

# Character Area 6: Sheep Street



Map X



## Character Area 6: Sheep Street – Key Characteristics



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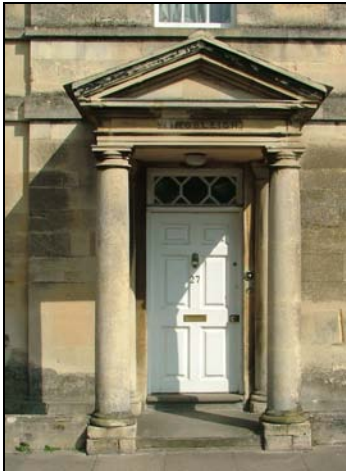
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## Character Area 6: Sheep Street – Key Characteristics

- A more open-plan area than most parts of the historic town, dominated by large detached buildings, set within larger plots but with two sets of terraces of quite different character to either end of Sheep Street;
- Mixed use, combining residential, office and commercial premises together with community facilities, including the former Cottage Hospital now used in part as the Register Office, Apsley Hall - a former Congregational Chapel, and the currently-redundant former railway station;
- Whilst buildings of various periods from the late seventeenth century onwards form part of the area, the architecture is dominated by elegant eighteenth-century classicism with a wealth of pedimented features [569-71] which echo the more rustic gables of their earlier neighbours;
- Cotswold stone, mostly ashlar for classical façades, with rubble for earlier buildings, and for side and rear elevations, stone chimney stacks with Welsh slate are the dominant material for roofing but with some clay tile and Cotswold stone slates;
- Brick is used sparingly for the occasional chimney stack, boundary wall or rear elevation;



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- The town church tower forms the focus for those entering the town from Tetbury Road to the west [573], whilst other views within the area focus on the former station building, the late twentieth-century office block marking the corner of Ashcroft Road and Sheep Street [562], and the façades of the classical group shown in 553 above;
- There are also attractive views from the character area towards the Roman Amphitheatre and towards Cirencester Park;
- The area is reasonably permeable with one public and one semi-public pedestrian route from Sheep Street towards Brewery car park and Brewery Yard;
- Trees and limestone rubble boundary walls are especially vital to this character area in containing areas of garden and large areas of public and private car parking [575-580];
- Trees within the neighbouring Cirencester Park and the boundary wall along Tetbury Road are similarly important and add to the sense of enclosure [572-73];



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## Character Area 6: Sheep Street – Negative Features & Issues

- Dominance of traffic movement, but also, most noticeably, large swathes of car park, devoid of landscaping, creating an uncomfortable lack of enclosure and visually-barren spaces which are also potentially hazardous to pedestrians [573 & 578];
- Lack of appropriate context for buildings of special architectural and historic character, most notably the Brunel-designed station building and Apsley Hall, the former Congregational Chapel facing Sheep Street;
- Unsympathetic buildings and views of obtrusive twentieth-century buildings, most notably the Tesco superstore [580];
- Rear service areas and various utilitarian extensions [577], and building materials, and flat un-modulated elevations with horizontal emphasis detract from the otherwise high quality historic environment and visually-appealing architectural form;



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- Visual clutter, created by a jumble of street furniture and poorly-designed traffic-related features, including signage and road markings, and poor floorscape, mostly utilising non-contextual artificial materials [584-85];
- Loss of, and/or inappropriate replacement of architectural details [586], including use of materials such as artificial stone products, especially for boundary walls, that weather unsympathetically [581];
- Loss of boundary walls surrounding and defining public and private spaces resulting in a loss of privacy and enclosure, and the creation of uninspiring areas of car parking;



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