

11 Hyde

The Northern Suburb

11.1 Historical development



This is a distinctive area to the north of the walled city, bounded to the west by Worthy Lane and to the east by a recreation ground first laid out in the late 19th century. It is connected to Winchester by Hyde Street (photo 2), a route dating back to the Iron Age, which has remained an important defining element of the area to the present day. During the Roman period, the area was used as a burial ground due to its position just outside the City walls. Hyde Abbey, from which the area takes its name, was founded in AD 1110 on a site east of Hyde Street. It was destroyed in 1538 during the Dissolution of the Monasteries, although its northern gatehouse remains on King Alfred Place (photo 6).



Some of the materials from the ruined abbey were incorporated into the earlier medieval church of St Bartholomew (used in the construction of St Barnabas' church), which is situated north of the abbey site, although just off the main street. Residential development and some industry moved into the south of the area and began to change the rural nature of the area and physically connect the abbey site with the City itself. With the further growth of residential development, particularly the Victorian suburbs to the north, the junction of King Alfred Place and Hyde Street has become a minor centre of local services. Hyde remains a distinctive village community within the larger city.

11.2 Building uses

The area is predominantly residential, consisting mainly of houses of varying sizes. There are also blocks of flats, particularly in the south, where there has also been extensive office development. There is a cluster of local services along the central stretch of Hyde Street, including a newsagent, parish hall and pub. A language school occupies a building at the top of the road.

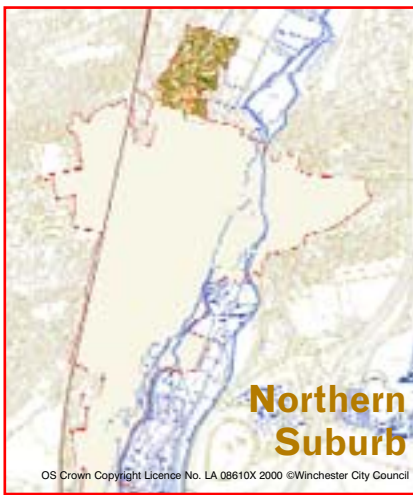


Just outside the boundaries of the area, there is a leisure centre to the east, and extensive car parking to the west on the site of the former cattle market. Residential development continues along Worthy Road to the north.

11.3 Building character

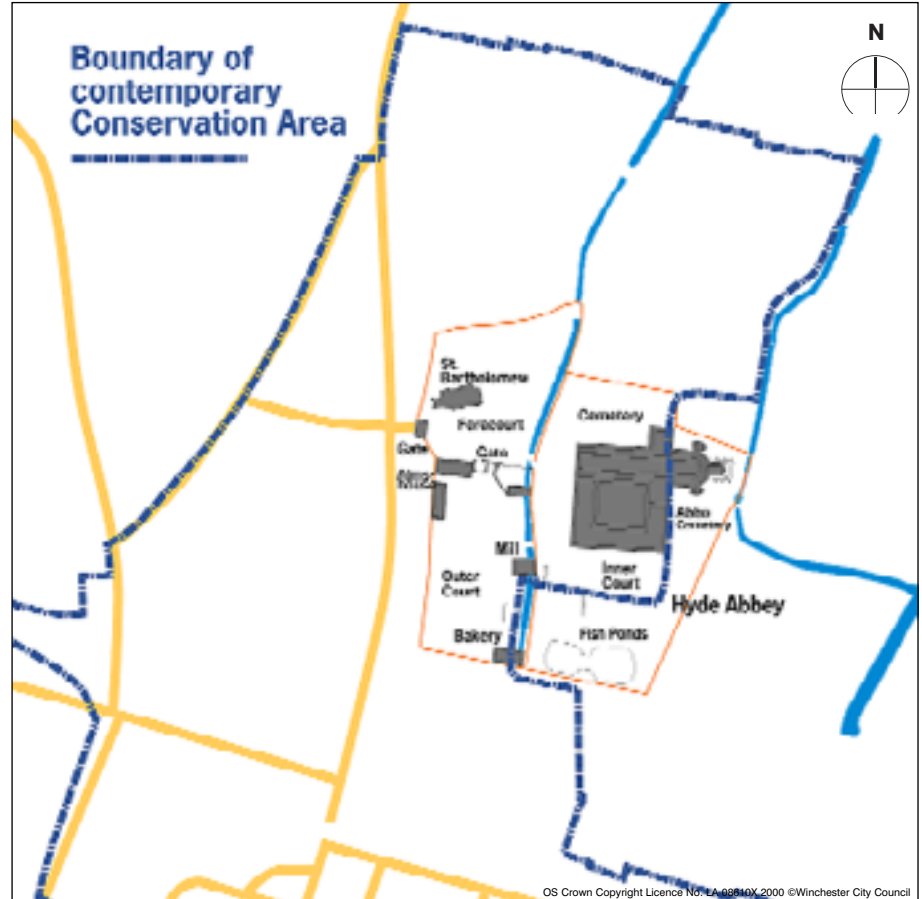
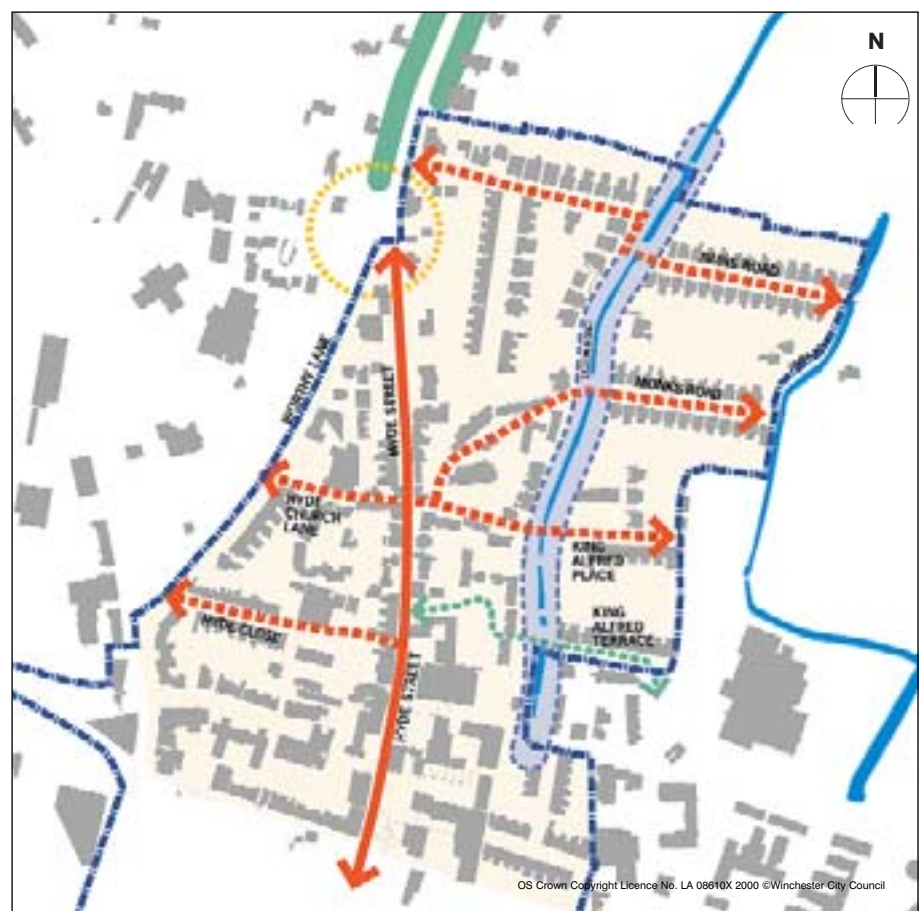
Terraces with well defined boundaries and traditional railings and gates demonstrate a uniformity within streets. The generous standardised road and path layout of the Victorian/ Edwardian grand suburbs and the subtle but highly effective changes in architectural detail, treatments and use of materials, help define a hierarchy within the street pattern.

There is a wide variety of building characters in the area, but there are certain unifying features. Most buildings are 2 to 3 storeys high and predominantly of load-bearing brick construction. The Victorian suburbs to the north and east consist of a variety of terraces and semi-detached villas, those in Saxon Road (photo 5), with generous back gardens and usually with high-quality brickwork and canted two-storey bay windows. The characteristic features of Worthy Lane and King Alfred Terrace (photo 10), on the western and eastern edges of the area, include square bay windows at ground level and open front gardens. In the south of the area, narrow terraced houses exist alongside several small industrial buildings and newer developments of residential flats. The unique character of Hyde Close (photo 12) derives from the high quality of the flint and brick walls, the lack of roof extensions, the narrow width and low storey heights of the houses, and the planting in the small front gardens.



-  Main routes
-  Other important routes
-  Pedestrian links
-  Local Centres

Top: Urban structure
Bottom: Historical development of Hyde—16th century



11.4 Public realm

For the most part, it is the area's streets which define the public realm (photo 11). They are very intimate in character due to their width, the scale of the buildings and the acoustics of the stone walls. The lower and middle stretches of Hyde Street (photos 1 & 2) have narrow pavements and a firm building edge, with sideways views to narrower lanes and courtyards. In the north, the streets are slightly wider and more suburban in feel, but the proximity of the buildings to the street preserves some of the intimate character. Flint and brick walls are a feature of frontages throughout the area. The grassy surroundings to the remains of the 14th century Hyde Abbey gatehouse (photo 6) extend down to and along the river. The open green space running alongside the river, surrounded by trees and the remains of the abbey, make an enjoyable route for pedestrians (photo 4). Views, sounds and smells successfully complement the adjacent narrow streetscape.



11.5 Natural features and topography

The area as a whole rises to the north-west, and gentle slopes can be perceived along roads in many locations in the area. Occasional trees form an important part of the streetscape in the south of the area, and areas of mature trees contribute greatly to the routes alongside the river (photo 4). In the Victorian suburb, front garden planting helps to soften the long, unbroken terraces.



11.6 Views

A significant feature of the northern suburbs is the continual perception of the surrounding countryside, as the linearity of the streets creates long views to the trees and hills outside the City's extent (photo 10). In addition to these, there are several important local views, particularly along Hyde Street and to St Barnabas church (photo 7).



11.7 Neutral and Negative features

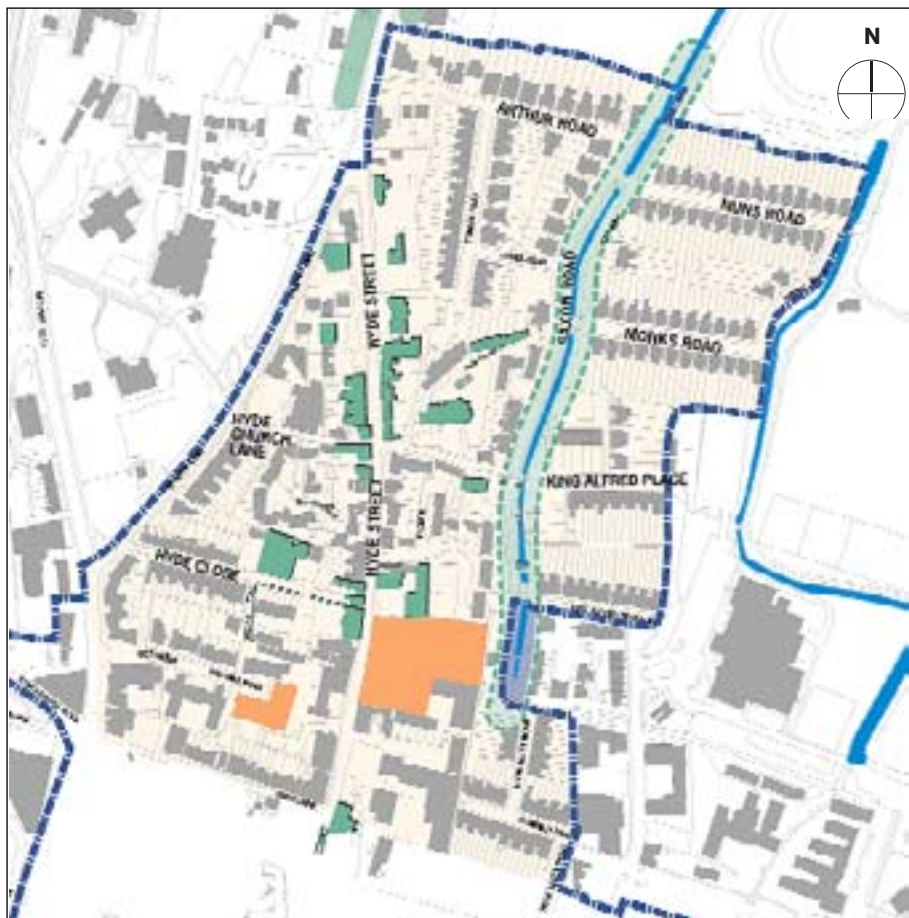
The former garage and showroom to the east side of Hyde Street represent an expansive use of space which does not contribute to the character of the area (photo 9). The workshops to the rear of the site which are sympathetic to the scale of the area, although not distinguished in detail are now under redevelopment. Most of the office and housing development in the south of the area is sympathetic in scale, apart from a large raised multi-storey block with parking at ground level underneath and the houses in Hyde Gate which begin to overpower and detract from the setting of the Abbey gatehouse (photo 8).

A number of unlisted terrace houses have suffered unsympathetic alterations which threaten their uniformity of character—modern replacement windows and doors, insertion of skylights on front elevations and even removal of boundary treatments.




11.8 Potential for enhancement

The redevelopment of the disused garage site, should help to create a more consistent streetscape along the length of Hyde Street (photo 9). Any rebuilding should restore elements of street frontage and respect the characteristic grain of narrow streets and courtyards.

The design of the housing, roads and spaces in Hyde Gate could be redeveloped in a way which is more sympathetic to the physical qualities and historical importance of the 14th century Abbey gatehouse (photo 6). The architectural form and detail should defer to the gateway, and the quality of the public realm should reflect the memory of the Abbey.



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-  Listed Buildings
-  Negative or neutral feature
-  Areas requiring additional protection



Above: Environmental assets diagram