

34 Western Docks (operational)**Context**

This narrow character area is bounded to the north by West Quay Retail Park (CA33) and to the east by Mayflower Park (CA35). It comprises the operational sections of water's edge concerned with the berthing of cruise liners.

This area, along with most of CA33, was reclaimed in the first half of the twentieth century.

Grain

Coarse grain.

Scale

Equivalent of three storeys of residential to ridge heights. The cranes are significantly higher at approximately eight to nine storeys of equivalent residential accommodation.

Uses

Operational dockside.

Public Realm

Functional/ fit for purpose.

Connectivity

Very poor – restricted access. Visually very good as the area can be seen in extended views from the city centre and glimpsed from much closer.

Views

The tall distinctive silhouettes of the cranes to the water's edge are the subject of some of the most important strategic views in the city.

Views into the character area from Mayflower Park focussing on the cranes and visiting ships are also important.

Building types

Large open span sheds.

Architectural qualities

Sheds are of no architectural value. The entrance arches to the working docks have an Art Deco jazz moderne feel to them. The cranes are sculptural and highly symbolic of the surviving working dock areas of the city.

Heritage Assets

The area is considered to possess a moderate degree of evidential value due to fact that the area was reclaimed in the early twentieth century and therefore there is the potential for submerged prehistoric landscapes, including peat deposits and maritime archaeological features such as the remains of vessels. This area is outside the Local Area of Archaeological Importance.



There are no listed buildings in the character area. The dock entrance arches are locally listed structures in an art deco style and are of some design quality and value. They are also symbols of the dock presence and a clear indication that you are entering a very distinctive part of the city. None of the character area falls within a conservation area.

A former pumping station to the water's edge adjacent to Mayflower Park is of architectural and historic interest and has the potential to reflect cultural and associative values related to the development of the city's infrastructure.

Although there are no national or local designations for heritage features other than the entrance arches, there is potential for the survival of features, buildings or machinery that have cultural, illustrative and/or associative and communal value and interest as industrial archaeology and features relating to the functioning of the area as a world class dock area. Assessment of the potential heritage values of this character area should be undertaken prior to any development proposals being made to inform the decision making process.

Materials

Brick, slate, reinforced concrete, profiled metal sheeting.

Condition

Fair to good.

Ownership

Associated British Ports.

Intervention

■ Extremely limited.

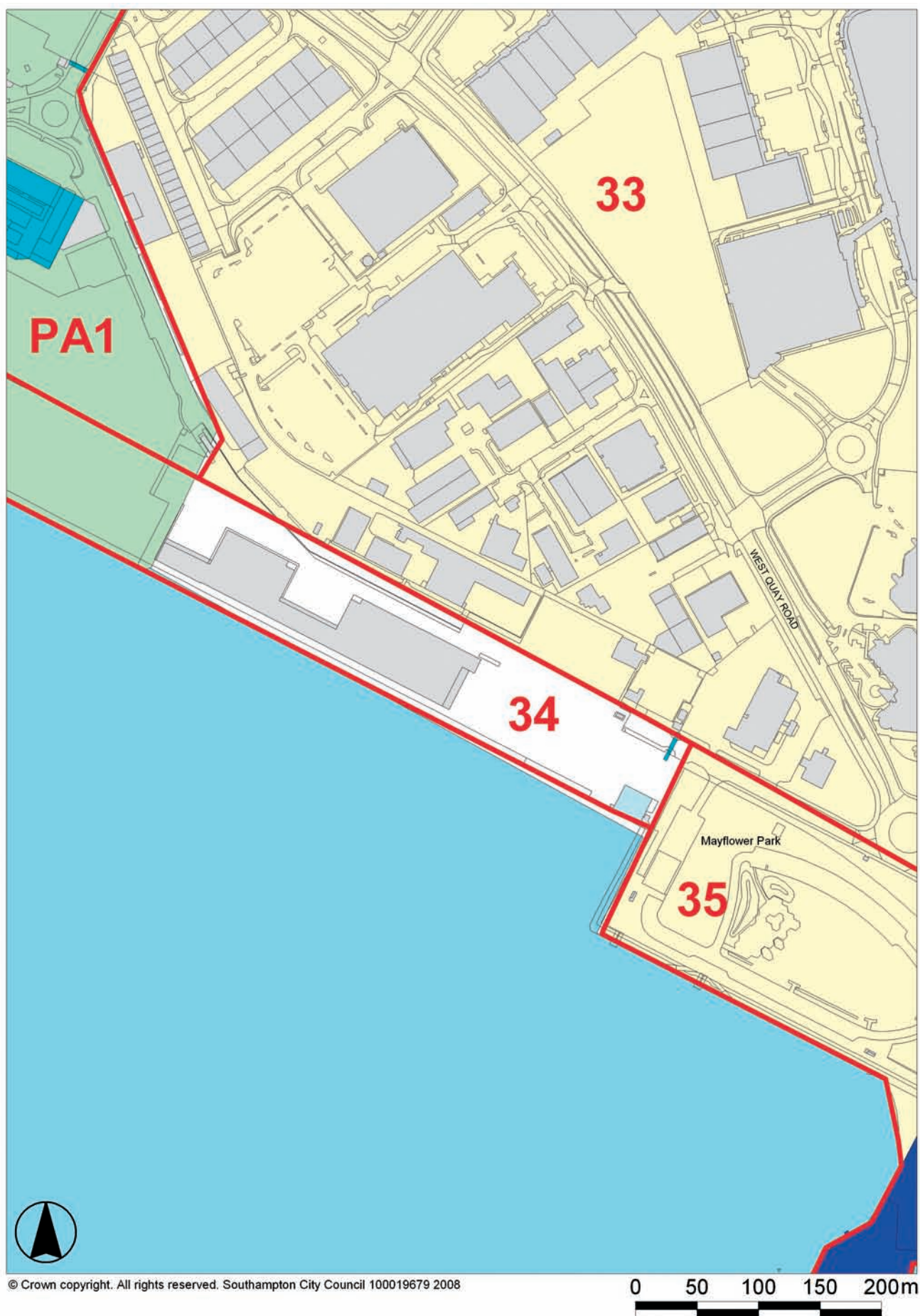
Key design principles

■ Ensure retention of cranes even if land becomes surplus to operational dock requirements.



- 01 Large cranes define the edge of the waterfront and form part of a highly distinctive skyline
- 02 The docks are fully functional and an important part of the active waterfront to Southampton
- 03 Art Deco arches define the extent of the restricted areas of the operational docks





Heritage Assets



Townscape