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Weybridge (Monument Green) Conservation Area

Weybridge (Monument Green) Conservation Area (Designated by Elmbridge Borough Council 28 November 1990)

Statement of designation

The area is based upon Monument Green and the buildings fronting on to it and forms an important entrance to the Town Centre. Its distinct character is derived from the grouping of the houses around The Greens. The Greens, which are further enhanced by fine mature trees along their edges, provide valuable open spaces at the end of the busy High Street.

Monument Green takes its name from the obelisk which originated from the Seven Dials Monument in London, and which was re-erected in Weybridge in 1822 as a memorial to the Duchess of York. The monument is Grade II listed and is a well known landmark. The Ship, a prominent listed building overlooking The Green, is a coaching inn dating from the 16th century. The third listed building is 23 Monument Green (The Old White House) which dates back to 1697. Ashburton House (formley Lavender Cottage) dates from the 18th century. 13 Monument Green is an early to mid-Victorian, Tudor-style Lodge. No 24 is a fine unaltered 18th century red brick house. These three buildings are all included on the Local List.

Elsewhere, the Green is fringed with attractive detached, paired and terraced Victorian houses, almost all of which have retained their original materials and decorative architectural features, including terra cotta work, patterned tiling and brickwork, window and door details. Of particular merit are York House (1887), the pairs of houses at 7-12 (1887) and Crown Terrace (1884). Nos 16-21 are an attractive group of detached Edwardian houses and includes No. 19, where the novelist E. M. Forester wrote "A Passage to India" and other works.

Monument Greens are designated as Strategic Open Urban Land (SOUL) in the Draft Local Plan, on which the Council would not normally permit built development. The three listed buildings enjoy statutory protection and the local list buildings are subject to Local Plan protection.

Fortunately, there has not been any modern intrusive development within the area itself and the original character of the majority of houses has not been spoilt by insensitive alterations or extensions.

Designation will enable the Council to exercise greater control over the demolition of the unlisted buildings and should ensure that any new development, or alterations and extensions to existing houses do not detract from the character or appearance of the area. Designation will also provide a greater impetus to introduce an enhancement scheme to improve one character and appearance of the Greens.

For more information, please email us at [**tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk**](mailto:tplan@elmbridge.gov.uk)