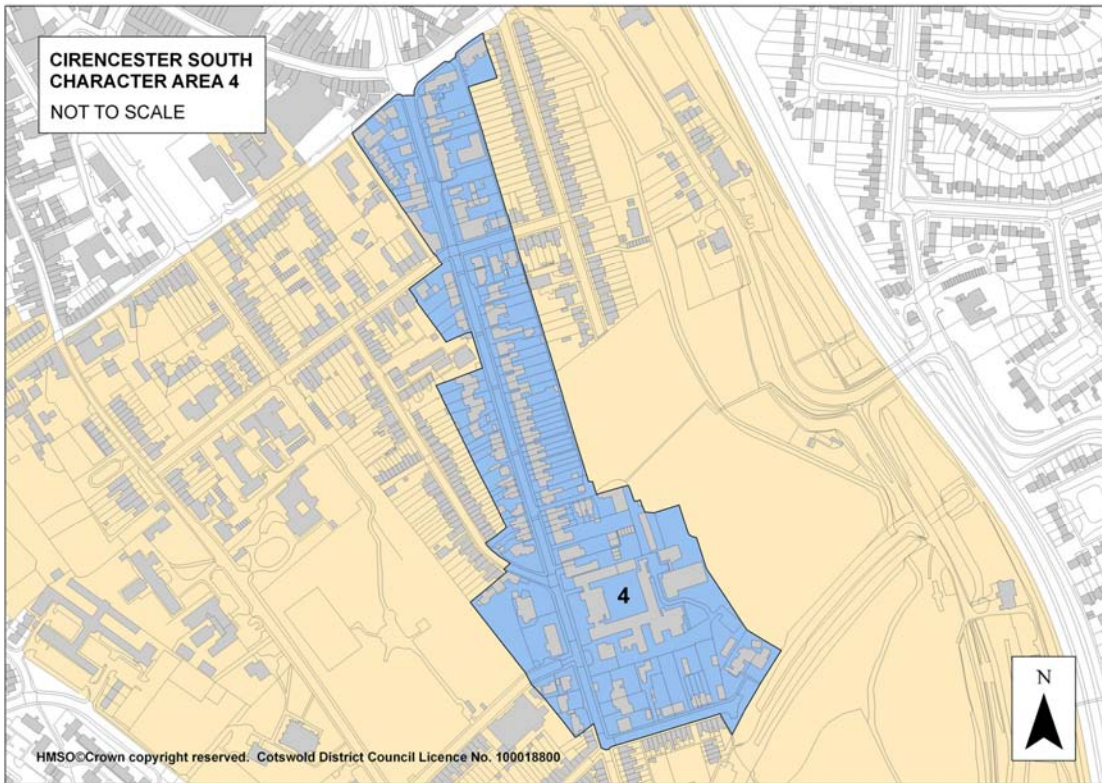


Character Area 4: Victoria Road



Map V



Character Area 4: Victoria Road – Key Characteristics



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Character Area 4: Victoria Road – Key Characteristics

- A linear character area, developed predominantly in the nineteenth century, and comprising a mix of terraced, semi-detached and detached development of mostly three-stories, with some two-stories, set at right angles from the straight road by narrow front gardens in long, mostly narrow plots, having a fairly consistent building line, but occasionally enlivened by a movement forwards or back to the fairly wide road;
- With St Michael's Park to the west, and open recreation grounds forming part of the border to the east, the Victoria Road character area appears less densely developed than other parts of southern Cirencester;
- Containing mostly national architectural forms, the earlier examples are often marked by simple classical proportion and restraint, whilst later development is characterised by greater variety in texture and ornament, built in whole or in part of local materials, giving the area a distinctive yet consistent quality;
- Residential terraces, whose individual character is defined by the repetition of identical features such as timber doors and vertical sliding sash windows, chimney stacks and stringcourses, giving a harmonious and cohesive character, yet vulnerable to harm through inappropriate alteration [510-11];
- Extensive use of Cotswold limestone, whether rubble, ashlar or more usually, rock-faced stone for building elevations, and boundary walls, enlivened by significant use of brick for some buildings and entire terraces, but also for chimney stacks, and some boundary walls [499-02]
- Welsh slate and red clay tile predominate as the main roofing materials, and bay windows, with slate hipped roofs or parapet style, some with ornate pierced detail, often in pairs or two-storey in height, with horned two-pane timber sashes, are in evidence throughout [500, 502, 509-10] with pitched-roof dormer windows being more prevalent here than anywhere elsewhere in the town;
- Materials are often mixed with ashlar dressings and /or lighter brick used to emphasise architectural detail, and/or add pattern and texture, to produce lively façades and an interesting street scene;
- Variety in building type and building height, together with many chimney stacks and pots, provides an undulating roofline and vertical emphasis, whilst individually-designed detached buildings, most prevalent at the southern end of Victoria Road [503-08], and including Cirencester County School [501], ensure variety and provide visual focus;



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- Frequent gaps between each terrace, or between semi-detached pairs or individual houses, allow glimpses to rear gardens and /or the recreation ground beyond [494-495], whilst permeability within the area is created in part by rear pathways, most notably along the rear length of houses on the east side of Victoria Road linking the recreation ground to London Road and crossing Purley Avenue [516-19];
- Views along Victoria Road, and shorter views into and out of the area, are important in terms of legibility, in aiding perceptions of location and route-finding, with glimpses to open areas and publicly-accessible routes [524];
- Paired doorways with timber-framed panelled doors with square-headed or arched fanlights over [493];
- One- and two-storey single bay kitchen and bathroom extensions to rear elevations, often visible from side and rear boundaries [525];



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- Staffordshire Blue paviments and/or engineering brick to domestic pathways, bordered by blue clay/terracotta tiles in rope or chevron pattern [493];

- Domestically-scaled trees punctuate the pathways of the principle thoroughfare and provide additional interest, colour and shade whilst individual front gardens often incorporate colourful shrubs and/or dense hedging to form boundaries [520-22];



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Character Area 4: Victoria Road – Negative Features & Issues

- Several Negative Buildings, whose scale and massing, materials and design have a damaging impact, especially in combination with a loss of boundary features and a diverted building line [526-530];
- Extensive loss of roadside boundary features to facilitate off-street individual parking provision, resulting in a loss of enclosure, disruption of the symmetry and repetition of designed elements, and the introduction of a jumbled mix of alien materials to the street scene [531-32];
- Unattractive, utilitarian, rear extensions and ancillary buildings, highly visible from public places, for example, side and rear buildings to Cirencester County School [525 & 529];
- Loss of, and/or replacement of details with inappropriate designs and materials, including the use of plastic for windows and doors;
- Poor floorscape, including large areas of broken tarmac [533-35];
- Visual clutter created by traffic-related signage and road markings, and telegraph poles and wires [536];



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- Introduction of artificial stone products that weather unsympathetically and dilute the historic character of the area [537-38];
- A lack of maintenance and the use of hard cement pointing causing damage to less dense natural building materials such as brick [540].



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