

Character Area 2: Mercantile quarter

This sheet summarises the comprehensive assessments of character and regeneration opportunities in Sections 6, 7 and 8 of the report.

Character summary

Dominated by high quality merchant's houses and prestigious town houses, this is one of the most architecturally impressive and cohesive parts of Penryn. Of particular significance is the 17th century surviving jettied merchant's house in St Thomas Street. Much of the area's urban topography dates to the medieval town, including the historically significant bridging point at the bottom of St Thomas Street. The area forms a gateway to the town centre, and also includes important town spaces, notably 'Fish Cross' formed by a road junction surrounded by a cluster of civic structures. Two important green spaces are also features of the area; the bowling green with medieval origins and the Memorial Park created to commemorate the bombing of the town during the Second World War.

Issues

- 'Fish Cross' is currently under valued as an informal 'town square' area
- Detrimental erosion of the urban grain and loss of enclosure has occurred in the Quay Hill area
- The historic grain of the medieval burgrave strips has been compromised by 20th century development
- There are a number of inappropriate 20th century buildings that detract from the quality of the townscape
- Elements of the public realm fail to match the high quality of the surrounding historic environment
- Traffic and related signage and road markings have a negative impact on the pedestrian experience of this area

Regeneration opportunities

- Enhance the 'Fish Cross' 'town square'
- Reinstate a sense of enclosure in the Quay Hill area and enhance as a welcoming gateway to the town centre
- Respect the historic urban grain and ensure that all new development respects the high quality and character of its setting
- When opportunities arise, address the negative impact of unsympathetic 20th century buildings in the area and repair areas of townscape loss
- Celebrate the library building as an exemplar of the quality of design and materials required for new build within the towns' sensitive historic environment
- Enhance the public realm through the use of suitably high quality materials and appropriate and well detailed street furniture
- Reduce the negative impact of traffic, traffic related signage and road markings in this area and increase pedestrian priority

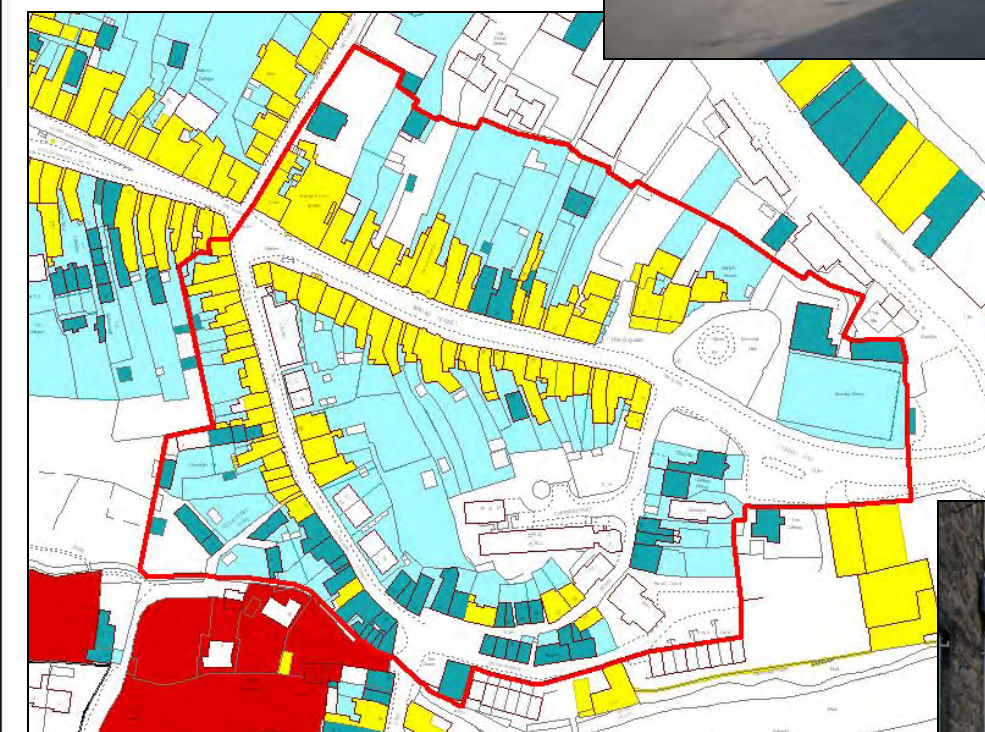


Projecting porch of the King's Arms, a 17th century building refronted in the mid 19th century. Plain façade of the Assembly Rooms next door

'Fish Cross', an important town space formed at the junction of a number of roads. Addressed by the elaborate façade of the Old Fire Station



St Thomas Street



The modern town library, St Thomas Street. A successful new build in an historic setting



Broad Street, painted stucco facades



The Memorial Park and adjacent bowling green form important green areas close to the centre of the town



Road signage, herringbone brick built outs and standard bollards erode the special character of some parts of this character area



The Square, a semi-formal public space, surrounded by substantial town houses, important cobbled surfacing and pollarded lime trees

Character area 2: Mercantile quarter

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

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Historic Environment Service
Environment and Heritage
Cornwall County Council
(01872) 323603
hes@cornwall.gov.uk

