Heritage Statement

Vertical Planters for New Street, Huddersfield, 31.03.2020
Kirklees Landscape Architects

Assessment of significance

Background[1]:

Much of the development in the town centre began in 1768 as part of the Huddersfield-Woodhead turnpike. However, although New Street (called South Street for a short period of time) had become a main thoroughfare by the end of the century, this area was mainly fields and there were few traders at this time. Most of New Street's development took place in the nineteenth century and by 1900 New Street had become a thriving commercial centre. New Street remained a major route for transportation in the town until it was pedestrianised in 1993.



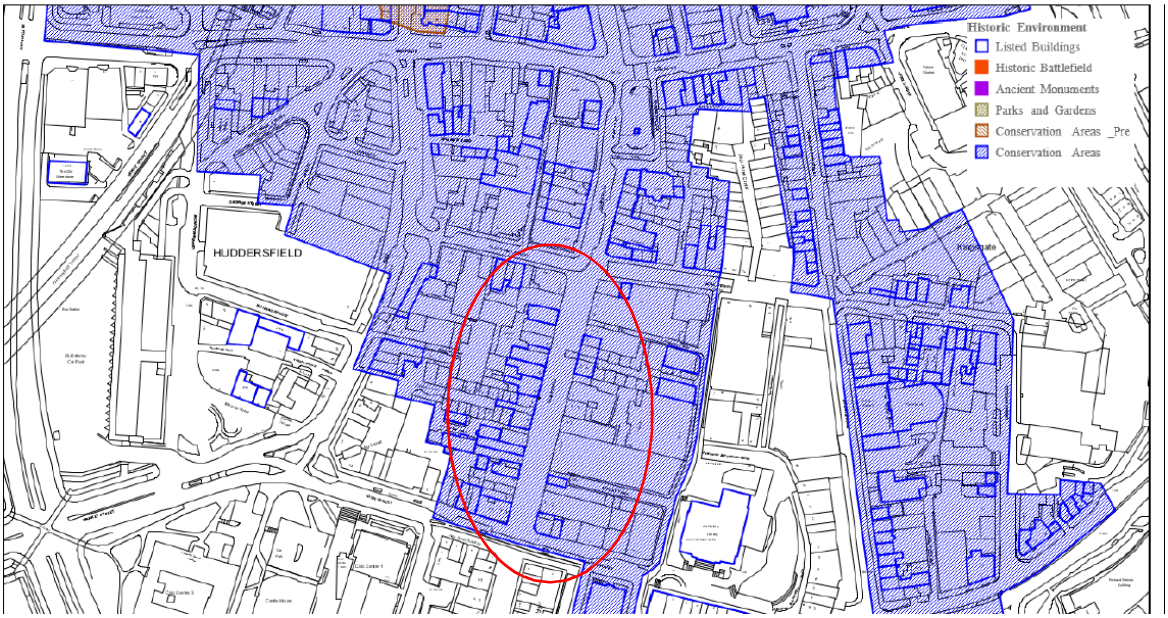
Pen and ink drawings, *Yorkshire Live,* 12 Jul 2013

Conservation Area & Listed Buildings plan:

New Street between Ramsden Street and Westgate falls into the conservation area of Huddersfield.

The stretch of the New Street between Ramsden Street and Cloth Hall Street/Kings Street is where the proposed vertical planters will potentially stand. This section of the street contains 14 no. listed buildings.

New Street Conservation Area



[1] Minter, G & E. (2002) *Discovering Old Huddersfield, Part Five.* Huddersfield, Huddersfield Local History Society. pp.19-21

Listed Buildings*

* Information from Kompass (Historic England)

West side of New Street from Ramsden Street			East side of New Street from Cloth Hall Street/King Street		
1	The Commercial Hotel	62/64 New Street	10	Vacant Building	29 New Street
2	Bon Marche	56 New Street	11-12	Signature & Virgin Media Store	31-35 New Street
3	Sally	52 New Street	13	Vacant Building	61 New Street
4-5	Millets & Eden Mobility	42-48 New Street	14	Boots	71 New Street
6	Yorkshire Bank	40 New Street			
7	Vacant Building	36 New Street			
8	Oxfam & Archway to Hawksby Court	34 New Street			
9	Cashino Gaming	28 New Street			

1. Commercial Hotel (Grade II)
   62/64 New Street

   Early nineteenth-century, three-story building of hammer-dressed stone, hipped-stone slate roof with stone brackets to gutter.



2. Bon Marche (Grade II)
   56 New Street

   Early nineteenth-century, three-story building of hammer-dressed stone (rendered), pitched slate roof with stone brackets to gutter. One range of sashes over trabeated archway; one range of bipartite stone mullioned sashes. Modern shop front.



3. Sally (Grade II)
52 New Street



Early nineteenth-century, three-story building of hammer-dressed stone, pitched stone slate roof with stone brackets to gutter. Plaster (or possibly wooden) quoins. One range of bipartite stone mullioned sashes. Modern shop front.

4-5. Millets to Eden Mobility (Grade II)
44/48 New Street Millets
42 New Street Eden Mobility



Early nineteenth-century, three-story building, rendered, pitched stone slate with stone brackets to gutter. Rusticated quoins. Seven ranges of sashes.

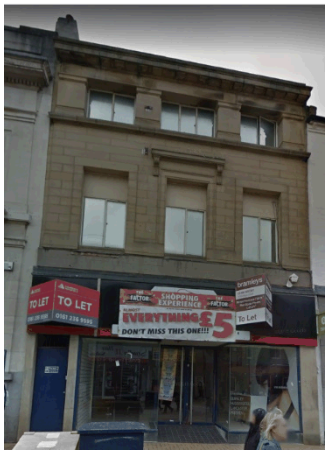
6. Yorkshire Bank (Grade II)
40 New Street



Early twentieth century, one story building (full height to adjacent buildings). Dentilled eaves cornice and parapet. Central round-arched window with moulded voussoirs, keystones and moulded imposts. Flanking window and door in moulded surrounds, with cornices over on moulded consoles. Panelled door with fanlight and ornamental transom marked "Bank" in relief.

7. Vacant Building - previously FootLocker (Grade II)
   36 New Street

   Mid-nineteenth century, three-story building, ashlar masonary with deeply projecting eaves cornice with shallow paired modillions. Continuous sill band to second floor. Three window ranges. First-floor windows have plain raised surrounds, central one has moulded surrounds and cornice on brackets. Continuous wind band on second floor separated by broad piers with two deep horizontal grooves scored in each. Glaswegian in style. Modern shop front.



8. Oxfam (Grade II)
   34 New Street

   Eighteenth-century whitewashed three-storey stone building with pitched stone slate roof. Modillion eaves cornice. Three ranges of nineteenth-century windows in original plain raised surrounds. Modern shopfront. Elliptically headed archway to Hawksby's Court with fine mid-nineteenth century wrought iron gates.

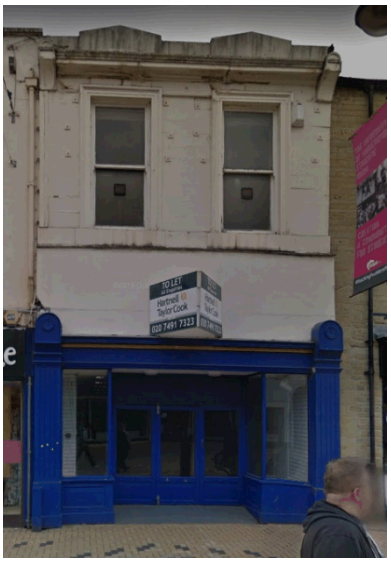


9. Cashino Gaming (Grade II)
   28 New Street

   Eighteenth-century stucco three-storey building. Modillion eaves cornice, blocking course. Rusticated quoins. Three ranges of nineteenth-century windows in plain raised surrounds, except for the south range (originally the centre range), which has moulded surrounds, and entablature to first floor windows. Modern shopfront.



10. Vacant Building (Grade II)
29 New Street



Eighteenth-century building but altered, stucco early- or mid-nineteenth century front with deep moulded eaves cornice, neo-Grec brackets at either end, and blocking course with two pediment-shaped acroteria. Two tall sashes in moulded frames.

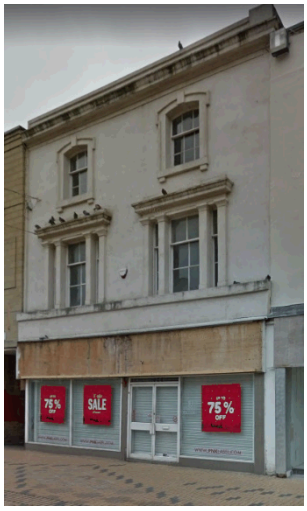
11-12. Signature & Virgin Media Store (Grade II)
31 New Street Signature
33/35 New Street Virgin Media Store



Eighteenth-century building but altered. Hammer-dressed stone with pitched stone slate roof with red brick stacks. Seven ranges of sashes girded about with applied timber-framing. Modern shopfronts.

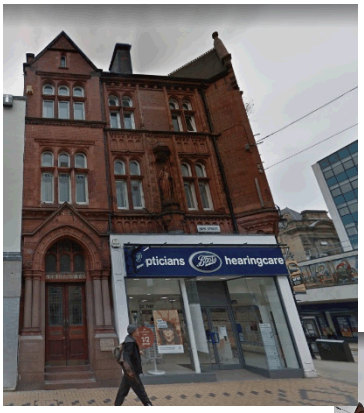


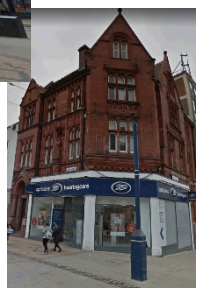
13. Vacant Building (Grade II)
    60 New Street



Early nineteenth century rendered with deep-moulded eaves, cornice and blocking course. Forts floor has two tripartite sashes with glazing bars framed by square pilasters which take moulded cornice. Second floor has two segment-headed sashes with glazing bars in moulded and shouldered frames with keystones. Modern shop front.

14. Boots (Grade II)
    71 New Street





Late nineteenth century three-storey building and attic, with a pitched slate roof, designed by architect Alfred Waterhouse. Red brick and moulded terracotta, pink marble plinth. Moulded stringcourse above ground floor, moulded eaves cornice. Large gabled bays break forward slightly on south side, and (diagonally placed) on corner: small gabled bay on west side, over doorway. North bay of west front doorway is of pink marble up to impost level, has paired columns taking moulded pointed arch with gable over. The door has traceried fanlight and moulded transom with 'Prudential Assurance' in contemporary lettering. All windows are casements with mullions and transoms (windows in gables have mullions only), in moulded oblong frames (windows in 2 large gables have moulded round-arched frames). Some windows are vertically linked with panelled zones in between. West front has statue in canopied niche, once taken on a buttress.

Summary:

There are fourteen buildings on this section of New Street that are listed under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 as amended for their special architectural or historic interest. Most of these buildings date from the eighteenth/early nineteenth century and follow a similar style of three-storey buildings with sash-style glazing and simple stone facades (some of which have been rendered).

The 'Boots' building (14) was built later in 1897-8 in a very different style using Terracotta brick and pink marble. The architect Alfred Waterhouse also designed Manchester Town Hall and the Natural History Museum in London.

The Yorkshire Bank building was built in the early 20th Century and stands out in style due to its central round arch window, keystones and mouldings and cornices.

The proposal is to install three tall vertical planters (up to 12m tall) along New Street. The structures will be freestanding and will not impact directly on any of the existing buildings. They will however change the look of the streetscape and will impact on the setting of the buildings (particularly buildings shown in images 2-13 above.)



Heritage Impact Assessment

The impact to the Buildings and conservation area will be a visual impact only. The proposal is to form part of enhancements to New Street to lift the quality of the streetscape and also to give a bold greening element, in an area where the planting of tree is limited by constraints.

I feel the impact of the structures visually will be similar to that of a mature tree and the benefits that also come with that in terms of lifting the perception of an area and also improving wellbeing for the pedestrians, encouraging greater footfall and the environmental benefits of helping reduce air particulates. All this should help to bring more people to the street and encourage more visits to individual shops within the buildings. Helping to keep business going and improve security for business and the future of the buildings in terms of maintenance and on-going upkeep.

Justification

The proposed vertical planters will provide a tall greening element in an area where tree planting is limited due to constraints below ground, such as cellars and statutory equipment.

They will not have any physical impact on the listed buildings and will only have a positive visual impact within the conservation area streetscape.