

## St Mary's Square

This is a very historic location and is believed to pre-date the Norman layout of the 'Medieval Grid' in the 12<sup>th</sup> C. It was also, apparently the location of livestock markets during the medieval period. Indeed Warren's map of 1776 still gives its name as 'Horse Market'. It formed the location where the historical route from the north (now Northgate Street) met the historical route from the south (now Southgate Street).

It became, like Northgate Street, from the 17<sup>th</sup> C and into the Georgian age a suburb where houses of the rich were developed. These are the houses which exemplify the square to the north and east along with, and in a real contrast to the late 19<sup>th</sup> C and 20<sup>th</sup> C brewery buildings to the west. On the corner of Westgate Street the block now enclosed in 19<sup>th</sup> C brickwork (but of earlier construction) is listed but others on that west side are not. They are contiguous with buildings in Sparhawk Street and are described with them under that title. To the south are the tall brick walls of the Georgian 'Square House' (now a private hospital), but the walls, which enclose the site further south along the length of Maynewater Lane are, as elsewhere in the town, important 18<sup>th</sup> C feature in the conservation area.

Despite the road bisecting the square, the lawned areas to the centre still give the air of a village green with the late Victorian Coade stone planters ensuring the feel is of a well-heeled village square. This is a handsome townscape and a conspicuously affluent one.

The roads are finished in asphalt and the footpaths concrete paving flags. There are both modern street standards and faux 'heritage' lamps on posts, all fairly discrete. In addition are folksy telegraph poles and overhead cables.

### 9 and 10 St Mary's Square

There are no buildings, other than the brewery building to the west (described under Sparhawk Street) that are not statutorily protected on the square. However, there are a pair of modern houses located to the rear of no 8 that are of note. These descriptions have rather eschewed commenting on modern buildings but these are rather special. Built following the grant of planning permission in the 1990s and designed by the award-winning Hawkins Brown Architects, this pair of houses are idiosyncratically styled two storey houses in red brick with lead and wood cladding and are of exceptional quality. They are not really very visible in the public realm but they are an exceptional example of how even quite radical modern design can make a positive contribution to the conservation area. They are served from St Mary's Square via a driveway located in the red brick wall on the southern side of the Square.

