

**Character Area 4a:
The Kensey Valley –
Medieval St Thomas**

This sheet summarises the comprehensive assessments of character and regeneration opportunities in Section 8 of the report.

Character Summary

This area is of great value for its fascinating medieval history and surprising amount of surviving medieval fabric, its industrial role and its picturesque setting.

Regeneration opportunities

- The priory site should be consolidated and repaired where necessary. The buildings should be interpreted, access should be made for visitors and the site should be adequately signed from the main road and the town centre.
- The Riverside area should be promoted as an area for recreation – with riverside redundant industrial buildings converted to provide sporting facilities.
- Following traffic restrictions along St Thomas Road there could be a grant scheme to reinstate original wooden sliding sash windows.
- The St Thomas conservation area should be extended to include the old mill buildings at the western end of Riverside, the aqueduct and the swimming pool. The town centre conservation area should be extended to the west to include the buildings on St Thomas Road, the old chapel and the deer park.



Prior's Bridge with the church of St Thomas in the background.



The level ground adjacent to the River Kensey provided an ideal site for early industries.

**Character Area 4a:
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- Character Area boundary
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building
- Other Significant Building
- Historic Plot

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