

# ROSS-ON-WYE TOWN CENTRE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT SURVEY FORM

These are the stages to this survey:

1. Print off the overall guidance note, the form and map.
2. To complete a survey you will need to be ready with the form, a map, a camera and a pen/pencil. Some sort of clipboard is also useful.
3. Once you know which street you will be surveying, we recommend walking up and down with form in hand to familiarise yourself with both street and form.
4. Complete the survey on site, filling in the form and noting/numbering photo locations and directions on the map with a small dot and arrow. Add any other notes on the map if relevant.
5. If at all possible, please type-up your form notes in the original digital version and check that photos are numbered as per the map notations.
6. Send the digital form and photos to [jeff@placestudio.com](mailto:jeff@placestudio.com). Please pass the map (and any handwritten/non-digital form) to Melvin Reynolds.

There are three parts to the survey form:

- Part 1 is mainly **Description and Analysis**.
- Part 2 asks you to produce an overall **Summary**.
- Part 3 asks you to highlight key **Design Guidance**.

There is no right answer to any questions; please use your own judgement and do not get stuck just with our terms and prompts. Try to use ours as much as possible because they are based on nationally proven methods, but feel free to add your own. Do not feel you have to add notes to fill every box; keep it short and sharp.

We generally ask people to stick to around 10 photos.

**THE FORM STARTS OVERLEAF**

# TOWN CENTRE CHARACTER ASSESSMENT

**Street surveyed: Hill Street**

**Surveyor(s): JB**

**Date: 02/03/17**

*(Please be sure to add the above information to your map!)*

## **PART ONE: DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS**

There might look to be a lot here, but much of it only needs a very quick response. On each aspect below, ring, underline, or highlight (eg. in bold) any term or terms that apply (it can be more than one term, eg. if building heights vary), add any others in the box and any other notes as suggested or as you think are needed.

<b>1. Type of Street</b> main traffic route    traffic cut-through    local route <b>cul-de-sac</b>  <b>two-way</b> one-way
<b>2. Pavements</b> <b>Half of one side only, fairly narrow but OK</b>  <i>Note surface material(s):</i>  <b>Tarmac</b> <i>Note condition:</i>  <b>Good</b>
<b>3. Lighting</b> <b>one street lamp halfway down, one at very bottom</b>  <i>Note quality/effectiveness:</i>  <b>OK</b>
<b>4. Signs</b> <i>Note public signs (eg. traffic or pedestrians):</i>  <b>Signs for parking area at bottom</b> <b>Pedestrian direction signs at very bottom (really part of The Crofts)</b>  <i>Note shopfront signs/hanging signs (if relevant):</i>  <b>None</b> <i>Note visual impact (eg. intrusive, low key, out of context):</i>  <b>No impact</b>
<b>5. Street Furniture</b>

<p>seats    planters    noticeboards    bollards    bins    other (note)</p> <p><b>None</b>  <i>Note condition/value:</i></p>
<p><b>6. Safety</b>  safe to cross    safe to walk along    safe in daytime    safe at night</p> <p><b>Safe to cross at top, uncertain semi-shared space at bottom with parking</b></p>
<p><b>7. Parking</b>  on-street throughout    on street in parts only    none on-street</p> <p>off-street for residents, businesses etc.    <b>small car park area at bottom</b></p>
<p><b>8. Proportion:</b> <i>(This is about, in general, how wide the street is compared to its height, ie. the height of buildings along it. If very varied, add notes.)</i></p> <p><b>lot wider than high at bottom</b>    wider than high    (roughly) same width as height</p> <p><b>higher than wide at top</b>    lot higher than wide</p>
<p><b>9. Views</b>  <i>Take photos and annotate on the map for any interesting/significant views (a) out of the street at either end and (b) from anywhere along the street. Add any notes.</i></p> <p><b>Views to top of church spire from halfway down</b>  <b>View to houses in north of town from very top</b></p>
<p><b>10. Building Heights</b>  <b>one storey (big)</b>    <b>two storey</b>    <b>three storey</b>    four storey    other (add notes)</p> <p><b>Too varied to really say</b></p>
<p><b>11: Building Frontages</b>  <b>flat/parapet front</b>    <b>gable facing street</b>    <b>hipped (sloping back)</b></p> <p><b>Too varied to really say</b></p>
<p><b>12. Building Line</b> <i>(This is about whether the buildings are right on pavement edge, set back, with front gardens etc.)</i></p> <p><b>On back of pavement at top</b>  <b>Set back from wide street with parking space at bottom</b></p>
<p><b>13. Variety</b>  very consistent style/character    consistent style/character</p> <p>a few variations in style/character    <b>very varied style/character</b></p>

**14. Uses**

residential    **shop**    **office**    **workshop**    store    uncertain  
**car park**    green space

**Church/youth club**

**15: Buildings**

*Note range of wall, roof and window/door materials used:*

**Too varied to be useful**

*Note condition, quality, how well kept etc.:*

**Mostly reasonable**

**16. Other spaces/features** *(This is about any other features that do not fit above, eg. street trees, plaques, oddities ..... over to you.)*

**17: Ages** *(It is difficult to be precise on this – not least because many current facades hide older main buildings. Do your best with the terms below, add if necessary. For shops, this is about the main building, not the shop or shopfront.)*

Medieval    Georgian/regency    **Victorian**    Pre 1<sup>st</sup> World War  
Inter-war    **1950s-1970s**    1970s-1990s    **1990s-now**

**18: Distinctive Features Positive**

*Note any distinctive features that help to give a **positive** character to the street. These can be large (a major building) or tiny (a sculpted feature on a wall).*

**Nothing stands out**

**19. Distinctive Features Negative:**

*Note any features that **detract from** the character to the street. These can be large (a poorly designed building) or small (a poor shop sign).*

**Amorphous, uncertain space at bottom**

**20. And .....?** *Over to you – what else would you wish to comment on .....*

## **PART TWO: SUMMARY**

*Try to write 3 or 4 sentences that sum up the key qualities and character of the street, both positive and negative. Although you have been asked in earlier sections to give your opinion on things, this is where we really need to know what the street 'feels' like and what you think about its overall character.*

**Bit of a nowhere space and doesn't really lead anywhere except as a bit of a short cut**

## **PART THREE: DESIGN GUIDANCE**

*Make some brief notes here about what you believe to be the key things that any future designer should be aware of and respond to in order to ensure that their design respects and enhances the street's character. (NB. Avoid saying 'make it look just like the others'!)*

**Nothing major unless church/youth club was to go. But then no real guidance possible from what is there now**