KIRKLEES CULTURAL HEART
HERITAGE STATEMENT: VOLUME 3
HERITAGE SETTING

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FEILDEN CLEGG BRADLEY STUDIOS

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3.0 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING

3.0.1 - INTRODUCTION

This Assessment of Significance comprises Volume 3 of the Kirklees Cultural Heart Heritage Statement, commissioned by Kirklees Council, and produced by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios. It seeks to provide a detailed appraisal of the Kirklees Cultural Heart development site as found in December 2021. The Assessment makes specific consideration to its setting and the Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area, which the site sits adjacent to but not within.

This Assessment should be viewed as substantially complete. However, if in the course of the project leading up to planning, further information is discovered that further informs significance or potential impact, the Assessment will be updated. It should be read in conjunction with the separate Assessments of Significance produced for the Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery (Volume 3) and Queensgate Market (Volume 4), alongside the other accompanying volumes of the Heritage Statement as listed in Volume 1.

A Heritage Impact Assessment upon the setting of the designated heritage assets will be undertaken in the course of the scheme's design development. The proposals will be guided by the understanding of significance recorded here. The scheme will be appraised in terms of its impact and the heritage benefit or harm caused to the heritage asset(s), namely the Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery and Queensgate Market buildings, with justification describing the mitigation of harm where appropriate.

3.0.2 - LOCATION

The site is located at the southern extent of Huddersfield town. It is contained by the 1960s ring road to the south and east and defined by King Street to the north, Queen Street to the east and Alfred Street, Princess Street, Peel Street and Victoria Lane to the west.

Fig. 3.0.1.1 - Kirklees Cultural Heart - site in context

- Piazza Shopping Centre
- Queensgate Market (Grade II)
- Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery (Grade II)
- Site boundary

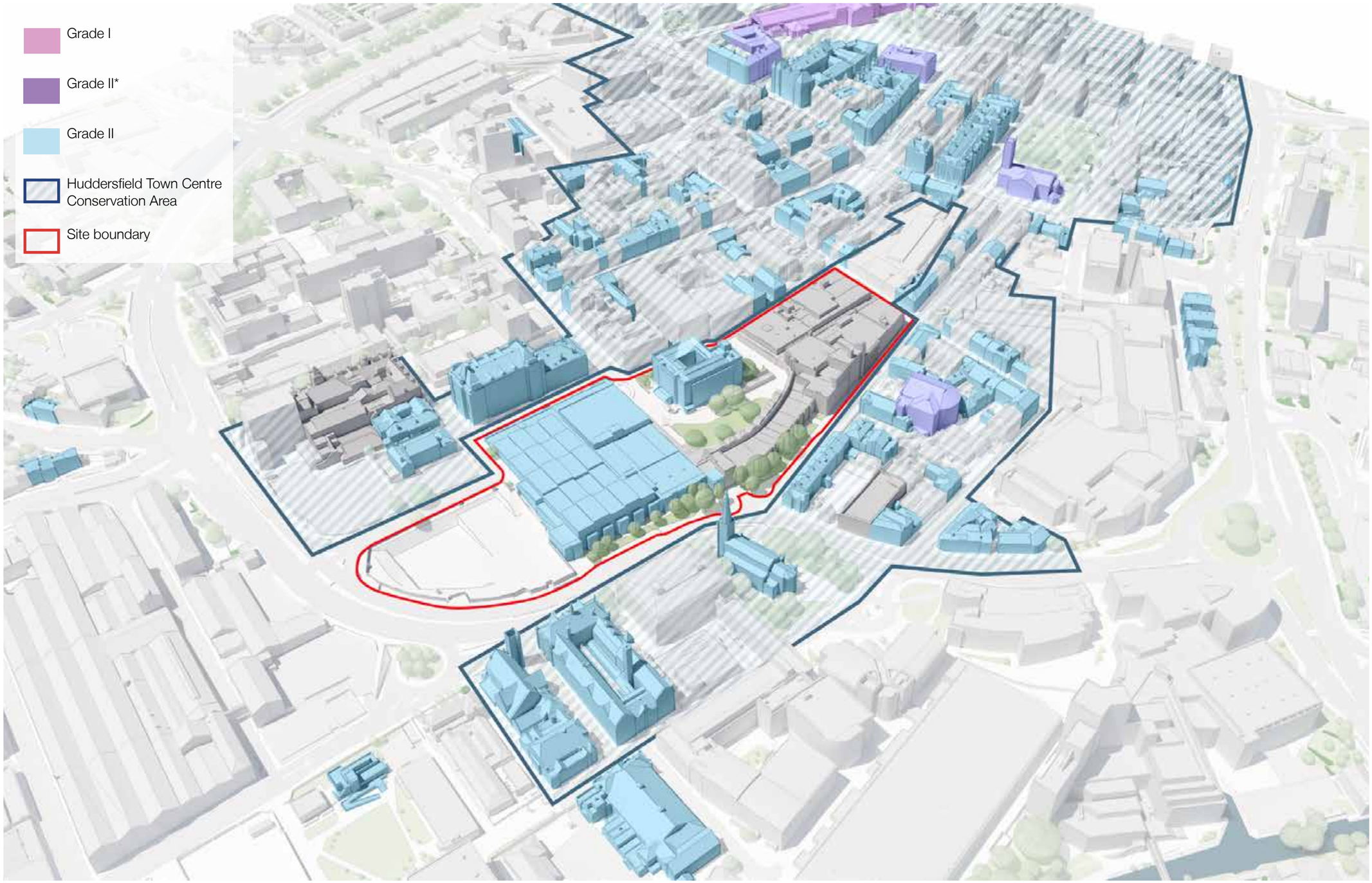

Fig. 3.0.3.1 - Huddersfield Heritage Assets

3.0 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Designations

3.0.3 - SITE DESIGNATIONS

There are just two designations for the site. The information has been taken from the Historic England Listings and from the HER for West Yorkshire. Designations for the surrounding area are listed separately below.

Asset: Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery - 1939
Heritage Category: Listed Building
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1391504
Date first listed: 04-Aug-2005
Statutory Address: Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery, Princess Alexandra Walk

Asset: Queensgate Market - 1969
Heritage Category: Listed Building
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1391505
Date first listed: 04-Aug-2005
Statutory Address: Queensgate Market

The Heritage Environment Record advised that:
"There are no other HER records specifically within the area, [meaning the site]."

3.0.4 - SETTING DESIGNATIONS

Asset: Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area
Heritage Category: Conservation Area – CA36
Enlarged and redesignated: February-1998

The site is surrounded to the north, east and west by the Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area. [Refer to the conservation area map]. This Conservation Area was formed as a consequence of the combining of St George's Square Conservation Area (designated in 1968) and the surrounding Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area (designated in August 1981). The reasons for combining the two Conservation Areas are summarised below:

1. to take advantage of funding opportunities on eastern fringe of the town centre, e.g. Mechanics Institute could be assisted by CAP/Heritage Lottery Fund.
2. to rationalise the existing Conservation Area boundary so that it is clearly understandable for owners, developers, public, other Council Services etc.
3. to give due consideration to the historic street pattern, urban grain and layout of the town - too much emphasis previously placed on the individual quality of buildings of the former boundary eg King Street
4. to give added protection to areas and buildings under threat from redevelopment which were outside the Conservation Area many of which have strong quality eg Beastmarket
5. to protect the setting of the historic core of the town.

Historic England advises that:
"Local planning authorities are obliged to designate as conservation areas any parts of their own area that are of special architectural or historic interest, the character and appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance."

NPPF 194. States:
"Local planning authorities should make information about the historic environment, gathered as part of policy-making or development management, publicly accessible."

While defined on a plan drawing, Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area (CA36) is not described in a further document and there is no character appraisal. As such this document offers a summary description of the Conservation Area in the vicinity of the site. While the site is largely encompassed by the Conservation Area it must be noted that it is **not within the Conservation Area.**

Of Conservation Areas, Historic England advises:
"The special character of these areas does not come only from the quality of their buildings. Elements such as the historic layout of roads, paths and boundaries and characteristic building and paving materials all contribute to the familiar and cherished local scene.
Designation of a conservation area gives broader protection than the listing of individual buildings. All the features, listed or otherwise, within the area, are recognised as part of its character. Conservation area designation is the means of recognising the importance of all these factors and of ensuring that planning decisions address the quality of the landscape in its broadest sense."

The Huddersfield Town Conservation Area was added to Historic England's Heritage at Risk Register in 2017. A summary review of the Area in 2017 identified the following reasons for its addition:

- Economic decline of the area leading to vacant units and a lack of maintenance
- Poor condition of the public realm
- Risk posed by development of sites in or near the Area
- Clear decline in condition in the past three years
- Trend for changes that are not sympathetic to the Character of the Conservation Area

3.0 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Designations

3.0.5 - METHODOLOGY

The site's setting is largely informed by the surrounding Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area, which is characterised by late Georgian and Victorian stone-fronted buildings. The site is immediately bounded by the Conservation Area on all sides, with the exception of the site's southern extent which is defined by the Queensgate ring road.

The following Assessment seeks to identify the areas around the site that inform its setting and draw out both the positive aspects that define the heritage significance of the surrounding Conservation Area as well as those aspects which serve to harm it. The process of assessment and its findings draw from relevant legislative, planning and heritage frameworks designed to inform appropriate development and understanding of designated heritage assets. These frameworks are discussed further in Volume 1. The report also draws from the professional expertise of its authors to inform its findings.

To better establish a basis of understanding for the site's setting, the adjacencies of the site have been identified and divided into the following nine asset groups:

Asset Group 1	KING STREET & CLOTH HALL STREET
Asset Group 2	CROSS CHURCH STREET
Asset Group 3	QUEEN STREET
Asset Group 4	CHURCHES of St Peter, Kirkgate and of St Paul, Queensgate
Asset Group 5	QUEENSGATE inc. ALFRED STREET
Asset Group 6	PRINCESS STREET
Asset Group 7	TOWN HALL, Peel Street, Ramsden Street and High Street
Asset Group 8	VICTORIA LANE
Asset Group 9	URBAN ARTWORK

Each asset group comprises an element of the immediately adjacent Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area and is defined by a common character and its location in relation to the site. Together, the identified asset groups are considered to encompass the elements of the Conservation Area that inform the site's setting. It is therefore these elements of the Conservation Area, as well as the designated assets contained within them, that are considered to be those most likely to be impacted by the development.

The Assessment of Setting describes each of the asset groups individually, and includes the following:

- A description of the asset group's location
- Listing entries for designated assets within the asset group
- An appraisal of the elements forming the asset group, including an analysis of layout, content and qualities
- A summary of the heritage significance of the asset group, drawing from the special character of the Conservation Area and the values of the designated assets contained within it
- How the asset group contributes toward the heritage significance of the Conservation Area
- How the site informs the setting of the Conservation Area

The report utilises Historic England's values framework (evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal values) outlined in its Conservation Principles, Policies and Guidance document to understand the heritage significance of the designated assets within each asset group. It additionally draws from Historic England's Conservation Area Appraisal, Designation and Management advice note to appraise how these assets and the site itself inform the architectural and historic interest of the Conservation Area which contribute toward its heritage significance.

3.0.6 - SUMMARY OF SETTING ANALYSIS

The historic assets of the Conservation Area are intended to be the basis of is special character, interest and significance. Most of these are from the Victorian period with some of the Regency period. There is however the tantalising influence of early, mid and late 20th Century buildings, the range and quality of which both inform and detract from the significance of the Conservation Area. As there is no written narrative on the Conservation Area it is not clear if any of these, while unlisted, inform the special qualities of the Conservation Area. The focus of the special character is somewhat clarified by the setting of the Conservation Area which excises the site of the 1969-1974 Queensgate Market and Piazza and the site of the 1971 Packhorse Shopping Centre. Whilst these substantial late 20th Century additions lie beyond its boundary, there is also the ambiguous inclusion of smaller elements of poor-quality 20th Century development within the Conservation Area. Many of these impose a negative contribution on the area.

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3.1 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 1 – KING STREET & CLOTH HALL STREET

3.1.0 Asset Group 1 – KING STREET & CLOTH HALL STREET

King Street and Cloth Hall Street are aligned west-east through Huddersfield town centre, bisecting the Conservation Area at Market Street and the Kingsgate Shopping Centre. King Street forms one of the primary shopping districts for the town. As such it has high footfall, with its buildings defined by retail and other service uses. The site's northern edge addresses King Street and incorporates the Piazza development from No. 17 on the west, downhill to No. 37 at the junction with Queen Street to the east.

Fig. 3.1.0.1 - Zone of Asset Group 1 - King Street & Cloth Hall Street

3.1.1 - DESIGNATED ASSETS

Asset: 13 New Street (Current use - Cafe Nero)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – mid C19
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 128296
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 4 King Street (Current use – Mobile Phone Shop)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1214035
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 5 and 7 King Street (Current use - Café and Vape Shop)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1313513
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 13 King Street (Jewellers)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early to mid C19
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1135001
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 15, 15a and 17 King Street (Current use - Jewellers and Travel Agents)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – mid to late C18
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1313514
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978
Date of most recent amendment: 06-March-1979

Asset: 37 King Street, Burns Tavern (Current use – Retail unit)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – late C19
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1135002
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978
Date of most recent amendment: 06-March-1979

Asset: Unit 41 Kingsgate Centre, 45 and 47 King Street (Current use – Travel Agent)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19 with later C19 shopfronts
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1313515
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 49 King Street (Current use – Retail unit)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1135004
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

3.1 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 1 – KING STREET & CLOTH HALL STREET

Asset: 51 King Street (Current use – Retail unit)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1313516
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 61 and 63 King Street (Current use – Retail unit)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1135006
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: Workmans Yard, King Street
Heritage Category: Listed Building - early C19
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1135008
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 38 and 38B King Street (Current use – Retail unit)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19 with late C19 shop fronts
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1288753
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 40 and 42 King Street (Current use – Retail unit)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1135013
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 44 King Street (Current use – Retail unit)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19 with mid C19 shop fronts
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1313518
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 46 King Street (Current use – Retail unit)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19 with mid C19 shop fronts
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1214568
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 48 King Street (Current use – Retail unit and access to former yard)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19 with mid C19 shop fronts
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1313519
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 50 King Street (Current use – Retail unit)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – mid to late C19
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1214601
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978
Note: A late Victorian building which for its period has more architectural merit than the majority of the buildings on King Street.

3.1 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 1 – KING STREET & CLOTH HALL STREET

3.1.2 - APPRAISAL

The listed buildings of King Street are of two and three storeys, stone-faced retail units dating from the Regency and Victorian periods. All the buildings in the King Street asset group were listed in a single episode in 1978 when the focus was on the retention of Victorian and Regency period structures i.e. those structures typically pre-dating 1900. Those selected for listing appear to have retained their original footprints and may also retain early fabric within. The reason for listing at this time was most probably a response to the recent development of the ring road, Queensgate Shopping Centre (1970-74) the redevelopment of the back-of-street development of the Packhorse Shopping Centre (1971), the construction of the new Midland Bank (1970) at No.2 King Street and several other developments, all contemporary structures that were unlike those of the historic town and are known to have drawn criticism and praise in equal measure.

20th Century buildings can be found along King Street and Cloth Hall Street. The range of architectural style and quality is broad. Many of these buildings reflect the wealth of Huddersfield in the early 20th Century and track the architectural style of the periods in which they were built. 20th Century buildings of most interest serve to describe the variety in aesthetic forms present within the Conservation Area:

No.19-21 Cloth Hall Street King's Head Buildings (1924): Appears to be of white faience / terracotta set out in four bays over three storeys.

No's 1-5 Cloth Hall Street (1930s):
A neo-Egyptian façade in eight narrow bays divided by reeded columns with stepped reeded capitals and recessed bays with reeded spandrels and further recessed windows.

No.7 Cloth Hall Street (1930s):
Neo-classical form with unusual detailing (possibly Egyptian influenced) to the column capitals and frieze. Set out in three bays described by four columns above the shop front.

No.2 Cloth Hall Street (1970) Midland Bank (now HSBC): Modernist design which is among the most successful of the second part of 20th Century additions to the town. By architect Peter Womersley in partnership with Roger Shaw of Kitson & Partners. Six storeys plus the roofscape. Whilst this is special in its own right, it is a firm departure from the historic character of the Conservation Area which is often respected by the even early 20th Century additions.

3.1.2.1 - Midland Bank (now HSBC), No.2 Cloth Hall Street

3.1.2.2 - Carl Stuart, No.7 Cloth Hall Street

3.1.2.3 - King's Head Buildings, No.19-21 Cloth Hall Street

3.1 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 1 – KING STREET & CLOTH HALL STREET

No.17 New Street (1920s, possibly 1930s where extended): This element is an addition to the earlier No.19 New Street. It follows the pattern of other early 20th Century buildings with a neo-classical form at first and second floor set over a shop front at street level. Here there are five bays, three equal in the middle and two narrow outer bays. Columns with Corinthian form capitals with a central acanthus leaf set over a reeded leaf capital. To the entablature, a plain frieze with stepped cornice surmounted by acanthus leaves in three sizes, large at the corners (acroterion) and medium to small alternating in a rhythm that responds to the bays below. Above is a typical 1930s stepped pediment surmounted by a very large acroterion at its centre.

3.1.2.4 - No. 17 and No. 21 New Street (1920s)

3.1.2.5 - No.17-21 New Street showing the 1930s addition

3.1 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 1 – KING STREET & CLOTH HALL STREET

No.9 and 11 King Street (1926):
Rebuilding of Alfred Kaye Drapers Ltd. due to fire of 1923-4. Described in a news article of 1926 as "notable alteration in the architectural features of King Street" the neo-classical treatment of this façade offered a more controlled iteration of that found at No. 17 and is more disciplined in the scale of its detailing. Façade is of white limestone set out in three bays divided by plain columns with simple capitals. The windows are near full width between the columns and the spandrels are bronze with a reed and circular motif. Above the columns the frieze is plain. The cornice has very discreet dentils set above a stepped base and a deep cornice overhang. The pediment is also stepped in the classic 1930s form, with a motif at its centre. The Market Walk elevation is not as well articulated and has smaller windows set within stone panels. Architects, Abbey and Hanson, of Cloth Hall Street, architects for the buildings, and the architect for the shop front and fittings Reginald W. Lone, of London.

Murrayfield development, Queensgate Piazza No's 20-26 King Street (1970-74):
Five bays to the west with the reformed Shambles Lane followed by a single bay to the east. Beyond this, the solid stone and brick form of the Queensgate Piazza begins from a single unit before wrapping the corner and continuing along Queen Street. Each bay responds to the structural grid of the building and is similar to that of the historic street. Activated street frontage stepping down the street. The first floor is windowless and clad in GRP-type decorative panels with repeat pattern of concave and convex soft forms. Each panel is narrow and tall, approx. 10 per bay. The spandrel panel between the ground and first floor also steps down, maintaining a common ground floor scale. The first-floor roof line is consistent and unlike the Packhorse, the presence of the corner building helps disguise the increase in scale.

3.1.2.6 - No. 9 King Street (1930s)

3.1.2.7 - No. 9 King Street

3.1.2.8 - No. 20-26 King Street - Piazza to the south and Packhorse to the east

3.1 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 1 – KING STREET & CLOTH HALL STREET

The junction of the site with King Street was once home to the Victorian Market Hall. This Victorian building was in the Gothic Revival style with turrets at its corners and a two-storey arched entrance set below a large clock tower at its centre. This opened into a large iron-framed market hall. The ground floor was lined with shop fronts with the building above rising to three very tall storeys, then a two storey steeply pitched roof. This building and its clock tower were visible across the town.

The 20th Century buildings within the site were designed to offer a grand and modern aesthetic interpretation of the high street. It is of interest that a number of these buildings reflected the aspirations of the Huddersfield Corporation at the time, as evidenced by the 1933 Jagger Report and the 1942 Thompson Report, which sought to enhance Huddersfield's standing through improvements to its layout and the construction of new civic buildings in styles including neo-classical and a reductive Deco approaching the simplicity of the 1940s in a Miesian style.

Along Kings Street and Cloth Hall Street, with the exception of the Midland Bank (1970), all 20th Century buildings have maintained a maximum of four storeys. The later 20th Century buildings of King Street are sympathetic to the scale of the context. They offer a variety of solutions, some of which are more successful than others and a few of which are very poor and harmful to the integrity of the Conservation Area.

3.1.2.9 - Piazza typical bay on King Street

3.1.2.10 - Victorian Market Hall (early 1960s, now demolished)

3.1.2.11 - Extract of Jaggar Report proposals, 1933

3.1.2.12 - 13-17 King Street

3.1 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 1 – KING STREET & CLOTH HALL STREET

The Packhorse Shopping Centre dominates the northern stretch of King Street that the site addresses. It is contained in the asset group and informs the setting of the Conservation Area but the boundary steps around it. The structural grid of the development appears to respond to the historic pattern, an approach repeated by the more recent unit at No.12 King Street formerly occupied by Marks and Spencer. The ground floor of the Packhorse steps down as the retail units track the fall of the street from west to east. The upper floor maintains a single level which matches the first floor of No.17 King Street, a building that is three stories plus a pitched roof and extends to project above the roof of No. 33. From a distance, this has served to permit a line of sight toward St Peter's tower, which is largely concealed by surviving three storey Regency and Victorian buildings. At this east end, the first floor is excessively tall and in contrast with the form of its neighbour.

The streetscape is a pedestrianised hard landscape. King Street has shared surfaces of paving bricks and modern flush paving cobbles. The line of the road is demarcated by deep blue square bollards and a band of buff paving slabs. Steel benches, bins, lampposts occur at the line transition of the carriageway and pavement. Just outside the Packhorse Shopping Centre, a signpost and bench seemingly obstruct the line of the street. The odd placement of benches stepping out into the street is repeated outside No. 33 at the junction with Queen Street.

3.1.2.13 - Packhorse Shopping Centre, King Street

3.1.2.14 - View looking east down King Street

3.1 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 1 – KING STREET & CLOTH HALL STREET

3.1.3 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE ASSET GROUP TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

King Street and Cloth Hall Street are among the oldest streets in the town. They are representative of Huddersfield's historic evolution as an emerging market town and centre for commerce, and contain a range of buildings from the early 1800s though to the 1970s, the latter of which occupy the site of earlier structures. The buildings are generally gritstone-faced with pitched slate-lined roofs, but they are of varying quality and represent the architectural trends of their periods. A number of listed buildings exist along their length. These hold historic and aesthetic value, and inform the architectural and historic interest of the Conservation Area. Cloth Hall Street and King Street also hold communal value, drawing from their origins as centres for trading activity. This further contributes to the special character of the Conservation Area.

As with other late 20th Century replacements, the Packhorse Shopping Centre does not wholly succeed at offering a successful reinterpretation of the traditional shop. The historic shops within the asset group, most of which have been listed, are better placed as points of reference when describing the character of the Conservation Area. However, the eclectic variety of some architecturally interesting 20th Century developments, such as the Midland Bank, do have a place in positively defining the character and history of the Conservation Area.

3.1.4 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE SITE TO THE SETTING OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The horizontal linearity of the Piazza development combined with its contrasting façade treatment marks an interruption in the townscape aesthetic that exists generally throughout the asset group (with the exception of the Packhorse Shopping Centre opposite). Some areas of its elevation incorporate blank frontages which offer no activation to the street. These features make a negative contribution to the setting of the Conservation Area, although it could be considered that its massing and retail use make a positive contribution as reflections of the surrounding historic buildings and the area's historic role as a commercial centre.

3.1.5 - DEFINING CHARACTER OF THE CONSERVATION AREA IN THE ASSET GROUP:

- Three storeys plus a roof
- Shop units stepping down the street
- Shop front at street level
- First floor and above sash windows set within stone-built walls
- Simple traditional aesthetic with stone surrounds to window openings and stone cornice at wall heads
- Activated street level
- Occasional moments of architectural flourish, such as at No. 50 (late C19), No. 9 & 11 (1926) and No. 17 (late 1930s) which are each set pieces of varying architectural styles

3.1.6 - NEGATIVE ELEMENTS:

- Packhorse first floor, which has a jarring effect creating a long, linear feature that is unfamiliar in its setting
- No.12 King Street – modern stone clad façade set out in a pattern that reflects the opposite elevations. This façade is largely blank with no activation onto King Street save for one entrance into the store
- No. 16-18 King Street, formerly 'Boots' – post 1950 brick-built replacement of earlier retail units. Active street level with large, plain upper façade at first and second floor, characterised by narrow slot windows at first floor and a large window wrapping the corner at second. It is of exceptionally poor quality and imposes significant harm to the Conservation Area
- Placement of some streetscape furniture which disrupts the flow of the public realm

3.1.7 - OPPORTUNITIES:

- Improvement of edge to disguise the presence of No. 16-18 King Street
- Activation of street frontages
- Activation at first floor
- Improvement of the site edge to minimise the long-distance visibility of the façade of No.19-27 King Street
- Enhance cohesion of the public realm at the interface with the site

3.2 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 2 – CROSS CHURCH STREET

3.2.0 Asset Group 2 – CROSS CHURCH STREET

Cross Church Street runs as a continuation of Queen Street to the north and up to the intersection with Kirkgate. As this street is north of the site, it is collected in brief for context.

Fig. 3.2.0.1 - Zone of Asset Group 2 - Cross Church Street

3.2.1 - DESIGNATED ASSETS (in brief)

24 Kirkgate – GII – No.1313482 – early Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

14 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1134267 – mid-Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

16 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1313844 – mid-Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

18 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1134268 – mid-Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978

20 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1134269 – early or mid-Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

22 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1134270 – early or mid-Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

24 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1134271 – early or mid-Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

7 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1134308 – early Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

9 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1290293 – early Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

11 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1313823 – early Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

19 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1210825 – early Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

23 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1134309 – early Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

25 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1313824 – early Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

27 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1210832 – early Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

29 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1134310 – early Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

31 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1313825 – early Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

33 Cross Church Street – GII – No.1313843 – Rear part of Burns Tavern. Early Victorian, stone built, three storey shops, listed 1978.

3.2 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 2 – CROSS CHURCH STREET

3.2.2 - APPRAISAL

As with King Street, the listed buildings along Cross Church Street are early to late 19th Century, two to three storey shops with fronts at street level and stone-fronted with windows above and stone cornice gutter or iron gutter on corbels. There are also several other buildings of interest. There are unlisted buildings on the street that add positively to its character and history.

No. 28 is a late Victorian public house in Tudor revival style, with heavily glazed stonework at street level rising to a symmetrical jettied timber frame façade with a gabled centrepiece and leaded lights to timber-framed windows.

'Revolucion de Cuba' No. 30 & 32 formerly the Sun Inn (1892) is a large restaurant, late Victorian mixture of neo gothic and neo-classical with other influences. The form is of two large decorative gables with a curved top set each side of a smaller gable with cupola, which has a curved roof profile with lead roll roof and finial. The ground floor is largely glazed with large sash windows to the first and second floors.

In addition to the unlisted Victorian buildings, there are several 20th Century buildings and some 20th Century shop fronts which contrast with the Victorian building aesthetic.

At the corner of Kirkgate and Cross Church Street is the outer edge of the Packhorse Shopping Centre. Here, the historic building has been replaced with an articulated concrete frame as described on King Street. Built in 1971, it is two storeys with a flat roof. The roof line of this building steps above that of the lower adjacent historic building.

At No. 21 Cross Church Street is a brutalist shop unit probably constructed during the early 1970s and before its neighbours at Nos. 19,23 & 25 were listed in 1978. This unit may be the delivery entrance to the Packhorse Shopping Centre. It replaces what would have been a mid-terrace building that once formed a four unit terrace from No.19 to 25. The replacement is set well below the three-storey cornice of the earlier neighbours and has vertically ribbed concrete panels across its first floor with a long slot window above, before a narrow frieze of concrete matching the panel below. Whilst the Conservation Area excludes the Packhorse Shopping Centre, its outer periphery informs the setting here and at the Market Place.

On the east side of the street at the junction with King Street, the more recent Kingsgate Centre has been executed as a copy of the historic neighbouring façades. At its corner, the

3.2.2.1 - No. 28 Cross Church Street

3.2.2.2 - No. 30 & 32 Cross Church Street

3.2.2.3 - No. 23 & 21 Cross Church Street

3.2 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 2 – CROSS CHURCH STREET

aesthetic changes and to reveal the recessed opening into the shopping units inside. This is in the form of recent commercial retail architecture with vertical steel masts, radial glass canopy and a crown of radial louvres which is unlike other buildings that inform the setting of the Conservation Area.

On the west side of the street at the junction with King Street, the ground floor of No. 33 has been reformed. The early 19th Century building retains the first and second floor. The ground floor has been wholly renewed with one shop front replaced with stone and the others blacked out. This has removed all connection with the street.

3.2.3 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE ASSET GROUP TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The majority of the asset group lies within the Conservation Area. The listed early and mid-Victorian buildings are typical for the area. These are of three and four storeys and have the same character as those on King Street. The later Victorian buildings offer a change to the roof line at the street edge. The gables of these buildings face onto the street, resulting in a rising and falling profile which animates the streetscape adding to its character. These unlisted late-Victorian buildings are generally larger and more decorative. The simplicity of the early buildings and the decorative architecture of the later buildings hold historic and aesthetic value. As with King Street, the asset group represents the market tradition of Huddersfield as a manufacturing and trading town. Cross Church Street is additionally recognised as one of the earliest streets in Huddersfield. For these reasons, the asset group holds historic and communal value. These qualities contribute toward the historic and architectural interest of the Conservation Area. Most of the 20th Century buildings in the asset group impose a negative impact upon the Conservation Area as they have a jarring effect on the Victorian buildings along Cross Church Street.

3.2.4 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE SITE TO THE SETTING OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The 20th Century Piazza development lies outside the Conservation Area and marks the south-west edge of the asset group. It represents a significant shift in scale and aesthetic from the Victorian townscape of Cross Church Street. It is harmful to the special character of the Conservation Area as it disrupts and erodes the continuity of the materials, form and aesthetic values of the historic townscape that typifies Cross Church Street.

3.2.2.4 - Kingsgate Shopping Centre entrance

3.2.2.5 - Cross Church Street (1960s)

3.2.2.6 - Cross Church Street looking north toward St Peter's Church

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3.3 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 3 – QUEEN STREET

3.3.0 Asset Group 3 – QUEEN STREET

Queen Street runs as a continuation of Cross Church Street that lies north, up to the intersection with the Queensgate ring road further south. The axis of Queen Street offers a line of sight onto St Peter's Church at its north extent and the tower of St Paul's Hall to the south. The street continues past the 1970 Queensgate development where the sheer masonry façade of the shopping centre is set opposite the Regency architecture of the Lawrence Batley Theatre and the Queen Street terrace. The Conservation Area boundary runs along the centre of the street, with all to the east within it and all to the west excluded.

Fig. 3.3.0.1 - Zone of Asset Group 3 - Queen Street

3.3.1 - DESIGNATED ASSETS

Asset: 2 and 4 Queen Street
Heritage Category: Listed Building – Mid C19, three storey stone-built retail.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1231215
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 6-10 Queen Street
Heritage Category: Listed Building – Early C19, three storey stone-built retail. Residential over shop.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1231216
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: Crown Court, Queen Street
Heritage Category: Listed Building – Late Regency 1825, neo-classical, two storeys with small porticoed entrance. Now a public house.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1231302
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978
Asset: 20 Queen Street
Heritage Category: Listed Building – Early C19, 3 storey stone-built residence with tall blank elevation over forecourt of the adjacent Crown Court.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1231219
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Queen Street Terrace:
Asset: 22 Queen Street / List Entry Number: 1231220
Asset: 24 Queen Street / List Entry Number: 1231335
Asset: 26 Queen Street / List Entry Number: 1231221
Asset: 28 Queen Street / List Entry Number: 1231222
Asset: 30 Queen Street / List Entry Number: 1231353
Asset: 32 Queen Street / List Entry Number: 1278233
Heritage Category: Listed Building – Early C19, 3 storey stone-built residence.
Grade: II
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 12 and 14 Queen Street
Heritage Category: Listed Building – Early C19. matching Nos.16 and 18. Three storey stone built with plat band at the

3.3 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 3 – QUEEN STREET

cill of the first floor and dentiled cornice to the parapet.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1231217
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: Arts Centre, 10 Queen Street – Lawrence Batley Theatre
Heritage Category: Listed Building – Regency 1819 former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel
Grade: II*
List Entry Number: 1231218
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: 16 and 18 Queen Street
Heritage Category: Listed Building – Early C19, matching Nos.12 and 14
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1231299
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

3.3.2.1 - Former Crown Court, No.20 Queen Street

3.3.2.2 - No.22 to 32 Queen Street Terrace

3.3.2.3 - View down Queen Street looking north

3.3 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 3 – QUEEN STREET

3.3.2 - APPRAISAL

The Conservation Area boundary extends southwards to capture this urban block formed by Queen Street to the west and Zetland Street to the east. It is largely of Regency and Victorian buildings of residential, retail and civic origin. The scale of the buildings along Queen Street are greater than that of Cross Church Street and King Street. The former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and former Crown Court are of significant scale for their period and setting, although both now appear subservient as a consequence of the setting created by the Queensgate development.

From the south of Queen Street looking north, the uniform solidity of the Georgian terrace draws the eye along the street. The green margin left between the pavement and sheer wall of the Piazza lower ground / tunnels leaves the street appearing unbalanced. The building line steps back about five metres at the former Crown Court, creating a small forecourt formed as part of the set piece of the Palladian façade. Both forecourt and façade appear isolated due in part to this set back but more significantly due to the vacant plot to the north.

The Lawrence Batley Theatre (formerly the Wesleyan Methodist Chapel) is on a grand scale with a substantial forecourt contained behind low walls with formal railings and gates. The forecourt is signposted as 'Queen's Square'. This space offers the potential for a high degree of activation and engagement. This space is an important part of the town's historic public spaces and holds aesthetic, historic and communal value.

Directly opposite Queen's Square is the rear of the 1970-74 Piazza Shopping Centre. While this is outside of the Conservation Area, it informs the setting of Queen Street and the edge condition of the Conservation Area. The Piazza rises to approx. seven storeys with minimal aesthetic articulation to the façade. A large vehicle access point falls directly opposite the south wing of the Theatre (No.16 & 18 Queen Street) where the road appears to drop into subterranean tunnels below the Piazza. Above this are narrow slot windows as well as cranked windows, indicating the presence of a stair. To the north and above is a large ventilation tower rising to approx. nine storeys, which defines the transition between the Piazza office and the larger former retailed stores of the same development. This blank, monolithic façade onto Queen Street rises high above the eaves level of the earlier stone buildings that form the boundary of the Conservation Area. Further to the north, the scale returns to that more typical of King Street and Cross Church Street, comprising active shop fronts with office and residential units above.

3.3.2.4 - No.10 Queen Street, now the Lawrence Batley Theatre, flanked by Nos. 12 & 14 and 16 & 18

3.3.2.5 - Rear of the Piazza overlooking Queen Street, from the entrance portico of the Lawrence Batley Theatre

3.3 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 3 – QUEEN STREET

To the south end of Queens Street and addressing Queensgate, the former hotel (No.29 Queensgate) and Huddersfield Hippodrome offer a sense of the former historic building scale. Here the Hippodrome which is approx. three large storeys tall (9m) was once twice this height. These buildings would orignally have been visible within the streetscape of Ramsden Street, which formerly intersected with Queen Street.

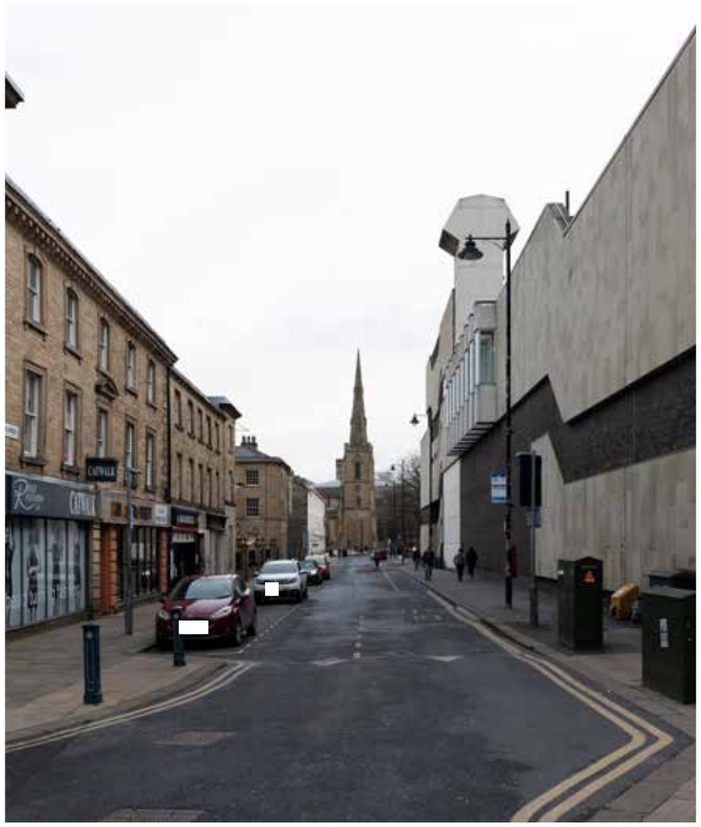
At the junction of King Street, Queen Street and Cross Church Street, the historic design intent was for each building to open at its corner, and the surviving Victorian buildings retain these splayed corner entrances. The redevelopment for the Kingsgate Shopping Centre has a large metal and glass corner entrance. The 1970-74 Piazza has turned its back on this crossroads, offering a sheer façade of buff stone cladding (appearing like a vertical pavement) and deep brown bricks. The Conservation Area steps around this corner, thereby excluding the Piazza whilst retaining the other corners.

The pavements are of coursed buff stone cobbles with dressed buff stone kerbs. Black iron / steel bollards occur in limited places. The Georgian terrace has low iron railings and steps which lead up to the entrance doors. The former Crown Court has 20th Century railings and the former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel has railings in an aesthetic to match the Regency aesthetic of the set piece. To the west, the pavement outside the Conservation Area is of tarmac with kerbs pulled back to form parking bays. The green margin opposite the Georgian terrace is planted with trees.

3.3.2.6 - Hotel and Hippodrome (1890s)

3.3.2.7 - Hippodrome on Queensgate

3.3.2.8 - Piazza frontage onto Queen Street



3.3.2.9 - View down Queen Street looking south

3.3 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 3 – QUEEN STREET

3.3.3 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE ASSET GROUP TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The streetscape to the east that sits within the Conservation Area holds historic, aesthetic and communal value. The scale of the buildings at the back of the pavement is predominantly three storeys with the taller elements rising as they step further away from the street. The group retains the character of historic civic Huddersfield, including some of the town's older residential buildings which are now used as offices. The form of Queen Street itself additionally holds historic value as one of the earliest established streets in Huddersfield. Collectively, these elements contribute toward the historic and architectural interest of the Conservation Area.

3.3.4 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE SITE TO THE SETTING OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The 20th Century Piazza development faces onto Queen Street but falls outside of the Conservation Area. Its scale and form represent a marked shift away from what was previously an area of low-rise terraces comprising civic and light industrial uses that typified Huddersfield's former Victorian townscape. On an urban scale, the late 1960s/early 1970s development substantially altered the original street layout and failed to adequately address its setting. Its inactive, five storey frontage fails to respond positively to Queen Street and the Lawrence Batley Theatre, as well as other designated assets which lie opposite. To the north, the Piazza buildings are out of scale with their heritage setting, and the broad, unbroken expanse of buff stone cladding that is quite unlike that of the older buildings serves to negatively erode the continuity of the historic aesthetic that defines the edge of the Conservation Area. From many aspects, the development presents blank, monolithic frontages onto the street. This arrangement is in contradiction to the lower density and more nuanced grain of its heritage setting in a way that is harmful to the special character of the Conservation Area. It particularly imposes a negative impact on the listed buildings that demarcate its boundary.

3.3.5 - DEFINING CHARACTER OF THE CONSERVATION AREA IN THE ASSET GROUP:

- Three storeys plus a roof at back of pavement
- Taller grander aesthetic stepping back from the pavement
- Queen's Square, large social (formerly civic) space
- Shop front at street level (north end)
- First floor and above sash windows set within stone-built walls
- Simple traditional aesthetic with stone surrounds to window openings and stone cornice at wall heads.

3.3.6 - NEGATIVE ELEMENTS:

- Piazza façade from junction of Queensgate to the crossroads at King Street
- Vacant plot used as car park between No.18 and the former Crown Court

3.3.7 - OPPORTUNITIES:

- Respond to Queen's Square (address inactive context)
- Respond to setting of the former Crown Court
- Rebalance the streetscape via scale and activation to the west
- Activate the site at the interface with the crossroads
- Consider consequence of activation to the west

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3.4 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 4 – CHURCHES of St Peter, Kirkgate and of St Paul, Queensgate

3.4.0 Asset Group 4 – CHURCHES of St Peter, Kirkgate and of St Paul, Queensgate

This asset group captures the key town landmarks of the Parish Church of St Peter's and St Paul's Hall (formerly St Paul's Church). They terminate the north-south axis of the historic Cross Church Street and Queen Street.

3.4.1 - DESIGNATED ASSETS

Asset: Parish Church of St Peter's, Kirkgate
Heritage Category: Listed Building – 1834-36 J P Pritchett of York
Grade: II*
List Entry Number: 1134977
Date first listed: 03-March-1952

Asset: St Paul's Hall, University of Huddersfield, Queensgate
Heritage Category: Listed Building – 1829 Architect John Oates or Joseph Kaye. Foundation laid by Lady Gwendolen Ramsden.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1231471
Date first listed: 03-March-1952

Fig. 3.4.0.1 - Zone of Asset Group 4 - Churches of St Peter, Kirkgate and St Paul, Queensgate

3.4.2 - APPRAISAL

These churches are of the period when the Ramsden family owned a large proportion of the town. The west aisle of St Peter's has been designed to align with the axis of Kirkgate. The tower is to the west of the alignment of the street and from Queen Street it can be seen rising over the roof of the buildings. The tower is just visible along Victoria Lane, where the Packhorse Shopping Centre steps down at the junction with No. 17a King Street.

The tower of St Paul's is directly on axis and is highly visible from Queen Street and Ramsden Street at the junction with Peel Street. It remains highly visible along the length of the High Street and Ramsden Street. It is largely hidden along Peel Street, but emerges over the roofscape of Queensgate Market. It is also visible from Princess Street. It can also be seen for a short stretch of the southern part of Queensgate once past the tall building at No.103 New Street, and prior to the junction with Alfred Street, although this aspect is not considered to constitute much to the asset's significance.

3.4 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 4 – CHURCHES of St Peter, Kirkgate and of St Paul, Queensgate

3.4.3 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE ASSET GROUP TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The history of these churches and their presence at each end of Queen Street and Cross Church Street, one of the earliest street axis in Huddersfield, highlights their historic and communal value. St Peter's marks the town's medieval core, and St Paul's formerly marked the important crossroads of Ramsden Street, Queen Street and Queen Street South. Both are important elements informing the special character of the Conservation Area.

The formation of the ring road completely transformed the setting of St Paul's Hall and other buildings along Queen Street South, harming their significance by separating them from their context. St Paul's has since been incorporated into the University of Huddersfield campus.

3.4.4 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE SITE TO THE SETTING OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The site informs little of the setting of St Peter's nor the setting of this part of the Conservation Area due to its location further south.

The articulated façade of the Market Hall's east elevation informs the setting of St Paul's Hall and the edge of the Conservation Area. It's characteristic oversailing roof shells and ceramic sculpture series are recognised for their aesthetic value. However their ability to make a positive contribution is limited by the presence of the ring road, which severs St Paul's Hall from its wider built context. A further appraisal of the Conservation Area setting in this location is provided in asset group 5.

3.4.5 - DEFINING CHARACTER OF THE BUILDINGS:

- Towers with visibility from key streets
- Buildings of historic significance as key anchors for townscape heritage

3.4.6 - NEGATIVE ELEMENTS:

- Poor setting of St Paul's imposed by the 1960s ring road

3.4.7 - OPPORTUNITIES:

- Improve axial connection toward St Paul's
- Improve access and circulation at the junction for St Princess Alexandra Walk, Queensgate and Queen Street

3.4.2.1 - View toward St Peter's from Cross Church Street

3.4.2.2 - St Peter's, Kirkgate

3.4.2.3 - St Paul's Hall, Queensgate

3.5 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 5 – QUEENSGATE inc. ALFRED STREET

3.5.0 Asset Group 5 – QUEENSGATE inc. ALFRED STREET

This group includes the Queensgate ring road where it wraps around the south of the site, extending from the intersection with Queen Street around to New Street. Prior to the ring road's construction in the 1960s, this area of the town was previously defined by Queen Street South and Ramsden Street (East). The Conservation Area steps around the site with a leg extending down the east and west side. The site effectively acts as a intervention in the extent of the Conservation Area extending from Queensgate up to King Street.

3.5.1 - DESIGNATED ASSETS

Asset: Ramsden Building, University of Huddersfield
Heritage Category: Listed Building – 1881-4. Architect E Hughes. Victorian late Gothic Revival. Hammer dressed stone. Ashlar dressings. Hipped slate roof. Three storeys. Bracketed eaves cornice. Openwork parapet. Strings. Continuous sill bands. Nine ranges of casements in moulded surrounds with transoms, the first, the fifth and ninth also with mullions. The third and the seventh ranges are full height bays, oblong at ground floor, canted above, and surmounted by moulded foliage cornices and hipped roofs with tall iron finials: above the ground floor are sculpted lions holding shields: the second-floor windows have two transoms and the upper lights are filled with cusped reticulated tracery.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1277501
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Fig. 3.5.0.1 - Zone of Asset Group 5 - Queensgate inc. Alfred Street

Asset: Milton Congregation Church, Queensgate
Heritage Category: Listed Building – Late C19. Ashlar dressings. Pitched slate roof. Nave and aisles. Transepts. North-west tower. West front has two octagonal turrets with pyramidal roofs, coped gable, cruciform finial and two-light window with reticulated tracery in gable end. Three principal two-centred arched windows (flanked by square, blind-traceried panels).
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1231472
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

3.5 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 5 – QUEENSGATE inc. ALFRED STREET

3.5.2 - APPRAISAL

The south extent of the site is defined by the presence of the 1960s four lane ring road. To the west is the Murrayfield Queensgate Market and Piazza Shopping Centre. To the east is the University of Huddersfield campus, which partly falls within the east leg of the Conservation Area. This leg of the Conservation Area contains the heritage assets within this group. Whilst this area retains historic value that contributes toward the architectural and historic interest of the Conservation Area, its disassociation from the town due to the ring road has significantly harmed the legibility of it as a unified element of the Conservation Area.

The development of Queensgate Market and the Piazza in 1969-1974 consolidated the enclosure of the town in this area. Where Ramsden Street once offered a vista to the east past St Paul's Hall, the Murrayfield development of the Piazza served to redefine the setting by creating an enclosure. As part of the town's mid-20th Century development, East Parade and Page Street to the south of the site were removed and replaced by the snaking line of the Queensgate ring road. This redefinition of the road hierarchy also served to impact the interpretation of the earlier architecture within the Conservation Area, such as the Town Hall which addresses Ramsden Street (see asset group 7). To the south, the clearance of the land beyond the ring road has created a low-rise, low-density edge to the town. This further isolates the Conservation Area from its setting, generating a zone of open space which the old town appears to turn its back on.

3.5.2.1 - Market Hall, Queensgate

3.5.2.2 - Queensgate at the junction with Queen Street South, looking north-west toward the site

3.5 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 5 – QUEENSGATE inc. ALFRED STREET

3.5.3 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE ASSET GROUP TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

This asset group steps across the gap between the two legs of the Conservation Area. Whilst the area retains some listed buildings, the overall character is one of open carriageway that challenges the town setting.

The east leg comprising the university campus retains stone-built, civic buildings of some scale, three large storeys with roofs over. These present an imposing edge to the urban block beyond. The listed buildings here hold aesthetic, historic and communal value, although all are significantly harmed by the presence of the barriered four lane road. The visibility of these buildings is important, however the imposition of the ring road challenges their setting, making their positive influence upon the site negligible. Their contribution to the wider Conservation Area is also limited due to their peripheral location.

The west leg of the Conservation Area is occupied by a number of buildings, the backs of which are visible from the ring road. Much of the ground is an open car park where buildings typical of the town's Victorian townscape once stood. This is a large informal space unlike any other within the Conservation Area. From the aspect of the ring road, this space has a negative impact on the Conservation Area for its uniform open aspect and the unresolved edge it creates to the roads within and outside its boundary.

3.5.2.3 - Ramsden Buildings, Queensgate

3.5.2.4 - Milton Congregational Church, Queensgate

3.5.2.5 - Co-operative Building 1930s extension, Queensgate

3.5 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 5 – QUEENSGATE inc. ALFRED STREET

3.5.4 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE SITE TO THE SETTING OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The articulation of the Market Hall's oversailing concrete roof shells, patent glazing and ceramic panel series present a visually engaging and modernist frontage of high aesthetic value. These positively juxtapose with the traditional architecture of the listed buildings sited within the Conservation Area on the other side of Queensgate. These elements of the Market Hall offer some positive contribution to the setting of the Conservation Area, however the ring road acts as an interruption to more meaningful influence. Mature trees along the Market Hall boundary that obscure the ceramic panels also impair any visual connection.

The stair route from the Market down to St Paul's Hall does maintain a pedestrian link to the truncated Ramsden Street. However, its architectural expression is an inadequate attempt to mediate the discontinuation of the historic street axis. This loss of the historic street layout and the subsequent impediment to east-west movement and views across the site has eroded the legibility of the historic town and negatively impacted the setting of the Conservation Area.

3.5.5 - DEFINING CHARACTER OF THE AREA:

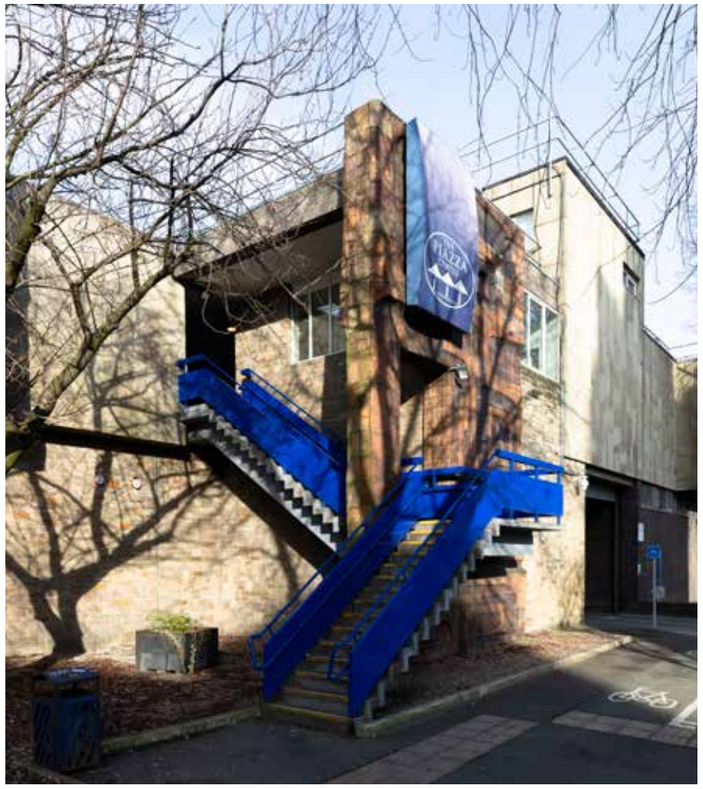
- Buildings of historic significance as key anchors for townscape heritage
- The tall Cooperative Building (1936), currently being developed as student housing

3.5.6 - NEGATIVE ELEMENTS:

- 1960s ring road / truncation of historic roads
- Open aspect to the west leg
- Visibility of exposed building backs
- Open ground used as a car park

3.5.7 - OPPORTUNITIES:

- Improve the transition from road to buildings
- Respond to the open aspect of the west leg / assume future development



3.5.2.6 - Pedestrian route between Ramsden Street and Queensgate

3.5.2.7 - Car park between Princess Street and Queensgate, looking north

3.6 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 6 – PRINCESS STREET

3.6.0 Asset Group 6 – PRINCESS STREET

The south part of the site briefly addresses Princess Street. The street was once a more significant street running from New Street (Buxton Road) to St Paul's Street (across and parallel to Queen Street South). The street now forms part of the road loop that snakes though the town. At its west extent, the street offers an aspect onto the entrance of the 1970s shopping centre which sits in front of the civic centre via 'Buxton Way'. At the east extent, the street offers an aspect onto one of the entrances of Queensgate Market at the pinch point between the Market Hall building and the gap to the now demolished 1970s car park.

Fig. 3.6.0.1 - Zone of Asset Group 6 - Princess Street

3.6.1 - DESIGNATED ASSETS

Asset: 103 New Street
Heritage Category: Listed Building – 1846, two story, Gothic Revival school building, now a retail unit.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1229705
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: Juvenile Court, 6 Princess Street
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19, two storey stone built. Now a hotel.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1278813
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Asset: Huddersfield Town Hall - see asset group 7

3.6 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 6 – PRINCESS STREET

3.6.2 - APPRAISAL

The buildings along Princess Street represent various phases of urban redevelopment. At the west end, Phase One (1969) of the Murrayfield development occupies a block matching the footprint of the Town Hall. This building is two low-rise storeys with a mosaic frieze on the façade that overlooks Ramsden Street. On the south side is the Huddersfield Co-operative Society Building, constructed over separate phases in 1887, 1894, 1905 and the 1930s. The building where it informs the asset group comprises three tall storeys, office over retail, steel frame and stone with tall windows in a neo-classical / French revival style. The two sides of Buxton Way / Princess Street contrast significantly in scale and architectural aesthetic.

The short stretch of Princess Street that survives is addressed by Victorian buildings. The Town Hall (1881) is sited on the plot between Corporation Street and Peel Street. Opposite this is the former school building (1846) and the smaller and likely older 'The County' public house. Beyond is the former Juvenile Court which dates from approx. 1847. All are of local buff gritstone. With a range of about 30 years between them, the contrast in architectural styles highlights the variety of aesthetic tastes of the Victorian period.

The edge of the Conservation Area tracks the line of Princess Street and Peel Street, excluding the site and the Queensgate Market beyond. While this asset group is limited in size, the scale of the buildings and the streetscape of Princess Street within the Conservation Area ranges from the early 19th Century though to the 1970s, and from two low-rise storeys (7m) up to three grand storeys (16m). The presence of 1969 Murrayfield element serves to create a gap in the flow of the street.

The pavements are of buff stone flags and the road of tarmac.

3.6.2.1 - View of Town Hall from car park on Albert Street

3.6.2.2 - Retail block, New Street

3.6.2.3 - Co-operative Building, New Street

3.6 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 6 – PRINCESS STREET

3.6.3 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE ASSET GROUP TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

Princess Street is partially encompassed within the Conservation Area and its positive contribution to the setting and special character is defined by the presence of its Victorian buildings.

The street has significance as an important part of the historic urban fabric (although it has been truncated at either end). At this location, the Town Hall and former Juvenile Court offer the primary built heritage context for the Conservation Area and the most positive contribution to its special character. The listed buildings hold historic and aesthetic value with the public house, school, former court, Town Hall and arguably the Cooperative Building, also holding communal value for their role in people's collective history. These buildings subsequently enhance both the historic and architectural interest of the Conservation Area.

A grade level car park at the corner of Princess Street and Alfred Street sits within the Conservation Area. This site previously comprised buildings as an extension of the town's Victorian townscape. Its current use imposes a negative contribution to the special character of the Conservation Area. The 1970s tower of the civic centre rises to the west and offers an unattractive focus to the setting.

3.6.4 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE SITE TO THE SETTING OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

As an element of setting to the site itself, Princess Street holds limited significance. This is mostly due to the presence of existing 20th Century elements that interject into the continuity of the historic setting. The greater significance for the definition of the future proposals most probably arises from the Grade II listed Queensgate Market Hall, which falls outside the setting of the Conservation Area. The Murrayfield development and construction of the ring road demoted the through route of Princess Street, which previously comprised an east-west

3.6.2.4 - View of south elevation of Market Hall on Princess Street, seen from the car park on Alfred Street

3.6.2.5 - East gable of No.6 Princess Street seen from Albert Street

3.6 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 6 – PRINCESS STREET

vehicular axis. This truncation of the historic street pattern is marked by the edge of the Conservation Area stepping around the site boundary. The blank façade of the Market Hall on Princess Street currently offers little contribution, however there is an opportunity to improve the activation potential of the Market Hall as a means of enhancing both the building's significance and the setting of the adjacent Conservation Area.

3.6.5 - DEFINING CHARACTER OF THE AREA:

- Buildings of historic significance as key anchors for townscape heritage

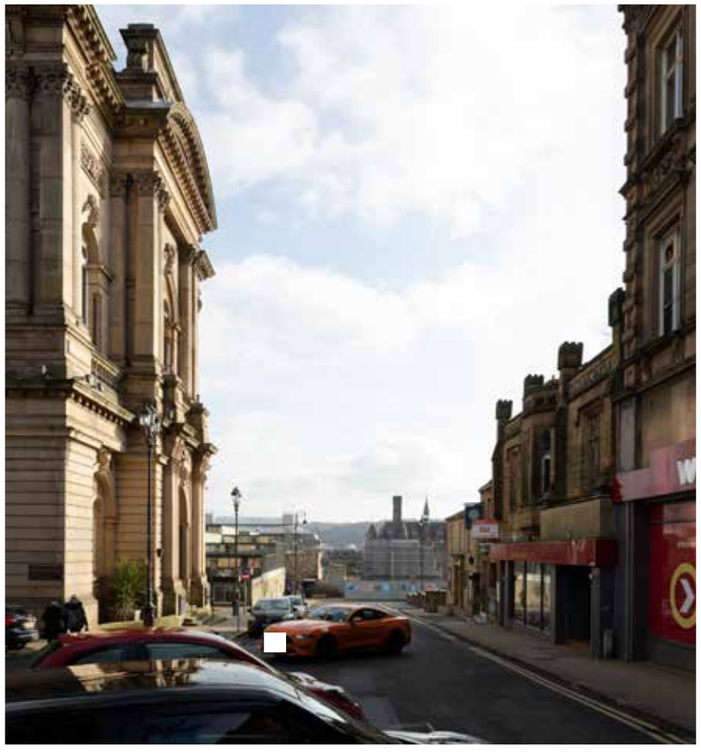
3.6.6 - NEGATIVE ELEMENTS:

- Truncation of Princess Street by the ring road and then Queensgate Market
- Open aspect opposite the Market

3.6.7 - OPPORTUNITIES:

- Improve the setting of the Market
- Improved activation of the streetscape
- Improved public realm

3.6.2.6 - View of the Market Hall building on the corner of Princess Street and Peel Street, looking north-east



3.6.2.7 - Town Hall (left) and former school building (right) on Princess Street

3.7 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 7 – TOWN HALL, PEEL STREET, RAMSDEN STREET and HIGH STREET

3.7.0 Asset Group 7 – TOWN HALL, PEEL STREET, RAMSDEN STREET and HIGH STREET

To the west of Queensgate Market, the Town Hall forms a narrow point in the Conservation Area where its boundary follows Peel Street and Corporation Street, avoiding the inclusion of 20th Century elements to the east and west. The boundary turns west and continues up the centre of Ramsden Street to include the Prudential Assurance Building at No.71 New Street and to the High Street to include the 'Commercial Hotel' and the Gothic Revival piece at No. 4 & 6 High Street.

Ramsden Street is aligned east-west, falling toward the east where it meets the landscape of the Queensgate development. This street was once a main route through the centre of Huddersfield but was curtailed by the 1970s development.

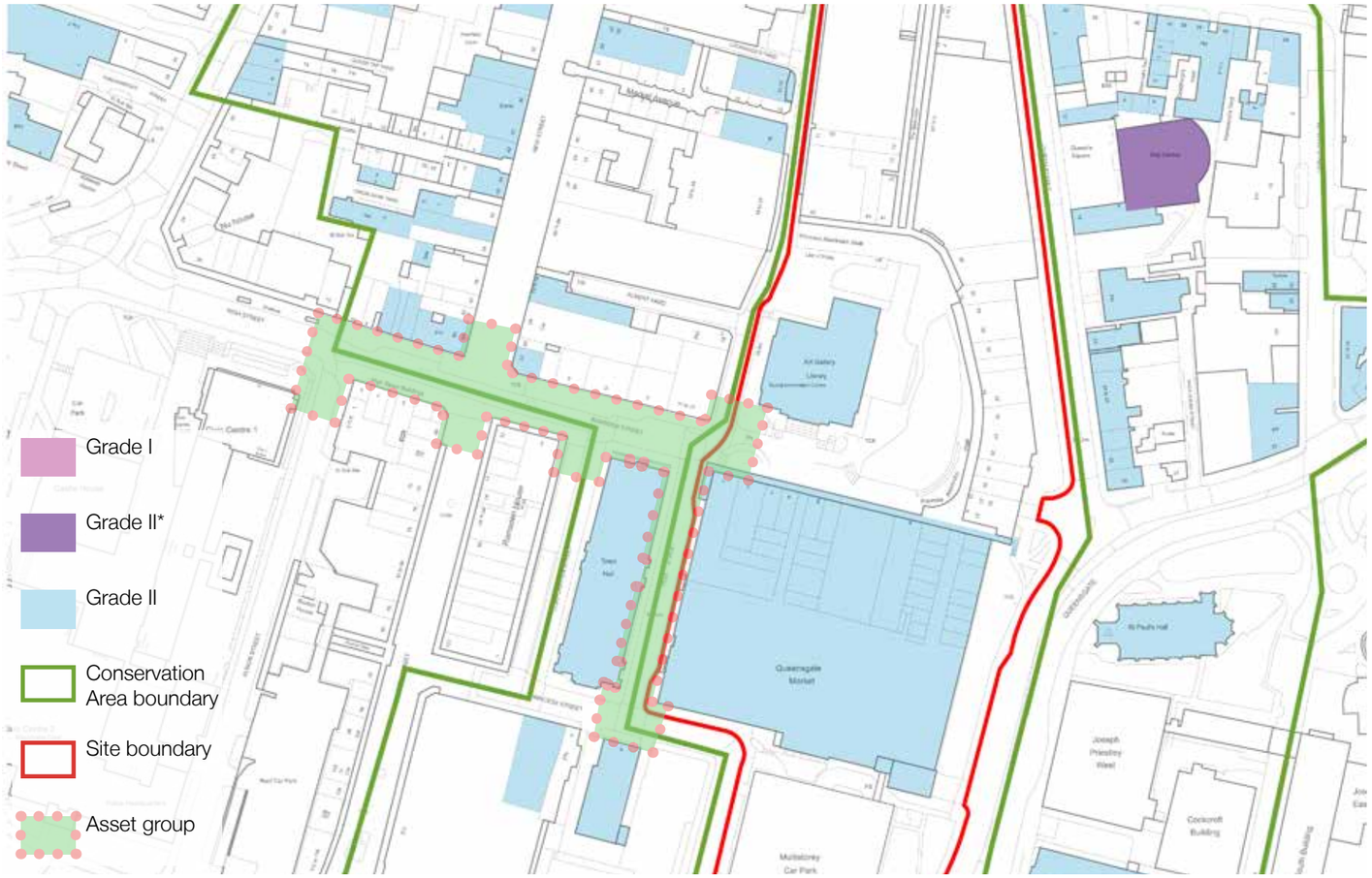


Fig. 3.7.0.1 - Zone of Asset Group 7 - Town Hall, Peel Street, Ramsden Street and High Street

3.7.1 - DESIGNATED ASSETS

Asset: Huddersfield Town Hall
Heritage Category: Listed Building – Lower part, 1875-6, taller part 1878-81. Architect of taller element J H Abbey.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1231723
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Peel Street (outside the curtilage of the Conservation Area)
Asset: Queensgate Market – subject of a separate detailed assessment
Heritage Category: Listed Building – 1969.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1391505
Date first listed: 04-Aug-2005

Ramsden Street
Asset: 71 New Street, Prudential Assurance Building
Heritage Category: Listed Building –1897-8, Architect Alfred Waterhouse. Red brick and moulded terracotta. Pink marble plinth. Pitched slate roof. 3 storeys and attic.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1228298
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

High Street
Asset: Commercial Hotel
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early C19, hammer dressed buff grit stone, two and three storeys with pitched slate roof.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1287239
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

3.7 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 7 – TOWN HALL, PEEL STREET, RAMSDEN STREET and HIGH STREET

Asset: 4 & 6 High Street
Heritage Category: Listed Building – mid C19, Ashlar, with alternating pink sandstone voussoirs and polished marble colonnettes. 2 storeys. 3 gables with blind triple arcades on each. 3 pairs pointed sashes with pointed relieving arches over each pair on 1st floor.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1134196
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

3.7.2 - APPRAISAL

The focus of this asset group appraisal is concerned with the setting of the Conservation Area where its boundary steps around the Town Hall.

The Town Hall represents the height of Victorian civic architecture for the second part of the 19th Century in Huddersfield. It was built to address Ramsden Street to the north and Princess Street to the south. At each of these aspects, the Town Hall formally addresses the street, and there are several additional entrances into the building from Corporation Street. It once stood in close proximity to buildings of similar character such as the former Police Station (site of the current day Market Hall), Theatre Royal (site of the Piazza) and the Congregational Chapel (site of the 1939 Library). Further up Ramsden Street and into the High Street, the surviving Prudential Assurance Building (1898) and Nos. 4 & 6 High Street (mid C19) compliment the Victorian listed buildings.

The Town Hall address Ramsden Street to the north and Princess Street to the south. The north entrance is no longer in general use. There are several entrances into the building from Corporation Street. Here the building ground floor aligns with the street level. From Peel Street, the floor levels do not align with the street. There are two doorways which appear unused and may not offer practical access. This east façade sits above the street level, the raised position appearing more pronounced due to the loss of almost all of its iron railings which provided a human scale at the pavement edge.

3.7.2.1 - East entrance of the Town Hall, Ramsden Street

3.7.2.2 - Prudential Assurance Building, 71 New Street

3.7.2.3 - No. 4-6 High Street

3.7 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 7 – TOWN HALL, PEEL STREET, RAMSDEN STREET and HIGH STREET

Beyond the boundary of the Conservation Area the streetscape has been redeveloped. From the east, the much lower but listed Queensgate Market Hall appears exceptionally low in contrast to the Town Hall which towers over it. To the west, the low-rise Phase One Murrayfield development (part of the Queensgate masterplan) is uphill from the Town Hall, its mass rising two storeys and appearing to be of a complimentary scale. Stepping further back from Ramsden Street, there is a five storey office block opposite the Town Hall. As with many aspects of the Conservation Area's setting, these contrasting architectural elements occur in close proximity and characterise this asset group generally, despite some 20th Century elements being outside of the Conservation Area's boundary and others within.

Further up Ramsden Street and into High Street the Victorian buildings serve to preserve an essence of the largely lost townscape. This area is still punctuated by 20th Century buildings, such as the seven storey office over retail at No.5 Ramsden Street (circa 1970 / 23m) within the Conservation Area and the four storey 'High Street Buildings' block of office over retail (1929) at 1-9 High Street, outside of the Conservation Area. As with other parts of the Conservation Area, the early 20th Century buildings add to its character whilst the mid and late-20th Century buildings usually detract due to their change in scale to that of the setting, their use of materials and their aesthetics which break the continuity of the townscape.

3.7.3 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE ASSET GROUP TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The boundary of the Conservation Area as it exists within this asset group is constrained, making this group most specifically about the buildings that fall within it rather than the surrounding streetscape. Nonetheless there is opportunity to comment on both in order that improvements may be achieved.

From this Assessment it is apparent that whilst the architectural aesthetic varies in places without impact to the Conservation Area, the imposition of jarring scale and massing and the application of poorly articulated façades serves to harm the continuity of the Conservation Area.

The layout of the High Street continuing into Ramsden Street is broadly unchanged from the Victorian period. The exception is the termination of Ramsden Street as a through-route at the east end, at the junction with the site. There has additionally been a shift in the hierarchies of streets branching from the High Street, most notably the pedestrianisation of Buxton Road (now New Street). The Commercial Hotel, No. 4-6 High Street and the Prudential Building lie on the north side of the High Street and provide a positive edge to the Conservation Area. However these layout changes noted previously, alongside the mid 20th Century complex of civic buildings and the New

3.7.2.4. - Ramsden Street looking west from Princess Alexandra Walk

3.7.2.5 - Peel Street looking north

3.7.2.6 - Ramsden Street looking east

3.7 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 7 – TOWN HALL, PEEL STREET, RAMSDEN STREET and HIGH STREET

Street shopping precinct to the south, compromise its setting.

The Town Hall on Peel Street holds historic, aesthetic and communal value, and contributes to both the historic and architectural interest of the Conservation Area. Despite these positive characteristics, a disconnect between the building's ground floor level and the street level on Princess Street means there is little activity along its west-facing aspect.

3.7.4 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE SITE TO THE SETTING OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The run of retail units with blank frontages along Peel Street mark a poor interface between the Market Hall and the public realm. An entrance to the Market is provided on this aspect but this functions as a minor approach route and therefore attracts limited footfall. This edge condition to the site holds no aesthetic value and compounds the lack of activity along Peel Street, which is detrimental to the setting of the Conservation Area.

3.7.5 - DEFINING CHARACTER OF THE AREA:

- primary significance for the presence of the Town Hall
- secondary significance present in the other Victorian buildings that line the north of the street.
- retail frontages activate streetscape

3.7.6 - NEGATIVE ELEMENTS:

- The loss of the railings to the Town Hall, causing harm to its aesthetic and impact on the quality of the streetscape along the west side of Peel Street.
- Harm is caused to the Conservation Area by the presence of the seven-storey office block at No. 5 Ramsden Street.

3.7.7 - OPPORTUNITIES:

- Queensgate Market to respond to the setting of the Town Hall
- seek greater activation of the streetscape
- enhance the engagement of the Town Hall as a means of activating Peel Street

3.7.2.7 - Ramsden House with 'Development of the Woollen Industry' mosaic (1967), Ramsden Street

3.7.2.8 - Ramsden Street looking east

3.8 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 8 – VICTORIA LANE

3.8.0 Asset Group 8 – VICTORIA LANE

Victoria Lane runs on a north-south axis and defines the west edge of the site. The Conservation Area boundary follows the centreline of the Lane with all to the west within the Area and the Queensgate development to the east excluded. Victoria Lane commences at the bottom of Ramsden Street and extends north to King Street. The asset group includes Albert Yard, Market Avenue and Lockwoods Yard, which branch off of Victoria Lane.

3.8.1 - DESIGNATED ASSETS

Within the Conservation Area:

Asset: Huddersfield Library and Art Gallery (subject of a separate detailed Assessment of Significance)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – 1937. Architect E.H. Ashburner.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1391504
Date first listed: 04-Aug-2005

Outside the Conservation Area:

Asset: 16 and 16a Victoria Lane (12, 14 and 16 Market Avenue)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early or mid C19, ashlar. Hipped slate roof. 3 storeys. Moulded eaves cornice (modillioned to Market Avenue). Blocking course. 3 ranges of windows, some with glazing bars; 7 range of windows and one of loading doors to Market Avenue.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1223532
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

Fig 3.8.0.1 - Zone of Asset Group 8 - Victoria Lane

Asset: 14 Victoria Lane (12, 14 and 16 Market Avenue)
Heritage Category: Listed Building – early or mid C19, Ashlar. Hipped slate roof. 3 storeys. Moulded eaves cornice. Blocking course. 3 ranges of sashes with glazing bars. Rounded corner to Lockwood's Yard.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1223799
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978

3.8 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 8 – VICTORIA LANE

3.8.2 - APPRAISAL

Victoria Lane and much of the urban fabric to its west reflects the historic grain of the town. The historic activity in this area included manufacturing and merchants as well as public houses and hotels.

From the bottom of Ramsden Street, Victoria Lane offers a view past the 1939 Library and Art Gallery and on past the Piazza. To the west, there is a combination of Regency and Victorian buildings as well as more recent late-20th Century additions. Toward King Street, there is a gap in the streetscape where the plot at the rear of No.18 King Street is open. Here, a Victorian doorway with 'Devonshire Chambers' remains as a retained fragment absorbed into the redeveloped building.

Further south, the east aspect is open to the Library, which appears monolithic in it setting. Along Victoria Lane, the buildings retain a common scale up to three storeys. The late 20th Century addition set between Albert Yard and No.16 Victoria Lane is of retail at ground floor with two storeys of offices above. The element of this building that addresses Albert Yard is largely blank, offering a severed façade onto Albert Yard, 'The Albert' public house and the open space to the east. This element houses an electric sub-station, fire escapes and the service spaces for the buildings beyond. The arrangement of this façade offers an unforgiving setting for the earlier Victorian architecture to the south, and exhibits the challenge of managing the backs of buildings in a tight urban grain.

The retail units to the south have a small glass canopy reminiscent of the late Victorian buildings that were demolished by 1960. This canopy projects from the façade with no clear articulation to the building above, serving to create an awkward aesthetic. Buildings opposite the Piazza are two storey with an aesthetic as described on King Street.

Market Avenue replaces the earlier 'Greenwood's Yard' visible on the Goad plan of 1887. This provides a pedestrian link between Victoria Lane and New Street. Here the buildings are largely historic in scale and with a mixture of historic and modern fabric. A small glass-roofed street has been created to enclose small shop units.

Lockwoods Yard is a back alley. Here the backs of the buildings address this narrow pedestrian route with private and customer access into the buildings.

At the junction with King Street is No.18, the exceptionally poor mid-20th Century building built before the redevelopment of the Market.

3.8.2.1 - North façade of Library and Art Gallery

3.8.2.2 - 'Devonshire Chambers' entrance onto Victoria Lane

3.8.2.3 - Victoria Lane looking south from King Street

3.8 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 8 – VICTORIA LANE

3.8.3 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE ASSET GROUP TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The Victorian buildings on the west side of Victoria Lane hold historic value as representations of the historic manufacturing, trading and commercial tradition of Huddersfield. The remnant service yards of Market Avenue and Lockwoods Yard also echo this light industry typology that informed the historic streetscape. These elements contribute to the Conservation Area's special character. However, some areas such as the rear of No. 18 King Street present back-of-house aspects directly onto Victoria Lane, which impose a negative character to the edge condition of the Conservation Area.

3.8.4 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE SITE TO THE SETTING OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

As with other asset groups, the mid and late 20th Century aspects challenge the integration of these buildings, and in some instances impose a negative impact on their heritage setting.

The Piazza units incorporating Boots and other retail are representative of the continuation of trading activity that has historically existed in this area of the town. The units occupy a similar footprint to the Victorian Market Hall that came before it, and the array of shop fronts looking onto Victoria Lane also provides some positive enhancement by adding to the daytime activity of the streetscape. However, there are additionally numerous blank frontages which limit opportunities for engagement between the street and the site at this location. The Piazza building itself also holds no aesthetic value and detracts from the architectural interest of the Victorian-era buildings opposite that form the edge of the Conservation Area. The demotion of Victoria Street and Ramsden Street as former east-west routes intersecting the site has been detrimental to the historic street pattern. Within the site, the loss of these streets has resulted in a marked shift away from the Victorian townscape layout that characterises the Conservation Area.

The Library building establishes a substantial presence within the asset group. It's external decorative treatment and specially commissioned public artworks by James Woodford are of high aesthetic value and help to enrich both the site's public realm and the setting of the Conservation Area. The expanse of hardstanding to the north of the Library and the building's north elevation are areas of unrealised potential that could provide greater positive impact.

3.8.5 - DEFINING CHARACTER OF THE AREA:

- three and four storeys, stone built or faced
- medium scale retail units
- active street frontages in some areas
- active pedestrian thoroughfare

3.8.6 - NEGATIVE ELEMENTS:

- open aspect / back of house activity to the rear of No.18 King Street
- back of house elevation to north side of Albert Yard
- shop fronts that have been covered to impose an inactive presence on the street

3.8.7 - OPPORTUNITIES:

- improve the setting of the Victorian buildings
- disguise the presence of the inactive elements
- seek to create links into active pedestrian routes, specifically 'Market Avenue'.

3.8.2.4 - Stepped approach to Piazza from Victoria Lane

3.8.2.5 - Library and Art Gallery entrance onto Princess Alexandra Walk

3.8.2.6 - Victoria Lane looking north

3.9 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 9 – PUBLIC ARTWORK

3.9.0 Asset Group 9 – URBAN ARTWORK

Huddersfield has a tradition of public art. There are several locations throughout the Conservation Area where public art exhibits civic pride, and many works are recognised for their heritage significance through official designation.

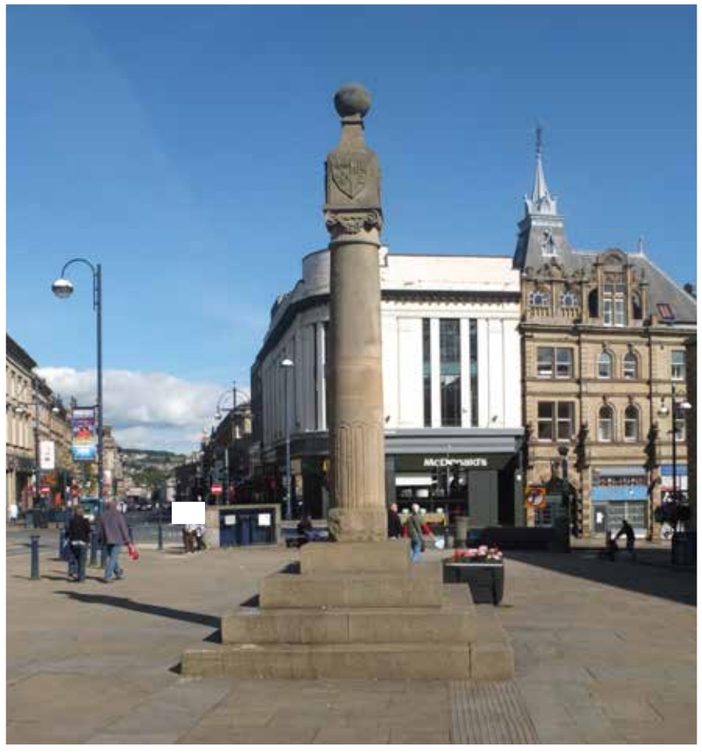
3.9.1 - DESIGNATED ASSETS (abridged list)

Asset: Market Cross, Market Place
Heritage Category: Listing - 1671. Erected by Sir John Ramsden, 1st Baronet, when he was granted a Royal Charter to hold a market on this site.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1313548
Date first listed: 03-March-1952

Asset: Queensgate Market – 'Articulation in Movement' ten large ceramic panels and 'Commerce' metal sculpture of figures, both 1969, sculptor Fritz Steller (Specifically identified as part of the Queensgate Market listing description)
Heritage Category: Listing
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1391505
Date first listed: 04-Aug-2005

Asset: Library and Art Gallery – Sculptures and Frieze – Two freestanding statues in classical style with modernist influences flanking the entrance steps representing Spirit of Literature and Spirit of Ark. Sculptor James Woodford 1939 (Specifically identified as part of the Library and Art Gallery listing description)
Heritage Category: Listing
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1391504
Date first listed: 04-Aug-2005

Asset: Huddersfield Town Hall – key stones with the depictions of Matthew Hale, Friedrich Handel, William Hogarth, Isaac Newton, William Shakespeare and James Watt. Sculptor Thomas Stocks 1881.
Heritage Category: Listed Building – taller part 1878-81. Architect of taller element J H Abbey.
Grade: II
List Entry Number: 1231723
Date first listed: 29-Sept-1978



3.9.2.1 - Market Cross, c.1671

3.9.2.2 - 'Articulation in Movement', Fritz Steller, 1969

3.9.2.3 - 'Spirit of Literature', James Woodford, 1939

3.9 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 9 – PUBLIC ARTWORK

Asset: North elevation of Phase One of the Murrayfield Development, Ramsden Street – Frieze mosaic 'Development of the Woollen Industry' 1967, Designed by Harold Blackburn, Mosaicist, Professor Lavagno.

Asset: Prudential Assurance, 'Prudentia' statue in terracotta matching the building fabric. Sculptor, Birnie Rhind 1898.

Asset: Harold Wilson, bronze statue 1999, sculptor Ian Walters.

Asset: 101 New Street, frieze mosaic, 'Facets of the Local Scene' 1967.

Asset: Buxton House Mosaic, abstract composition 'Systematic Sequence in Line and Shade' artist Richard Fletcher 1969.

3.9.2 - APPRAISAL

Much of the artwork is part of the architecture of Huddersfield. There is a tradition of building sculpture from the late Victorian period onward. The list here is an indication of the scope of carved stone sculpture and cast sculpture present in the town. Works between 1940-1968 are more frugal in form and execution necessitated by the limitation of funding at the time. The works are typically by known artists, serving to indicate the importance of art in the design of the buildings, with a number having held associations with the town's local art college. Sculpture such as the listed Market Cross and the 1999 bonze of Harold Wilson are rare in comparison to sculpted elements of the architecture.

3.9.3 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE ASSET GROUP TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The urban artworks that inform this asset group are distributed throughout the town centre, with many located in the Conservation Area. All of those highlighted in the asset group are recognised for their aesthetic value drawing from various periods and styles, which thus enhance the visual quality, variety and character of the Conservation Area. The representation of notable local figures through sculpture, as well as scenes depicting historic and social events using mosaics, capture notions of local communal value that lend to the special character of the Conservation Area. They are also an important part of the cultural expression of the town. Artworks of historic value such as the Market Cross and the sculpted keystones of the Town Hall contribute toward its architectural interest.

3.9.4 - CONTRIBUTION OF THE SITE TO THE SETTING OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The pre-eminence of artworks within the site is an extension of this wider civic approach that embraces cultural expression through public art. The Fritz Stellar ceramics on Queensgate and the James Woodford sculptures framing the Library entrance occupy prominent positions. All hold high aesthetic and historic value, drawn from both their visual quality and as original elements of their respective building designs. As a result, the artworks positively inform the experience of the public realm and the setting of the Conservation Area.

3.9.2.4 - Carved key stone to Town Hall, Thomas Stooks, c.1881

3.9.2.5 - Fritz Stellar's 'Commerce', 1969

3.9.2.6 - Mosaic - 'Development of the Woollen Industry', 1967

3.10 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Summary of Significance Informing the Site Setting

3.10.0 - SITE SETTING AND CONTRIBUTION TO THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE CONSERVATION AREA

The south region of the Huddersfield Town Centre Conservation Area which has been shown to inform the setting of the site on its west, north and east boundaries, cannot be simply described. The irregular form of the Conservation Area and the overwhelming impact of piecemeal urban development in Huddersfield since the mid-20th Century has served to redefine many historic streets and buildings in the town that lie both within and adjacent to its boundary.

Its edge condition in proximity to the site is characterised by listed buildings of the Regency and Victorian period. The historic street patterns that pre-date the mid-20th Century developments provide the most suitable setting to the buildings of these periods. There are additionally a small number of early and mid-20th Century buildings of heritage value. Together, these elements inform the historic and architectural interest of the Conservation Area, which contribute toward its significance.

The formation of the ring road in the 1960s and the subsequent larger scale development that shaped the site's layout and form today resulted in a loss of historic urban grain. This has negatively impacted the setting of the Conservation Area as well as the historic buildings that inform its boundary.

- High Significance
- Medium Significance
- Low Significance
- Negative Significance

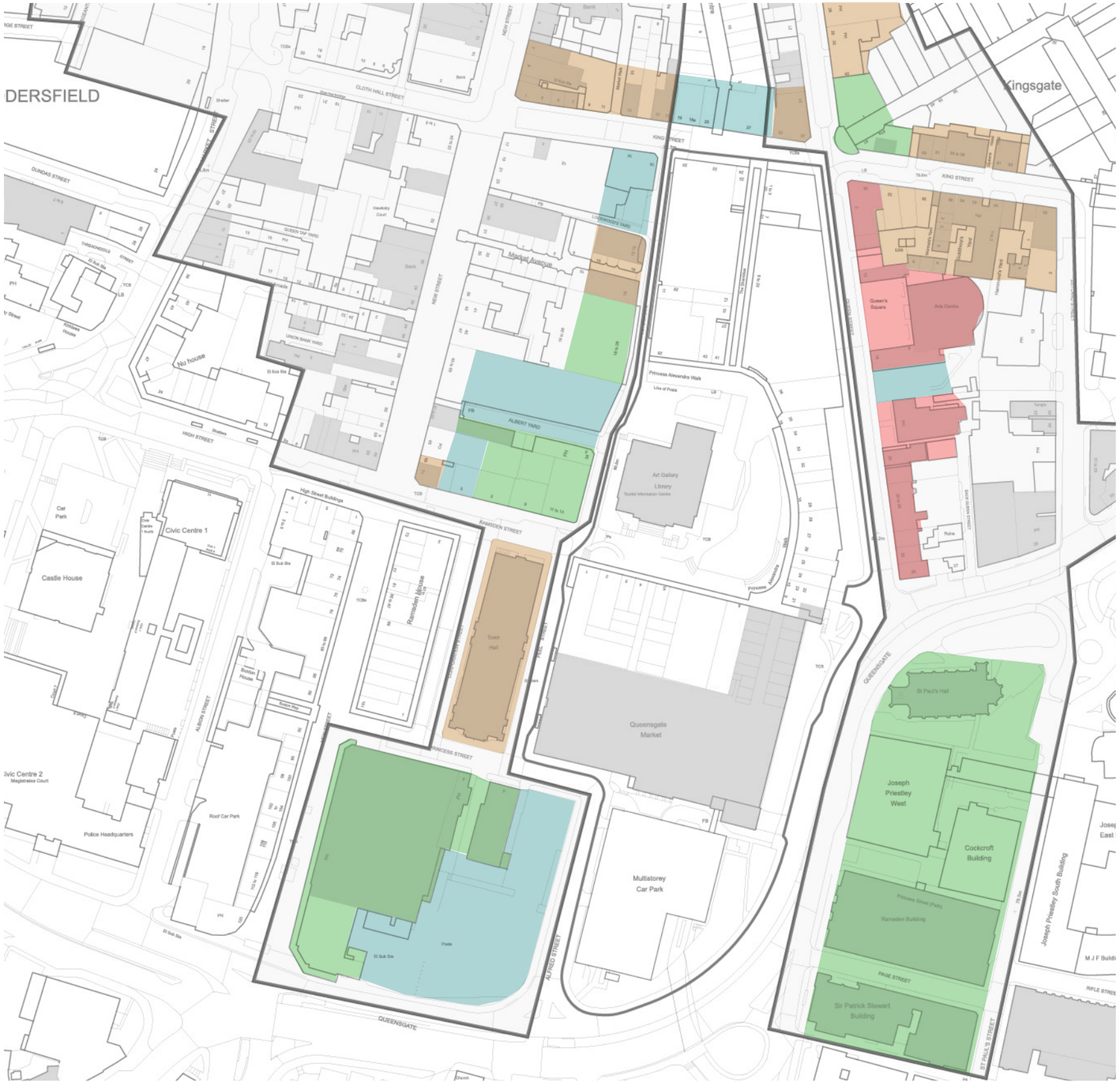


Fig. 3.10.0.1 - Appraisal of heritage significance addressing the site's Conservation Area setting

3.10 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Summary of Significance Informing the Site Setting

3.10.1 - HIERARCHY OF SETTING SIGNIFICANCE

TThe site's setting formed by the Conservation Area is not uniform in its character, integrity or significance. The descriptions in this section summarise its edge condition based on the Assessment. It describes how the character of the Conservation Area along these edges contributes to the significance of the Conservation Area as a whole, and identifies opportunities where these aspects can enhance the setting of the site itself.

East, north extent – Queen Street is to the east of the site. This area holds high significance for the Conservation Area due to the presence of the Regency terrace, former Crown Court and former Wesleyan Methodist Chapel and Queen's Square. These elements also offer the potential for a restorative approach to address the negative impact imposed by the 1970-4 Piazza development and make a positive contribution to the site setting.

East, south extent – Here, the Queensgate ring road divides the east leg of the Conservation Area from the site. This aspect of the Conservation Area has low significance due to its isolated aspect. The ring road also imposes a negative impact on the setting of the listed buildings that form its edge.

West, south extent – Alfred Street and Princess Street define the lower west extent of the Conservation Area. Here, the historic buildings turn their backs on Queensgate, and the open car park leave this aspect of the Area unresolved. This edge condition makes a negative contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area.

West, Peel Street – The Town Hall is an important element of the Victorian townscape, although it is now detached from its historic setting. This aspect of the Conservation Area has medium significance due to the presence of this important civic building. The lack of cohesion in the urban grain arising from poor quality mid and late-20th Century elements limits the potential for making a greater contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area.

North – King Street makes a limited contribution to the significance of the Conservation Area. This is due the form of the buildings along the site's edge in this location, as well as the proximity of the Packhorse Shopping Centre, which is bookended by two Victorian Grade II listed buildings and interrupts the continuity of the Conservation Area boundary.

South – The Queensgate ring road continues around and up the hill to Castlegate. This aspect is outside of the Conservation Area.

West, Victoria Lane - This lane of Victorian and mid to late-20th Century buildings is also characterised by the historic yards that link through to New Street. Despite these yards holding historic value, these back-of-house aspects of Victoria Lane mean it has limited potential to serve as a more important connection such as that demonstrated by Queen Street, King Street, High Street and Cloth Hall Street. As a result, it holds low significance for the Conservation Area.

3.10.2 - SUMMARY OF OPPORTUNITIES

The following observations are made in consideration of the special character of the Conservation Area that informs the site and with reference to those elements of the site that either harm the Conservation Area setting or require careful consideration:

- The preservation and reinstatement of the historic street pattern
- Responding to the scale of the late Victorian and early 20th Century buildings
- Forming new edges to better present the unresolved / back-of-house aspects of the town
- Recognise the importance of the architectural articulation of the building massing and their façades
- Seek to improve the setting of key historic buildings
- Recognise the importance of public art as part of the built environment, particularly the permanence of sculptural forms

3.11 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Images and Figures

IMAGES and FIGURES

All images and figures by Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios unless noted below:

3.1 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 1 – KING STREET & CLOTH HALL STREET

3.1.2.4 - No. 17 and No. 21 New Street, c.1920s - Walter E Turton, Kirklees Image Archive (ref: k019904)

3.1.2.6 - 9 King Street, c.1930s - Tolson Memorial Museum Collection, Kirklees Image Archive (ref: k021638)

3.1.2.10 - Victorian Market Hall, c.1960s - Huddersfield Civic Society

3.1.2.11 - Jaggar Report, 1933 - Kirklees Archive

3.2 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 2 – CROSS CHURCH STREET

3.2.2.2 - No. 30 & 32 Cross Church Street, c.1900 - HLSLC, Kirklees Image Archive (ref: k024369)

3.2.2.3 - No. 23 & 21 Cross Church Street - Historic England Image Archive

3.2.2.5 - Cross Church Street, c1960s - HLSLC, Kirklees Image Archive (ref: k025153)

3.3 - ASSESSMENT OF SETTING: Asset Group 3 – QUEEN STREET

3.3.2.6 - Hotel and Hippodrome, c.1890s - Huddersfield Civic Society

image - title, year - artist - accessed via

*HLSLC = Huddersfield Local Studies Library Collection

Feilden
Clegg
Bradley
Studios

Feilden Clegg Bradley Studios LLP

BATH
Bath Brewery
Toll Bridge Road
Bath BA1 7DE
T +44 (0)1225 852545

LONDON
Twenty
Tottenham Street
London W1T 4RG
T +44 (0)20 7323 5737

BELFAST
5 Commercial Court
Belfast
BT1 2NB
T +44 (0)28 9099 2760

MANCHESTER
Carver's Warehouse
Lower Ground Floor
77 Dale Street
Manchester M1 2HG
T +44 (0)161 883 2544

EDINBURGH
Studio 2
15a Calton Road
Edinburgh
EH8 8DL
T +44 131 285 7370

Job No: 2069