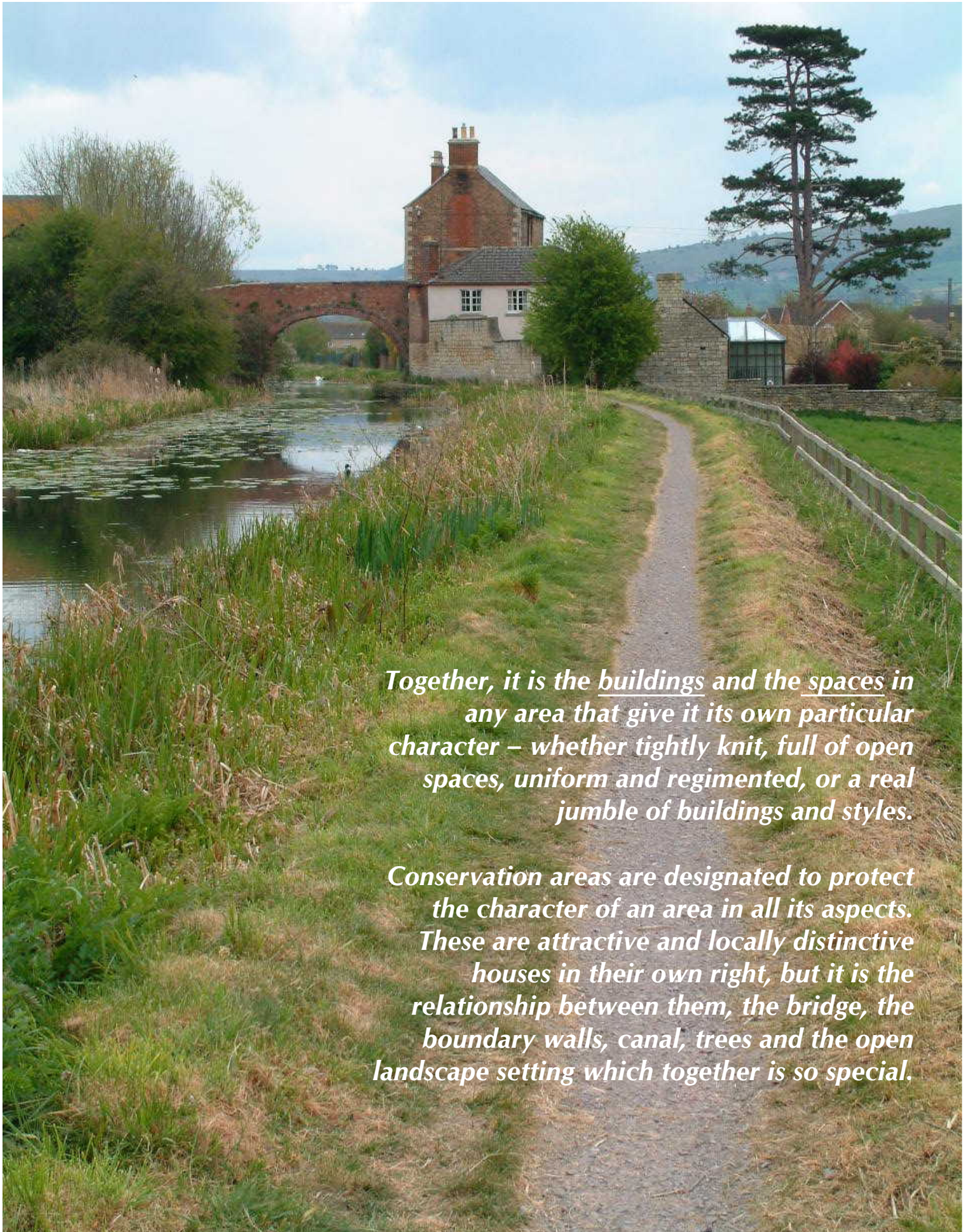


- THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT -



Together, it is the buildings and the spaces in any area that give it its own particular character – whether tightly knit, full of open spaces, uniform and regimented, or a real jumble of buildings and styles.

Conservation areas are designated to protect the character of an area in all its aspects. These are attractive and locally distinctive houses in their own right, but it is the relationship between them, the bridge, the boundary walls, canal, trees and the open landscape setting which together is so special.

THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT: BUILDINGS AND SPACES

- 6.1 The built environment of the Conservation Area can be very simply divided into two main elements, namely:-
- ◆ The buildings themselves
 - ◆ The spaces adjacent to and surrounding the buildings.
- 6.2 Together, it is the buildings and the spaces in any area that gives it its own particular character – whether tightly knit, full of open spaces, uniform and regimented, or a real jumble of buildings and styles.
- 6.3 Preserving and enhancing the “*special architectural or historic interest*” of a Conservation Area is as much about the preservation of this distinctive mix and balance as about protecting particularly historic or beautiful buildings.
- 6.4 Whilst some buildings may be individually important in a Conservation Area, it is the relationship of buildings one to another, their layout in relation to the streets and footpaths, and their density which so often define the character of the area.
- 6.5 It is essential that these qualities are preserved and that any new development respects characteristic traits. Attention to detail, as well as attention to massing and form, will mean that the buildings we build today are well integrated and make a positive contribution to this special historic environment.
- 6.6 The architectural style and materials of the buildings are important factors in determining what makes the Conservation Area “special” and what gives it its own particular distinctive qualities. Even small details, such as traditional windows and doors, can be crucial in making one area appear locally distinctive in comparison to another.
- 6.7 Within the whole area covered by this review, the styles, materials and types of buildings vary enormously, as does the density and nature of the open spaces. This means that there are distinct pockets of diverse character within the IHCA, and it is important to look closely at the immediate vicinity, as well as the character of the Conservation Area as a whole.
- 6.8 The study area for the Industrial Heritage Conservation Area is typical of the Stroud industrial environment, and the locality as a whole, in its juxtaposition of Cotswold limestone and brick. Many of the ‘**Character Parts**’ identified in this review (see chapter 9 and VOLUME 2) display layers of evolving building traditions and styles, side by side with each other.
- 6.9 Certain Character Parts, though, display consistent, uniform characteristics, which mark them out as being very much of one particular period of development.
- 6.10 However, there are common materials and building styles that are typical of the locality, which appear across the whole area – from Framilode to Sapperton, and Stroud to Nailsworth.
- 6.11 Beginning our look at the built environment, therefore, is a summary, outlining the significance and history of the most common **building materials** and **architectural styles** to be found throughout the Study Area.
- 6.12 Following that, the various types of **open spaces and levels of enclosure** that typically appear within the Study Area will be summarised (these are covered in greater detail in the Character Parts sheets that make up VOLUME 2).