Layout

Gloucester Street, which takes a southeast to northwest route, forms the principal spine of the Conservation Area; it’s gently curving form combines with a near continuous building line created by properties built off the back edge of the narrow pavement, especially prevalent on the southwest side, to form a fairly long and particularly intimate urban space.

Towards the north end of Gloucester Street, the road curves more dramatically such that certain buildings then act as focal points along the route, depending on the direction of travel. Other than for the section marked by Spitalgate Lane, the River, set within various green open spaces, almost encircles Gloucester Street.

Character & Interrelationship of Spaces

The character of spaces and the contrast between them helps to define the nature of the Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area:

- There is a marked contrast between the long, mostly enclosed linear urban space of Gloucester Street, and the wider areas of green open space which surround it to the east and especially to the west and north;
- Open fields south of Barton Lane, and to the north of Barton Mill House provide a tranquil context and semi-rural setting with banks of trees on the north, west and southern edges providing a strong sense of enclosure and appropriate boundaries to the Conservation Area;
- Barton Lane and Gooseacre Lane, which branch off Gloucester Street to west and east, are more suburban in character and as such form a transition between the two.
- There are essentially 3 parts to the River Walk:
 1. Thomas Street to Barton Lane:
Travelling in a north-westerly direction from Thomas Street, the River Walk is a tightly-enclosed urban space bordered by high walls before opening up about half way along its length to take in views to both east and west across pasture land;
 2. Barton Lane to Gloucester Street Bridge:
The River Walk from the Barton Mill House to Gloucester Street appears instantly rural being characterised by open land bordered by tree banks with only occasional glimpses of buildings to the south and east;
 3. Gloucester Street Bridge to Spitalgate Lane:
The character of this third section, which might not ordinarily be considered part of the “River Walk” itself, is more of an urban park and is especially important in providing a green barrier between the busy Abbey Way and the residential areas to the west and north.
- There are a number of small intimate mostly historic spaces including several mews corridors or “places” along Gloucester Street,
- A few other small spaces, mainly private gardens, punctuate the otherwise highly dense built form; examples include the garden in front of The Old House, Gloucester Street and the narrow front gardens in front of 82-86, and 50-54 Gloucester Street [89 & 90].

Key Views, Landmarks and Focal Points

Views within, into and out of the area are an important feature of the Gloucester Street & River Walk Conservation Area. The main views and focal points are shown on the Views Analysis Map K on page 52 below.

Longer Views:

- The principle views from Gloucester Street focus on the town's major landmark, the tower of the Parish Church of St John the Baptist to the southeast of the Conservation Area;
- Other views along Gloucester Street itself and along the length of all three sections of the River Walk add variety and interest;
- Views out of the Conservation Area, particularly from the Gloucester Street Bridge towards the Bowling Green estate, help to reinforce the role such wedges of open land located on the edge of the town have in defining its character.

Views of local focal points within and outside the conservation area:

- The former militia barracks building on Cecily Hill, which lies in the neighbouring Park Conservation Area [CA1] forms an important focal point when viewed from along Barton Lane, whilst the east elevation of Barton Mill House performs a similar role at the west end;
- The former militia barracks also forms an unusual backdrop to the Open Air Swimming Pool along River Walk [95];
- Marking one of the two entrances at the southern end of the Conservation Area at the junction with Dollar Street, are Powell's School and 2 & 4 Gloucester Street, each with decorative stone gables and modulated facades [93 & 94];
- 153-157 Gloucester Street of 1906 with their exposed timber-framing, form a focal point for those travelling south down Gloucester Street and, 187 The Old House performs a similar role when travelling northwards as a result of the sharp bend in the road at this point;
- The northern entrance into the Conservation Area is denoted by the clock-tower of the fuel garage and shop at the top of Gloucester Street.



93



94

Views across open land:

- The view towards the rear of Powell's School from the western junction of the River Walk and Barton Lane where horses often graze;
- Views from further east along Barton Lane across the school recreation ground and beyond to the Parish Church tower [97];
- Views out across pasture land from the most northerly sections of the River Walk and across pasture land in the adjacent Park Conservation Area [CA1] from the entrance to the Outdoor Swimming Pool;
- The tall brick chimneys of Victorian terraced houses to the west of 153-157 Gloucester Street provide a focal point from the River Walk to the north and across allotment gardens accessed from Barton Lane [99];
- Views of long rear gardens on the eastern side of Gloucester Street viewed from the public gardens adjacent Abbey Way with the River Churn in the foreground; for example, the view to the rear garden of The Royal Oak public house [100].



95



96



97



98



99



100

Smaller glimpsed views:

- Narrow corridor views into and out of semi-public mews or “places” along Gloucester Street [101 & 102];
- Glimpsed views to rear gardens along Gloucester Street, Barton Lane, Spitalgate Lane and Gooseacre Lane;
- The new development at Mill Place at the western end of Barton Lane skilfully planned to allow glimpses between buildings to the gardens and tree covered landscape beyond [103];
- View towards the allotments from Barton Lane [104].



101



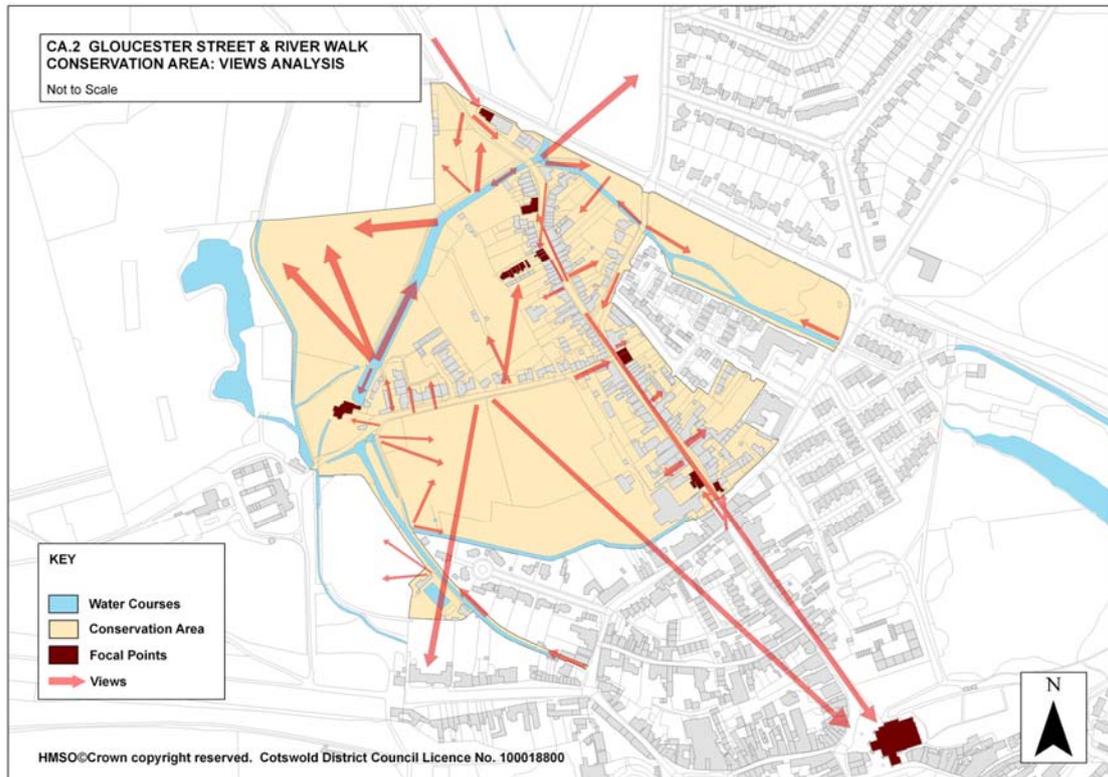
102



103



104



Map K

Important Open Spaces

There are four green Important Open Spaces within the Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area as shown on Map L below:



Map L

3.5 Activity & Prevailing Uses

Gloucester Street remains predominantly residential; many of the very small houses have been merged to create larger accommodation more suited to today's needs, although conversely, a few of the larger houses have been subdivided into flats.

Several public houses continue in active use in Gloucester Street including The White Lion Inn [No.8], The Nelson Inn [No.70], and The Royal Oak [No.102]; The Corinium Court Hotel, one of the larger premises catering for the visitor to Cirencester can be found at the southern end of the street.



105



106

Regrettably none of the shops is now in use as such, some having been converted to residential use, others remaining vacant. There is a limited amount of office use including the conversion of the Barton Chapel and School Hall, and a dental practice occupying No.10 Charlton House.

The conservation area is, for the most part, a very quiet and tranquil area assisted by the diversion of through-traffic. Children attending Powell's School have a significant and lively impact on its character during term time whilst patrons of the public houses and hotel bring added activity to Gloucester Street in the evenings.

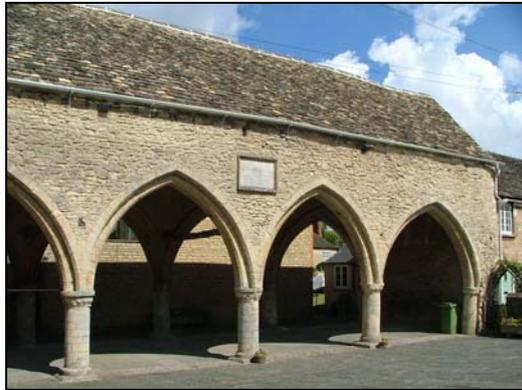
The fields used as pasture for horses, sheep and occasionally cattle, together with allotments and public gardens which surround Gloucester Street provide a genuinely peaceful and semi-rural recreational retreat. The pedestrian River Walk instantly belies its close proximity to the high levels of activity and traffic in the centre of town and the ring-road.

3.6 Buildings of the Conservation Area

Listed Buildings

The Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area has a high proportion of listed buildings within its boundary; the surviving arcade of the hall of the Hospital of St John, founded by Henry II in 1133, is a Grade I Listed Building. There are also five Grade II* listed buildings with the remainder, 49 out of a total of 55, listed Grade II.

Several buildings were listed as early as 1948 but the majority [42 of 55] were entered on the Register in 1971. All the listed buildings make a positive contribution to the character and appearance of the Conservation Area. They are shown coloured red on the Heritage Asset Map M on page 58. A table summarising the buildings which are listed and their grades can be found at Appendix B.



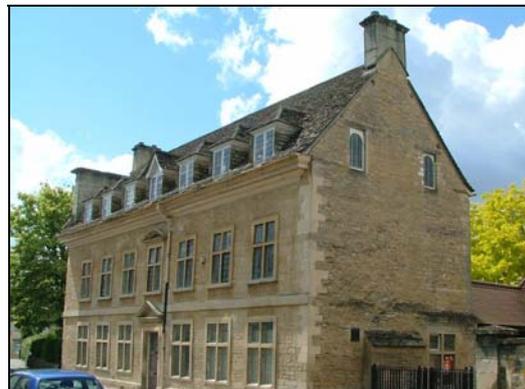
107



108



109



110

Positive Unlisted Buildings

The Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area contains historic unlisted buildings and structures which have been identified as contributing positively to the special architectural and historic importance of the conservation area. Those identified here are shown coloured pink on the Heritage Asset Map M below and include:

- Early twentieth century housing along Barton Lane [111];
- Barton Terrace at the north end of Gloucester Street [112];
- Houses at the rear of listed almshouses at 5-9 Spitalgate Lane [113];
- Ancillary buildings in agricultural use at Barton Mill House [114];
- Bridges along the River Churn including the stone bridges at Gooseacre Lane and Gloucester Street, together with its ironwork footbridge and sluice gates towards Abbey Way, and the ironwork bridge across the River Walk between the Barton Mill House and Mill Place [115-118];

A list of Positive Buildings in the Conservation Area is included at Appendix C. This list is for guidance only and is not definitive; it should be read in conjunction with Map M on page 58.



111



112



113



114



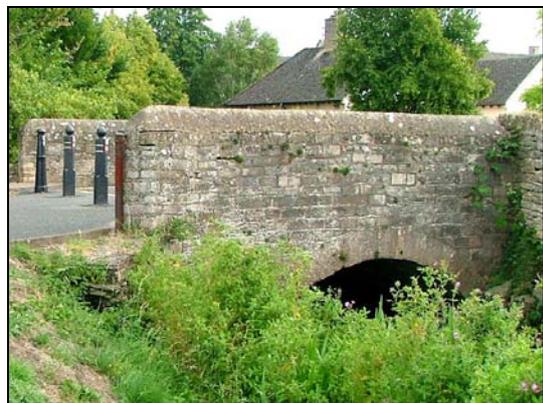
115



116



117



118

Buildings of Townscape Merit

There are a number of good examples of Buildings of Townscape Merit in the Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area. They are identified in yellow on the Heritage Asset Map M and include:

- House dated 1997 on Gooseacre Lane [119];
- Admiralty Row, off Trafalgar Road [120];
- Mill Place, Barton Lane [121 & 122];
- Recent extensions to Powell's School, Gloucester Street [134].



119



120



121



122

Neutral buildings

The few buildings within the Gloucester Street & River Walk Conservation Area which can be considered neutral are shown in beige on the Heritage Asset Map M below and include:

- Modern detached buildings at the east end of Gooseacre Lane [123];
- Barton Court at the corner of Barton Lane and Gloucester Street modernised in the 1970s [125 & 126];
- Miscellaneous structures surrounding the Open Air Swimming Pool [124].



123



124



125



126

Negative Buildings

Such is the very high quality of the Gloucester Street and River Walk Conservation Area that there are very few buildings which detract from its special character and appearance. Negative buildings are shown in brown on the Heritage Asset Map M below:

- Parts of the modern fuel garage at the northern end of Gloucester Street [127];
- 1970s housing block with garages accessed from Trafalgar Road and via a narrow and unattractive corridor from Gloucester Street [128-130];



127



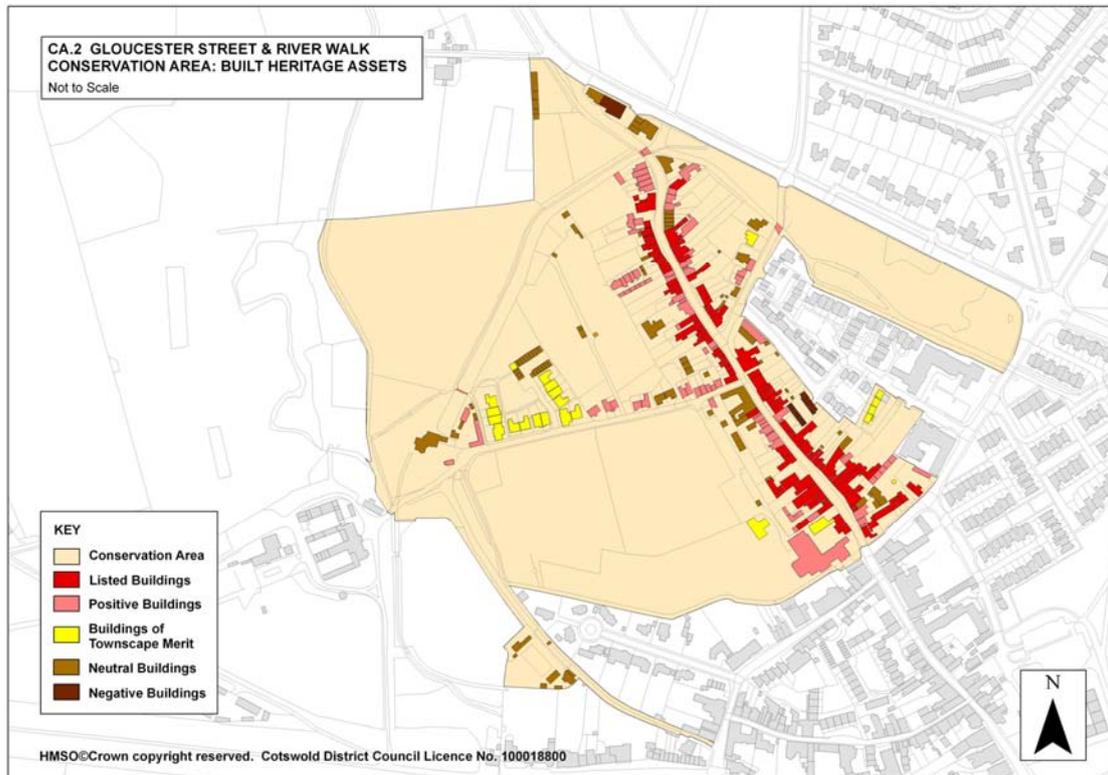
128



129



130



Map M

Distinctive Local Features

The Gloucester Street & River Walk Conservation Area features a number of architectural details, some quite small in nature, which combine to provide the area with added visual appeal and a distinctive and memorable identity; they include:

- Powell's School, with its decorative gable end and modulated facade; this feature and the circular element of the modern gabled ancillary building on its north side [134 & 135];
- The small arched stone bridges at Gloucester Street and Gooseacre Lane and the elegant ironwork bridge near Barton Mill House [117 & 118];
- Stone and brick chimneys, some of decorative design [133];
- Date stones, often carved stonework [136 & 139];

- Enamel road signs [142], and moulded lead hopper heads [135];
- The late nineteenth-century shopfront at No.65 Gloucester Street [F H Hannis] with its moulded pilasters and cornice, ironwork cresting and tiled threshold [132 & 151];
- A number of hanging signs, most notably identifying public houses
- Ironwork railings and stone pillars along the River Walk;
- The arches of the former hall of St John's Hospital in Spitalgate Lane [107 & 108];
- The Royal Mail letter box set into the wall of a property facing Gooseacre Lane [140];
- Classical features including elegant doors and windows [143-145];



131



132



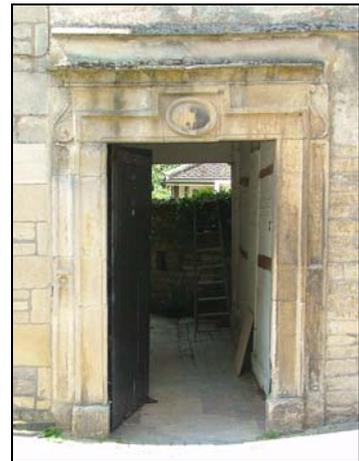
133



134



135



136



137



138



139



140



141



142



143



144



145

4.7 Public Realm

Floorscape in the conservation area consists predominantly of black tarmac to most public highways including:

- Gloucester Street, Spitalgate Lane, Gooseacre lane and Barton Lane;
- The River Walk from Thomas Street to Gloucester Street
- The pathway from Barton Lane to Cirencester Park

In general, black tarmac is economical and works well in historic areas especially when used in combination with more traditional paving of small dimension and where it is maintained in good condition. It can also look acceptable when used for informal areas where grass verges are allowed to meet at its edges; its use along some parts of the River Walk demonstrates this acceptability.

For the most part the use of black tarmac within the conservation area is not problematic. There are areas, however, where the tarmac is patchy and in poor condition, and detracts from the conservation area's special architectural and historic interest.

Small areas of historic and/or traditional paving of natural materials exist within the Conservation Area and contribute positively to its character and appearance; they include:

- Granite sett paving in front of The Lion Inn public house [146];
- Block paving in the courtyard to the Corinium Court Hotel and Sheppard's Place [102 & 101];
- Pennant stone kerbs used in combination with plain black tarmac at Barton Lane;
- Mosaic tiles threshold to No.65 Gloucester Street [151].



146

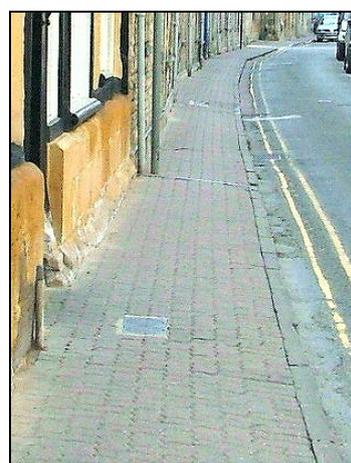
Pavements to Gloucester Street are, almost without exception, of modern concrete paviour of the “dog biscuit” variety. This material is considered to have a negative impact on the special architectural and historic character of the area. In places, the paviours have been broken and their shape, especially when laid parallel with the pavement, is not conducive to forming a neat edge thus requiring larger volumes of cement infill [147-49]



147



148



149



150



151



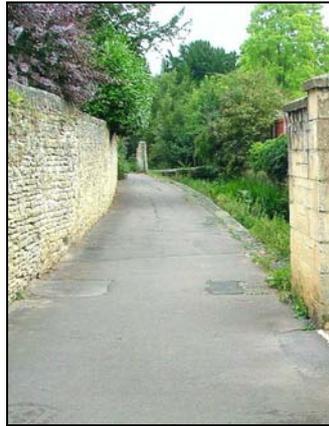
152

Cast iron gullies set at 90 degrees to the pavement taking rainwater from domestic downpipes to roadside gutters are a feature of some parts of the conservation area including Gloucester Street; they are functional and add an additional element to the street scene [155].

The use of concrete paving slabs in the context of historic buildings has a negative impact on the conservation area; an example would be the paving in front of St John's Hospital [187]. Some hoggin and gravel are to be found in the more informal areas within the Conservation Area including domestic parking areas [150].



153



154



155

Lighting in the Gloucester Street & River Walk Conservation Area is mostly provided by modern lighting columns, those in Gloucester Street are of the truncated variety affixed to buildings which helps to minimise physical obstruction along the narrow pavements [157]. Reproduction lantern lights along River Walk enhance the traditional qualities of that space [156].



156



157



158

The use of ironwork, often in combination with limestone walls, forms an important feature. The ornate lattice work bridge near Barton Mill House is an especially distinctive element [117]; its counterpart at the east side of the conservation area near Abbey Way allows access to the small grassed island [160]. There are elegant metal benches affixed at key points along the River Walk [159]. Traditional name signs attached to walls are mainly enamelled metal [142].

Two sets of modern fibreglass bollards located at the east end of Gooseacre Lane prevent vehicular access from Abbey Way; the section of road between the two points is redundant and in the fullness of time could revert to grass uniting the two elements of the park at this point [159].



159



160



161



162

Walls of varying heights are important to the Conservation Area in containing premises and gardens and in delineating pathways; they are predominantly of Cotswold stone, with a stone or cement capping. High walls serve to enclose the first section of River Walk from Thomas Street to Barton Lane but most of the remainder are low level allowing views across open fields [161 & 162]. Several sections are, however, in need of repair [163 & 164].



163



164

3.8 Trees and Biodiversity Value

The Gloucester Street & River Walk Conservation Area supports a wide diversity of aquatic and terrestrial habitats. The aquatic habitats are of particular significance and some form part of the Churn Key Wildlife Site. These habitats are likely to support a number of protected and priority species [i.e. species within the UK Biodiversity Action Plan], for example bats, water voles etc.

There is a dramatic contrast in tree cover in the Conservation Area with substantial tree belts in the more rural parts and a handful of individual specimen trees in the high density development around Gloucester Street and Barton Lane. Whilst all the trees in the Conservation Area play an important role in determining its character, the structural tree belts enclosing the northern edge are also especially important to the setting of the town.



165



166

To the west of the Barton Mill House boundary woodland in Cirencester Park together with a tree line running back towards Gloucester Street works with the tree line along the south side of Mill Pound to enclose spaces and form local skylines. A small woodland to the west of Powell's School together with small hedgerow tree lines south of Barton Road add further layers of enclosure and interest. Between Abbey Way and the River Churn a linear parkland area known as the Jack Gardner Memorial Garden has groups and riverside specimen trees [168] and is especially useful in providing a green barrier between the busy dual-carriageway of Abbey Way and the residential areas to the west.

Within the built up areas occasional mature specimen trees make a dramatic appearance; at the junction of Gloucester Street and Dollar Street there is an

significant maple. There are also the three lime trees opposite the fuel garage at the north end of Gloucester Street that are the remnants of a much longer line of historic trees. The trees are generally deciduous with the dominant species being willow, sycamore, ash, and lime. Conifers are usually in small groups, such as the pines at the west end of Barton Lane [166], or as large specimens, such as the cedar on the south side of Barton Mill House [165].



167



168



Map N