

## Character Area 4:

### Large Villas

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

### Character Summary

During the early to mid nineteenth century a ring of villas developed around the central urban core. Set within their own ornamental grounds these houses were commissioned by the newly wealthy professional and businessmen working in Liskeard. They were designed by architects such as Wightwick and Foulston, and the locally prolific Henry Rice. The majority still survive, although many have been converted into offices. The grounds which include a large number of mature trees form a major element in the townscape of Liskeard and the gardens of Westbourne House are an important public amenity.

### Regeneration opportunities

- Restore the historic gardens at Westbourne House to provide a quality green meeting place adjacent to the town centre. The footbridge could be reinstated over the attractive original medieval route, Westbourne Lane, into the newly landscaped car park.
- Initiate grant schemes to repair and enhance some of the more important villas to encourage greater public access and appreciation.
- Greater importance should be attached to the villa gardens. Any further attempts to reduce the gardens to make way for additional car parking should be resisted.
- Reference could be made to the former character of Greenbank Road through the planting of a boulevard of trees. This would narrow the road, slowing the flow of traffic, give a greater sense of enclosure and greatly improve the surrounding environment which currently has the feel of a suburban clearway.



Reinstating the footbridge over Westbourne Lane could link the gardens with the car park



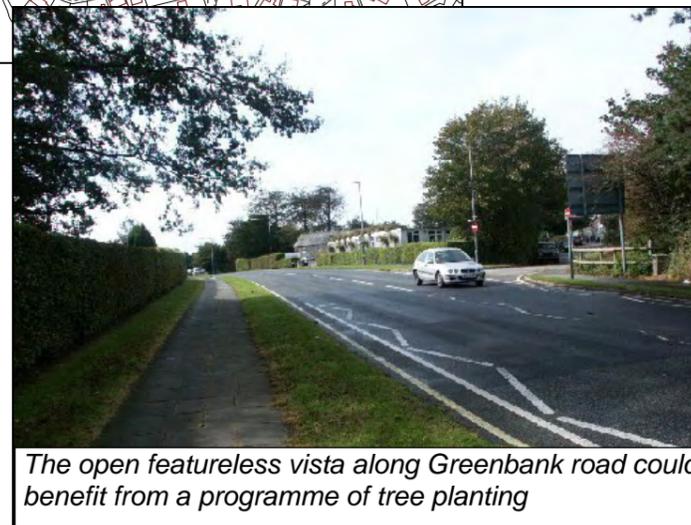
The former gardens at Westbourne House now divided into public and private use



Dean Street villas designed by Henry Rice



Car parking on part of the original gardens at Penrose House



The open featureless vista along Greenbank road could benefit from a programme of tree planting

- Character Area boundary
- Scheduled Monument
- Listed Building
- Other Significant Building
- Historic Plot
- Historic Park and Garden

