

# Conservation Area



## Lochee Conservation Area Appraisal



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## 1.1 Definition of a Conservation Area

The definition of a Conservation Area is contained within Section 61 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Scotland) Act 1997 as; "An area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance".

The Act makes provision for the designation of Conservation Areas and planning authorities are required to determine which parts of their locale merit Conservation Area status. Dundee currently has 16 Conservation Areas, all of which have their own distinct character which should be preserved or enhanced.

## 1.2 The Meaning of Conservation Area Status

A Conservation Area is an area that holds special architectural or historic interest that are considered worthy of protection. It is the buildings and the spaces between them that are of architectural or historic interest to the individual character of the area.

A conservation area status is not intended to inhibit development, but to rather facilitate and support development that preserves or enhances the special character and appearance of the area. Conservation Area designations limit permitted development rights in order to further protect the character and appearance of the area.

"An area of special architectural or historic interest, the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance"



## 1.3 The Purpose of a Conservation Area Appraisal



*Roofline Of Old Muirton Rd*



*St Marys RC Church*



*Converted Mill*

A Conservation Area is dynamic and constantly evolving. Therefore it is essential to review and analyse its character on a continuous basis. The purpose of a conservation area appraisal is to define what is important about the area's character and appearance in order to identify the most important characteristics and special features.

The overarching aim of this appraisal is to draw out the elements that contribute to the 'character' of the Conservation Area which is proposed for Lochee. This is the first step in the active management of the Lochee Conservation Area. The character appraisal of the Lochee Conservation Area includes guidance and proposals to protect, enhance and manage change.

Part of the function of this appraisal will, in part, be to assist the City Council when carrying out its statutory planning function. It will act as a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

'Development proposals in or affecting conservation areas will only be supported where the character and appearance of the conservation area and its setting is preserved or enhanced.

Relevant considerations include the:

- i. architectural and historic character of the area;
- ii. existing density, built form and layout; and
- iii. context and siting, quality of design and suitable materials.

Development proposals in conservation areas will ensure that existing natural and built features which contribute to the character of the conservation area and its setting, including structures, boundary walls, railings, trees and hedges, are retained

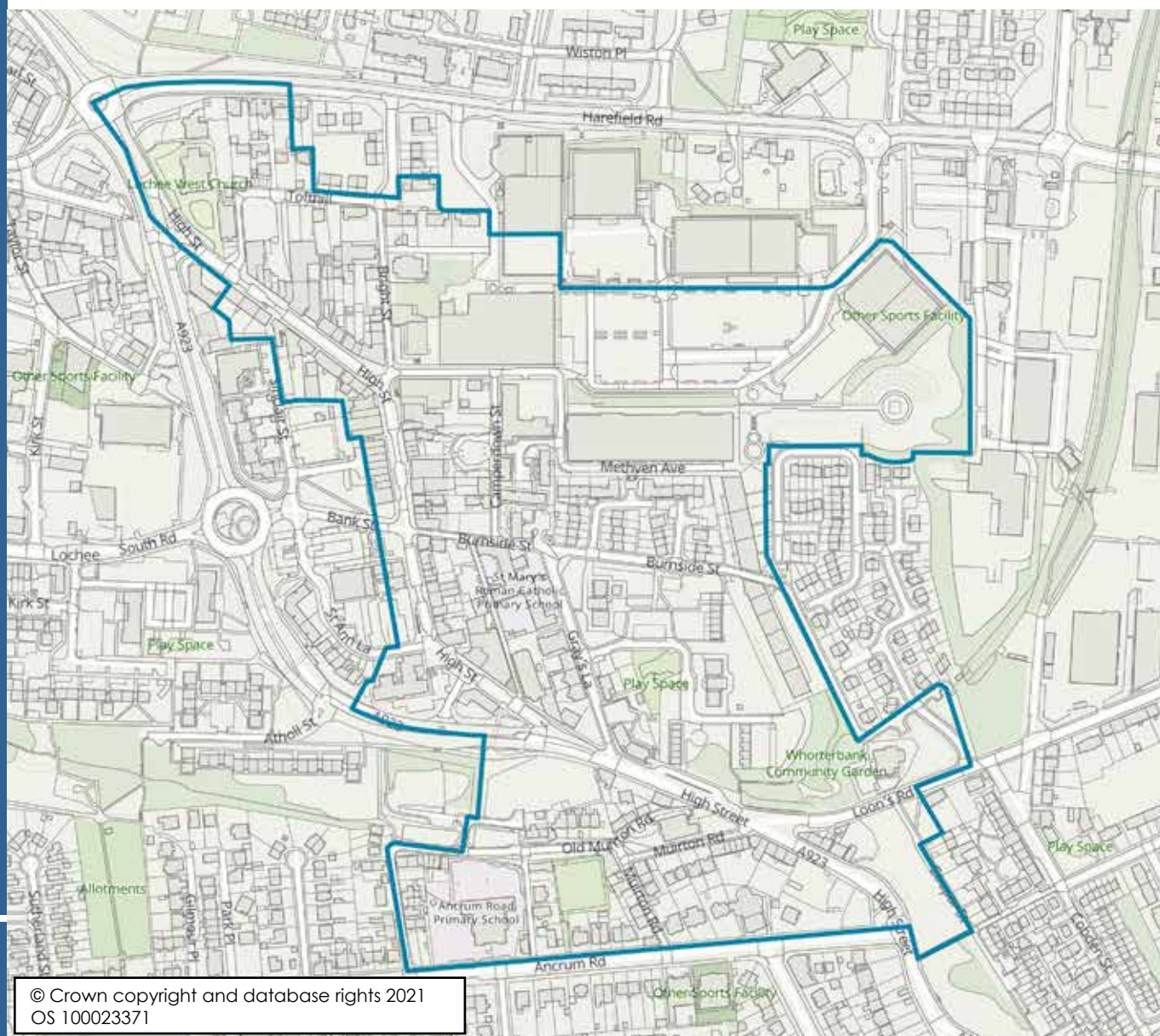
The guidance from the Scottish Government, contained within PAN 71 Conservation Area Management, highlights that 'conservation area designation alone will not secure the protection and enhancement of conservation areas. Active management is vital to ensure that change can be accommodated for the better.'

The purpose of a conservation area appraisal is to define what is important about the area's character and appearance in order to identify the most important characteristics and special features

## 2 Conservation Area Context

The current Lochee Conservation Area is located in the North West of Dundee and has been identified as an area with important historical value which it is desirable to preserve or enhance.

Below is a map of the current Conservation Area boundary. The northern most point of the boundary follows Harefield Road. To the west the boundary runs behind the frontage buildings of the western section of the High Street. The proposed Conservation Area boundary re-joins at Ancrum Road and returns north via Coupar Street towards the old Railway line and Stacks Park. The land surrounding Cox's Stack, and along Wellbank Lane forms the Eastern boundary of the proposed Conservation Area.



The current boundary not only includes the historic core of Lochee but anticipates major redevelopment as envisaged in the Lochee Physical and Regeneration Framework (LPRF), e.g. Weavers' Village, Highgate Centre, Stack and Whorterbank. It includes old Lochee and "new" Lochee, e.g. Ancrum Road and Harefield Road extensions and quality modern buildings e.g. Hillcrest at The Stack.



### 3.1 The History Of Lochee



*Camperdown Works*



*Camperdown Works in the 60's*



*Camperdown Works Clock Tower*

Lochee was first identified during the 12th century when the Parish lands of Liff were gifted to Scone Abbey by Alexander the First of Scotland and would later become part of the City of Dundee in the 19th Century. The name Lochee means 'eye of the Loch' which refers to Loch Balgay, the area in which the village was located. The village was located to the north of Balgay Hill and lies in the valley which was located east of Loch Balgay before it was drained in the 16th century.

The village was developed on a shallow slope which supplied views of Balgay Hill, the town of Dundee and beyond. Prior to the 18th century the area mainly consisted of the cottage industry as the land was dominated by fields, farmlands and cottages. Many were located beside the Lochee Burn and the road into Dundee and over time began to form the layout present today. The town started to greatly expand and develop during the 18th and 19th century due to the Industrial Revolution and the success and opportunities from Camperdown Works. Lochee has long been associated with the Cox family who were the pioneers of the areas, spinning, dyeing, bleaching and manufacturing of linen. The family have donated important facilities and buildings during the 19th century such as the public library, leisure centre and Lochee Park.

The first James Cox was born in 1676 and was the founder of the Cox family business as he had a background in bleaching through his family roots. By the time of his death in 1742 he had passed control to his son David. David Cox died in 1793 and passed on control to his son James. James Cox was known to be a man of much resource who managed to improve and expand the business despite the trading environment suffering from periods of stagnation. During his time he also co-founded the Dundee Banking Company alongside former MP and reformer George Dempster, and others in 1777. He later came into possession of almost 300 handlooms in which he either supervised or owned himself. On his death ownership of the family business passed to his son, the third James Cox of the family, in 1816 making it more adaptable to change and technology.

The name Lochee means 'eye of the Loch' which refers to Loch Balgay, the area in which the village was located



*Camperdown Works Gates*



*Former Lochee Railway Station*

However in 1819 the company was devastated by a large fire which closed production down for many years. Before the third James Cox died in 1848 he witnessed his four sons reinvent the business as Messers Cox Brothers in 1841 and reopened the old site. James Cox's sons all had expert knowledge in separate but relevant fields which aided them in producing a company which would grow into the largest jute factory in the world, including James (the fourth James Cox) (salesman), William (yarn expert), Thomas (finance and commercial affairs) and George (engineer).

The beginning of this new rebirth of the Cox family business coincided with the influx of Irish immigrants who had fled Ireland in the wake of the potato famine and many moved to Dundee and Lochee in particular in search of work. Camperdown Works were built from 1848-1864 and accommodating over 800 power looms and a workforce of over 5,000 employees. The works had boasted its private railway siding from a branch at Lochee Station, fire station, blacksmith's shop, boiler house foundry etc. This network of facilities enabled the Cox family to create the world's first "production line", certainly it was the only Dundee jute works where the whole process of delivering raw jute at one end and dispatching the finished product at the other was achieved on a single site.

The four brothers of Camperdown Works would later introduce their sons into the business but when the fathers relinquished control it was the end of the family's complete ownership of Camperdown Works. Camperdown Works eventually closed its doors for the last time in 1981.

The redevelopment of the former Camperdown Works site has seen a number of the historic buildings converted to a new use including a supermarket and residential developments. A number of the buildings have been demolished. However the new development has reused materials and design elements from the former industrial buildings, in particular the patterned brickwork of the Italianate campanile style chimney or "Cox's Stack".

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## 3.2 Character and Appearance

This section shall analyse the main elements that contribute to the character and appearance of the proposed Lochee Conservation Area. The proposed boundary for the Conservation Area has strong links with the industrial heritage of the area. In order to review and evaluate the importance of the historic and architectural character and appearance of the area, it has been divided into four distinct sections; High Street, Camperdown, North and South (see section 4).

The north and south areas are dominated by residential land uses; the High Street is characterised by ground floor retail with residential accommodation above; and the Camperdown section is the historic location of the former Camperdown Works, sections of which have been redeveloped for a mixture of uses.

## 3.3 Street Pattern

The street pattern of the proposed Lochee Conservation Area has retained the majority of its layout from early 19th century when the area became increasingly populated due to the growth of Camperdown Works. The primary transport corridor is the High Street with many secondary routes of varying width serving the area, by means of narrower streets and lanes. Other than High Street there is no clear hierarchy of streets within the area defined by the Lochee Bypass, Harefield Road and the Former railway line.

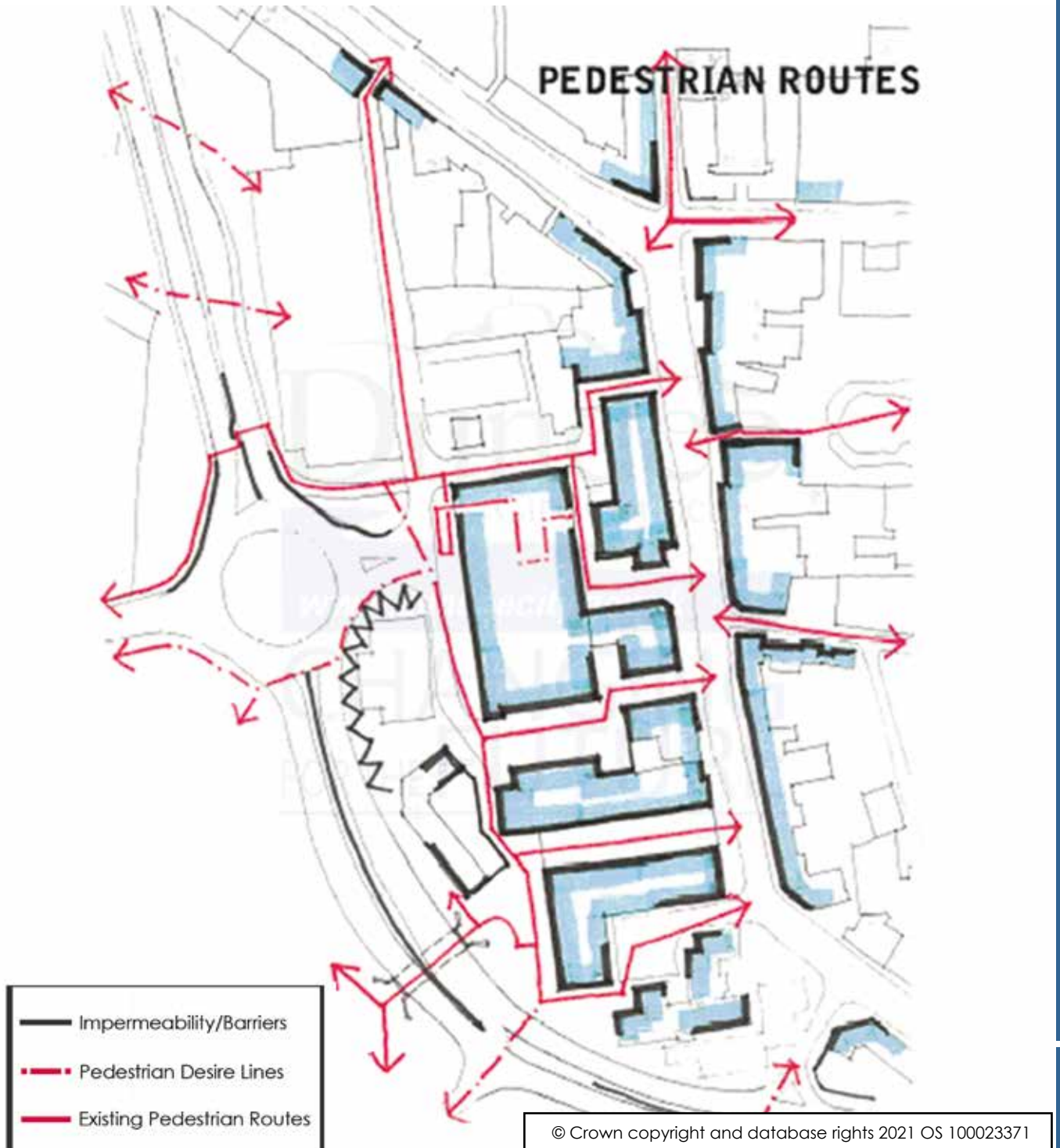
A number of areas within the proposed Conservation Area have retained their historic surface materials adding to the historic character of the area. An excellent example of the historic carriageway surface materials can be partially seen along Methven Street into Methven Walk. There is evidence that the historic material may be present below a surface layer of tarmac/asphalt etc.

The High Street, being the main vehicle flow has been subject to the implementation of various traffic controls. This consists of zebra crossings, traffic lights, sleeping policemen, speed bumps, pavement build outs and a roundabout.

The street pattern of the proposed Lochee Conservation Area has retained the majority of its layout from early 19th century when the area became increasingly populated due to the growth of Camperdown Works

These have been installed to address various particular issues but without any regard to other factors such as relationship to adjacent land use or other activities and certainly not to impact on the heritage townscape or floorscape.

The map below indicates movement patterns through the High Street and the issues presented to shoppers and pedestrians trying to cross the Bypass between shops and housing.





## 3.4 Listed Buildings



*Former Clydesdale Bank Building*



*Lochee Old Parish Church*



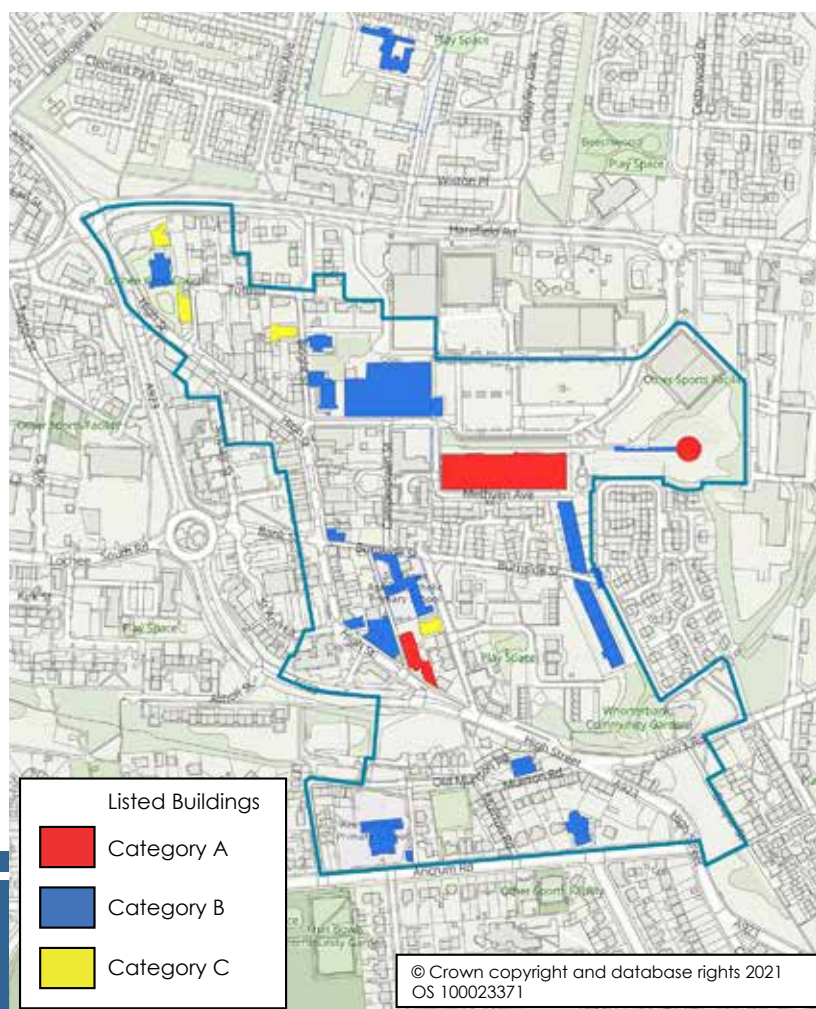
*Library and Swimming Baths*

The proposed Conservation Area contains a number of buildings which are listed by Historic Scotland for their special architectural or historic interest. The Minister with the responsibility for listing buildings 'of special architectural or historic interest' is the Minister for Communities.

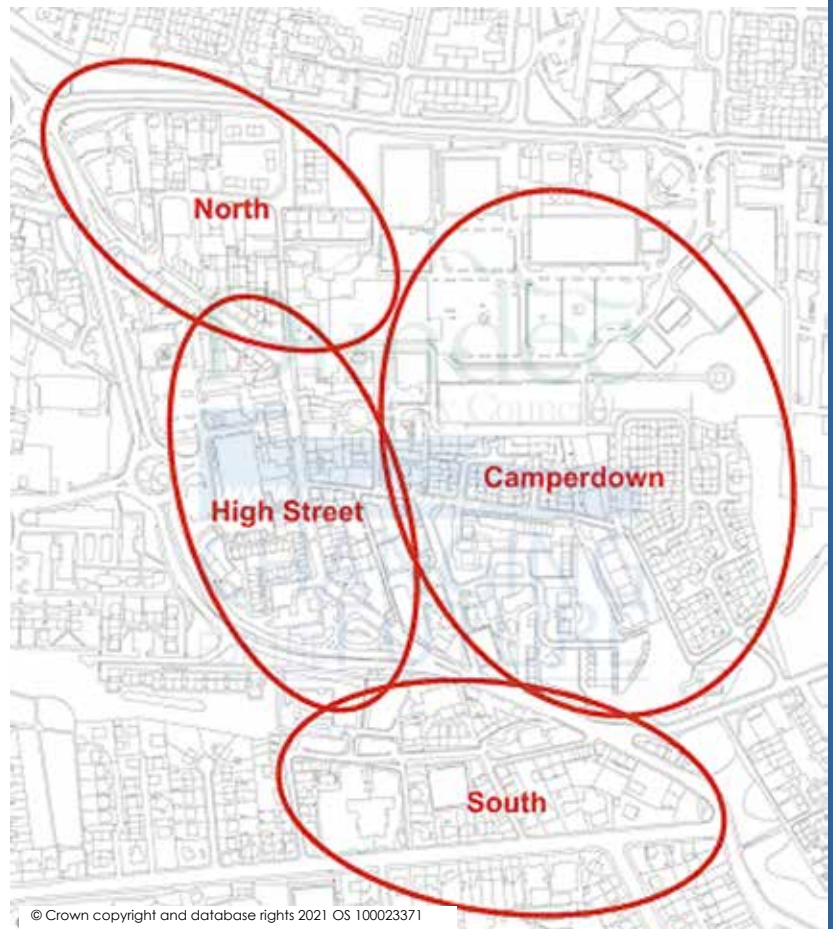
A building's listing covers its interior, exterior and 'any object or structure fixed to a building' or which falls within the curtilage of such a building, forming part of the land since before 1 July 1948. The alteration or removal of any features or fixtures requires listed building consent.

Buildings are listed by Historic Scotland in 3 categories - A, B and C(s). Category A Listed Buildings are of national or international importance. Category B Listed Buildings are of regional importance. Category C(s) buildings are of local importance.

Below is a map indicating Listed Buildings within the proposed Conservation Area boundary and in the surrounding area.



## 4 Analysis Zones



### 4.1 High Street

#### Land Use

The predominant land use on the High Street consists of retail use on the ground floor with residential on the upper floors. The buildings range between 2 and 4 storeys with varying floor to ceiling heights. They are constructed from a mixture of materials. The majority of traditional buildings were created from coursed sandstone blocks and contrast with those built over the last few decades. The majority of the modern buildings are built in brick or poured concrete with roughcast render and timber panels.

These buildings are located on the west side of the High Street. The west side was cleared during the mid early 1960s as part of the Kirk Street Comprehensive Development Area (CDA), as a result there are contrasting designs which contribute to the streetscape of the area.

The buildings range between 2 and 4 storeys with varying floor to ceiling heights. They are constructed from a mixture of materials.





*Example of Current Facade*



*Traditional Style Shopfront*



*Current Mix Of Shopfronts*

### Shop Fronts

One of the most important characteristics of the High Street is the shop fronts which vary considerably in design and materials. This is due to the differing age, styles and scale of the traditional tenements resulting in a range of window height at shop level.

In the case of the large Kirk Street CDA regeneration scheme shop windows are a standard dimension with generally a standard fascia. Some shopfronts are under cover and therefore have used less durable materials. Many of these more recent buildings and shop fronts are built from modern materials which contrast with the more traditional shop.

A number of the High Street shop fronts are traditional in design consisting of features such as recessed doorways, elegant capitals and plinths, stall risers, string courses, dentil courses and pilasters. All of which contribute to the character and appearance of the area. A few of the shop units still have traditional detailed, hand painted fascia signs and hanging signs within the High Street. However over the years a significant proportion has been replaced/ concealed behind modern forms of signage.

There are a number of traditional shop fronts which have been altered including modern signage. This is demonstrated by the introduction of larger, deeper fascia panel signs, the use of modern materials and the removal of recessed doorways. Only detailed inspection will confirm whether earlier fascias have been removed or simply concealed. In addition to the introduction of fascias of unsympathetic proportions and materials a large proportion of shop fronts have exterior roller shutters. More than anything else these shutters destroy the appearance of the High Street and indicate an area that is "down at heel" and in need of regeneration. The shopkeeper's perceived need for this level of protection is an indicator of the level of social deprivation and perceived threat of street crime in the area.

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*View To North of 139 High St*

### Views

The predominant views within the High Street are of Balgay Hill to the South and Cox's Stack to the East. Views are restricted within the High Street due to the building pattern and height. There is no visual stop to the south due to the form of the health centre but the mid distance is occupied by the rear elevation of Ancrum Road Primary School. To the north the very prominent block of 139-145 High Street immediately west of Bright Street is a significant visual stop.

There are a number of views to the rear of the buildings which make up the High Street. This provides an excellent opportunity to see historic construction techniques and materials which have had little alteration over time. Features such as curved stone stairwells, original window details and historic roofscapes create the historic character of the area.

## 4.2 Camperdown Works



The area has strong associations with its industrial heritage which has been maintained through the conversion of former industrial buildings, street pattern and scale and massing of new developments.

As discussed previously, this area was the location of the former Camperdown Works. A number of the mill buildings have been retained and a number have been converted into a new use. As part of the redevelopment of the site a considerable number of the mill buildings have been demolished, however historic materials from the demolitions and dismantlings have been reused to form important features within the development.



This includes the reuse of natural stone to form boundary walls and walls of the residential units. Design features such as the facing brick pattern work taken from the nearby Italianate Cox's Stack have been included within the development.

Natural sandstone and brick are the dominant building materials within the area. The area is also characterised by stone boundary walls and narrow streets creating an intimate, human scale.





*Former Mill Converted into Flats*



*Camperdown Works Railway Bridge*

### Land Use

The land use of the area surrounding Camperdown Works is a mixture of residential and retail. The 'B' Listed Calendar Mill has been converted into a supermarket and the 'A' Listed High Mill has been converted into a residential development. The Cox's Stack has been retained and preserved as a Dundee and Lochee landmark and can be seen from miles around. The equipment from the former Calendar Mill was put into storage and offers an opportunity for incorporation into any regeneration proposal as with the columns which were recovered from one of the mill buildings and incorporated in the open space area by the Boiler House adjacent to Cox's Stack.

### Features

Natural sandstone and brick are the dominant building materials within the area. The area is also characterised by stone boundary walls and narrow streets creating an intimate, human scale. Examples of the historic surface materials and decorative iron lamps add to the important historic character of the area.

Further features include the railway bridge to the east, the former engine house and Cox's Stack. Additional features include the Railway Warehouses, one now converted to housing and one to a sports centre, although that now has consent, not yet implemented, for housing. All of which create the unique character of the proposed Conservation Area.

The land use of this northern section of the proposed Lochee Conservation Area is primarily residential, there are also a number of religious buildings

## 4.3 North



*Lochee Baptist Church*



*Stonework Detail*



*Lochee West Church*

### Land Use

The land use of this northern section of the proposed Lochee Conservation Area is primarily residential, there are also a number of religious buildings. This part of the High Street and indeed the view north from the bypass is dominated by Lochee Parish Church. The views west along the north portion of the High Street towards Methven Street are dominated by the now vacant Methven Street Church and the Camperdown Works gates. The narrow cobbled Bright Street contains both the Lochee Baptist Church and the Boys' Brigade Headquarters, formerly the Cox's part-time school.

### Building Analysis

The residential properties located in the north appear to have been built in the late 19th Century and are stone built 1 and 1½ storey homes. The houses contain proportionate sized garden grounds. The house on the corner of Lochee Bypass and Harefield Road is a C(s) listed gothic manse and forms the western boundary of the proposed Conservation Area.

The B Listed Lochee Parish Church is a gothic style building constructed in 1870 and dominates the views into the proposed Conservation Area. The grounds also encompass the C(s) Listed church hall in the south which was built 10 years after the church and is single storey built from coursed rubble and ashlar dressing.

The land use of this northern section of the proposed Lochee Conservation Area is primarily residential, there are also a number of religious buildings

## 4.4 South



*St Marys Primary School*



*Former Railway Station & Housing*



*St Margaret's Piended Roof*

### Land Use

The land use in the south of the proposed Lochee Conservation Area is dominated by residential properties. Part of the land was once used for the Dundee - Newtyle railway line which ran round Dundee to avoid Dundee Law, Balgay Hill and Menzieshill. It then ran through Lochee and the category 'B' Listed station is still present today. Beyond Lochee Station to the north east a private branch line into Camperdown Works.

### Buildings

The residential homes in the south are a mix of semi-detached houses and tenement blocks situated along narrow streets. The area is also the most dominant in terms of green space as many houses have proportionate sized gardens. The area also benefits from having a substantial area of open green space along the east side of the High Street/ Ancrum Road junction which includes of a cobbled path. Part of Muirton Road is a narrow, cobbled one way street which leads onto the High Street/ Lochee Road junction. The area also consists of a school which is surrounded by trees which is a contrast to the rest of the proposed Lochee Conservation Area.

The former train station is unique in terms of its design as it is only one of three examples throughout the country by Sir James Gowans who built this rubble constructed station in 1860. St Margaret's Episcopal Church in 1888 is the other B listed property and is located on the corner of Ancrum Road and the High Street. It has a cruciform layout and also has a piended roof which projects from the roof to shelter the bell. Lamond & Langlands Ancrum Road School with a collection of early weaver cottages grouped around it. Fiskin's two schools, former Clydesdale bank, Robbie & Wellwood shop units and James F Stephen/Milton Studio housing at Camperdown Street all contribute to the character of the area.

The land use in the south of the proposed Lochee Conservation Area is dominated by residential properties



### Views

Ancrum Road is the most ideal location for the south boundary of the proposed Conservation Area.

From Ancrum Road views are offered beyond the boundary. To the east is an unobstructed view of Dundee Law and to the south west is Lochee Park, donated by the Cox family, on the lower slopes of Balgay Hill. Another view of note is that to the rear of the Former Lochee Railway Station with the high retaining walls which enclose the narrow, cobbled Old Muirton Road.

## 5 Opportunities For Enhancement



*Example Of Traditional Road Surface*

The Council has already launched a Façade Enhancement Grant Scheme within Lochee High Street and will develop a phased programme of works in partnership with the traders and the Dundee Historic Environment Trust.

The Council intends to implement a programme of public realm improvements including enhanced footway widths for pedestrian comfort. There are areas where the traditional floorscape material still exists either as the existing surface or hidden below a modern finish. Opportunity will be taken to reuse these traditional materials and in so doing regenerate traditional craft skills within the community.

## 6 Conservation Strategy



*Re-Use Of Materials*

The Conservation Strategy of the City Council is to ensure that new development or alterations to existing buildings will not have a negative impact on the existing character of the area.

The City Council will use the Conservation Area status as a management tool to help produce a high design quality to ensure the preservation or enhancement of the special character and appearance of the area.

The City Council takes the view that this does not mean that new developments or alterations are unacceptable but that rehabilitation, restoration, new build or contemporary architecture is of a suitably high standard.



*Recent Housing Development*

this does not mean that new developments or alterations are unacceptable but that rehabilitation, restoration, new build or contemporary architecture is of a suitably high standard

## 7 Monitoring And Review

This Conservation Area Appraisal will be reviewed approximately every five years, to ensure that it remains effective and responds adequately to the requirements of the Conservation Area.

For further information concerning the contents of this document, contributions for its improvement, or any matters concerning conservation areas or listed buildings, contact the Dundee City Council via the Planning Duty Officer at [planning@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:planning@dundeecity.gov.uk).

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It is only through the continual co-operation of the public,  
can the aims and objectives of this appraisal be met.

## 8 Historic Maps

1843-1893





1891-1912





1919-1939



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1945



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2008

