City Characterisation Project

PA10 Northam - Belvidere

Context

- This area lies between PA09: the residential suburb known as Northam and the River Itchen working waterfront (PA11: Belvidere) to the north-east of the study area. CA43: St Mary's Stadium, lies to the south-west and CA42: Itchen Shore working wharfs, is to the south-east.
- The landform is flat.

Grain

- There is a medium grain to development with remnant elements of a former finer grain.
- Buildings are mostly small to medium sized detached industrial units with low, sometimes flat roofs. Some are pitched to the road with ridges running parallel and other present (unusually) a series of gables to the street. Some have office accommodation fronting manufacturing/storage space behind. Consistent building lines to streets.

Scale

■ Predominantly single storey units on an industrial scale (probably equivalent to one and a half residential storeys). Some two storey built form – offices and a school building with large traditional double height classroom and hall spaces.

Uses

Light industrial, storage and manufacturing. School building (primary school and nursery) and a small number of residential units.

Public Realm

■ Functional, wide roads, significant on-street parking throughout, no soft landscaping or trees.

Connectivity

- Reasonably well-connected with a series of streets, some restricted to pedestrian access only, creating a circuit for access to industrial units.
- Not particularly inviting for the pedestrian due to the lack of defined footpaths along Peel Street (where much of the manufacturing processes can be found these often spill onto the street).

Views

- Views to the southern edges of the gas holders and glimpses to St Mary's Stadium throughout.
- The view east along Cable Street is successfully terminated by the school buildings to the eastern side of Peel Street.

Building types

- Purpose-built (mostly post-war) industrial units.
- Late nineteenth century school buildings to north end of Peel Street.



Peel Street - industrial heart of character area

- Former public house now residential.
- Purpose-built car showrooms.
- Turn-of-the-century terraced houses (remnant survival Kent Street).

Architectural qualities

- The school buildings are good examples of the period retaining much of their original features, to include windows, doors, decorative brickwork and decorative ridge tiles and natural slate roof.
- Some early forms of industrial/prefabricated buildings (for example the curved roof and façade of Workmobility, on the corner of Peel Street and Belvidere Terrace).

Heritage Assets

- Late nineteenth century school buildings.
- Unusual early purpose-built industrial buildings.
- Nineteenth century former public house building (No.98 Northam Road) to corner of Northam Road and road north of Guildford Street.

Materials

- Traditional red brick, natural slate roof, decorative clay ridge tiles, timber windows.
- Modern brick, metal cladding, rendered blockwork, profile metal and asbestos sheeting to roofs.

Condition

Fair.

Ownership

Small businesses. Private owners. Southampton City Council/Hampshire County Council.

Intervention

Pedestrianise or restricted access or shared surface to street outside school.

Key Design Principles

Maintain the modest and almost consistent scale of this area to provide this type of flexible space for small businesses.

January 2009 **305**