

Church Walks

Perhaps Church Walks is a perfect example of what a conservation area can be. It has no listed buildings and actually a fairly large proportion of buildings constructed in the last 50 years, but, for all that it is one of the most charming and special places in the Town Centre Conservation Area. This is for several reasons: It has little or no traffic. Although not pedestrianised, it is not a through route and really only those living here drive in it. It has a small scale being a narrow street with small two storey cottages. It has views out which are quite spectacular, especially the view across the rooftops to the Cathedral and the Norman Tower, but also the view of St Mary's Church Tower. It has a curious double bend which means it isn't all seen in a single view, but becomes a sequence of events. Finally, it has the 'feel' of a seaside place rather at odds with its land locked urban location. This is a street/passage which is of more interest than its constituent parts. There are elements which could be improved to enhance the character and appearance of the street scene.

Wall to William Barnaby Yard

This wall probably predates the development of William Barnaby Yard and may survive from the time when the site was Marlow's Builders Merchants before the company relocated to Hollow Road. It is constructed in concrete blockwork with fletton brick piers and these cheap materials are beginning to deteriorate, despite not having any meaningful age. It is not the best entrance to this street and could be improved. This wall rather detracts from the conservation area.

2-7 Church Walks

A 1960's block of flats, in two storeys of red bricks with wooden casement windows with concrete lintols and flint spandrel panels below a concrete tiled roof. A rather unassuming block but of a domestic scale and in sympathetic materials which makes a modest contribution to the conservation area.

8-9 Church Walks

An early-mid 19th C pair of stucco rendered cottage in two storeys with pantiled roofs. Heavily modernised with a miscellany of replacement fenestration, but still making a modest positive contribution to the conservation area.

13, 14, 15 and 16 Church Walks

A terrace similar to Nos 8-9 Church Walks and having had modernisation including the combination of Nos 13 and 14 into a single house (now numbered 14) and the stucco rendering of all but No 16, which is in red brickwork. Nos 13 and 14 appear to possibly predate the two cottages to the east but have had a great deal of remodelling over the years. Nos 15 and 16 seem to remain more in their original form with two window bays, the ground floor multipane sashes and first floor casement fenestration could even be original to both. The doors and plastic rainwater goods are not. Pantiled roofs. Again despite the changes the terrace still makes a positive contribution to the conservation area.

20 Church Walks

A modern detached single storey house but with a large attic under a pitched concrete pantiled roof incorporating lead clad dormers. Arranged around a brick paved courtyard. Red brick walls, wooden casements and a panelled door. Neutral in its contribution to the conservation area.

21, 22, 23 24 and 25 Church Walks

This is a handsome terrace dating from the first quarter of the 19th C. Two storeys of white brickwork with gauged brick arches at Nos 24 and 25 (which were a single larger house originally) while the others are now painted. Some original multi-pane sash windows survive but the doors are now a miscellany of dates. Hipped slated roof with brick chimney stacks.

A high quality terrace which make a positive contribution to the conservation area.



26 Church Walks

A simple detached modern house of two storeys and white brick with a slated pyramid roof, and wooden door and window joinery.

A good modern addition to the conservation area making a modest positive contribution.



27-28 Church Walks

A modern pair of houses forming a corner block with ground floor in red brickwork and first floor stucco rendered. Wooden window and door joinery, including a full height corner feature at first floor and a slated roof.

The building helps articulate the corner which is important in the street but overall the contribution the building makes to the conservation area is neutral.



Car Park to West of 28 Church Walks

Here the car parking area, finished in asphalt, is surrounded on the west and south sides by walls in flint and Abbey stone with brick piers and dressings. This seems to be of some age, and was possibly built at the time the cottages in College Street to the west were in the early 19th C. To the west there are modern garages which belong to the College Street cottages, and these are built in modern sand faced fletton brickwork, dating from the later 20th C. This walling forms the boundary to Church Walks along with contemporary rear extensions to the College Street buildings.

While the historic walls are strong positive elements in the conservation area, as is the form of the fletton brick walls, the latter's contribution would be stronger in better materials.

