



# ROSS-ON-WYE CHARACTER AREA SURVEY

**The Character Area surveyed (its number): 1**

**The survey team included: JKHS X 4**

**Date of survey: November 2016**

- This survey is designed to help you examine and record key aspects of the character of one part of the built environment of Ross – a 'Character Area'.
- The evidence and understanding provided by your work will enable the distinctive local character of the various areas of Ross to be retained, perhaps enhanced.
- It will also help to ensure that the designs of any new developments, conversions etc. respect and enhance that character.
- The Character Areas we are suggesting are all very much 'first stab', done mainly to make the tasks easily manageable for you in a short time (we hope!).
- Each basic area may be broadly right but that doesn't mean they are all different. Nor does it mean that the boundaries are right.
- Live with all that for now and we'll come back to you later with how it all fits together.

## **We are giving you:**

- *This introduction and form.*
- *A map of all the Character Areas, including 'yours'.*
- *A map of your specific Area.*

## **Getting the survey done:**

- *Even if you (think you) know the area, walk up and down, look all around and only then start filling in the form.*
- *For most of the form just add notes in boxes in response to the questions. There are some hints in brackets.*
- *Don't get too hung up on our terms, feel free to add others or 'not sure' if that helps.*
- *As you go round, take some photos (maybe 10 or so) of the Character Area to show what seems to be typical of the character of that area (and any oddities or really interesting things).*
- *If possible please mark on the map wherever you take any photos from, and in what direction (use a dot and a little arrow).*

## **When you have finished:**

- *Return the completed form and annotated map to school.*
- *We also need your photos so please either:*
  - *Get them into a single folder at school or*
  - *Send them to [jeff@placestudio.com](mailto:jeff@placestudio.com)*

**Thanks a lot: Jeff Bishop: Place Studio**

## **General**

**1. What's the general pattern of the roads and 'blocks of buildings? If there are a few, can you show the different ones on the map?** (Regular, irregular, straight, curved, small blocks, large blocks, narrow, wide open, contained, spacious etc.)

**One single long road with 6 avenues branching off**  
**Blocks are quite long and thin, all residential**

**2. What's the general mix of buildings?** (All residential, some mixed, commercial, industrial, other? If you can, mark any non-residential uses on the map.)

**All residential**

## **Houses**

**3. Are they all on one building line or does that vary?** (On pavement, with small front gardens, with large front gardens, well set back etc.?)

**They're all basically on the pavement with small front gardens**  
**Some have medium sized front gardens all arranged in a line**

**4. Can you guess when all (or different ones) were built?** (Try: medieval, 19<sup>th</sup> century, inter-war -1918-1839, post war - 50s/60s, later 20<sup>th</sup> century - 70s/80s, more recent – 90s to today.)

**Early 20<sup>th</sup> century to late 20<sup>th</sup> century; quite a big range**

**5. What heights are they?** (All one height on each house or varying per house or in stretches, or are there extensions etc. that are different?)

**Mixture of bungalows and two storey houses, many extensions**

**6. Would you call the houses very small, small, medium-sized, large, very large (or a mixture)?** (Your guess!)

**Most houses are quite large, with extensions**  
**Bungalows smaller**

**7. What are the main building materials used?** (On walls, roofs, chimneys, windows etc.)

**Mostly brick houses, some concrete** (Render? – JB)  
**All have chimneys**  
**Wood and plastic window frames**

**8. Are front gardens open or closed in?** (If open, just grass or bushes etc.? If closed, low walls, high walls, hedges, full of greenery, paved etc.? Well maintained?)

**Closed mostly by hedges**

**9. Any idea about back gardens (if you can see them)?** (*Big, small, fenced, with walls - low/high, heavily 'greened' or just grass, paving, decking? Well maintained?*)

**Back gardens look large with paving and grass**

**10. What are the parking arrangements?** (*On the street, pull-off spaces, single garages, double garages – some of each? Any way to tell if the garages are actually used for cars – most aren't?*)

**All have drives, however a couple on road**

**11. Are there major trees in front or back gardens?** (*On their own or in lines? Do those lines of trees go off into the surrounding areas? If so, try to show those on the map.*)

**Most have some trees in front gardens  
Some strips of trees**

### **Roads and Public Areas**

**12. What are the roads like?** (*Wide, narrow, about right? Is there on-street parking? Does that limit access/movement? Well maintained?*)

**Mai road normal width  
Avenue roads thinner  
Roads not very well maintained**

**13. Are there always pavements to walk along? Well maintained?**

**A lot of pavements, well maintained**

**14. Are there other footpaths that link through the area or into other areas?** (*Try to use the map to show where.*)

**Pavements are enough, not much need for footpaths**

**15. Are there street signs?** (*Lots? Just a few? Necessary? Too many?*)

**None except Avenue signs**

**16. Is there street lighting? Is it obtrusive or low key?**

**Yes, LED  
Quite unobtrusive as quite close to houses**

**17. Do you think it is entirely safe here? At night? Would children feel/be safe?**

**Yes, as quite clearly nice neighbourhood with old people**

**Now some Broader Judgements!**

18. Are there any features, additions, oddities (from any covered above or others) that detract from or damage the character of the area?

*Quality of roads  
Right beside dual carriageway  
Power station at the bottom  
Overhead power cables*

19. Are there any features, additions, oddities (from any covered above or others) that help to create a clear and positive character for the area?

*Not many shabby houses  
Many nice trees, brighten area  
Streets quite clean*

20. If you had to pick just one or a few of all the aspects above that most help to shape the character of the area, what would they be?

*The fact that all the houses are nice and the brickwork is good*

21. Any other comments, things we and the form have missed?

*No facilities like shops or sport*

22. Is this a distinct area? Are the boundaries sensible? Looking at the overall map, should it be combined with others? Should it be sub-divided?

*Clear block of avenues separate from anything else*

**AND THANKS AGAIN!**