



# ROSS-ON-WYE CHARACTER AREA SURVEY

**The Character Area surveyed (its number): 6**

**The survey team included: Jeff Bishop**

**Date of survey: 19/01/17**

- 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**

## **PLEASE NOTE**

It proved difficult to treat this as a single Character Area. There is a map in the folder that suggests 8 sub-areas, not entirely different but different enough to sometimes warrant varying answers in the boxes below.

Area 1 includes the Larruperz Centre and the Ryevale Children's Centre (Old Grammar School). This is not covered below.

## **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.)

**Area 2 is an odd pattern of linked, zig-zag bungalows (presumably for elderly people)**

**Area 3 is varied roads with blocks around, almost as courts.**

**Areas 4, 5 and 7 have mainly straight roads with lines of single houses flanking both sides**

**Area 8 is more winding roads, again with lines of single houses flanking both sides**

**Area 7 is mainly a strip of single houses alongside the Alton Road with industry opposite.**

**The strip along this road also includes part of Area 7.**

**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.)

**Almost all residential. There may be some small residential homes and houses used as offices along Gloucester Road**

## **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.?)

**There are clear, common building lines in all areas except 2 (building line irrelevant here!), although the line is less visible along Gloucester Road where there are also, in most places, large front gardens - large enough to pull a car off the street except in the Area 3 where they are smaller**

**In all other areas there are front gardens (see later for details)**

**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.)

**Most of Area 5 is the oldest, some (not all) bring from mid to late Victorian, with occasional exceptions in area 7 which appear older**

**Part of Area 4 and part of Area 7 is also late Victorian, parts of Area 7 are inter-war and much of the rest is post-war through to very recent (I Area 3).**

**All of 8 is probably 1970s/80s**

**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?)

**Predominantly 2 storey in most areas (other than Area 1, all bungalows), with occasional bungalows and occasional third storey roof rooms (especially in Area 5). There are some 3 storey units in Area 8 and some very new ones in Area 3, all appearing to be flats except for some 1960s houses in Area 3**

**There are some stretches that are all the same – eg. in Area 4 and Area 7.**

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

**Everything from very small (Area 2) to very large (some in Area 5). The majority are medium-sized**

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

**Brick and render on walls, occasional areas of stone. Mostly concrete roof tiles, some slates**

**Brick chimneys quite noticeable in some areas**

**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?)**

**Almost all were closed with low walls or hedges. Many have now been removed to enable off-street car parking**

**There are occasional high walls and fences in Areas 4 and 5**

**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?)**

**Generally fairly large (typically x3 of house footprint), with lots of exceptions at junctions etc.**

**Seem to be getting smaller with newer houses, very small in Area 3**

**Area 1 has swathes of green between the bungalows**

**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?)**

**It is all off-street parking in Area 5 (main road)**

**There is quite a lot of on-street parking in areas 4 and 7, except where people have turned over their front gardens to parking**

**Parking in Area 8 is almost all on plot**

**There are a couple of car parking courts in Area 3**

**The bungalows in Area 2 do not appear to have any parking arrangements**

**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.)**

**Only Gloucester Road gives the impression of being well provided with trees in front gardens; most other streets have few if any street trees and only a small number of trees in back gardens or rear access areas**

## **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?*)

*Gloucester Road is the only main road, probably a reasonable width  
All others streets are reasonably wide, with only minor problems raised by occasional on-street parking  
Maintenance is generally good*

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

*There are good pavements throughout (and paths through Area 2), all apparently reasonably maintained*

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

*There are a number of paths and cut-throughs in/between Areas 1 and 3 and in Area 8, mostly associated with the path along side the stream (or what was and is now culverted in part)  
Not many links in the other areas*

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

*Very few*

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

*Lighting throughout is standard/good*

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

*Yes, maybe some queries along by the stream/lakes in Area 8 and perhaos in/between Areas 1 and 3*

**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?

*Too much front garden parking in places that were not designed for that  
Some houses and gardens not very well looked after*

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?

*Area 8's link to the stream/lakes is important  
Good variety of styles in most areas  
Area 2 is odd but interesting!*

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 variety of styles*

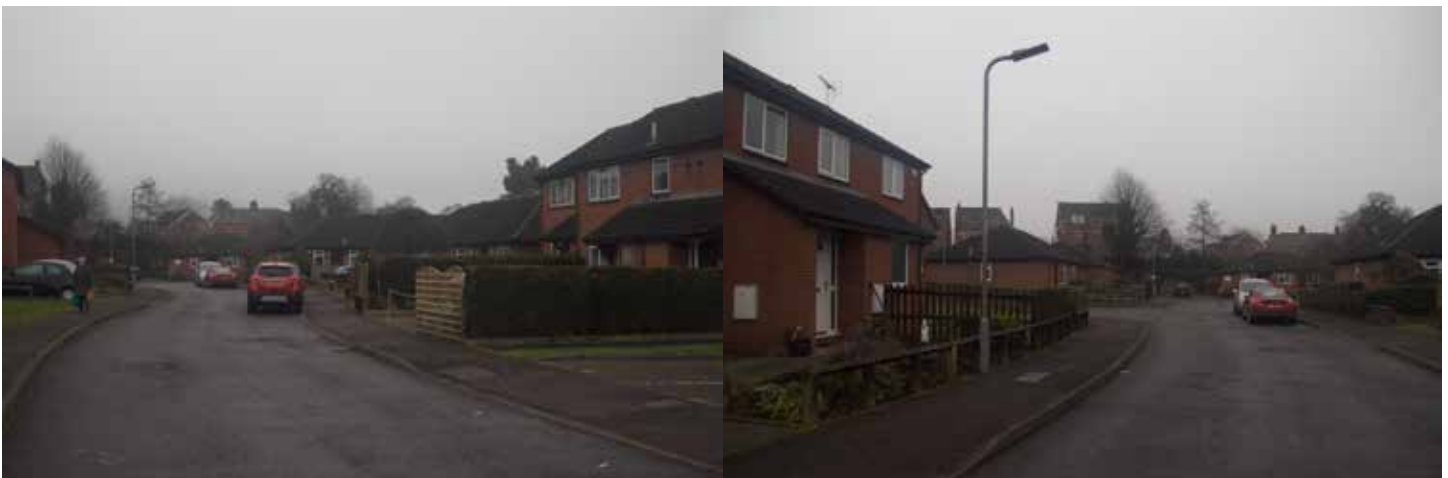
21. Any other comments, things we and the form have missed?

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?

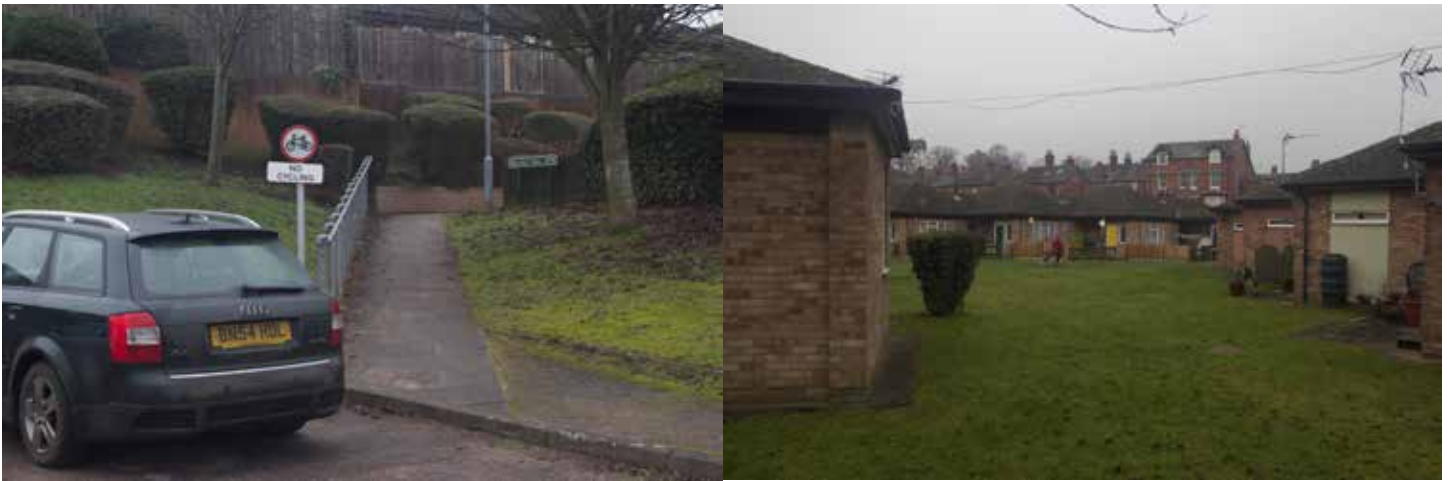
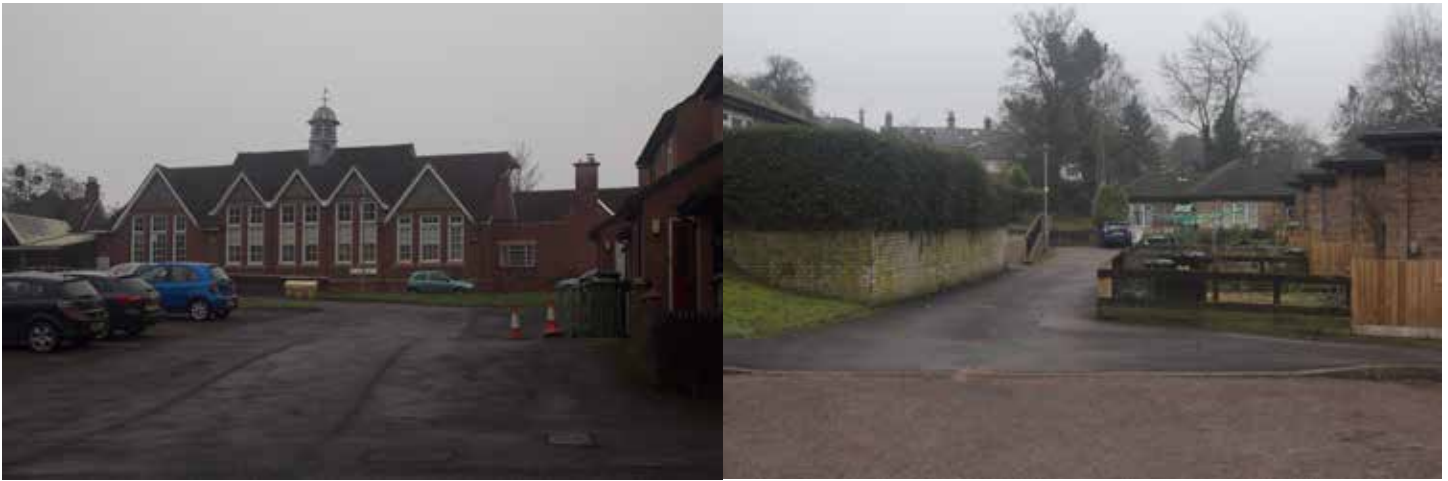
*Sub-division is crucial, see note at start and map*

**AND THANKS AGAIN!**

**Ross-on-Wye NDP**  
**Character Area 6 - Chase Park and Ryefield**  
**Photos**



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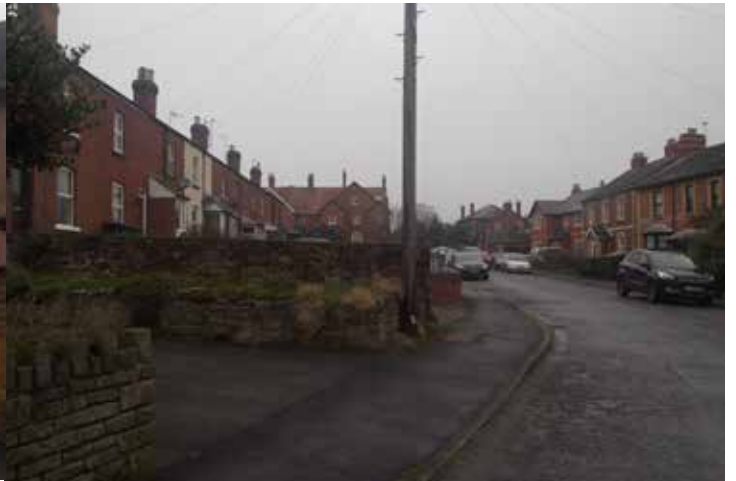


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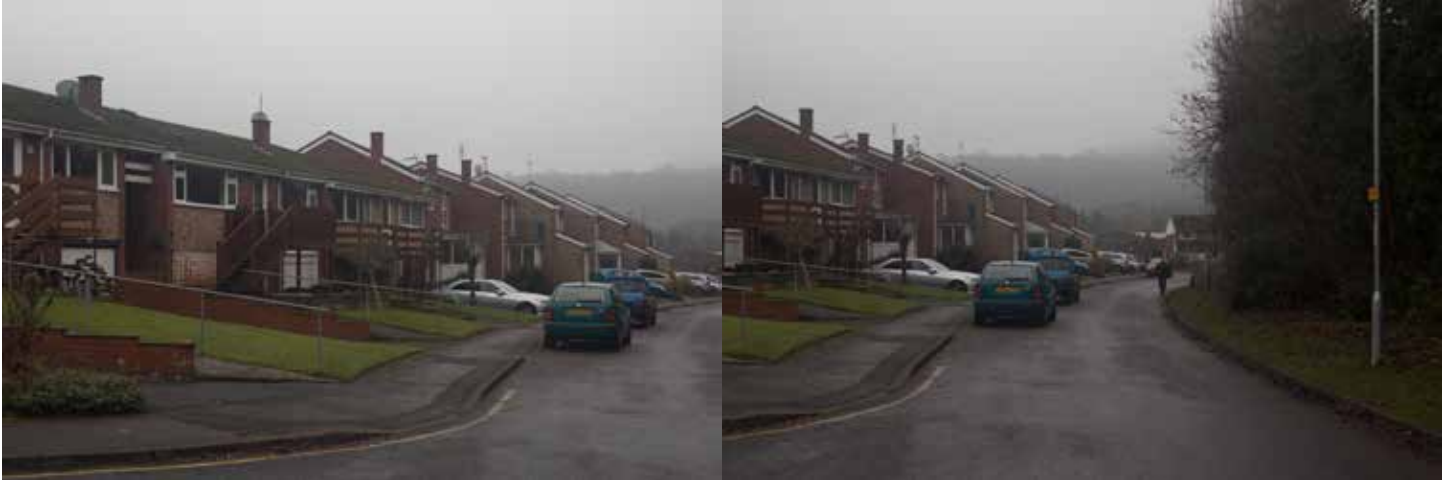




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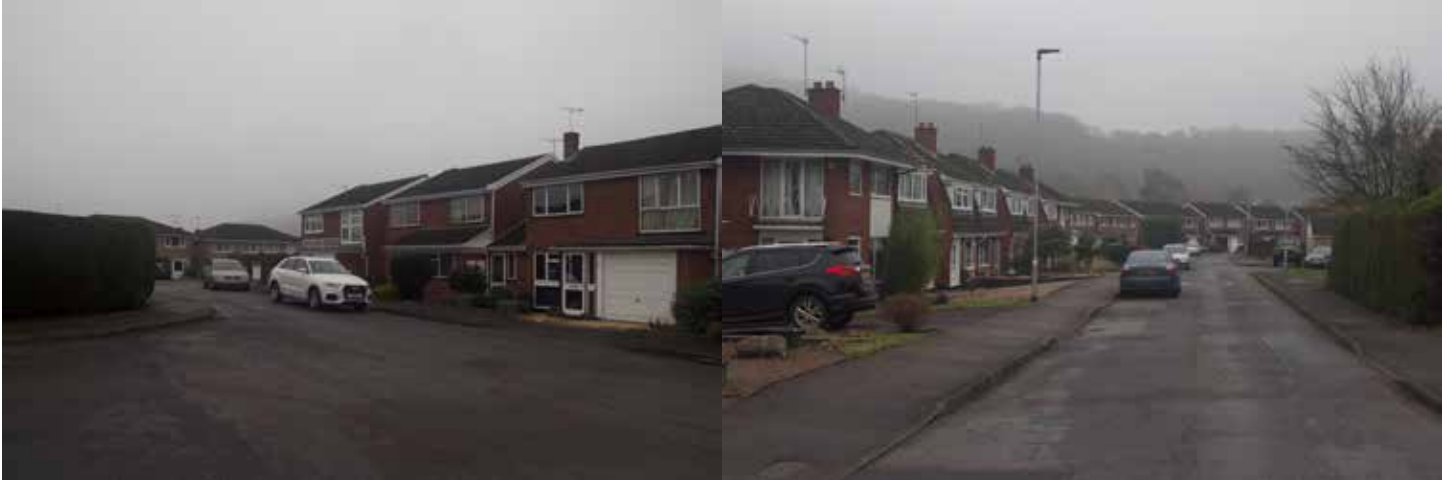


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