

# Derby Conservation Areas

## Arboretum



## INTRODUCTION

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 requires Local Planning Authorities to determine areas of special architectural or historic interest, 'the character or appearance of which it is desirable to preserve or enhance'. These areas are called Conservation Areas.

Derby is a city of considerable historic interest and architectural merit with a range of streets and buildings spanning many centuries. In an effort to conserve important elements of our built heritage, the City Council have designated fifteen such areas. The City Centre and Friar Gate Conservation Areas are at the heart of the city centre. Seven are based on aspects of Victorian Derby (Railway, Arboretum, Little Chester, Strutts Park and Hartington Street, Highfield Cottages, Leylands Estate, Nottingham Road) and the remaining five are focused on former village centres (Darley Abbey, Mickleover, Spondon, Allestree and Markeaton). This document outlines the history and mentions some of the exceptional buildings contained within one of these areas.

There are legal requirements and constraints which apply to Conservation Areas which do not apply elsewhere and the City Council therefore must pay special attention to the 'character' and 'appearance' of these areas when exercising its planning powers. This is a positive process in which a continuing effort is being made to control the nature and scale of change.

With the exception of certain buildings, no building in a Conservation Area can be demolished without consent from the Local Authority. This is enforced to maintain some of the more ordinary buildings that nevertheless contribute a great deal to the character of the area. An application for Conservation Area Consent must be made separately from any application for planning permission for redevelopment of the site.

There is also special protection for trees within designated Conservation Areas and anyone wishing to cut down, lop, top or uproot such a tree, must, with limited exceptions, give six weeks' notice to the City Council of their intention. This is to allow the authority an opportunity to formally inspect the tree and decide, in the interest of public visual amenity, whether it is appropriate to make a Tree Preservation Order.

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# Arboretum Conservation Area



*Arboretum Park - Fountain*

The Arboretum was the first specifically designed urban public park in Britain. It forms the major part of the Arboretum Conservation Area, designated in March 1975.

Joseph Strutt (1765-1844), son of the cotton manufacturer (Jedediah Strutt) and Mayor of Derby in 1835, commissioned and donated the park for the benefit of citizens of Derby. The intention was a botanical tree garden for instruction as well as leisure. John Claudius Loudon (1783-1843) was engaged to design, construct and plant the gardens, while E

B Lamb (1806-1869) was commissioned to design two Tudor-style lodges.

Work began in July 1839 and was completed in September 1840 with a grand opening ceremony and a day devoted to "dancing, promenades and other recreations".

Sadly, Strutt's benevolence was to be short-lived, as a Committee of Management decided to charge for admission except on Sundays, Wednesdays and anniversary celebrations. It was not until 1881 that free access was allowed throughout the year when it was taken over by the City. In 1853, the Committee erected a statue of Strutt over a new entrance facing Arboretum Square, built to the design of Henry Duesbury.

Also included in the Conservation Area are the Victorian houses in Arboretum Square and Arboretum Street which form a group of some architectural interest.



*Arboretum Park, Gazebo - card playing area*



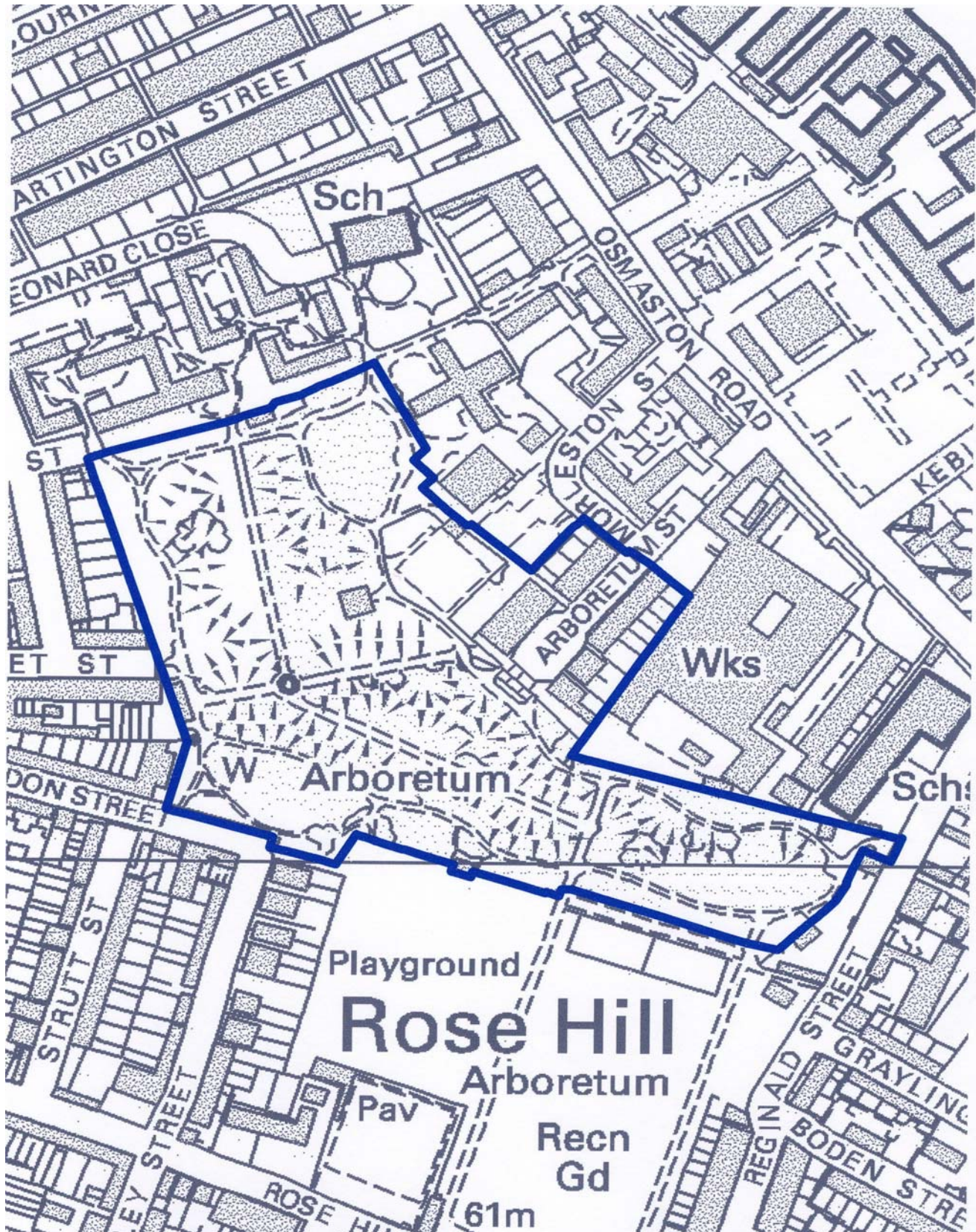
*Statue of Strutt over a new entrance facing Arboretum Square*

The trees which J C Loudon selected and planted formed perhaps the most impressive collection of the day in the provinces.

Today, the City Council cares for a park which has remained a valuable breathing space in a heavily built up area, and intends to extend the range of trees remaining as the opportunity arises. Redevelopment in the area during the last ten years has generated renewed interest for residents which helped justify the improvement scheme to coincide with the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Arboretum. The park, originally of eleven acres, but since extended, is on the Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest in England and is listed grade II\*.



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