

CONSERVATION AREAS IN THE COUNTY BOROUGH OF BRIGDEND

BRIGDEND TOWN CENTRE (incorporating the Former Court Road Conservation Area, designated 24th April 1975)

Designated: 23RD June 1999

Special Architectural and Historic Interest

The town of Bridgend is situated between the urban centres of Swansea and Cardiff and developed during the fifteenth century on the site of an early ford over the River Ogmore. It is situated between the ancient hamlets of Newcastle and Oldcastle, the latter incorporating Nolton meaning “old village” with findings dating back as far as the Romans. Due to its central location, Bridgend became an important market town flourishing rapidly during the nineteenth century when many of the remaining buildings were constructed.

Bridgend Town Centre Conservation Area essentially engulfs the Georgian, Victorian and Edwardian buildings that make up the commercial centre. It includes the site of the former medieval market in Dunraven Place, Market Street, Wyndham Street, Derwen Road, Station Hill, Adare Street, Caroline Street and Elder Street, along with the area encompassed by the former Court Road Conservation Area that is situated along the eastern side of the town centre.

There are thirty-seven listed buildings within the Conservation Area, of which the Old Bridge is the only building listed Grade II* and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument. The remaining thirty six buildings or structures are listed Grade II. All the listed buildings, apart from sections of the Wyndham Hotel, appear to date from the early nineteenth century, although internal inspections of some properties in Dunraven Place have revealed remains of earlier buildings. Nevertheless, this reflects the rapid growth of the town during this period.

The War Memorial, centralised in Dunraven Place and adjacent to the Post Office Building (site of the former Town hall prior to its demolition in 1974), acts as a an important focal point in the area.

The buildings in the Court Road area vary in age from the 1830 Chateau Public House (currently Jagers Toll House) the site of turnpike gates to the 1979 glass / steel booking office of the railway station extension. A mix of Victorian “Gothic” and “Classical” domestic styles exist.

Character and Appearance

Once a commercial centre dominated by vehicular traffic, many of the streets are now pedestrianised and this has extended the public realm from which vertical (mainly three storey) dimensions of the buildings have been emphasised and can be appreciated.

The Conservation Area consists of two main areas, the town centre and Court Road, which are essentially of similar character but possess their own distinct qualities.

The majority of the older buildings in the central town area are stuccoed or are built from the local Quarella stone or Pennant sandstone with red or buff brick dressings. Roofs are generally covered in Welsh slates. The pastel colours of the upper floors of many buildings lift the grey tones predominant in the streetscape. Most of the buildings in the conservation area are three storeys, terraced, with narrow street frontages and ground floor shop fronts.

There are arguably three urban places of significance. Dunraven Place, an important focal point, York Place and Nolton Corner including the area around the listed drinking fountain. Important vistas exist between these nodal points.

The area has few trees, nevertheless good views are obtained from the Old Bridge to the north and to the Merthyr Mawr conservation area to the south, which does contain many mature trees. The River Ogmore plays an important part in the overall appearance of Bridgend Town Centre Conservation Area. An original landmark, it represents the historic origins of the town together with the ancient stone bridge.

The varied alignment of buildings along Court Road, together with the “s” shaped road pattern and steep gradient contribute to a sense of visual expectancy, terminating in an interesting grouping of features at the southern end, at its junction with Derwen Road and Nolton Street.

Two original telephone kiosks, stone chimney stacks and the strong emphasis on graphics in windows all contribute to the character of the area. The arrangement of properties with gables facing the road offer a sense of intrigue, allowing the eye to follow the buildings around to view the front elevations.

Limestone masonry walls with bay windows and slate roofs, sash window frames, flat fronted in fill buildings, forecourt walls all form part of the character of the area.

The majority of buildings on consist of office uses. Extreme contrasts exist of historic and contemporary building materials and design.

There are significant groups of trees and shrubs within the grounds of the Day care clinic and these form a visually important feature.

Listed Buildings

The Old Stone Bridge	Grade II*
No. 3 Dunraven Place (Dental Surgery)	Grade II
Nos. 10, 12, 14, 16, 18, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 Duraven Place	Grade II
Barclays Bank Dunraven Place	Grade II
Wyndham Hotel Dunraven Place	Grade II
War Memorial Dunraven Place	Grade II

Public Library Wyndham Street	Grade II
Monroe's (Former York Tavern) 23 Wyndham Street	Grade II
Milepost outside 1a Caroline Street	Grade II
Nos. 31, 33, 35 Caroline Street	Grade II
Nos. 5, 7, 9, 11 Elder Street and parallel range to rear	Grade II
Victoria PH Adare Street	Grade II
National Westminster	Grade II
Toll House PH Derwen Road	Grade II
Property to right of Jagger's toll House	Grade II
Old Police Station Derwen Road	Grade II
Former Coach House to Old Police Station	Grade II
Former Fire Station and Post Office van depot, Derwen Road	Grade II
Randall Memorial Drinking Fountain, Nolton Street	Grade II
Pair of telephone boxes outside former head Post Office	Grade II
Western Platform Building, Bridgend Railway Station	Grade II
Pedestrian Bridge, Bridgend Railway Station	Grade II
Hope Baptist Chapel, including attached vestry and schoolroom	Grade II

Scheduled Ancient Monuments

Old Stone Bridge

Buildings of Local Importance

Conservative Club, Dunraven Place

Premises occupied by W. G. Morgan, Dunraven Place

Ruhamah Welsh Baptist, Wyndham Street

United Reformed Church, Wyndham Street

Nos. 38, 40, 42, 44 Dunraven Place

No 48 Dunraven Place

Williams & Evans, Nos 2-4 Queen Street

Dunraven Arms Hotel, Wyndham Street

Nos. 5, 7, 9, 11 Dunraven Place

Congregational Chapel, Wyndham Street

Cottage Hospital (Former Chest Clinic) – Y Bwthyn, Nolton Street

Lloyds Bank, Adare Street

Pen-y-bont Inn, Derwen Road

Nolton Corner, Nolton Street

Midland Bank, Dunraven Place

Nos. 2, 4, 6 Caroline Street

Nos. 6 & 8 Wyndham Street

Nos. 20a-24 Wyndham Street

No. 36 Caroline Street

No. 19 Wyndham Street (Former Fruit and Vegetable Shop)

HSBC Bank, Dunraven Place

No. 36 Caroline Street

Former Royal Mail Sorting Office

Flats erected 1933

Tabernacle Church Hall, Elder Street

Penybont Inn, Derwen Road

Nos 1-4 Nolton Street
Three Horse Shoes Public House
3, Cross Street
1d Dunraven Place
Nos 12 &14 Elder Lane
Nos 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13 Market Street
Princess of Wales Public House



Rear of Dunraven Place Properties



View of Dunraven Place from new footbridge



Randall Memorial Drinking Fountain with Former Chest Clinic in the rear



'S' shaped road pattern, Court Road